

In This Issue

[Bancroft Day among 'the best'](#)

[Butterfly Ball to take off tonight!](#)

[And the winners are](#)

[Our World - fall issue](#)

[Reconstruction begins in Mullica Hill](#)

[Free Vendor Fair on Assistive Technology](#)

[Growing from boy to man - and caring citizen](#)

[Staff cut loose at spirit-booster](#)

[Residential students "fall" for hayride](#)

[Free workshop on sexual behavior problems](#)

[Special Needs Expo next month](#)

[Inclusive Ministry Committee expands](#)



[Bancroft Day among 'the best'](#)

This year's Bancroft Day was tops, according to many guests. Held Saturday at a county park near Bancroft's Haddonfield Campus, the free festival has prompted rave reviews from families, staff and others.

"This was the best Bancroft Day in a long time," emailed staff member Lillian Wilson, who cited "good food, great entertainment," and games and crafts that were "awesome."

"I just wanted everyone to know how much I enjoyed myself as a staff [member] and volunteer," wrote Wilson, operations manager for Bancroft's Thornhill and Marlowe community homes. "I'm proud to be a part of this organization."

Guest Toni Gilmore also praised the festival. "It was an awesome event!" she emailed. "There was something for everyone. The music was outstanding and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

This was the first year that Bancroft Day was not held on the Haddonfield Campus, in order to provide more space and better parking. The new site - Challenge Grove Park -proved popular.

"I think Challenge Grove is the place," noted Wilson. "It didn't seem

Upcoming Events

crowded like on campus."

Overview of Cognitive Rehabilitation

part of Bancroft's free workshop series on topics related to brain injuries

October 28
Plainsboro

Campus
Plainsboro, NJ
Contact: Jeanne Allison, (856) 524-7371

In addition, the event featured a new activity: a one-mile walk titled "Footprints of Progress." Forty-eight walkers raised \$500 for Bancroft programs, and scores of other guests walked the course throughout the day, where they viewed displays on the history of disabilities rights and advances. A big thank you to all walkers!

Bancroft executive Caroline Eggerding expressed her appreciation to all who planned and ran the event. "Thank you for putting on such a wonderful Bancroft Day," she emailed. "You did a fabulous job."

Very special thanks to lead organizer Deb Conner, and the Bancroft Day Planning Committee: Julie Amadio, Jennifer Bates, Melanie Bianucci, Jeanne Bozicek, Diane DeSantis, Erin Donahue, Dennis Duffy, Rachel Ellis, Judy Graser, Michelle Habingreither, Jackie Lott, Kristin Lukianovich, Jamie McAllister, Linda Miller, Linda Odenath, Frank Purcell, Michael Rogers, Beatriz Shipley, Fredericka Smith, Katherine Smith, and Nicole Streeper.

Overview of Cognitive Rehabilitation

part of Bancroft's free workshop series on topics related to brain injuries

November 9
Brick Campus

Brick, NJ
Contact: Jeanne Allison, (856) 524-7371

[Click here](#) to enjoy some special moments from our big day.

Butterfly Ball to take off tonight!

The gowns and tuxes are being pressed, the speeches are being memorized, and the excitement is building -- as we prepare for Bancroft's 18th Annual Butterfly Ball this evening.

Thank you to all who are supporting this **SOLD OUT** event!

Watch for coverage of the ball - Bancroft's biggest fundraising event - in future newsletters. And if you're going - have a ball!

York Lecture Series on Assistive Technology and Vendor Fair

November 12
Lecture at
Cherry Hill
Library, Vendor
Fair at Cooley
Hall Gym,
Haddonfield
Campus
Contact: Sue
Crouse, (856)
348-4010

And the winners are...

Two people affiliated with Bancroft will receive awards this month from a disabilities advocacy group, and another two have been nominated for awards.

The Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD) will present Victoria Brown with its Self-Advocate Award for her leadership in advocating for people with developmental disabilities. And ABCD will present Bancroft parent William Wills with the Alex Gallione Family Advocate Award for his strong advocacy at the state and local level, and his deep commitment to people with neurological challenges.

Strategies for Reducing Holiday Stress

Staff members Leann Labbee and Maureen Steere were also

*Bancroft
Developmental
Disabilities
Workshop
Series*

November 17
Farrington
Conference
Room,
Haddonfield
Campus
Contact: Jeanne
Allison, (856)
524-7371

**Overview of
Cognitive
Rehabilitation**

*part of
Bancroft's free
workshop series
on topics
related to brain
injuries*

December 9
Lebensfeld
Building
Cherry Hill, NJ
Contact: Jeanne
Allison, (856)
524-7371

nominated for ABCD's Direct Support Professional Awards. Although they did not win, Leann and Maureen are definitely winners in our world!

