



# Our World

## Bancroft team lends support in schools

For decades, students have come to Bancroft from near and far. Now, Bancroft is going to students – in their own schools across South Jersey.

A number of school districts – from Cherry Hill to Mount Laurel, West Deptford to Barrington – have hired Bancroft's Consultation and Training Department to work with their students and staff members.

"It's a way for districts to keep as many students as possible in their local schools, which the state strongly encourages," says Sharon Jurman, Bancroft's senior director of early childhood and outreach services. "We can provide the knowledge and the support districts need to do that."

School districts especially seek Bancroft's know-how in treating behavioral challenges among students on the autism spectrum, notes Jurman.

"Many districts don't have the behavioral expertise or appropriately credentialed professionals to put behavioral programs in place," she explains. They also lack the resources to evaluate the needs of students with complex issues. "We can do this for far less cost than districts can do it themselves."

In Moorestown, Bancroft provides direct, one-to-one staffing for ten students at five public schools, from preschool through high school. Some families also receive in-home training before or after school, to help their



**Sharing their expertise:** Dawn Vitello-Mangan (left) and Sharon Jurman – members of Bancroft's Consultation and Training Department – help area schools teach kids with disabilities.

child function better in the family and community. And Bancroft is providing other services to the district, including program development, hands-on staff training, and behavioral planning and

training for individual students.

Bancroft staffers have helped Moorestown students make great strides since the program began last  
*(continued)*

## Greg Dobbs joins Bancroft Board



Dobbs is all smiles at a "skills-n-drills" event last year at The Bancroft School.

### Philadelphia Phillies infielder Greg Dobbs is teaming up with Bancroft — as a member of our Board of Trustees.

Dobbs, who's been named to a three-year term, has developed a fond relationship with Bancroft over the past three years. He's been charmed by Bancroft students during annual sports-skills events held on our Haddonfield Campus. And last fall, he served as Dinner Chair for our Butterfly Ball, helping to draw record support.

"Greg is a sincere and active advocate for the people we serve," says Bancroft President Toni Pergolin.

Dobbs says he looks forward to helping "further the great cause and effort Bancroft has already achieved."

### Inside this issue

● President's message:  
A powerful exchange

● Emmons and Fay –  
shaping 'one world'

● Youth residences:  
homes to grow in

Message from  
our president,  
**Toni Pergolin**



## Expanding our world, bit by bit

Small but wonderful things have started happening since we launched our new brand – **Bancroft...One World. For Everyone.** People are listening. Perceptions are changing.

A few months ago, I presented our brand to the Haddonfield Rotary, a group of business people and other community leaders. I discussed how we strive to alter perceptions, to help people with disabilities achieve their life goals as valued and respected members of our world. It was a different type of presentation than I had done for the Rotary before – neither an overview of Bancroft nor an update on our Haddonfield campus. Rather, it was about community inclusion and support.

Several weeks later, the Rotary extended an open invitation for a person we serve to be a guest at a club meeting each month. This is a terrific opportunity for those we serve to interact with community leaders, and for all of us to get to know one another better. I was thrilled – these folks really heard our message! Plus, the Rotary sent me a special invitation for the people we serve to attend their annual oyster supper.

Perhaps you, too, have seen the impact of our new brand. Maybe a new door has opened, or you're pursuing options you'd never considered before. If so, I'd love to hear about it – and share it with our Bancroft community. (E-mail me at [tpergolin@bnh.org](mailto:tpergolin@bnh.org) or call 856-348-1193.) We can all change the world, one step at a time!

## Helping districts meet needs

*(continued)*

fall. One teenager, for example, missed many educational and social opportunities due to her outbursts. "She can now complete school work. Her aggression and tantrums are way down," reports Jurman.

Plus, the girl now participates in gym class, eats with other students in the cafeteria, and has a job making deliveries inside her school. Although nonverbal, "she consistently uses her electronic talker for communication."

Jurman's team is getting rave reviews. "I can't say enough positive things about Bancroft," enthuses Moorestown's Dawn Monacella, Ed.D, liaison for the partnership. The special-education supervisor praises Jurman, Dawn Vitello-Mangan and Denise Kerth (both board-certified behavior analysts) in particular, for their "leadership... to provide superior service for our students."

