



The Family Buzz

Bancroft's Electronic
Communication for
Families.

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Upcoming Events

Family Fun Festival at Cooper River Park

*Benefits Build Jake's
Place
Playgrounds for
Everybody
July 10, 2010*



Michael Webb (far left), employment specialist, Carol Connelly (seated) and Jen Merkh (standing, center) listen as Mayor Kelaher reads their recognition certificate with members of the Toms River Town Council looking on.

Mayor honors volunteers served by Bancroft

Toms River Mayor Thomas Kelaher and the Town Council recently presented certificates of recognition to Jen Merkh and Carol Connelly, who are served in our Brick Township, N.J. program. The women were honored for their volunteer work at the Toms River Animal Facility, where they've helped out for more than two years.

The experience -- part of the women's day program -- has been a wonderful opportunity to work hands-on with animals. Carol and Jen care deeply for the animals, and are valued members of the shelter's team.

"We would love them to continue volunteering as long as they like," says Jim Bowen, shelter division manager.

Congratulations, Carol and Jen!

Noon to 4 p.m.
buildjakesplace.org

26th Annual Sun and Fun Day

sponsored by BIANJ
Cape/Atlantic Support Group

July 22, 2010
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Ocean City, NJ
(856) 589-5797

SCCAT

Conference:

Utilizing Relationship
Development to
Promote Behavior
Change

July 29, 2010
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Ocean County Library,
101 Washington Street,
Toms River, NJ
(908) 497-9636, ext.
201



Pictured above are students (from left) Sung Woo Kim, Samuel Capritti and Jesse Weindorfer.

Kudos to Bancroft School Graduates!

Graduation at The Bancroft School is like no other. What a terrific event for all concerned -- proud graduates, parents and staff -- and lots of "feel good" moments during the ceremony. And, as usual...hard to find a dry eye in the room.

Special thanks to everyone who participated in the ceremony, including parents Mindy Maranon and Robert Zampella, for their wonderful remarks. Congratulations to the whole graduating class!

[Click here](#) to enjoy the slide show

Teamwork to strengthen our continuum

One of the great things about Bancroft staff members is their dedication to effective collaboration. We see examples of this teamwork every day -- on behalf of an individual or family, a classroom or group home, or even an entire program.

To capitalize on this strength, we are launching a teamwork initiative at the Mullica Hill Program, to enhance its quality of care and build a foundation for the future.

A group of directors and managers from our Community Services for Adults (CSA) and Brain Injury (BIS) programs will be temporarily stationed in Mullica Hill. There, they will work with the existing staff to make systems and processes consistent with the other programs in our continuum. This group will focus on the "big picture," so that the Mullica Hill staff can focus on the individuals they support.

The following staff members will work with the Mullica Hill program for three to six months: Amy Carter, Brian Francis, Jeff Kueny, Michelle Habingreither, and Nicole Streeper (all from CSA), and Katie Schenk of BIS. While in Mullica Hill, these employees will remain in contact with their "home" program, providing guidance as needed.

We appreciate your understanding and support of this process to shore up our continuum and ensure consistent, high standards of support and service organization-wide.

Food Stamp benefits to support programs

We are asking for family support to apply for Food Stamps for those served in our residential programs. This process will allow the State of New Jersey to receive federal reimbursements for this funding, while helping to take some of the pressure off the Bancroft budget. We are asking all individuals who meet the basic requirements to apply. The basic requirements are that the individual be:

- at least 18 years of age;
- earns less than \$1,670/month; and
- is a New Jersey resident.

Further details about this application process and guidelines for the use of these benefits are being sent to families at this time. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer DeLuca, our Licensing-Accreditation Specialist, at (856) 524-7253, or Dan Keating, Family Advocate, at (856) 524-7372.



Victoria McGrath, who served as a clinical pastoral education student this past year at the Judith B. Flicker Residences, share a special moment with a few friends. From left: Bernie King, Victoria, Ernie Grabele, and Richard Kalinski.

Pastoral student reflects on her year at Bancroft

We were pleased to have Victoria McGrath as our clinical pastoral education student for the past year. Victoria served the residents of our Judith Flicker Center in Voorhees, N.J., which is home to 36 older adults. Victoria has provided a great deal of loving support, and we're happy to report that she will be returning to Bancroft in the fall. At that time, we plan to expand her outreach to other Bancroft programs. She will be invited to an upcoming Family Council meeting so she can meet our family representatives and hear more about their experiences and needs. If you would like to share your feelings on this subject as well, please don't hesitate to contact Sister Krista Mote at (856) 524-7248 when she returns in September.

Victoria wrote the following "farewell" letter.