ABCD will present its awards during its 15th anniversary celebration on Oct. 28. Congratulations to all nominees and award recipients!

ABCD is a New Jersey-based, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with complex physical and neurological developmental disabilities, so they can have the opportunity to attain the highest level of purpose and dignity. ABCD represents member agencies, including Bancroft, that provide a broad array of community-based services to about 10,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families statewide.



Our World - fall issue

The new issue of our printed newsletter - Our World - was mailed recently. In case you missed it -- or if you'd like to email it to friends and relatives - we've provided an electronic version at the link below. Enjoy!

[Click here](#) for the fall issue of Our World.



Reconstruction begins in Mullica Hill

Bancroft's Mullica Hill Campus is abuzz, as giant earth-movers and

backhoes will soon descend upon the campus. It's all part of a major renovation of the property - the culmination of several years of planning and preparation.

This is a very exciting time for the staff and persons served on the campus, in particular, as they eagerly anticipate their new, fully accessible residential and vocational facilities. The entire construction project will take about two years, and will be completed in phases.

Please watch for periodic updates as construction progresses. For a more detailed overview of the project and a construction timeline, please [click here](#).

Questions? Call Jack Seymour, senior director of facilities, at (856) 524-7251 or email jseymour@bnh.org.

Free Vendor Fair on Assistive Technology

Lecture and free webinar, too!

Bancroft will host an assistive-technology vendor fair on Nov. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Haddonfield Campus.

Check out the latest devices, services and resources offered by a variety of assistive-technology providers at this free mini-expo. Customized demonstrations are available - simply register by Nov. 8, and we will contact you in advance to plan your customized AT demonstration, provided by Advancing Opportunities.

Products/demonstrations will include:

- Communication devices such as DynaWrite, LightWriter, Mini-Might Mo, Palmtop, Springboard, Vantage, Vanguard, Pathfinder
- Adaptive devices and software that helps students learn and work, including IntelliKeys, Say it Sam, Start to Finish Books, touch screens iPads, including apps for communication, reading, math, organization, writing, art and more
- The Smartboard, which has become a powerful special-education tool

The vendor fair is being held in conjunction with our fall Clarence York Lecture, "Breaking Through: Advances in Assistive Technology." To view a brochure on the event, [click here](#).

If you can't attend the lecture, a free webinar will be held at the same time. For details, call Jackie Lott at (856) 348-4007 or email jlott@bnh.org.

You may attend the vendor fair without attending the lecture or

webinar. Families are encouraged to attend the vendor fair between 1 and 4 pm, as those times will be less crowded.

To register or for more information, call Sue Crouse at (856) 348-4010 or email scrouse@bnh.org.



Growing from boy to man - and caring citizen

When Jacob Feldman was preparing for his recent bar mitzvah, he knew he'd receive many gifts. But he wanted to help others, too - including his two adult cousins, who have autism and are served by Bancroft.

Jacob decided to sell puzzle pieces - the symbol of autism - and donate the money to Bancroft. By the time of his bar mitzvah, Jacob had collected more than \$3,000, which he recently presented to Bancroft, along with the completed and framed puzzle.

The money will be divided between a Bancroft community home -- where Jacob's cousins, Alan and Matt Maranon, live - and the LEARN program, Bancroft's continuing education classes for adults.

The puzzle, which features hand-written messages from dozens of donors, will hang in Bancroft's Jacob Schaefer Center, where LEARN and other adult programs take place.

Plus, Jacob is continuing to raise money for Bancroft. To help him, visit his website at www.firstgiving.com/jacobfeldman.

On behalf of all the people we serve, thank you so much, Jacob!

Shown above: Jacob Feldman, flanked by his cousins Matt and Alan Maranon, Bancroft President Toni Pergolin, friend Nancy Sweeny (in pink) and staff member Jeanne Bozicek.



Staff cut loose at spirit-booster

Bancroft's Pediatric and Adolescent Campus Residential Program busted stress and built camaraderie recently with a wacky competition. Staffers who work on the Haddonfield campus competed in such contests as Nose Dive, Stack Attack, Face the Cookie, and Junk in the Trunk, among others, in the "Minute-to-Win-It" games.

"We're always trying to do fun things for the staff so they're excited to come to work every day," says Susan Whited, the program's operations director. "The work is very challenging - it's a demanding job."

The contests were held for 45 minutes each day - before the students returned home from school - over a two-week period. Whited's program has been providing morale-boosters for the staff every month or so for the past year.

As a result, "the staff's attitude is more positive," she says, "and that

creates a better atmosphere for the kids."

