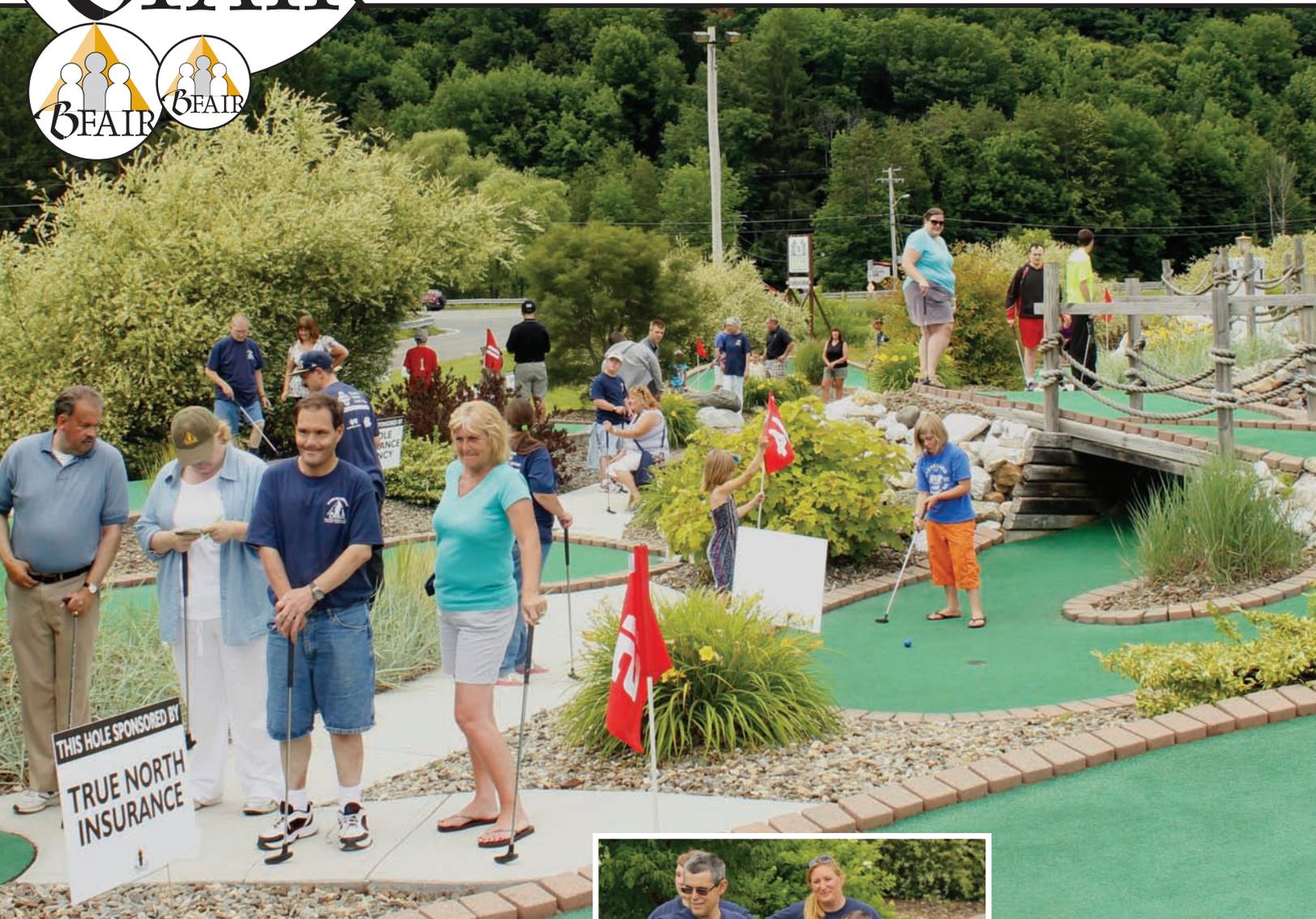




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Newsletter of Berkshire Family And Individual Resources, Inc.