Teachers, families, and the school district also benefit from the collaboration, Monacella says. The entire staff is becoming "more

capable and confident in working with students with significant needs." Teachers feel "very supported by Bancroft."

Moorestown teacher Claire Laveglia affirms this view. "Bancroft's being here has been a very positive experience," says the elementary-school staffer. She cites one student who improved his behavior so much that he now spends 75 percent of his day in a regular classroom.

Families are pleased with Bancroft's in-home services, too. "They're very happy with the quality, professionalism, and demeanor of the Bancroft staff," Monacella states.

As Moorestown educators and families learn Bancroft's techniques, the Consultation and Training Department will gradually transition services over to them and "fade out" from district schools and homes.

"By investing now," says Jurman, "districts like Moorestown will reap huge benefits and ultimately cut costs for many years to come."



## Accreditors offer praise

An international accrediting agency praised Bancroft in its recent report on the organization.

CARF – the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities – gave high marks to the programs it surveyed: Brain Injury Services and Community Employment Services for adults. CARF reaccredited them for three more years – its maximum term.

Here are two excerpts from CARF's report:

- "Bancroft demonstrates a strong commitment to a person-first environment, with a conscious effort to remove barriers to inclusion."
- "The commitment, dedication, enthusiasm, and knowledge level of the directors and staff members are strengths."

For more report highlights, visit [bancroft.org](http://bancroft.org).

## New leaders to help prepare for future



Bancroft is poised for major changes – and opportunities – in the coming years: the possible relocation of our Haddonfield campus and headquarters, shifts in funding sources, and large-scale fundraising initiatives. To help see us through these challenges, Bancroft recently hired two new leaders who are uniquely qualified to navigate such issues.

Joseph Flamini has been named chief operating officer, and Thomas Burke joins Bancroft as chief financial officer. (A third new leadership position – chief advancement officer – was filled last year by Joan Galon King, who was promoted from vice president of development.)

“I’m confident these leaders will provide the expertise, knowledge and creativity to position Bancroft for a long, successful future,” says Toni Pergolin, Bancroft’s president and CEO.

Flamini, who has extensive experience in healthcare operations, will help lead Bancroft’s management team to position the organization for future goals, including the

possible campus relocation. He previously served as CEO of Lourdes Health System in Burlington County, N.J., and as vice president of administration and facility operations for St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton.

Burke, who has broad experience in strategic, growth-oriented planning, capital-raising and operations analysis, will help implement Bancroft’s financial goals, including development of new funding strategies. His past positions include CFO for Trefoil Properties, and posts in the investment banking and public accounting industries.

Both Flamini and Burke bring solid records of accomplishment. Flamini, for instance, has achieved strategic financial targets via new clinical programs and productivity improvements. And Burke’s 25 years of financial management experience and strong leadership skills “will provide strategic vision and planning now and for the future,” says Pergolin.



Joe Flamini (top) and Tom Burke (bottom).

## Spotlight on: Lisa and Todd

**Todd Emmons and Lisa Fay are a dynamic duo.** The engaged couple, supported by Bancroft’s Community Services for Adults, is devoted to each other – and to their shared passion for advocacy.

In fact, Lisa and Todd were each recognized this spring for their advocacy efforts. Lisa received the Community Star Award from the New Jersey Association of Community Providers. And Todd received the Jane Miller Memorial Leadership Award from the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project.

Todd’s accomplishments include helping to remove the word “idiot” from New Jersey’s constitution. He is a governor-appointed member of the state’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, and chairs the Monday Morning Network, which works to improve accessibility in Camden County.

Lisa is an active member of several New Jersey self-advocacy groups, and gives presentations at statewide self-advocacy conferences on such topics as rights of people with disabilities, improving communication with support staff, and tips for families on self-advocacy.

The pair co-chairs Bancroft’s self-advocacy group, too. Says staff member Michael Rogers, who’s known them for years: “Lisa and Todd are shining examples of how one individual can positively change the world for so many others.”



