



DEPAUL

DETAILS

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New Developments to Meet Increasing Needs

DePaul is increasing its opportunities for people in need with new projects in the works for affordable housing, mental health and senior living.



Rolling Ridge, Newton Grove, North Carolina

DePaul welcomed two senior living communities into its family this summer. Rolling Ridge, a 42-bed community in Newton Grove, North Carolina, became DePaul's 19th senior living community in May. With the recent acquisition of Pee Dee Gardens, a 68-bed senior living community in Florence, South Carolina, DePaul is now offering care for over 2,000 seniors at 14 senior living communities in North Carolina, one in South Carolina and five in New York, for a total of 20.



Pee Dee Gardens, Florence, South Carolina

In affordable housing news, DePaul has secured a nine-acre parcel on the corner of Seneca Street and Avon Place in Buffalo, New York for the development of 100 affordable housing units, 75 of which will be licensed Community Residence-Single Room Occupancy beds. Located on the banks of the Buffalo River, The Bluffs at Avon Place has received support from the city of Buffalo, Buffalo RiverKeepers, Seneca Babcock Neighborhood Group and Buffalo City Common Council President Richard Fontana. A 2014 construction start is anticipated.



The Bluffs at Avon Place, Buffalo, New York



Rosica Hall at RIT/NTID

Plans continue for the Rochester View Apartments, 61 one- and two-bedroom apartments for income-eligible tenants offering enhanced supports to accommodate tenants who may be deaf, hard of hearing or those using ASL, to be located in Henrietta, New York. For inspiration, Gillian Conde, Vice President of DePaul Properties, Inc., staff from SWBR Architects and DePaul President Mark Fuller recently toured the newly constructed Rosica Hall at RIT/NTID, observing the natural light and open floor plans at this state-of-the-art facility designed to foster innovation and original research among deaf and hard of hearing students and their peers.



Rosica Hall at RIT/NTID

WorkGuide Now Serving More Persons Who Are Deaf

DePaul's WorkGuide program is now serving an increasing number of clients who are deaf, hard of hearing or using American Sign Language (ASL). The program was recently selected as the primary referral source for clients formerly served through the Rochester School for the Deaf's (RSD) PRIDE program.

"It's a testament to the work we do that Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) came to DePaul over other agencies to assume operation of the program," said Director of DePaul's WorkGuide Chris Tolhurst. "We already have a good track record of finding people jobs and careers."

The fifteen clients already enrolled in the program are now being served by DePaul and new referrals are coming in according to Fiona Osier, Assistant Director of WorkGuide. Some clients are working with their vocational counselor to reassess their interests and skill set and develop their resumes to begin the job search process, while others have been seeking additional hours.

In order to accommodate this new demographic, several WorkGuide vocational counselors are learning sign language.

"It not only helps them coach our clients, it also helps them facilitate communication between the deaf or hard of hearing individual and their employer," said Tolhurst.

WorkGuide Vocational Counselor Debbie Holihan began taking ASL classes offered through DePaul this year. She said the courses have been practical and useful in working with former PRIDE clients and new referrals.

"It's definitely a challenge learning a new language," she said.

"It takes a lot of practice and repetition. The best practice has been just talking with consumers."

Holihan communicates with clients using a combination of ASL, text messages and hand-written notes. She said it's not all that different from working with a hearing client.



WorkGuide Vocational Counselor Debbie Holihan has been learning American Sign Language in order to work with an increasing number of deaf or hard of hearing clients being referred to DePaul's WorkGuide program. Here she is assessed by ASL Instructor Denise Fry.

In addition to working with clients, WorkGuide Vocational Counselors interface with the employers ensuring their needs are met. WorkGuide employers may receive tax credits for hiring individuals with disabilities. In addition, there is a Work Tryout Program that may provide up to four weeks of wage reimbursement to the employer in the event they need to provide additional job training to a WorkGuide client.

"We want to make sure it's a good match for the employee and that it makes business sense for the employer," said Osier.

Once a client has obtained employment, the WorkGuide job coaches accompany the client to their job to help them learn the responsibilities expected of them. Interpreters are initially utilized, but the goal is to help the employer and WorkGuide client decide how they will communicate after the interpreter is gone.

