New Day Hab Focuses on Community Inclusion

Independent Providers Lorri Lewis and Cassandra Hehmeyer have joined forces and just recently opened a Day Habilitation together called Choice Express.

The Choice Express is located at 1500 W. Fourth Street in the strip mall next to Shirt Shack.

“We are excited about this location because it really is big enough and has a lot of potential. We are taking a limited number of individuals, giving our current clients first priority,” said Lorri.

Disability Employment Awareness Month

As you drive around the Mansfield area this month, look for Richland Newhope’s five billboards as we mark Disability Employment Awareness Month. We’re featuring Zach Sites, who works at Lucas Tools.
Christmas party tickets soon available
Richland Newhope's annual Christmas party for individuals who receive our services is set for Friday, Dec. 6. The time has changed to 6-8 p.m. in Fairhaven Hall at the Richland County Fairgrounds.

Beginning Nov. 4, tickets will be available weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Richland Newhope Administration Building, 314 Cleveland Ave. or Raintree, 721 Scholl Rd. Individuals, family members, and providers can go to any one of these locations.

There is no charge but everyone attending must get a ticket prior to the party. They will not be available at the door. Each individual is allowed up to five tickets.

The party will feature a DJ, dancing, a photo booth, and pizza, chips and cookies.

For more information, call 419-774-4214.

Harvest time
The Residential Department invited all individuals who receive services from Richland Newhope, their families, and staff to the 19th Annual Harvest Festival at Raintree on September 19.

Over 100 people enjoyed an evening of games, hayrides, food trucks, photo booth area, and the acoustic duo, Red & Six, perform at the Harvest Festival.

Thanks to the many staff members and volunteers who made the activities possible,
from those who put up tents to those who baked goodies for the Cake Walk!

If you’d like to see more photos from the week, check out our Facebook page.

Silver Award Project Benefits Residential
The Cadette Girl Scouts of Troop 1275 have finished their Silver Award Project. Their project, "Clothing Protectors with Dignity", benefited the residents at Raintree. The troop has volunteered with Raintree throughout the past few years. After seeing the clothing protectors the residents use, they decided to take action and make some clothing protectors that are more dignified, age appropriate, and less costly. The current clothing protectors do not last long. The troop is encouraging other organizations to help continue to make clothing protectors. The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. A great big thanks goes out to this awesome Girl Scout Troop!!

One Step Closer
Congratulations to Christopher Kukowski for completing his service project for Eagle Scout. He was recognized for his tremendous efforts by the City of Mansfield for his hard work and his achievement on July 31st. After many hours of planning, preparation, completing paperwork, and fundraising; Chris and his Troop 113 constructed outdoor furniture for Richland County Children Services. Chris had
to select a community service project which helps people and organizations. They built a swing, table and bench for the staff and clients to enjoy. The final step is for Chris to take part in the Eagle Scout Board of Review. Christopher is one step closer to becoming an Eagle Scout!

**Special Olympics cards available**

Richland County Special Olympics is once again selling cards that can be used for discounts at 21 area restaurants and other businesses.

The cards cost $5 each and are available for purchase at Richland Newhope’s Administrative Offices, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield. The cards are good until October 30, 2020.

All proceeds will go to Richland County Special Olympics.

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**August Employee of the Month**

**Name:** Susan Monastra  
**Position:** Occupational Therapy Assistant  
**Employed since:** August 20, 2012  
**Nominators Comments:** She doesn't accept average. She wants the people she serves to have the best life possible. She strives to find the most efficient equipment for the person. She visits with residents who are sick, giving them a kind and compassionate word of encouragement.  
**Employee of the Month Comments:** Susan said she is humbled to be chosen. "It really is a team effort to support the individuals that we serve in therapy. I am fortunate to have a great group of therapists to work with."

**September Employee of the Month**

**Name:** Mary Dalbey  
**Position:** Coor. of Provider Recruitment & Development
Employed Since: 1986-1997 - came back in 2014
Nominators Comments: She has taken on her new position with gusto. She has a jump in and get it done attitude. She works extremely well with everyone and does a fantastic job bridging any gaps between board staff and providers. She thoroughly examines all concerns, needs, and issues so that she gives others accurate information.

Employee of the Month Comments: Mary said it was a wonderful surprise when she found out she was the Employee of the Month. "I feel so honored to have been nominated by my co-workers. I have always felt lucky to have a job that I truly enjoy and work with people that mean so much to me.”

October Employee of the Month
Name: Nancy Riebau
Position: LPN
Employed Since: December 20, 2001
Nominators Comments: She has been a third shift LPN at Raintree for many years. She cares deeply for the clients at the facility and their physical and emotional well-being. I know that she strongly encourages other nurses and direct support professionals to provide the best care at all times and pay attention to details to keep the clients well and comfortable.

Employee of the Month Comments: Nancy says it's a great honor. "But in all honesty I feel like I'm just trying to do my job to the best of my ability with respect and kindness. The clients are so patient and loving.”

Upcoming Events
October 16 - Annual MUI/UI Trainings, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Longview Center, Room 235, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield. Please RSVP to Melissa at mnedelko@rnewhope.org
October 17 – Annual MUI/UI Training, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Longview Center, Room 235, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield. Please RSVP to Melissa at mnedelko@rnewhope.org
October 23 – Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30
October 27 – 3rd Annual Just Treats and Suites at LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., 120 Stander Ave. Fun accessible trick-or-treating for kids ages 5 to 14 with special needs. Must reserve your tickets – visit their Facebook page for more information @JustTreatsAndSuites. Richland Newhope is hosting a room.

November 1 - First Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield

November 11 – Veterans Day - Administration Building, Services & Support Administration, and Early Intervention/Therapy offices closed

November 13 – Agency Provider Meeting, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Longview Center, Room 235, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield.

November 14 & November 15 – Person-Centered Thinking & Planning Training, Service & Support Administration offices, Training Room 12, 220 Home Ave., Mansfield.

November 28-29 – Thanksgiving Holiday: Richland Newhope’s Administrative Offices, Service & Support Administration, and Early Intervention/Therapy Service offices closed.

December 5 – Crisis Response Training for Richland County providers, Service & Support Administration offices, Training Room 12, 220 Home Ave., Mansfield.

December 6 – Richland Newhope Christmas Party, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Fairhaven Hall, Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 Home Road, Mansfield

December 6 - First Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield

December 11 – Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m., Richland Newhope Administration Building, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield

December 24-25 – Christmas Holiday: Richland Newhope’s Administrative Offices, Service & Support Administration, and Early Intervention/Therapy Service offices closed.

January 1 – New Year’s Day: Richland Newhope’s Administrative Offices, Service & Support Administration, and Early Intervention/Therapy Service offices closed.

IN MEMORIAM
Jordyn Barker - September 28, 2019