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## Keller Williams Chervenik RED Day at Ardmore's Bridges Program

Renew, Energize, Donate. Three corporate values that motivated nearly 70 Keller Williams Chervenik Realtors and staff to give a day of service in May to Ardmore's Bridges program. Volunteers spent the day weeding, planting, pruning, mulching and landscaping. Others built wood-framed raised beds for growing vegetables and herbs. Still others worked on rebuilding a shed for use as a chicken coop. Mayor David Kline of Tallmadge also joined the effort and worked alongside Keller Williams and Bridges staff.

Founded in 1983, Keller Williams Realty Inc. is an international real estate company with more than 600 offices located across the U.S. and Canada. The company began franchising

in 1991, and since 2006, is now the fourth-largest U.S. residential real estate firm in North America. Geneva Chervenik Realty, serving the area since 1973, joined Keller Williams in December 2009 to become KELLER WILLIAMS CHERVENIK REALTY.

The Bridges program has been operating for about five years providing day services to adults with developmental disabilities and autism. Laura Gerlich, director of the Bridges program, and her staff intend to expand Bridges' program offerings to include planting and crop care, with the goal of establishing a year-round agriculture-based vocational program. Current Bridges clients will benefit from the cultivation activities, including those adults with autism who are especially calmed by the

physical activity.

The Bridges facility, on Newton Street in Tallmadge, was purchased by the Ardmore Foundation in late 2010. Much of the building has been renovated and the exterior recently experienced a facelift with the addition of new vinyl siding. However, as with any new property, the grounds needed a little TLC.

RED Day volunteers arrived like an army motivated to revitalize and beautify the grounds. "It's difficult to calculate the value of such dedicated work and volunteers," said Laura Gerlich. "The work they accomplished today would have required thousands of dollars." "We will do whatever we can to help our community,"

*continued on page 3*



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**By Yvette Diaz**

In this season of Thanksgiving, I would like to express how grateful the staff are to have a Foundation to go to on behalf of the individuals we support. Given our current economy, there is often no money left from the individuals' funding sources or personal income to purchase items they need for themselves or their homes.

It is our belief that everyone deserves a home that is comfortable and peaceful . . . their own sanctuary. Creating that atmosphere is the responsibility of staff and can definitely be enhanced by the beautification of their surroundings. Because of the Foundation's generosity, the guys at Collier are hanging in their beautifully furnished living room watching the Browns lose on their Wall mounted TV, Mark is sleeping in a new cozy comfy bed in his Foster home, the guys at the N. Alling and Vincent homes have stored their new Patio Sets for the winter – waiting for next summer's cook out days and anyone walking into the East Ave home will readily feel the calming effect "Willow Tree" wall color has on the environment. What a difference paint color can make on the feel of a room!

Of course this is just a small sample of the wonderful gifts we've received this past year! We are most fortunate to partner with the Foundation in contributing to Ardmore's mission of enhancing the quality of life of the individuals we serve and support.

## **Another Innovative Service Added to Ardmore's Repertoire**

**By Becky Lemasters**

Ardmore is very pleased to announce we are now providing Personal Advocacy as a discrete service within our service delivery network. The program is a continuation of what began at the Arc of Summit and Portage Counties over ten years ago and is intended to enhance the quality of life of each participant. This is achieved by developing a life plan that is self- directed and clearly provides a vision for the future for both the individual and the family.

The Personal Advocate becomes a surrogate family member providing support as well as opportunities to live, play, work and contribute to their community. Meaningful and lasting relationships are built by engaging in activities such as meals out, sporting events, church programs, swimming, hiking and many other activities of the individuals choosing. While these activities are enjoyable, the ultimate benefit lies in the quality of the relationship that evolves between the advocate, the individual and the family. It brings great solace and comfort to the

family, knowing that there is a trusted, stable and reliable individual who will actively, and when necessary assertively, advocate for their loved one both in the present, but also in the future.

Ardmore is sponsoring this program because it, "fits like a glove," with Ardmore's mission; it is innovative, promotes community inclusion, and allows each individual to become an active and contributing member of the community. Additionally, the innovative nature of the program is in keeping with the Ardmore tradition of identifying unmet needs and creating the resources needed to meet those needs.

Our current service environment is volatile and ever changing and is critical that personal advocacy services remain a constant in the lives of those we serve. For more information regarding the program please contact Leigh Belvedere, CTRS, at 330-535-2601 ext. 318 or email at [LBelvedere@ardmoreinc.org](mailto:LBelvedere@ardmoreinc.org).

# **Thank You to our Generous Donors!**

- |                            |                            |
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## **In This Time of Thanksgiving, We Are Truly Grateful**

The Ardmore Foundation has once again been the beneficiary of extraordinary generosity. In 2011-2012, the Foundation received the following major gifts and bequests:

- The Carl Pettyjohn Trust, \$10,000**
- Edgewood Home Families, \$5,000**
- Estate of Edith M. Son, \$2,000**
- Beasley Trust, \$10,000**

It is overwhelming to receiving such open-handed kindness from members of the community on behalf of those served by Ardmore, Inc. The Foundation will be working closely with Ardmore Inc. to establish plans for the use of these generous donations. We thank you!