A 'Flicker' of Hope - my time at Bancroft

By Victoria McGrath

This has been a wonderful year for me, in my journey to finish my graduate education and become a full-time pastor. I was fortunate enough to be asked to spend time as a volunteer chaplain at Bancroft's Flicker residences in Voorhees. This was part of a CPE program (Clinical Pastoral Education), which functions for a pastor much the same as a residency program would for a medical student. I had the opportunity to work hands-on with the residents there; talking with them, sharing their concerns and needs and offering them the opportunity for me to minister to them and share some comfort, some hope, and some joy that would help them in their lives. When I began there, I honestly did not know what to expect; but only knew that I wanted to do what I could to reach out to people with the love of God that I have been blessed to know in my own life.

I discovered the people at Flicker to be warm, welcoming and interesting folk, full of stories about themselves and full of questions about my own life too. As we grew to know each other, I became very aware of a sense of family that exists there, and I was honored to be made to feel as if I were a part of that family too. There were many happy times and fun, and some sad times too, as two people passed away there during the course of the year. It was a privilege for me to be able to walk alongside the folks there through both happiness and sorrow, and to share with them the love that God has shown me in my own life. I was also blessed to see and hear stories of their own backgrounds and beliefs, and to talk with them about their faith.

At the end of this school year, when I was getting ready to wrap up my work there, I received a basket which had many small messages in it, from my friends there:

Thank you for hugging me Good Morning and Goodbye
Thank you for listening to my stories over and over
Thank you for listening to us when we are sad
Thank you for sharing your love of God with us
Thank you for changing your schedule to plan special events for us
Thank you for cheering us on

Each one of these things might seem a small and a simple thing, hardly even worth mentioning; but to me they are priceless. And I believe that if we can see each other in this world as being precious, with even the smallest needs being met, that we are making a difference in the world, and that God is smiling on our efforts. Being a chaplain here at Bancroft, for me, has been a wonderful experience.

Introducing The Bancroft Fund



You may have noticed a new look to our fund-raising appeal letter this month, with the rebranding of our annual fund: The Bancroft Fund.

This new format is designed to better engage families and other supporters, to help achieve our goals on behalf of those we serve.

Our key messages:

Your support is needed!

Gifts of all levels make a difference.

You can change lives through your donations.

This quarter's letter -- shown below -- is from a mom who tells how Bancroft turned around her young son's life. It's stories like these that truly convey what Bancroft is all about!



Dear Friend:

You have a chance to make your mark today, and really make a difference in someone's life.

You might help someone like my son Danny, who has autism and developmental disabilities. A few years ago, Danny was 15 years old and in agony. When he became a teenager his behavior had become unmanageable for our family and his teachers. He was a danger to himself and others, even self-inflicting an ear injury that required surgery. Our family was distraught. Danny was so unhappy and uncomfortable. We couldn't reach him. We felt helpless.

That's when we found Bancroft.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of her letter.

[Click here](#) to learn more about The Bancroft Fund.

Organizational Update

Bancroft President Toni Pergolin issued an Organizational Update this week to our families and other stakeholders.

[Click here](#) to read the complete Organizational Update, covering the period January to June 2010

[Click here](#) for a summary of our strategic planning accomplishments



Toni Pergolin with niece, Marisa, and friends at left; and with son, Timmy, and the other members of his school's Student Council at right.

It's a Pergolin family affair

Bancroft President Toni Pergolin gets a lot of support in her job -- and not just from employees. Pergolin's teenage son and niece each recently held fundraisers on Bancroft's behalf.

Niece Marisa Tracy held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser as her senior project at her Pittsburgh high school. More than 50 people attended the event, which generated over \$1,000 for Bancroft.

Son Timmy Pergolin helped run a benefit carnival at his school.

Timmy is a member of the student council at the Mother of Divine Providence School in King of Prussia, Pa. He and his fellow council members ran a "quarter carnival," where students spend quarters to play games and win prizes. The students raised over \$300, which will purchase assistive technology devices and a wheelchair swing for The Bancroft School.

Many thanks to Marisa, Timmy and the entire Pergolin family for all their great support -- including sharing Toni with us every day!

Art by people with brain injuries

The Creativity Expo features the work of people with acquired or traumatic brain injury. The exhibit will be held from Saturday July 10 through Sunday July 18 at the Raritan Valley Community College Art Gallery in North Branch, N.J. A Special Artists Reception will be held on opening day (July 10) from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.braininjuryartsnj.com or call Vincent Diorio at (703) 297-7726.

<http://www.braininjuryartsnj.com/creativityexpoflyer2010.pdf>

ABCD News

[Click here](#) for the July Edition of *ABCD News*, a publication of the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities. Included in this issue you will find articles on:

- New Jersey's 2011 state budget
- The state's progress on the College of Direct Support
- An Early Intervention Services update
- ABCD's upcoming training workshop on Aging and Developmental Disabilities

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