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BFAIR's 4th Annual Mini-Golf Tournament Fundraiser. See pages 4-5 for more pictures.

Letter from the Executive Director

This April BFAIR's Annual Meeting was led by Dave Robbins, Board Chair and President and underwritten by Greylock Federal Credit Union. During the meeting Dave thanked the entire Board for their service including Officers Antoinette Cariddi, Vice Chair, Mel Karakaya, Treasurer and Patti Messina, Clerk.

Dave also welcomed two new members to the Board - Kim Baker and Peter Mirante. BFAIR staff members receiving special recognition at the meeting for their outstanding work included Linda Cunningham, the entire staff of 37 Elm Street, and Jessenya Rodriguez. The Employer of the Year award was presented to Mike Baker, AFC, Senior VP, Sales & Marketing for his role of providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities in partnership with Arcadia Employment Services. BFAIR's Self-Determination Award, presented annually to an individual achieving significant personal growth, was presented to John Milewski. The breakfast meeting featured keynote speaker Dan Tomasulo, PhD, Associate Professor at the New Jersey City University who spoke on the topic of positive psychology.

The opening of a new residence located in Pittsfield this past May for four women with an acquired brain injury required tremendous planning and effort on behalf of staff working together under the direction of Ethel Altiery, Associate Executive Director, Steve Conroy, Director of Residential Services, Linda Cunningham,



Our new residence in Pittsfield that opened this past May.

Program Director and Kristen Wampler, Director of Family Support Services. All four are to be commended for making the transition of the women moving from nursing homes into their new residence as seamless as possible. As the four women settle into their new home I would also especially like to thank State Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier for lending her support to the transition of the four women to their new home.

Throughout the spring months BFAIR's planning committee, chaired by Steve Conroy, Director of Residential Services, and comprised of numerous volunteers were busy preparing for our annual Mini-Golf fundraiser. The committee's hard work paid off as the event raised \$18,000. Our gold, silver and bronze sponsors, tee sponsors, local residents and businesses who donated raffle items, as well as tournament participants, deserve tremendous thanks for supporting our

programs and services for people with disabilities.

In addition to sponsoring our mini-golf fundraiser, Greylock Federal Credit Union recently extended a \$1,000.00 donation to BFAIR. This December, in conjunction with our 20th anniversary, we will launch our 3rd Annual Campaign which in past years has been responded to with generous donations from our friends, family members, business partners and BFAIR staff. Greylock's support this year and many others serves as a prime example of a business which believes in our mission to provide quality services for people with disabilities. BFAIR's Board and I hope you also will consider making a gift to our upcoming campaign which will provide the margin of excellence for services not supported by traditional funding.

Rich Weisenflue, Executive Director

Day Habilitation Program's Annual Friends and Family gathering.



Berkshire Chamber Recognizes BFAIR for “Good News”

Throughout the year, the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce selects member businesses and organizations to be recognized at a Good News Business Salute. In doing so, the Chamber seeks to showcase developments that help create a positive environment for business, while promoting quality jobs and celebrating the spirit of success. Examples of “good news” may include an expansion, a creation of new jobs, a special anniversary or milestone, significant community or civic involvement, or innovative programs in the workplace.

BFAIR was recognized for reaching the milestone anniversary of 20 years of service to individuals with disabilities and their families in Berkshire County.

The Chamber’s most recent Business Salute was held at The Williams Inn on August 27, 2014. At this breakfast, BFAIR was recognized for reaching the milestone anniversary of 20 years of service to individuals with disabilities and their families in Berkshire County. The nomination of BFAIR read in part:

Dedicated to meeting the unique needs of people with disabilities, BFAIR incorporated in 1994 at which time the agency opened its first residential home for adults with developmental disabilities. Two years later, a Day Habilitation program was launched offering individualized services for adults with disabilities, emphasizing community participation and volunteerism. In 2000 the agency was awarded its first vocational contract. Today BFAIR’s Arcadia Employment Services’ vocational program offers employment, training



Board and staff members at the Berkshire Chamber’s “Good News” Business Salute

and job placement services to over one hundred people with disabilities annually.

