

CSS Express

A Newsletter of Community Support Services, Inc.

Volume 2, No 1 Winter, 2003

9075 Comprint Court is Open!

CSS moved its office, supported employment program and children's programs this Fall into the Community Resource Center located on Comprint Court in Gaithersburg.

This new 18,000 square foot facility includes a gym, recreation room, art room, kitchen, classrooms, meeting rooms, training rooms, a library, office space and a playground. An extensive schedule of activities and events is being developed in coordination with other agencies and individuals' interests.

CSS held the opening ceremony for the facility on November 16, 2002. Karla Nabors, member of the Board of Directors, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Ida Ruben, Chair of the Montgom-

ery County Senate Delegation, Kumar Barve, Chair of the Montgomery County House Delegation, Congressman Chris VanHollen, Susan Harrison, Assistant Director of our regional office of the Developmental Disabilities Administration and Shawn Lattanzio, Program Manager in Aging and Disability Services all gave their support and comments to the audience of more than four hundred people.

Individuals supported by CSS, CSS staff, family members, representatives of state and local government, and private businesses all participated in attaching panels of a ribbon which represented the development of the CSS community. The process of making the ribbon involved a large number of the audience and resulted in a lively and jubilant event.

A slide show prepared by Steven J. Karr, AIA showed the development of the facility from an old warehouse through each stage of construction. Posters and flyers throughout the building showed the activities and programs in which individuals supported by CSS are engaged.

As it was a rainy day, Christopher and Anthony Winter, sons of Lucinda Adams, helped people from their cars with an umbrella.

Thanks to the support of many donors, a grant from the State of Maryland and funds designated by the Board of Directors, a permanent home for CSS has been developed.

Thanks to recent contributions from the Dirernos, Kevin Kane and his friends and donations from the tile wall, we now have the funds to purchase gym equipment.

Contributions from Rori Coakley and Alice Ingram have enabled us to purchase playground equipment. Proceeds from the tile wall are being used to purchase art supplies, games and leisure materials.

The new facility and equipment will enable staff, during the next months, to develop an extensive schedule of sports activities, art classes, music groups, dance classes, social clubs and other activities of interest to individuals supported by CSS and other agencies.

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Betty Ricketson, Julie Ricketson, Susan Ingram and Karla Nabors participate in the ribbon ceremony at the Community Resource Center opening

Staff Anniversaries

We would like to honor staff members who have recently celebrated anniversaries with CSS. It is the caring and commitment of our staff that allow us to provide quality services to the people we support.

June

Muriel Diggs	5 years	FT
Delroy Matthie	5 years	FT
David Morris	5 years	FT
Celestine Riggio	4 years	FT
Tamba Sam-Sumana	4 years	FT
Lucinda Adams	3 years	FT
Ishmael Odai-Afotey	3 years	FT
Thompson Owusu	2 years	FT
Doreen Vodoti	2 years	FT
Elvis Amponsah	1 year	FT
Edward Botchway	1 year	FT

July

Sassy Daly	4 years	FT
Frederick Ofori	3 years	FT
Chidi Nwosu	2 years	PT
Foday Kamara	1 year	FT
Ophia Lardner	1 year	FT
Agusta Sannoh	1 year	FT

August

Annabel Tingba	5 years	FT
Bailor Jalloh	4 years	FT
Aba Amoo	4 years	FT
Agnes Taylor	2 years	PT
Festina Manly-Spain	2 years	FT
Heidi Laskaris	2 years	FT
Oluseto Akinjiola	2 years	FT
Erika Walters	2 years	FT
Etta Collins-Nicole	1 year	PT
Abraham Nyame	1 year	FT
Jessica Bailey	1 year	SUB
Earl Freeman	1 year	FT
Isabel Lamothe	1 year	FT