## Becky Lemasters Announces Leadership Transition

Becky Lemasters, Executive Director of Ardmore Inc. since 2003, announced in October she will be passing the “proverbial torch” in the next 18 to 24 months. Becky has been working closely with the Ardmore Inc. Board of Directors to develop a plan that facilitates a seamless transition in leadership.

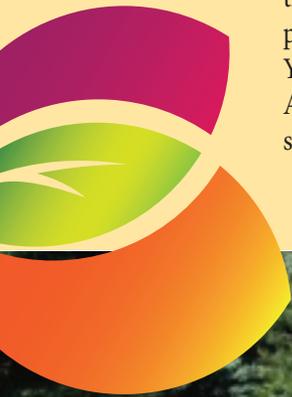
The plan includes the reinstatement of an Associate Director position and Ardmore is pleased to announce that Yvette Diaz has been placed in this position. Yvette has been with Ardmore since 1987, starting her career as a

Senior Case Coordinator, then Director of Community Services, then on to Director of Programs and now in the role of Associate Director.

Additionally, Ardmore is also pleased to announce that Susan Baker will join the agency as Director of Programs. Susan Baker has previous residential administrative experience with both Evant and Gateways, has been MUI coordinator for the Summit Developmental Disabilities Board, has clinical experience at the Blick Clinic, served as Quality Assurance Manager for NEON and has recently started a nonprofit organization to raise funds for El Salvadoran orphans.

Becky started her career at Ardmore Inc. in 1983, and has assumed various roles with the agency including Director of Case Management services, Director of Programs and Personnel, Associate Director and finally being appointed as Executive Director in 2003. Under her leadership the agency has continued to serve as a standard of excellence in practice with individuals with disabilities in Summit County.

“The ultimate goal is to pass the torch without creating any disruption for clients or staff while ensuring the mission remains intact and continues to guide our service delivery” said Lemasters. “We are looking forward to a smooth transition”.



## Keller Williams Chervenik RED Day at Ardmore's Bridges Program *continued from page 1*

said Lisa Donatelli of Keller Williams Chervenik. Kathy Smith, also of Keller Williams Chervenik said, “We think the work Ardmore is doing at the Bridges program is very valuable. I’m excited as a Tallmadge resident, to be able to help. It’s one of the best parts of my job at Keller Williams Chervenik. We love to make a difference through Red Day each year.”

The Ardmore family is grateful for the generosity of our new friends at Keller Williams Chervenik!

### **Bridges Featured in the Akron Beacon Journal**

Ardmore's Bridges program has benefitted from a friendship with FG Ayers Construction and their affiliated non-

profit, NEOHaus Institute. On August 4, 2012, Mary Beth Breckenridge, Staff Writer at the Akron Beacon Journal, authored a feature article on Bridges and its new agriculture programming, “Gardening Provides Job skills, Behavioral Benefits for Developmentally Disabled Clients.” Please visit the link below for the full article!



# Ardmore Inc. and the Ardmore Foundation Roll the Dice



On April 21, 2012 Ardmore Inc. and Ardmore Foundation of Akron held their first annual Casino Night at the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium Banquet Center. The Casino Night was attended by over 150 community members who chanced their luck at black jack, roulette, rolled the dice at craps and took a spin at the money wheel. The evening included an exciting array of over 50 gifts and prizes, a silent auction and raffles with prizes of \$500 in Circle K gift cards and a new iPad 3! Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Moe's of Cuyahoga Falls. The photography was donated by Michael Wilmoth. Major support for the event was provided by Papa Don's Pub in Akron. Papa Don's is committed to responding to local charitable needs.

The event was able to raise over \$13,000, which will directly benefit over 175 adults and children with developmental disabilities and autism, who are served by Ardmore Inc. Ardmore Inc. provides services that include residential support in group homes, community-based services for individuals living on their own, foster care, and day services at the "Bridges" program.



Ardmore Inc. and the Ardmore Foundation would like to acknowledge the generosity of the businesses and individuals who made our first annual Casino Night a success. **Thank you!**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Our next Casino Night  
is April 13, 2013!