"It's really amazing, if everyone is making an effort, how easily you can communicate and I think the employers realize that too," said Tolhurst.

In the 2012 contract year, WorkGuide connected clients with over 100 jobs. WorkGuide could also serve residents of DePaul's Rochester View Apartments now being developed, that will offer enhanced supports to accommodate tenants who may be deaf, hard of hearing or who use ASL, to be located in Henrietta, New York.

Helping Change Lives



Our agency has now grown to serve some 5,000 people annually in programs that encompass mental health residential and treatment services, senior living residential services, addiction prevention and support programs, vocational programs and affordable housing. In all of our endeavors, we are proud to help people go beyond what they think is possible.

When you receive the DePaul Annual Giving Appeal later this year, we ask that you consider a gift that will help us continue caring for those we serve. Every time we make a difference, every life we change for the better, every achievement great or small is a triumph. We invite you to be a vital part of making a difference.

For more information on making a donation, contact Marcia Dlutek at (585) 426-8000 or mdlutek@depaul.org.

Plenty of LOVE to Go Around

The *Brady Bunch* on steroids. That's the only way to describe Westwood Commons resident Jessie Wackermans' experience raising over 100 foster children in her lifetime.

Married for 60 years, Jessie and her husband John Wackerman, a tractor trailer driver who died in 2007, raised countless children in a four-bedroom cape cod in Scottsville, New York. After trying unsuccessfully to conceive, the couple started fostering children in the 1950s.

"The children were there," she said. "They needed care. Especially the ones I got. They needed TLC and a lot of it."

There were so many, Jessie said, they were never able to narrow it down to a firm number. Dawn Schottmiller, one of Jessie's two adopted daughters, recalls the count exceeding 100 when she moved away to Texas in the 1970s.

"We had children a lot," Jessie said. "I don't think we ever had just one. People would literally drop them off like puppies."

Their foster children referred to them as Aunt Jessie and Uncle John. Bedrooms contained two or three beds, bunk style, and everyone pitched in.

"Love and rules came together," she said.

Sometimes the Wackermans would be lucky to get money to support their foster children through various agencies. If she got \$20 a week, that was a lot, said Dawn.

"Mom could stretch a meal and make it fun and enjoyable," said Jessie's other adopted daughter, Wendy Swinney. "We all had enough to eat."

The couple would learn of many of the children through their church. Some would stay with them on the weekends; others would stay for longer periods of time.

The Wackermans could be caring for up to 10 foster children at a time, sometimes even babysitting for neighbors and volunteering to host Fresh Air Kids from New York City.

"There are a lot of people out there who owe their lifestyles to Mom," said Wendy. "She raised so many kids who were in bad situations. I'm so grateful for the life I had and there are so many kids Mom and Dad shaped and helped to form and they had much better lives than they would have without Mom and Dad."



Westwood Commons resident Jessie Wackerman cared for over 100 foster children in her lifetime. Here she is with her daughters Wendy Swinney and Dawn Schottmiller.

Calling it a "small herd," the family would travel in a large van and Jessie would have the children all paint smiley faces on their shirts to help keep track of them when they went out in public.

With children came many pets. "We had to have animals — dogs, fish, birds, rabbits," recalls Jessie. "Whatever they wanted... if you take care of it, you can have it."

A grandmother of three, Jessie admits, fostering children wasn't easy.

"If you want children strong enough, you have to be strong

because you have to learn to accept parts of their relationship with their natural parents," she said. "God yes, many tears were shed."

It wasn't until she was an adult, Wendy said, that she realized how unique her childhood was.

"Not everybody's parents gave the care and attention we got," she said. "Maybe material things, but not every family is built the way ours was."

Holiday Helpers Needed!

You can make a difference for a DePaul client in need this holiday season by becoming a Holiday Helper! Sign up and you'll be matched with a holiday wish that includes the individual's gender, age, and size if appropriate. Or, you can donate generic items such as hats, gloves, scarves and socks for adults, or personal care items. Past wish lists have included requests as simple as a piece of chocolate cake, cat toys or socks.

For more information about how you, your family, place of worship, club or workplace can adopt someone in need, contact Amy Cavalier at (585) 719-3102 or acavalier@depaul.org.