September

Kris Gorman	8 years	FT
Edwin Jackson	4 years	FT
Maria Cole	4 years	PT
Kwame Amoo	3 years	PT
Edem Dogboe	3 years	FT
Alicia Glassman	2 years	FT
Drayden Roland	2 years	PT
Argelia Bobadillia	2 years	PT
Mugo Nganga	1 year	PT
Richard McLean	1 year	FT
Sarah Benson	1 year	SUB
Ahmed Sesay	1 year	FT

Staff Spotlight on Sam Jones

Sam Jones, Community Support Coordinator, has been employed with CSS for eight years. Sam was hired as the Residential Instructional Associate when the Marston house opened with case management responsibilities for Andy B. Sam has worked continuously with Andy for the past eight years and has been a consistent and important person in his life.

Sam was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He attended school in Freetown before moving to Maryland in 1989. He began work at Great Oaks Center in 1992. He met Andy there, became a team leader and then followed Andy to CSS.

Sam likes to see everyone doing their best. He enjoys taking an active role with individuals he supports and also supporting coworkers. He is popular with everyone and is the life of every staff party. Sam has a great sense of humor and knows how to get others to enjoy themselves.

Sam is a team player in good times and bad. He deals with emergencies in a calm

efficient manner. He is an advocate when needed and keeps communication open with family members, other professionals and other team members. He is enthusiastic about new ideas, activities, and projects that the CSS team undertakes. He does his part on the vacation committee every year and has never missed one day of the CSS annual vacation.

Sam is looking forward to his new role as coordinator of the Marston Team. He has already been challenged with the first emergency. Sam was there for Andy every day and ensured that he got the best care possible. Sam is an outstanding professional and an asset to the CSS team.



October

Susan Wilfred	7 years	FT
Hannah Snorton	6 years	PT
Everett Brown	5 years	PT
Sarah Sweeney	4 years	PT
Rhonda Woods	3 years	FT
Jonnifur Corey Young	2 years	PT
Birdelyn Weems	2 years	FT
Stephen Kiah	2 years	FT
Ndehfru Martin	2 years	FT
Othniel St. Ulme	2 years	SUB
James Johnson	1 year	FT
Joseph Sackey	1 year	FT
John Bangura	1 year	FT
Elizabeth Richardson	1 year	PT
Nicholas Pitts	1 year	PT

November

Jennifer Wilkinson	8 years	PT
Stacey Gibson	6 years	FT
Andrew Berewa	5 years	FT
Kara Burton	4 years	FT
James Richards	4 years	FT
Shelly Anne Drummond	3 years	FT
Rebecca Moore	1 year	FT
Hanna Dibaba	1 year	FT

Allah Ting Mbatibaye	1 year	FT
Akwasi Obeng	1 year	PT

December

Joyce Buah	6 years	FT
Monica Velez Gutierrez	4 years	FT
Oneil Galega	3 years	FT
Gibrilla Sannoh	1 year	FT
Mohamed Waritay	1 year	PT
Guy Mamboundy	1 year	PT
Gail Triplin	1 year	PT

January

Fasil Temesgen	8 years	FT
Benson Salami	3 years	FT
Albertine Dennis	3 years	FT
Matthew Dickson	2 years	FT
Hazlyn Orr	2 years	FT
Margaret Serry-Kamal	2 years	FT
Michael Che	2 years	PT
Daniel Adjei	1 year	FT
Jean Chaves	1 year	FT
Olabisi Hanciles	1 year	PT
Daniel Melli	1 year	FT
Mohamed Maiga	1 year	PT

FT = Full Time, PT = Part Time, SUB = Substitute

We Wish to Thank our Many Contributors

Since the last issue of CSS Express, many more individuals and businesses have donated needed funds and supplies. Your support has made it possible to build the Community Resource Center and now equip it. We sincerely regret any omissions or errors.