**MAJOR SPONSORS IN BOLD:** Acme, Akron Aero's, Akron Ambulatory Foot Surgeons, Inc., Akron Civic Theater, Akron Life Magazine, Akron Zoo, **Beyond Our Boundaries**, Bharat Shah, MD, Boyd & Paula Marsh, Brittany Kunda, Century Cycles, Chenoweth Golf Course, Cleveland Cavaliers, Cleveland Indians, Connie & Pete Markland, Connie Zoll, Country Flowers and Herbs, Cuttin' Corners, Custom Trim of America, Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium, CVS Outreach, David L. Stahl, Deb Dutton, Deena Franks, Dr. Dhruv Shah, Dr. Maryann Wohl, Eat 'n Park, El Rincon Mexican Restaurant, Electric Avenue Tanning, **FG Ayers Homes and Remodeling**, Fiesta Pizza & Chicken, **First Merit Bank**, Funny Stop Comedy Club, Game Truck, Gavin Scott Salon, Giant Eagle, **GHYA Association**, Great Clips, Hattie's Café, Highrollers Casino Parties, In Style Accessories, James Karpawich, Ph.D., James Kurek, Jim & Cathy Pachell, **John Ballard**, John D. Fetzer DPM, **Joleen Cicchinelli**, **K Company**, Laura Gerlich, Let's Heal, Linda Hodgen, Mark Perko, DMD, Mary Jones, Dr. Matthew Chung, Maureen VanDuser, **Michael Wilmoth Photography**, **Papa Don's Pub**, Paul Simmons, Pizza Hut, Raintree Country Club, Ravenswood Golf Course, Rebecca & John Susany, Rick Edwards, Rick Schloss, **Roetzel and Andress**, SGS Tool Company, Sharon Skeroitis, Sheree Amos, Simply Swank, **Slusser Insurance Agency**, Stonehedge, Stone's Kenmore Furniture, **Summitt Board of Developmental Disabilities**, Target, The Home Depot, TNT Exterminating, Walmart, Wild Water Kingdom.

## Foundation Helps Ardmore with Grants

In 2012, the Foundation authored two proposals on behalf of Ardmore. The first was for funds to support creating a "Multisensory" room for the Bridges program. The second was a request for Federal "Community Development Block Grant" funds to build a greenhouse at Bridges.

Both were funded! The Welty Family Foundation provided a grant of \$5,000 for the Multisensory room and Summit County has recently announced that Ardmore, Inc. will be a recipient of its 2013 Community Development Block Grant allocation.

"Collaborating on grant proposals is a priority of mine," said Becky Susany, Executive Director of the Foundation. "These successes are very inspiring and exciting. We will continue to work with the agency on new proposals in coming months."

## Foundation's Refinancing Helps Agency's Bottom Line

Last summer, the Ardmore Foundation took advantage of excellent interest rates and refinanced all of its properties. The Foundation owns the main office building on East Market, the building "Bridges" uses in Tallmadge and seven group homes in the greater Akron area. The Foundation leases the properties to Ardmore, Inc. and provides maintenance and upkeep.

Excellent interest rates and mortgage consolidation made for substantial savings which the Foundation wanted to pass on to the agency.

As a result, the Foundation's Board of Trustees voted last fall to significantly reduce rent on the East Market office building. This move has positively influenced Ardmore's bottom line and freed up scarce resources for other agency priorities.

"We felt it was one of the most important and most tangible ways the Foundation could assist the agency right now," said Becky Susany, the Ardmore Foundation's Executive Director. "And, most importantly, this rent reduction does not affect the funds available for donations to clients or other agency needs."

## New Group Homes Purchased

In the last 12 months, the Ardmore Foundation has purchased two homes to replace existing properties.

Shortly after Christmas, clients who were residing in the Foundation's "Courtleigh" home, moved to a newly renovated ranch-style home in Silverlake and enjoyed their new neighborhood, including the lake, over the summer! More recently, the Foundation has purchased another ranch-style home in Tallmadge for the clients of the "Bryn Mawr" property. Residents will be moving in before Christmas this year.

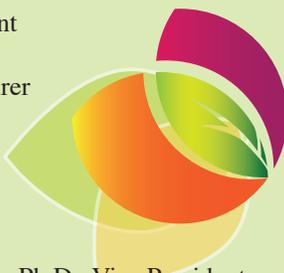
"It's exciting for our clients," said Brook Stallings, Home Coordinator at Ardmore. "They are really looking forward to the move and to their new home!"

The Foundation has prioritized replacement of two-story homes in favor of single-story dwellings. The single-story homes are more practical as the agency's client population ages, and are generally easier to maintain.



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**Foundation Finalizes First Phase Renovations at Bridges**

The Foundation has completed the first phase of major renovations to the Bridges' program building. The Foundation purchased the property at 508 Newton Street in Tallmadge in late 2010 for Ardmore's exclusive use. Renovations have included the reconstruction of meeting and activity rooms, renovation of bathrooms and offices, installation of new heat and air conditioning systems and an upgrade of the entire electrical system for the building. Most recently, the Foundation installed vinyl siding on the building's exterior. Hail damage resulted in a new roof and exterior lighting. "The Foundation is delighted to have the first phase completed and we look forward to seeing the exciting new options available to clients of the Bridges program," said Maureen Van Duser, President of the Ardmore Foundation Board of Trustees.

**A Year with Pals**

**By Deena Franks**

The Pals Home had a very busy year! We enjoyed a Christmas Party at Galt Park along with our Pals families and a special appearance from Santa himself! Moving into spring, we had a day at Cedar Point followed by two summer camping trips to West Branch State Park. Also this summer, we took a day trip to Put-In-Bay! In the fall, we enjoyed an overnight stay at the Country Inn and Suites in Cuyahoga Falls and took full advantage of their indoor swimming pool. The Ardmore Halloween party also proved lots of fun, as usual. We really enjoyed picking out our costumes this year! We are looking forward to another happy holiday season and wish you all the best!