*Todd and Lisa are active advocates for the rights of people with disabilities. Both are served in Bancroft’s adult program.*

## Making it One World. For Everyone.

## Bancroft residential programs for youth...

...serve young people ages  
5 - 21.

...offer 8 campus-based  
apartments and 13 group  
homes in the community.

...help young people achieve  
their full potential for  
self-care, daily living skills,  
appropriate behaviors,  
socialization, recreation and  
more.

...provide enrollment  
in The Bancroft School,  
a 250-student special-  
education school on  
Bancroft's Haddonfield  
campus.

...emphasize applied  
behavior analysis (ABA), a  
well-proven, best practice  
for reducing behavior  
problems and increasing  
functional skills.

...offer extensive leisure  
opportunities, including  
regular outings, and many  
extracurricular options  
provided by The Bancroft  
School.

**For more information,  
visit [bancroft.org](http://bancroft.org) or  
call 1-800-774-5516.**

## Continuum of youth residences: great places to live and grow

Nineteen-year-old Danny McDowell has autism and other intellectual disabilities. Yet he lives on a suburban campus where he goes to school, works, socializes and has fun.

"It almost feels like he's in college," says Danny's mother, Jill. "This is his version of independence."

Indeed, Danny is learning a wide variety of skills at Bancroft's Haddonfield Campus, where he's enrolled in both the Pediatric Residential Program and The Bancroft School. In addition to developing his academic and job skills, he's mastering daily-living abilities like shaving, showering, doing laundry and preparing food – and decreasing his tantrums and self-injurious behaviors.

The program is also preparing Danny to live in the community. And when he's ready, a Bancroft group home or apartment will await, just minutes from the campus. The organization currently operates 13 pediatric residences in nearby suburban towns, offering a range of supports and supervision based on each young person's needs.

Jill McDowell couldn't be more pleased with her son's program. "He's thriving there. He's very happy," says the Telford, Pa., mom, whose family was unable to handle Danny's behavior problems by the time he turned 15.

"I'm just so impressed with Bancroft," adds Jill. "I'm so thankful and grateful there are people who know how to take care of my son, and know how to help him live a healthy and happy life."

### **Like Danny, D'Asia English is also 19 and attends The Bancroft School.**

But D'Asia lives off-campus, in a Bancroft group home in the community. And she's had different challenges to overcome, including recovering from a brain-injury that struck at age 11 and the absence of a stable home life.

"Bancroft has been D'Asia's only steady home for a long time," says the teen's guardian, Benni Versaci. "As with any child, having the safety and comfort of a home is so important," notes the social worker. "She didn't have that her whole life."

Versaci sees "a great benefit" in having D'Asia receive both educational and residential services from one organization. "The staff know each other. It's easy to communicate. If there's a behavior [problem] at school, there's continuity with the same goals and treatments in the home."

Versaci praises the warmth of Bancroft's staff and the many positive lessons they've taught D'Asia.

"You can really see how much they care for her. D'Asia is better at relating to people appropriately because of the support she receives [at Bancroft]."

For her part, D'Asia likes the "freedom" she has in her group home. "I can do what I want to do," says the teen, who enjoys typical pastimes like shopping, socializing with friends, and getting her nails done – and even household chores like washing clothes and dishes.

"I think it's a very swell school," says D'Asia. "They help me a lot."



Danny and his mom, Jill, relax at the teenager's apartment on the Haddonfield Campus. There, he's developing the skills he needs to live and work in the community.

## Danny McDowell

### *Overcoming behaviors to live on campus*

When Danny McDowell hit puberty, his temper tantrums became so severe he could no longer attend his Pennsylvania school. Even his family couldn't calm the teen, who punched himself so relentlessly he needed multiple surgeries on his ears.

"His behavior became unmanageable for us in the home," recalls Danny's mom, Jill. "I felt helpless. There was nothing I could do to change the behavior or make him happy."

The McDowells turned to Bancroft, where Danny enrolled in the Lindens Program – a unique crisis unit on the Haddonfield campus. There, Danny learned to control his outbursts. He also began attending The Bancroft School, and learning how to take care of himself at home.