*Alfred Altimont
ASA Companies, Inc.
Lyda Astrove
William Bailey
Mary Ann Blotzer
Michael & Pamela Boland
Cyndi Burgess
K. Byers
Shusan Chao
Chesapeake Research Review
Rory Coakley, Coakley Realty
Michael T. Crilley
James & Patrice Datovech
David & Molly Diamond
Thomas, Gwen & Kerry Diamond
Mr. & Mrs. Diverno
David Allen Donohoe, Jr.
Rebecca Erwin
John & Ruth Fitzgerald
James Foley
Katherine Fones
Francis & Karen Gilmore
Alison Graham
David Graham*

*Charles & Robin Hanley
Daniel Hanley
Marilyn Healey Broderick
Stephen & Edith Hustvedt
Alice Ingram
It's a Bagel
Francis Kalbacher
Kevin Kane
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Virginia Lastner
Calvin Linthicum
Luis & Elizabeth Lopez
Luis M. Lopez, Jr.
Chris Mark
J. Casey McCormick
Bill McGolrick
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Campaign
Patricia Minami
Montgomery College
Karla & Derric Nabors
Ned Dolan Memorial
Lisa Paro*

*Amble V. Prasad
Philip Ratner
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Betty Ricketson
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Kathy Shield
David & Mimi Silverman
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Caroline Talcott
Bruce & Jeanne Truett
Ellen & Bob Turverey
United Way of Bergen
Curt Urweider
R. V. Visthwanathan
Annette Williams
Patrick & Sheila Williams
Linda Wingo
Richard Wolff*

The CSS Mosaic Tile Wall

The donation tile wall has been installed in the atrium of the Community Resource Center. It features a mosaic of colorful tiles decorated by individuals, family members, staff and friends of CSS.

Come by and see the tiles already on display. You may purchase a tile, decorate it as you wish, and it will be permanently added to our ongoing creation. New tiles will be added throughout the year, and the wall will reflect our diversity, creativity and collaborative spirit.

If you would like to contribute to the tile wall, the design form and instructions are available at the front desk of the CSS office. Your contribution will assist CSS in equipping the Community Resource Center with needed sports equipment, educational toys, and arts and craft supplies.

CSS Express

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We welcome your interest, time and financial support. Please call or write us for more information.

CSS Express is edited by Katy Engels.

On the Home Front

Applegarth

Jonathan Chaustit works as a volunteer at the Manna Food center. He is very much a part of the staff and is greeted by name when he arrives.

Chimezie Ojiaku is learning new skills by working at the CSS office. He is very willing and excited to complete his tasks.

Arrowhead

The guys at this house all like to work hard and play hard. **Kerry Mehailescu, David Gano** and **Derric Diggs** reward themselves by having a "ball" at their weekly bowling league. **David Goodman** continues to join the fellows for activities.



Joey Cilman plays ball in the new gym

Bay Ridge

Stephen Sesney celebrated his birthday recently by throwing a party which he enjoyed planning, as well as entertaining his guests.

Because of his volunteer job at the Lincoln Park Community Center, **Matija Rinn** has the added benefit of being able to use the center's excellent exercise equipment.

Bazzelton

Shan Mandisodza and **Michael Bosco** have had boogie fever at the monthly CHI Dance. They both had a great Christmas and received cool gifts, including Mike's new TV.

Centerway

Joe Gray recently moved to Centerway from Marston and was welcomed by his new house mate **Damon Boggs**. Damon and Joe were already friends before the move and they now happily do all sorts of activities together in and out of the house.

Churchill Ridge

Greg Sullivan and **Sup Hu** appreciate all the new activities at the CSS Community Resource Center. They like to play basketball, indoor soccer, and air hockey there on Sundays.

Club Hill

Jeffrey Gallun and **Kevin Ho** are settled in at their new home in Germantown. Jeffrey celebrated his twenty-first birthday with a big family party in December.

Crystal Rock

Jamie Zargham continues to excel at his job at the White Flint Pizza Hut where he has worked for over two years now.

Dalton

Jonathan Turverey knows his way around the kitchen and is happy to help out with cooking and preparing for dinner.

