



Ethan McPeake

Donor Spotlight

A benefit consultant for CBIZ, Ethan McPeake serves on Koinonia's Foundation Board and the Fund Development Committee. He believes holding a board position comes with expectations. True to his word, Mr. McPeake has not only sponsored and attended agency events, but has also boosted attendance through his community outreach. He is truly energized to help Koinonia share its story!

Mr. McPeake is personally invested in Koinonia's mission to achieve healthy, fulfilling, enriched lives for individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The brother of an individual who has IDD, he and other members of his family volunteer and work in the IDD service industry. When he's not busy volunteering, Mr. McPeake enjoys spending time with his wife and their 18-month old daughter.

Fundraising Update

Since December 1, 2009 we are pleased to report that our donors have given over \$22,000. Your gifts play a critical role in helping Koinonia Homes continue our long history of care for individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities! We are deeply appreciative of your generous support.

Thank you!

Did you know?

Animal assisted therapy has been shown to have overall positive effects on human health and well being, and is especially good for children and adults with disabilities.

"Pet Therapy Dogs Help Patients Recover Faster,"
November 18, 2009.



Cleo the dog spreads smiles during one of his monthly visits with individuals at Koinonia's Adult Day Support Center.

In Memory

A faithful volunteer for more than 20 years, Dr. William S. Cumming served Koinonia in several capacities. A former member of the Koinonia Foundation Board, he was also a member of our Board of Directors serving as President and Vice President. He was a member of the Governance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and the Executive Committee. We appreciate his time, talents, and means that he so generously gave to Koinonia's mission. He will be missed.



Pictured left to right: Board Chairman Fred Watkins, CEO Diane Beastrom and Dr. Cumming who was honored at Koinonia's 2009 Fellowship Luncheon for his outstanding service to the organization.



Koinonia Homes, Inc.
6161 Oak Tree Blvd., Suite 400
Independence, OH 44131
www.koinoniahomes.org

Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, June 15th

Koinonia's CONNECTeon Luncheon

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Silver Grille in the Higbee Building
200 W. Prospect, Cleveland

Register online by visiting www.koinoniahomes.org.

Wednesday, June 30th

Cookin' Up Cash Fundraiser

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Mapleside Farms & Restaurant
Mapleside will donate 10% of all dinner sales to Koinonia.
294 Pearl Rd. (US 42), Brunswick

Call (330) 225-5576 for your dinner reservation.

Saturday, September 25th

Koinonia's Walk for D.R.E.A.M.S.

Developmentally Disabled Ready and Empowered to Achieve Milestones and Successes

8:00 a.m. to noon at Whiskey Island, Wendy Park
2800 Whiskey Island, Cleveland

Would you like to volunteer for upcoming events?

Contact Communications & Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Stallard at 216-588-8777 ext. 351.

INSPIRATIONS

A Publication of Koinonia Homes, Inc.

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Lights, Camera, Action!

Drama club kicked off this spring at Koinonia's Adult Day Support Center. This ten-week night program is part of our partnership with John Carroll University in which a small group of student volunteers pledge their services each semester.



John Carroll University Student Volunteers

Currently, JCU volunteers spend Monday evenings constructing interactive theater games and acting out scenarios that help our individuals work on self-expression, memorization and socialization skills. These interactions also teach our individuals to express themselves in different ways and to work together as a team to accomplish a common goal. It's a fun way for them to interact with new peers.

Koinonia individuals in drama club anticipate Monday evenings. They look forward to learning new things and sharing what they learn with their staff, roommates and friends.

Quality Candidates for Koinonia

It's all about quality: quality service and quality care for the individuals we serve. This is one of many reasons Koinonia's HR department recently created an innovative job application. Accessible from any computer with internet access, this online job portal provides an inside look to the work environment of Koinonia. Featuring expanded job listings and a video that provides a first-hand account of working with individuals who have disabilities, this new tool is a secure database that tracks qualified candidates.

By creating an online job portal, Koinonia expands its candidate pool significantly. But quantity is quickly transformed to quality when applicants are asked a series of questions before applying. Furthermore, by watching the day-in-the-life video each candidate has a clear understanding of the impact and expectations of his or her position. Thus, better informed candidates translates to retention, professional growth and consistency in quality service for our individuals.

Story continued inside.





Hello!

How do you put into words the meaning and privilege of being able to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve healthy, fulfilling and enriched lives? It is a true honor to serve our individuals and their families. Our dedicated and caring staff, along with many invested family members, vendors, volunteers and donors, partner with us so that together we are able to carry the vital mission of Koinonia to serve those in need of our services.