Today, Danny lives in a garden apartment on Bancroft's Haddonfield campus, which he shares with three roommates. He goes to school, and does light packaging work through Bancroft's vocational training program.

"I feel like the old Danny is back," says Jill. "His big smile; his pretty blue eyes...Bancroft has helped Danny have the promise of a better life."

## D'Asia English

### *Right at home in the community*

D'Asia English's life changed in an instant when she was 11. A brain injury from a traffic accident left her unable to walk and barely able to speak. Moreover, D'Asia had no family members who could care for her.

Today, after almost three years at Bancroft, the 19-year-old walks well with a walker, and speaks clearly and expressively. She works in Bancroft's campus convenience store, Sweet Success, where she operates the cash register, bags, stocks shelves and cleans. She also helps with off-campus mail deliveries. D'Asia attends The Bancroft School in Haddonfield, and lives in a Bancroft group home in a neighboring town.

Says D'Asia: "I had a brain injury, but that didn't stop me from learning and pressing on."

Lately, for instance, D'Asia is working on living more healthfully. With support from her residential staff and Bancroft's dietitian, she chooses nutritious foods, takes frequent walks, visits local parks and rides a stationary bike.

"[The staff] helped me so much," adds D'Asia, "and they are continuously trying to help me achieve my goals."



D'Asia hugs staff member Sara Hender at a Bancroft event focusing on exercise. The young woman's active life is filled with school, jobs and socializing.

# Staff giving back through new fundraising effort

Debbie Brown is known for her dedication to the people she supports. The Flicker Center employee takes it upon herself to organize holiday meals and outings, and volunteers at social events for persons served. "The guys are always happy when Debbie is at work," says supervisor Jeanne Capell. "They know she will make them laugh... and just have a great time."



Debbie Brown

Now, Debbie is taking her commitment a step further: she recently began donating to Bancroft through automatic payroll deductions.

"I have worked in a number of different facilities," says Debbie, "and I have never been in a place that not only talks the talk, but walks the walk. So much of what is talked about [is] actually done here. If I am going to send my money to someplace, I want it to be here."

In fact, Debbie is far from alone. Over 700 staff members are already supporting our Employee Impact Campaign, which began in January. The program encourages staffers to support Bancroft's mission through monetary donations and/or other means.

Of course, many employees have long provided assistance beyond their daily job duties. They volunteer at events, buy our raffle tickets, and use GoodSearch and GoodShop (Internet services that donate a percentage to Bancroft). Many also buy supplies or donate useful items from home. Now, such contributions will be recognized – through the Employee Impact Campaign.

Staff donations are critical for a number of reasons, notes Joan Galon King, Bancroft's chief advancement officer. For instance, corporations, foundations and private donors often consider the amount of support from those closest to an organization, when deciding whether to provide gifts or grants. Families also look at this information when choosing where their loved one should be served.

"That's why we provide all our closest supporters – staff, families and volunteers – multiple opportunities to donate throughout the year," says King. "Their contributions are just so vital."

For more information on giving to Bancroft, please call Kimberly Caputo at (856) 348-1145 or visit [bancroft.org](http://bancroft.org).

## Famed Eagle to fly at Ball

Former Eagles quarterback Ron "Jaws" Jaworski will chair Bancroft's 2010 Butterfly Ball, joining the ranks of recent Ball chairs Dick Vermeil and Phillies' infielder Greg Dobbs.

"This year's event promises to be very special," says Barbara Berkman, chair of the Butterfly Ball Committee. "We believe that Ron's leadership, combined with several very exciting honorees – to be announced soon – will make this an extremely successful fundraiser for Bancroft."

Scheduled for Friday Oct. 22 at the Mount Laurel Westin in Mount Laurel, N.J., the Butterfly Ball is Bancroft's premier fundraising event, attracting close to 300 guests last year. Its proceeds represent 27 percent of Bancroft's annual fund – recently named The Bancroft Fund – which is the unrestricted donations we receive annually.

Gifts to The Bancroft Fund support every aspect of the educational and life experience of those served by Bancroft, from facility improvements to assistive technology, extracurricular activities to vocational training for persons served.