Winners of the Minute-to-Win-It competition:

- 1st place - Tyrell Burton (Jenzia House), who received a \$50 TD Bank gift card.
- 2nd place - Shantay Gaines (Apartment 1), who got a \$25 Wawa gift card.
- 3rd place - Anthony Parker (Charlotte House), who won a \$10 Wawa gift card.

Shown above: Jennifer Rodgers gets competitive.

[Click here](#) for more photos of the competition.



Residential students 'fall' for hayride

Students who live on Bancroft's Haddonfield campus and their staff enjoyed a hayride and pumpkin-picking over the long Columbus Day weekend, at Springdale Farms in Cherry Hill, N.J.

The hayride was both fun and educational, as the driver stopped periodically to discuss the corn, pumpkins and other produce growing in the surrounding fields.

Back on campus, the students spent their Monday off from school painting their pumpkins.

"We try to plan big events on school holidays," says Susan Whited, the campus residential program's operations director. "The kids definitely liked the hayride and were excited about their pumpkins. We didn't have any behavioral problems!"

Shown above: Jordan Rollison and Nicole Breen on this fun autumn outing.

[Click here](#) for more photos of the fun.

Free workshop on sexual behavior

problems

Trinitas Regional Medical Center will present an interactive workshop on sexual behavior problems among adults with developmental disabilities in residential programs.

The program, titled "Working With Sexual Behavior Problems in Residential Care," will be presented by psychologist Jeffrey Allen, Ph.D., director of PSYCHHealth Associates, LLC.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday Oct. 27 from 10 am to 1pm, at the North Jersey Developmental Center, 169 Minnisink Road, Totowa, NJ 07511

Refreshments will be served during this free program. RSVP to Fatu Bangura at (908) 497-9636, x201, or email fbangura@trinitas.org

Special Needs Expo next month

Guide Publications will hold the South Jersey Special Needs Expo on Nov. 11 in Cherry Hill, N.J. The event will run from 1:30 to 5:30 pm at the Holiday Inn, 2175 West Marlton Pike.

[Click here](#) for a flyer.

[Click here](#) here to register as a vendor.

Inclusive Ministry Committee expands

More community members are joining our Inclusive Ministry Committee -- and helping to support our mission of making it "one world for everyone" -- thanks to the efforts of Sister Krista Mote of Bancroft's Education Program. We are pleased to welcome the following members to the committee:

- Kathy Isherwood, director of religious education at Christ the King Parish in Haddonfield.
- Matt Rhodes, who is in his last year of study at Princeton Theological Seminary. Rhodes moved to the Haddonfield area recently, when his wife became the associate pastor at the First Presbyterian Church. In 2007-08, Rhodes lived and worked in a L'Arche community in Washington, D.C., and is working to start a L'Arche community in this area. This past year, he worked as a hospital chaplain at Capital Health in Trenton, and he has a deep passion for helping people with intellectual disabilities explore their spirituality. Says Rhodes: "I have learned much about God as well as what it means to be human from these friends of

mine."

- Dave and Mercedes Rizzo, parishioners of St. Isaac Jogues Church and parents of four children, one of whom has autism. Dave has a degree in physical therapy and presents a seminar titled "Autism: Where Neuroscience Meets Clinical Practice." He will speak at Bancroft's Ninth Annual Inclusive Ministry Workshop next spring. Mercedes has a degree in elementary education.

In addition, we welcome back The Rev. Victoria McGrath from the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, who will continue as our clinical pastoral education student this year. McGrath will be available on a part-time basis to help support the spiritual life of those we serve residentially. Her role will include helping to ensure access to religious services for those interested, and fostering faith relationships.

The other members of Bancroft's Inclusive Ministry Committee are:

- Rabbi Judith Abrahamson, Learning Consultant, Rabbinical College of PA
- Tammy Carbone, Education Programs, Bancroft
- The Rev. Patrick Close, Pastor of Grace Church, Haddonfield
- Bobbie Edwardson, Education Programs, Bancroft
- Caroline Eggerding, M.D., Vice President of Clinical Services and Chief Medical Officer, Bancroft
- Samantha Gandia, Coordinator of Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken (Service for children with disabilities)
- Sister Bonnie McMenamin, Dir. of the Office for Ministry with the Deaf and Advocate for Spiritual Access for Persons with Disabilities in the Camden Diocese
- Linda Miller, Flicker Residences, Bancroft
- The Rev. George Morris, United Methodist Church, Haddonfield
- Kathleen Nicosia, Educational Programs, Bancroft
- Kathy Ross, Vice President of Communications and Community Relations, Bancroft
- The Rev. Anthony C. Tilton, Pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Haddonfield

To learn more about Inclusive Ministry or to become a member of Bancroft's Inclusive Ministry Committee, contact Sister Krista Mote at kmote@bnh.org or (856) 524-7248.

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