Matthew Datovach especially loves the parties and dances he has attended since moving to his new CSS home this past summer.

Fountain Hill

Dave Sarin is proud of his new responsibility of watering all the beautiful plants at the CSS office.

Antwan Lumpkin likes to listen to music and looks forward to the concerts he has been attending at Strathmore Hall recently.

Lakeview

Anna Moy is particularly enjoying her new

volunteer job at the Black Rock Center for the Arts. There she gets to meet people while she does clerical work.

Lowfield

Tim Kane continues to be busy at his job at Bugaboo Creek restaurant where he rolls silverware. He enjoys outings to the mall and collecting toy cars.

Rob Hoyt is having a blast at his job at Shadow Land because he gets to play laser tag for free in his off time.

Marston

Jose Marquez is getting comfortable in his new home. He has decorated his bedroom with his movies, magazines, pictures and other personal memorabilia.

Andy Bozarth is taking it easy and recovering nicely from a recent leg injury.

Middlebrook

Richard Linthicum's love for animals is paying off. He just received a \$1.00 per hour raise at his job at The Groomery.

Ben Krause continues in the instructional swim class, works on his Gazette Newspaper route and has shoveled a lot of snow this winter.



Simon Diamond and John Simkins are learning the new locations of the trash cans at the new office as they continue their jobs of removing the garbage.

Normandie

Brian Hustvedt and **Daniel Graham** are continuing to make the most of using the treadmill and working out weekly at the YMCA. The guys like to stay in shape.

Patton Ridge

Jason Healy does an excellent job with cleaning work at the CSS office. He helped set up for the opening ceremony and gave Congressman Chris VanHollen a personal tour.

Joey Cilman is happy to participate in a variety of activities, but a favorite is to take a walk at the mall or at a park when the weather permits.

Quail Valley

George Kenton has been getting used to coming to the new CSS location. He is using the shredding machine and bouncing a basketball in the gym.

George and **Chris Turner** participated in the CSS holiday activities including holiday meals and party.

Ridgecrest

Larry Bloemker loves going to music therapy where he gets to play the piano and entertain his audience.

Mitch Lassen had the pleasure of a family trip to New Jersey over the holidays.

Sandpiper

For **Simon Diamond** and **John Simkins**, the CSS Holiday party was a highlight of the season. Simon loved the food and friends, while John had fun dancing the night away.

Sandy Lake

Fred Chao continues to be employed at the Gazette Newspapers and he volunteers at the Goodwill store. Additionally, he enjoys music at part of the Notables group through Potomac Community Resources.

Chuck Fitzgerald continues to enjoy his

day at MVTC. He also enjoys his hobby of painting, which he often does at his family's home.

Thomas Farm

Thea Lane and **Nancy Arnoux** make a splash at their weekly swim classes. Although the ladies like to keep busy, they both enjoyed relaxing extended visits with their families over the holidays.

Treyford

Lisa Leeney has taken to her swimming class like a fish to water. She is having fun, staying fit and improving her skills.

A favorite outing for **Latria Swedenberg** is to Tower Records to listen to some new music and to browse the magazines.



Iris Carroll rolls and bags the Gazette newspapers to prepare them for delivery

Waters Landing

Jeanette Wedge and **Iris Carroll** have plenty of enthusiasm for their jobs cleaning at the new CSS office. They love the beautiful building along with all the fun activities they are involved in there.

Winding Creek

Shannon Dooley and **Julie Ricketson** love the holiday season. They delighted in decorating the house, baking cookies, listening to music, stuffing stockings and exchanging gifts.



John Racanelli folds the programs for the CSS Community Resource Center opening ceremony using the equipment at the office.

Day Employment Support

Andrew Roth, Laura Schramm, Truong Tong, Goli Karimi, Michelle Wilhelm, and Jamie Griffin are all continuing their steady employment at their current jobs. In their off time the group keeps a varied schedule including volunteering at St. Martins Church and many fun recreational activities such as swimming and bowling.