Notes Berkman, "Financial support of the Butterfly Ball helps create a vibrant community and enhances the overall life experience for those Bancroft serves. It truly changes lives."

## Golf tournament on hiatus this year – but support continues

Bancroft's Golf Tournament is a much-loved tradition – one that has served the organization well in its ability to raise funds and friends.

This year, however, the event is on a temporary hiatus, to enable Bancroft to focus on other strategic projects.

"This was not an easy decision," says Greg Grimaldi, chair of Bancroft's Golf Committee and a member of the

Development Committee. "But at a time when our needs are great and our resources are stretched, we must plan ahead and think boldly."

Bancroft is especially grateful that many tournament sponsors are continuing their support this year – even without an event. In fact, all of last year's lead sponsors have pledged to renew their gifts for 2010. "It is our

sincere hope that the golf event was the means for supporting Bancroft, not the reason," Grimaldi emphasizes.

Supporters will be invited this summer to a celebration of their commitment, which will be announced shortly.

For more information, call Joan Galon King, Bancroft's chief advancement officer, at (856) 348-1145.



## Springtime events expand horizons at Bancroft and beyond

From top, left to right:

- **Visiting expert** – International disabilities authority Rune J. Simeonsson, Ph.D. (second from left) meets Bancroft supporters after speaking at the organization’s Clarence York Lecture. Shown with Simeonsson are Bancroft President Toni Pergolin (from left), former president Clarence York, Ed.D., and executive Dan Keating, Ph.D.
- **Worthy walkers** – Members of “Team Bancroft” take part in an annual walkathon for autism research and care. About 50 Bancroft supporters raised \$4,700 in the Walk for Autism.
- **Bowling champions** – Athletes from Bancroft’s Special Olympics adult bowling team display the gold and silver medals they won at a state tournament. This “unified” team combines athletes with and without disabilities.
- **Vital helpers** – About 50 Bancroft volunteers gathered at the organization’s annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. These generous folks donate their time in various ways, from coaching

sports to raising funds.

- **Surprise celebration** – Jason Spiris, manager of the Cherry Hill, N.J., Petco store, receives a visit from Bancroft’s Business Advisory Committee and Supported Employment Program to honor Petco for employing people with disabilities. The celebration marked 15 years on the job for Petco employee Brad Silberstein (third from left), a man served by Bancroft.
- **Friend raiser** – Bancroft President Toni Pergolin (right) and board member Sam Pignatelli (center) chat with a new acquaintance – James Dwyer, DO – a top executive at Virtua, South Jersey’s largest hospital system. They met at a Philadelphia reception held on Bancroft’s behalf, to help the organization network with community leaders.
- **Media meeting** – Philadelphia Magazine President David Lipson (left) confers with Bancroft board member Ray Welsh at the Philadelphia reception held for Bancroft. More than 50 area leaders attended the event.



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Haddonfield, NJ 08033-0018

### *Save the dates*

## **Bancroft Day**

Oct. 16 • Haddonfield area

## **Butterfly Ball**

Oct. 22 • The Westin, Mount Laurel

### **Our World**

Our World is published quarterly by Bancroft, a private, nonprofit organization.

### **Our Mission**

Bancroft's mission is to ensure that every person is given opportunities for lifelong learning and fulfillment.

We do this by altering perceptions, and by supporting those with intellectual and developmental challenges and acquired brain injuries in achieving their life goals as valued and respected members of our world.

### **To contact us, call:**

**1-800-774-5516**

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[bancroft.org](http://bancroft.org)

## **Traveling this summer?**

*Keep these tips in mind so the trip is fun for all!*

Traveling with children can be challenging. But by anticipating your child's needs, you can help ensure a fun time for all. Try these strategies:

- **Accept** — Your child has special needs. Nothing will change that.
- **Adapt** — Adapting does not mean foregoing family fun times but rather learning the triggers of negative behavior in your child, so that family celebrations do not dissolve into painful, chaotic experiences.
- **Be Flexible** — Things will not always go the way you want, so be ready to shift gears quickly, if necessary.

For additional tips, visit our website at [bancroft.org](http://bancroft.org) and look for the "Traveling Tips" article on the homepage.