Recently Koinonia received delivery on a grant awarded from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in coordination with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to provide special-

ized transportation for our individuals. We received three beautiful new handicap accessible vans that are equipped to transport six individuals in wheelchairs or eight people with cargo space for two wheelchairs. These much needed vans will be used to transport our individuals to and from their homes to our Adult Day Support Center. Needless to say, we are very excited about this addition!

Many of you may have already heard our radio spots that are playing on WCLV, station 104.9 classical FM in Cleveland. WCLV 104.9 has partnered with Koinonia to help us carry our message to those who may be in need of our services. We are delighted to have WCLV's support.

On Sunday May 16th WEWS Channel 5 news anchor Leon Bibb will highlight Koinonia on his show, Kaleidoscope airing at 10:00 a.m. This is a great way for us to share Koinonia's mission with Cleveland! I hope you tune in!

I am also pleased to let you know that Koinonia's fundraiser luncheon, *CONNECT*eon, will be held at the Silver Grille in Cleveland on June 15th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. We are thrilled to have Pat Perry, President of ERC and founder of the NorthCoast 99 Award, as our keynote speaker. Our partners to date for the event are Bulldog Office Products Inc., Cleveland State University, CBIZ, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, ERC, First Merit Bank, Howard, Wershbae & Co., Kaiser Permanente, Key Bank, Omnicare Inc., The Ritz-Carlton Cleveland Hotel, and WCLV 104.9 classical FM. Please mark your calendar for this wonderful luncheon.

We believe partnership with the individuals we serve and their families is crucial to carrying out our mission. Please call our office (216-588-8777) to find out about our next family meeting so that you can share your ideas. We look forward to hearing from you.

As we look toward the future, we at Koinonia are looking forward to continuing the significant and caring work that was started 36 years ago when our doors opened to eight women in Leans House. Today, as always, we have a strong and dedicated commitment to excellence. We are pleased to have you as part of our Koinonia team.

With Best Regards,

Diane Beastrom
Chief Executive Officer



Two of our news vans from ODOT!

KATIE

A member of the Lee House family for 18 years, Katie loves to play games. Board games, card games, especially Memory; she is always willing to try something new. Katie has a smile that's contagious and she enjoys being out and about in the community. When asked about her favorite activities, staff agrees that visits from her mom and shopping top the list!



SINGING ANGELS

It began with a few individuals, but after watching their peers interact with the congregation, others joined the church choir. Today, Kevin, Emil, Walter, Patrick and Maynard all enjoy singing together on Sundays. As a result they have developed stronger relationships with each other

and their peers in the community. One of their favorite songs is "I'm on the battlefield and I'm fighting for the Lord." The congregation and pastor have embraced them with kindness.

JOE

A jewelry designer for Koinonia's vocational services, Joe has taken his business skills to new heights! Until recently, staff was tracking and ordering supplies, but now Joe oversees his budget and inventory. After determining his monthly budget, he prioritizes what to buy based on his customer orders and begins researching companies to find the best deals. All requests, orders and inventory are tracked in a binder to determine how long supplies last and what designs are selling. Joe's goal is to work as an independent jewelry designer and, perhaps, send his designs to other retailers or galleries.



Koinonia Individuals Give Back to Their Community

Grateful for the care they receive, individuals attending programs at Koinonia's Adult Day Support Center opened their hearts to community members. Through a sock drive appropriately named Warm Feet for Cleveland more than 400 pairs of socks were collected to be donated to other local non-profits, The City Mission and Berea Children's Home & Family Services.

Warm Feet for Cleveland is a charity drive developed by a small group of Koinonia individuals who wanted to provide warmth to others during the cold, winter months. While coats are a natural give-away, they tend to be an expensive gift for a special needs individual to donate. Socks, however, are just as important!

Beginning last winter, Koinonia individuals formed two teams--White Socks and Red Socks--and began reaching out to family members and friends. Donations came from California, Oregon, Florida, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania and even India, totaling 429 pairs of socks. The total far surpassed our individuals' expectations of 100 socks for this first-time charity drive.

As donations poured in, individuals tracked socks, while announcing progress and learning information about each state (and country). Each team also researched which charity they felt should receive the donations.

"This charity drive creates a tremendous amount of self confidence for our individuals to be on the giving end," says De Ann Brewer, Vocational Services Manager. "There is so much therapeutic value for them because all of their lives they are the recipients of care."

Pictured right: Ashley, Patsy and David proudly supported the sock drive.



Story below continued from front page.

While not all candidates can fill a current opening, this new database stores their qualifications which can potentially match them to a future opening. Likewise, it allows Koinonia to match qualified current employees to job openings that advance their career within the organization. Receiving an average of 40 applications per month, and managing the information of close to 500 employees, another monumental benefit of this new tool is time. The time saved allows the HR team to focus its efforts in developing training and programs for professional development of its current employees.

Koinonia is the only intellectually/developmentally disabled provider in Cuyahoga County with an interactive online application.