Aspiring Artist Draws Up Big Plans

Just like Jim Davis, creator of *Garfield*, José L., 36, a resident of Halstead Square, a DePaul Single Room Occupancy Program in Rochester, New York, hopes someday you will open up the Sunday comics and see his artwork.

“He turned his work in hundreds of times and got rejected before he finally got accepted,” José said with the assistance of a sign language interpreter.

José’s dreams of becoming a well-known artist came closer to reality recently when he sold his work at the Rochester Deaf Festival on June 8.

“I knew there would be a good market,” he said “It’s a big social event and everyone’s very friendly.”

José’s therapist from the University of Rochester Medical Center’s Deaf Wellness Center, Sharon Haynes, suggested he sell his work at the Rochester Deaf Festival. Supportive Case Manager Nicole Simmons and Residential Services Coordinator Nodhylia Islam assisted José in renewing his business license and with the vendor application and fees.

“José is a very talented artist,” said his case manager Nicole Simmons. “He uses his artwork to reveal his friendly personality and bring happiness to the residents and staff at Halstead. Participating in the Rochester Deaf Festival was a success for José and another chapter in his road to recovery.”

A resident of Halstead Square since 2011, José said people enjoy caricatures because it’s like seeing themselves in a cartoon. He’s drawn caricatures of many of the staff at Halstead which are proudly displayed in the employees’ offices and cubicles.

Artistic talent runs in the family. His father was an artist and José’s brother Albert is a freelance illustrator and comic book artist. Albert gave José a computer to encourage and assist his brother’s interest in art.



A resident of Halstead Square, a DePaul Single Room Occupancy Program, José L. has found his niche in creating caricatures. He recently had the opportunity to sell his artwork at the Rochester Deaf Festival.



“We look at each other’s work, especially through Facebook,” Albert said. “It’s a good way for us to communicate with him being deaf and me not being able to read sign language.”

A 1998 graduate of the New York School for the Deaf in Rome, his dream of selling his art came true at the Rochester Deaf Festival.

“I felt very happy and proud of myself,” he said. “It was a very positive experience.”

“I tried to be quick so I could get more people,” he said. “I didn’t want a line to build up.”

Albert L. said he’s proud to see his brother’s work gaining exposure.

“As artists, we push ourselves to create, but to be in a situation where others can appreciate your work and you can earn money selling it is so gratifying,” he said. “I’ve been in that position and it’s great to see him do the same.”

A volunteer at the Open Door Mission, José also enjoys drawing science-fiction and fantasy illustrations, as well as creating in water color and acrylic paints. In the future, José said he’d like to learn how to sculpt 3D art and to draw digitally using a computer.

“I’ve tried a lot of different things over time,” he said. “The more I do and the more I practice, the better and better I get.”

José is hoping to build off the momentum of the Rochester Deaf Festival. He’s developing a new name and brand for his business. Someday he hopes to have his own studio. No matter where he is in life, you can be fairly certain José will have a brush or pencil poised over the canvas ready to create.

“I’m addicted to art,” he said. “I’m constantly teaching myself.”



STILL SWINGING AFTER 20 YEARS!

DePaul’s 20th Annual Golf Classic was held on June 3 at Ridgemont Country Club in Rochester, New York. Thank you to all our sponsors, players and employees who help make this annual fundraiser a success year after year. We could not have done it without you. Here’s to another 20 years! Pictured here is a team from SWBR Architects including Principal Joseph Gibbons, Architect Robert Fornataro, Project Manager Timothy Zigarowicz (top) and Principal Bud Knapp (far right).

Neighborhood of the Arts *Newlyweds*

Andrelece came to live at DePaul's Neighborhood of the Arts (NOTA) Treatment Apartment program in Rochester, New York three years ago. Soon after, she made the acquaintance of her neighbor Richard V. A kind, good natured, soft-spoken man, Richard moved to NOTA in 2006. They began dating two years ago and they've been living in a dream ever since.

"And we're not awake yet," said Richard.

The couple was married on June 8. It all began two summers ago when both of them were stood up for a double date they had planned. The two wound up going with one another instead.

"It was a really bad concert, but we enjoyed one another's company," said Andrelece.

For their next date, he asked Andrelece to go to the Greek Festival.

"I was so scared she would say no," Richard said. "I was afraid to pursue a relationship with her because what if we found out we had nothing in common besides our mental illness?"