Eleven residences, shared living arrangements and supported apartments provide living assistance for seventy adults with disabilities. Earlier this year a new residence was developed for four women with acquired brain injuries previously residing in nursing homes. Similarly, BFAIR’s Adult Family Care program is designed for individuals with medical, physical or developmental disabilities who will benefit from supervision or assistance with daily living activities in order to live a meaningful life in a qualified home setting with a qualified AFC Caregiver.

Launched as a pilot project in 2009 with North Adams Public Schools, BFAIR’s Children and Adolescent program now offers clinical support using the principles of applied behavior analysis for students

with autism attending schools throughout Berkshire County and Southern Vermont. Not willing to accept the status quo, BFAIR continues to develop innovative programs such as ‘Bridging the Gap’, a collaboration with Monument Mountain Regional High School offering students with autism a life skills curriculum to promote independent living upon graduation.

Experiencing 10% growth over the past six years and creating an additional seventy jobs over the same period BFAIR currently employs 215 people providing services to 420 children, adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities autism and acquired brain injuries. BFAIR’s staff and volunteer board of directors celebrate the agency’s 20th anniversary with great pride having developed from its’ beginning two decades ago into a full service agency with the highest level achievable of state and national accreditations.

BFAIR's 4th Annual Miniature Golf Tournament



Fun was had by all at BFAIR's 4th Annual Miniature Golf Tournament.

The Range on Curran Highway in North Adams was the venue for BFAIR's 4th Annual Mini-Golf Tournament Saturday, July 19th.

Seventy-six of BFAIR's supporters, including clients, friends and families, enjoyed great weather and tough competition on the course, while helping to raise \$18,000. Sponsorships of gold, silver and bronze levels, tee sponsors, and donated raffle items by

local residents and businesses all helped in achieving the money raised.

The money raised will help provide services for people with developmental disabilities, autism and acquired brain injuries.

Management staff and the Board of Directors extends their thanks to the event sponsor Greylock Federal Credit Union and all of the sponsors, donors, golfers and contributors.





Tournament Sponsors

Gold Sponsors:

- Advanced Flexible Composites (AFC)
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Greylock Federal Credit Union

Silver Sponsors:

- NBT Bank
- True North Insurance

Tee & Green Signs:

Autobahn East, LLC
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 Climate Heating & Cooling
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 Farrington Contracting
 Flynn & Dagnoli Funeral Homes
 Furlano & Arace, PC
 Gammelgarden Creamery
 Greenfields Landscaping
 Greylock Community Club
 Harry's Auto
 Healthwise
 iBerkshires.com
 Jack's Hot Dogs
 Johnson Dealerships

Bronze Sponsors:

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- Donovan & O'Connor, LLP

Donations:

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- Old Country Buffet
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 Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink
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 Salvation Army
 Sanford & Kid
 Smith, Watson & Company
 Susan B. Anthony Museum
 TEK Painting
 Toole Insurance
 UCP of Berkshire County
 Yankee Atomic Electric Company



2013 Annual Meeting



Top row, l to r: Five Years of Service Award recipients; Guest speaker Daniel Tomasulo with Board Chairperson and President Dave Robbins; Employer of the Year Award Winner Mike Baker of Advanced Flexible Composites (AFC). Bottom row, l to r: BFAIR Board of Directors; Board of Directors Award Winner Linda Cunningham; Level II Staff Certificate recipients.

Early morning on Friday, April 25th, the Annual Meeting of Berkshire Family And Individual Resources (BFAIR) took place at The Williams Inn.

Over 100 local community business partners, families, and employees attended the meeting to hear keynote speaker Dan Tomasulo, PhD, University of PA who presented "Wrong to Strong: Using Positive Psychotherapy." The meeting was generously sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union and led by Dave Robbins, BFAIR's Board Chairperson, and Rich Weisenflue, Executive Director.