James Sweetney continues to work at the Gazette Newspaper delivering in the Gaithersburg/Germantown area. He also works at the CSS Resource Center performing various cleaning tasks. James gets along well with his friends at Bayridge and had fun at the holiday party.

Elise Lipman keeps herself busy balancing her gift basket business, her job at Jeepers, and a full activity schedule. Read the article about Elise's Baskettes on the back page.

Community Instruction

John Racanelli started a new job at the Dollar Tree store where he re-shelves items and returns them to the correct place.

Min Woo Nam continues to attend the Grafton School and enjoy many community activities such as swimming, bowling and hiking at local parks.

CSS Winter Holiday Festivities

After eight years, our holiday celebration becomes bigger, better and brighter. Many of our individuals enjoyed the holidays with their parents and siblings, and many enjoyed them with their friends at CSS. The season began with a Thanksgiving feast. Turkey and ham were the main course, accompanied by stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, macaroni and cheese, and many other holiday dishes. Of course, the day was not complete without pumpkin, apple and blueberry pies. To keep us busy in the interim of meal preparation, we made many fun fall crafts.

After Thanksgiving we began our plans for Hanukkah, Ramadan and Christmas. Individuals spent the month baking, decorating, and sightseeing points of holiday interest. We continued the festivities with our annual holiday party where we ate great food, conversed and danced. Joe McRedmond, APD, performed the services of Disc Jockey and Ahmed Sesay, EIA, videotaped the festivities. Once again the Special Events



Brian Hustvedt and James Burke are happy to celebrate the holidays together.

Committee made this party a success. Presents were exchanged and everyone did a wonderful job of ensuring personalized gifts.

On December 22nd everyone attended an arts and crafts day at the new CSS Resource Center where we made holiday decorations, gifts, and decorated cookies. It was a wonderful day with many beautiful projects completed.

Over thirty individuals and staff enjoyed Christmas dinner together.

Tammie Snyder, Associate Director, prepared a leg of lamb. All the Assistant Program Directors contributed side dishes. Joe McRedmond prepared a green bean salad, Italian style, Sassy Daly, chicken, Joyce Buah, a rice dish, Rhonda Woods, macaroni and cheese, and Lucinda Adams brought the desserts along with shopping for the other needed supplies. Again, the feast was bountiful and arts and crafts highlighted the day. Thank you to all who made the season bright.

Job Spotlight on Party Universe

Matthew Datovech is an employee of Party Universe in Germantown, MD. He acquired this job while doing a job search assisted by his employment staff, Janna Kirkland, and his mother, Patrice Datovech.

When Matthew and his team first approached Party Universe they were told that the store was not hiring at the time, but to check back. Thanks to Janna's persistence, they did check back and spoke directly to the owner of the store. The owner offered Matthew a paid position at Party Universe on the spot.

Matthew has been working at Party Universe since October. He is very familiar

with the managers and other employees of the store. Matthew stocks the shelves and straightens items in the store. He receives hand-over-hand supervision for some tasks and only verbal prompts for others. He is an excellent worker and looks forward to going to work.

Not only does Matthew have a paid job at Party Universe, he also has two volunteer jobs. One is cleaning at Neelsville Presbyterian Church in Germantown, MD. Matthew and his friend Jonathan Turvey clean the pews, dust the windows, wipe the furniture, and pick up litter on the church grounds.



Matt stocks the shelves at Party Universe

Matthew and Jonathan also enjoy helping fold and distribute the Gazette Newspapers every Wednesday. Matthew performs his job duties to the best of his abilities and completes all his work with pride.

Children's Program Winter Happenings

The CSS after school program and Saturday program moved to the new Community Resource Center located on Comprint Court at the beginning of November. MCPS Special Education Transportation, with assistance from CSS staff, got every child to the new location without any confusion.