Richard is living with schizophrenia while Andrelece has been diagnosed with schizoaffective bipolar disorder. Over coffee and meals, they got to know one another beyond their diagnosis. Both were born in Brooklyn and in the month of November. They both liked cats. Neither attended their high school prom. Faith is important to both of them, and neither had ever been married before.

With her eyes on a career in social work, Andrelece was attending the College of New Rochelle when she was diagnosed. She served as a family assistant for the New York City Board of Education and also as a Counselor at St. Christopher's Group Home before coming to Rochester.

Richard graduated with his art history degree from the University of Buffalo in 2000. He's currently trying to work on his dream of landing a job in the curator's office at the Memorial Art Gallery while working part-time as a dietary aide at Halstead Square.

"I saw his potential and his ability to get up and go and how he was strong and moving forward in his life," she said. "Those were things I'd lost sight of with the illness."

Richard, 42, followed tradition and asked her mother for her daughter's hand in marriage. He admitted to being nervous, even though he knew Andrelece would say yes.

"I was excited, honored and blessed," she said.

Thanks to the generosity of friends, family, strangers and the employees at NOTA, they were able to pull it off without breaking the bank.

"It was like a Cinderella dream," said Andrelece.

The couple was married at Asbury First Methodist Church by Reverend Lawrence Hargrave. Andrelece's father walked her down the aisle. Richard's brother Michael served as his best man. His brother Peter and brother-in-law Tom



Photo Credits: Krista Hatfield and assistant April Yankow.



stood up as groomsmen.

On the bride's side, Andrelece's best friend Emilena Rosa served as matron of honor, joined by bridesmaids Lonneshia Johnson and Cynthia Middleton, both Counselors at NOTA.

"My counselors helped me to grow, and led me on the right path so that I can have a mentally stable life," she said.

The couple invited anyone at NOTA to attend the event, which was held at NOTA.

The list of thank yous for Andrelece and Richard is long. Among them are Program Director Deb White, Assistant Director Chris Nutting, Krista Hatfield Manager of Elmgrove, a DePaul Community Residence, who provided photography services along with her assistant April Yankow, NOTA Medication Coordinator

Daniel Kandris, Residential Counselors Leslie Bradford, Linda Boggs, Candice Patey, Recreation Director Dan Charcholla, Financial Case Manager Joseph D'Ambrosia and Residential Counselor II Lisa Schrader.

"These people played a major part in our development, well being and recovery and helped us get married," said Andrelece.

The couple moved into Supportive Housing in September and are very excited and happy about it.

For more photos and the full story, visit DePaul's Blog at blog.depaul.org.



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Carriage Factory in the Spotlight

DePaul's Carriage Factory in Rochester, New York was the backdrop of a July 29 press conference with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, pictured here with DePaul President Mark Fuller. Gillibrand was in Rochester to announce the BUILD Act, which would allow towns, cities and non-profits to access tools and resources they need to rebuild and redevelop blighted Brownfield sites.

"Redeveloping sites like the Carriage Factory is a smart way to help our economy grow," Senator Gillibrand said.

Located at 33 Litchfield Street, DePaul is partnering with the city of Rochester, NYS Homes and Community Renewal, Community Preservation Corp., SWBR Architects, Christa Construction, Goldman Sachs, NYS Office of Mental Health, and community stakeholders to transform the site into affordable housing.

Construction of the \$23 million dollar project, to include 71 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, is expected to be complete in about 16 months.



BLOG



Walking for a Good Cause

Over 20 Westwood Commons residents and their family members participated in the DePaul Senior Living Community's seventh annual walk for charity on August 20 in North Chili, New York. Pictured here, Flower City Habitat for Humanity Development and Communications Manager Teresa Bianchi accepts a check for \$360 from Westwood Commons resident Jean Roda and Administrator Karen Shaffer. The Flower City Habitat for Humanity builds seven to ten homes every year, with the total at 180 as of this year.

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DePaul is a not-for-profit organization that provides senior living residential services, mental health residential and treatment programs, addiction prevention and support services, vocational services and affordable housing. To receive DePaul Details electronically, please contact Lynette Wilson-Cox at lwilson-cox@depaul.org in DePaul's Communications Department and provide her with your name and e-mail address.

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