The annual meeting also recognized BFAIR employees who exhibited extraordinary efforts to support the human rights of people with developmental disabilities, autism and acquired brain injury by exemplifying the 'BFAIR Way' and going above and beyond their everyday responsibilities. Also, Advanced Flexible Composites received the Employer of the Year award for their role in providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. BFAIR staff members who participated in the Direct Care Certificate and Management Program received recognition for completing the requirements associated with each of the staff development programs.

The 2013 Recognition Awards were presented to the following:

George A. Crosby Memorial Award
Jessenya Rodriguez, *Home Life Support Counselor*

Armand Quintal Memorial Award
37 Elm Street Residential Staff

Board of Directors Award
Linda Cunningham
Program Coordinator, Residential Services

Edward Frampton
Self-Determination Award
John Milewski

Arcadia Employment Services
Employer of the Year
Advanced Flexible Composites



Top row: Arcadia Employment Services Employer of the Year recipients; Ten Years of Service recipients. Middle row: Edward Frampton Self-Determination Award winner John Milewski; Fifteen Years of Service award recipient Kris Neep; Fifteen Years of Service award was presented posthumously to the family of Kathy Phillips. Bottom row: Management Training Program Certificate recipients; Twenty-Five Years of Service award recipients.

Employee Service Awards

Employee Service Awards were also distributed for the following long-term BFAIR employees:

5 Years of Service:

Sue Brooks
Eric Denette
Justin McCarthy
Kevin Niccoli
Missy Robare
Tyler Roberts
Carol Thorner

10 Years of Service:

Deb DiDonna
Kathy McKeever
Kristen Wampler

15 Years of Service:

Kris Neep
Kathy Phillips

20 Years of Service:

Shirley Martin

25 Years of Service:

John Arasimowicz
Michelle Crockwell

Direct Care Level II

Certificate Program:

Sue Brooks Missy Krok
John Carrier Jamie Liporace
Kellyn Desanty Nancy Torres
Liz Figueroa Mary Underwood

Management Training

Program Certificates:

Kelly Brennan Amanda McBee
Sue Brooks Teresa McBee
Angela Choquette Jasmine Rivera
Colleen Davignon Jason Skalski
Jen Lesnick Tina Suess
John Little

Guest Speaker:



Daniel Tomasulo, Ph.D., MFA, MAPP

On April 25th, 2014, Daniel Tomasulo, Ph.D., MFA, MAPP, University of PA presented “Wrong to Strong: Using Positive Psychotherapy.” Specific evidence-based positive interventions drawn from positive psychology and positive psychotherapy have been incorporated into Interactive-Behavioral Therapy (IBT) with promising results.

IBT is the most widely used form of evidence-based psychotherapy for people with dual diagnosis and is the first and only method featured by the American Psychological Association in their book *Healing Trauma the Power of Group Treatment for People with Intellectual Disabilities*. Through lecture and discussion, Annual Meeting guests and conference participants were given the opportunity to learn of the latest evidence-based interventions in positive psychology with an emphasis on developments in education, psychotherapy, and health psychology. The research on gratitude was highlighted and participants were given the opportunity to take part in a virtual gratitude visit (VGV). Videos of an emphasis on the identification of strengths with clients were used to highlight the importance of strength-based interventions.

The presenter, Dr. Tomasulo holds a Ph.D. in psychology, an MFA in writing, and is the first licensed psychologist and psychodramatist to graduate from the Master of Applied Positive Psychology program from the University of Pennsylvania in 2012.



BFAIR, INC.
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Mary Ann Maroni, *Director*
Peter Mirante, *Director*
Lucy Pavalock, *Director*

Rich Weisenflue, *Executive Director*



Summer Fun



BFAIR's employees were celebrated this summer with their annual Staff Appreciation Picnic which was held at Windsor Lake in North Adams. Ethel Altiery, Associate Executive Director was the volunteer committee coordinator and several other BFAIR staff members helped out as committee volunteers to make the day a memorable one. The Day Habilitation staff had some departmental fun as they participated in the ice-bucket challenge.

