



# Community Connections **NOW!**

Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Summer 2009



## President's Message

**D**uring the past few months, many of my colleagues have heard me say that these are the hardest times I've seen in disability services in my career. Like most of us in health and human services, Community Connections has experienced budget cuts. While the budget reductions have required some layoffs and reduced hours for our dedicated staff, we have not taken these cuts lightly. Our mission of

providing the highest quality services and opportunities for people with disabilities, our clients who are near and dear to us, has not changed. We continue to rely on our extraordinary staff, many of whom have been with us for 10 to 20+ years, to serve people with disabilities with compassion and professionalism. As you will read, many of those clients also have great longevity with Community Connections.

We are able to provide that continuity also because of the dedication of our loyal donors, whose support we need now more than ever. People like Nick Nickerson, who continues to dedicate a day of Arnold's Lobster and Clam Bar profits to us each spring and fall, help to keep our mission alive. And a long-term direct service employee, who sent a large contribution "in appreciation" for all that we do, touches my heart and impacts our agency at a time when the people we serve are more vulnerable than ever.

Needless to say, we value your support. Please keep Community Connections in your thoughts as you look to the future and together we will be able to celebrate more anniversaries among our clients and employees.

## Gardening at Community Connections

There are many enthusiastic gardeners at Community Connections this summer, involving the people we serve in good outdoor exercise, "green gardening" and nutritional learning. A few examples include the Somerset Day Center's "Garden Club" that gathers every Wednesday, consisting of clients, staff and volunteers from the Somerset Garden Club. The volunteers have donated vegetable and herb seedlings and their valuable time.



*Gardeners at Bray Farm*

Marion is composting... generating mulch for its garden by composting grass clippings and other "green" materials. New plants are in the ground, thanks to Life Skills participants and mulch donated by MSA Landscaping. The South Yarmouth Life Skills and Day Center have collaborated to plant a garden at Bray Farm in Yarmouth Port. Planting began on June 2nd. The Mashpee program is on a waiting list for a town community garden plot. Community Gardens are available in most communities, so we can take further advantage of this opportunity in the future.

**Would you like to volunteer to work on a gardening project with Community Connections clients and staff?** Contact Hadley Luddy at 508-744-1107.

## Anniversary Celebrations



*Debbie Johnson & Normand Blanchette at President Avenue*

Two Community Connections programs held celebrations in June to honor clients who reached significant anniversaries receiving services.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> the President Avenue Day Center hosted a BBQ with a western theme, including music, dancing and awards for those with 20 to 25 years.

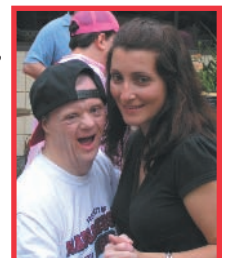
On June 26<sup>th</sup> the Somerset Day Center treated their honorees to a cookout sponsored by parent Wayne Sylvia and cooked by the Fall River Boy Scouts of America Troop 15. Attendees enjoyed music and dancing by the DMR Band, received tee shirts and honored participants for their anniversaries.

President Avenue Honorees:

- 25 Years:** Donald Daveau, Joan Rioux, Robert Manchester, Jr., Lauriana Vieira
- 24 Years:** Patricia Pacheco
- 23 Years:** Gregory Fernandes, Jeffrey Mallette, Maria Santos
- 22 Years:** Peter Snell
- 20 Years:** Denise Brady

Somerset Honorees over 20 years:

- 25 Years:** Brad Hair, Lisa Joubert, Ken Nowicki, Jeanne Ouellette, John Semenchuk, Gerry Williams
- 24 Years:** Fran Duffy, Patty Pacheco
- 23 Years:** Norman Almeida, Cindy Beaulieu
- 22 Years:** Irene Maynard, Kim Platt
- 21 Years:** Steve Gross



*Brad Hair & Ana Smith at Somerset*



## Dee Brady, Entrepreneur

Denise “Dee” Brady is an extraordinary individual with her own greeting card and graphics business, **Designs by Dee**. Her Employment Specialist Olivia Woodruff helps Dee to customize, print and deliver your choice of greeting cards, invitations, labels, letterhead or any printed material you need. She recently handled all of the printing for a wedding. What makes this so extraordinary is that Dee is a quadriplegic who communicates through a special software device activated by moving her head.



Dee’s device is programmed with pictures and voice that allow her to communicate her thoughts and wishes. Speech Pathologist Ellen Breen and Therapy Assistant Simone Laferriere-Rego have personalized the software for Dee. She activates a switch on her headset to select messages she wants to communicate and the software “speaks” for her.

With a special license from Hallmark Cards, Dee uses their images, but can change and personalize many of the messages. The cards are printed with high quality paper and envelopes, available for any holiday or occasion at only \$1.00 each. She creates pieces to her customers’ specifications, using images and fonts available on various software.

If you desire personalized cards, invitations or other printing at low cost with quick delivery, consider **Designs by Dee**. For information, to see samples or to order, contact Olivia Woodruff at [sowoodruff@commcon.org](mailto:sowoodruff@commcon.org) or 508-678-1210 x112.

## An Easy Way to Help Community Connections Raise Funds... Join the Shaw’s Rewards Program.

Community Connections will receive 1% of your purchases each month. The agency will benefit when you shop on Tues., Wed. or Thurs. with your Shaw’s card.

**Tell your friends and family to sign up.**

Go to [www.shaws.com](http://www.shaws.com)

Click on the **Cares** box

Click **Community Rewards**

Click **Register with your Rewards Card first**

Enter your Rewards Card # and your Phone #

Click **Login**

Click **Find Organizations**

Enter Community Connections, South Yarmouth, MA

Click **Find Organizations**

Click box next to Community Connections

Click **Add Selected Organizations**

Enter Community Connections Rewards #49001021905

Click **Add an Organization**

**That’s all you have to do!**

If you don’t have a Shaw’s Rewards card, you can obtain one online or at any Shaw’s.

## Save the Dates ... September 10th, September 19th, October 30th

### Arnold’s Lobster & Clam Bar

Route 6 in Eastham  
**Thursday, September 10th**  
**11:30 am to 9:00 pm**



Play miniature golf,  
dine with your family & friends  
while supporting a great cause.  
The day’s profits will be donated to  
Community Connections.

### Walk-a-thon

**Saturday, September 19th**  
(Rain date Sunday the 20th)

Handicapped accessible walk  
at two locations: Fairhaven and Cape Cod  
Registration: **8:30 am**, Kickoff: **9:30 am**  
Breakfast, lunch and beverages provided.  
Free shirts for walkers with \$25 pledges.  
Information: 800-308-1321



### Gala by the Sea

**Friday, October 30th at 6 pm**

Beach House Grille at Chatham Bars Inn  
Elegant Dinner with Wine,  
Auctions and Entertainment



\$125 per person

To register, go to *Gala by the Sea*  
[CommunityConnectionsInc.org](http://CommunityConnectionsInc.org) Click the  
Donate Now button and fill out the form.



## Community Connections Inc.

Opportunities for People with Disabilities  
Administrative Office  
127 Whites Path, South Yarmouth, MA 02664

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Yarmouth Port, MA  
02675  
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