The children were immediately comfortable in their new surroundings and seemed happy with the spacious colorful rooms. The winter holiday camp operated six days from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the new facility. Over thirty children participated each day without feeling crowded.

The new gym space is not yet equipped, but the kids have enjoyed running inside and throwing balls. The art room is used daily for arts and crafts projects, and all the children at the holi-



Matthew Sellen climbs on the new jungle gym equipment at the CSS playground

day camp decorated a traditional calendar.

The children have continued to take part in activities in the community daily. Ten children participated in an instructional swim program at the Rockville Swim Center, and other children continue with gymnastics weekly at Marva Tots and Teens. Small groups have visited the Children's

museum, the Nature Center, the bowling alley, Jeepers, the Trolley Museum, Butler's Orchard, etc.

As supplies and equipment are purchased for the new center, the variety of activities available to the children will keep them happy and busy all winter. Indoor soccer, basketball, volleyball, dance and music are all in the plan.



Brendon Malone plays the donated piano

Expanding Social and Recreational Opportunities

CSS is developing a variety of social and recreational activities in the new space available at the Community Resource Center.

Kris Gorman, employed with CSS as an Assistant Program Director for the past eight years, has accepted the newly established position of Activity Coordinator.

She is working with other agencies including Potomac Community Resources, Montgomery County Therapeutic Recreation Department, the Rockville Swim Center and the Jewish Community Center to determine interest in the community for specific activities and schedules.

Individuals supported by CSS, as well as others in the community, will have a

range of opportunities available throughout the week including social clubs, cooking groups, art classes, music groups, etc. Kris is building a schedule that will include daytime hours, weekends and evenings.

In January, the activity program began with Sunday afternoon recreational activities. Individuals participated in art, board games, cooking projects and group games and sports in the gym. A schedule of structured social and recreational activities was also put in place for Tuesday and Thursday during day hours when individuals were not at work sites.

The instructional swim program began again in January at the Rockville Swim Center with 25 individuals participating this session.

A ping-pong table, air hockey table, basketball game, therapeutic bounce chair, trampolines, soccer goals, scooters, a parachute and board games have been purchased with donations for the center. The response has been favorable to the activities offered so far and the new gym equipment and supplies are being put to good use.



David Ganoe shoots hoops while Tim Kane exercises in the bouncing chair

Elise's Baskettes - A New Model for Supported Employment

Elise's Basquettes, founded by Elise Lipman and her mother Joyce Lipman, opened for business November 16, 2002. Baskets of chocolate, tea, and coffee are hand made by Elise for sale for about \$12.00 each. These beautiful baskets include an assortment of treats to eat and hand made soaps. The attractive packaging, interesting items and low cost have all contributed to the popularity of Elise's Basquettes. Elise has sold over a hundred baskets in the first three months of business.

The Lipmans, CSS and DDA are working together to find a way to expand supported employment to include a model of support service that provides support to individuals interested in self-employment ventures. Self-employment may allow more choices for individuals and give them more control over their work schedules, environments and tasks. CSS re-



Elise Lipman prepares to assemble her "Baskettes"

ceived start up funds and individualized staff support for Elise in order to assist her in the development of her micro business.

Joyce Lipman, a long time advocate of innovative service models for individuals with developmental disabilities, researched

and developed the groundwork for the business. She has continued to play a major role in every aspect of the business.

Twila Bishop, Employment Associate, has assisted Elise in developing a daily schedule of work, which includes employment at Jeepers ten hours per week, a volunteer position with Montgomery County, recreational activities, and time working on soap making and basket assembly. Elise has received glowing evaluations from her paid and volunteer employers and can assemble her baskets independently. She has a varied, interesting and productive work-week.

Elise's Basquettes is offering a special Valentine's Day basket that will be for sale the first week of February. Orders may be placed by, calling the CSS office at 301-926-2300 ext. 362 or by e-mailing elisebaskets1@yahoo.com.

Community Support Services

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