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Becky Lemasters Retires from Ardmore, Inc.



Yvette Diaz,
Becky Lemasters,
Jim Kurek



Royal Chemical: Christina Ledford,
Jackie Mowen, Paul Filchock and John Koduru

E-Mail Us!
afi@ardmoreinc.org



We invite you to "Like"
Ardmore, Inc. on Facebook
and visit our website at
www.ardmoreinc.org
Updates are being made
regularly to the web site and
events and activities will be
shared on Facebook.

"It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of the extraordinary work that goes on at Ardmore...making the best life possible for those we have served over the years and those we will serve in the future," said Becky Lemasters in a letter to Ardmore, Inc. staff in May, 2014. Lemasters retired from Ardmore on July 1, 2014 after 31 years of service. She served as its Executive Director since 2003. Prior to serving as Ardmore's Executive, Becky was the agency's Associate Director and Director of Community Services. Under her watch as Executive, Becky steered the agency through turbulent times as the County faced changes in funding and policy. In the midst of these changes, she kept Ardmore on the leading edge of service delivery. For example, the, "Bridges," program was formed and then moved to

Her leadership and dedication have seen Ardmore through some difficult situations and have positioned the agency for future success.

its new facility in Tallmadge. Additionally, Becky spearheaded a training initiative for Summit County criminal justice system staff. The training focused on better treatment and services for individuals with disabilities who find themselves involved in the criminal justice system. Becky also brought to Ardmore the, "Client Advocacy" program, an initiative for which she is passionate. Jim Kurek, President of Ardmore's Board of Trustees said, "Becky has been a pleasure to work with during her tenure as Executive Director. Her leadership and dedication have seen Ardmore through some difficult situations and have positioned the agency for future success. I wish her luck in a well-deserved retirement."

Also notable, was Becky's annual hostessing of the staff Christmas party at her

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home. She is particularly well-known for her pork loin and cherry chutney and asparagus with homemade hollandaise sauce!

Her passion for serving persons with developmental disabilities and her strong voice advocating at local and state levels will be missed. Becky has always loved travel, music and reading, activities we all hope she enjoys in the moments to come.



Anna Barrett, Executive Director, Independence of Portage County, Becky Lemasters

Yvette Diaz Named Executive Director for Ardmore, Inc.

Ardmore, Inc. welcomes Yvette Diaz as the new Executive Director of Ardmore, Inc. Yvette comes to the job after 27 years of experience at Ardmore, most recently as its Associate Director. Since 1985, Yvette has served the agency in a variety of management positions.

"I am so fortunate to have played a part in making a positive impact in many people's lives over the years. How great it is that staff at Ardmore come to work and have the opportunity to make someone else's life better because of what we do!"

Yvette has been instrumental in bringing to Ardmore over \$100,000 in grants, primarily to develop and support the Bridges Vocational programs. "It's important that Ardmore align our goals with Ohio's efforts to support more individuals with developmental disabilities in

integrated community work settings"

She looks forward to working with Ardmore's staff and Board of Trustees as well as with the Ardmore Foundation to continue the mission-focused work for which Ardmore is well-known in the community. "I envision an agency that meets the challenges presented by changing funding, changing regulations, changing healthcare laws and not only survives, but thrives!"

To be an agency where all Ardmore employees and providers work faithfully to fulfill the agency's mission and vision and in turn feel valued and respected."

"A quote by Dave Ramsey," said Yvette, "is a great way to summarize our work at Ardmore, 'When Action meets Compassion – Lives Change.' My hope is that Ardmore will always be in the "Life Changing" business!"



Thank You to our Donors!

Ardmore Inc. and the Ardmore Foundation extend our sincere thanks to the following donors for their generosity! These gifts support Ardmore's mission and services and also provide quality of life enhancements for Ardmore's clients. Thank you!

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Speech & Language Students Make a Difference at Bridges



University of Akron Speech and Language Therapy students are required to participate in a two-year internship experience. For the past four years, Ardmore has been selected as internship site for students who will spend one or two years working with clients in a variety of Ardmore's service areas. This year, Emma McFarland is splitting her time with clients at the East Avenue home and Advocacy Program clients and Ben Mason is working with clients in the Advocacy Program.

University of Akron Speech and Language Intern, Celeste Lashley with Ardmore client, Jeanete.

"Our Speech and Language Interns, Paul Sabo and Celeste Lashley, at Bridges have become an integral part of the Bridges Program," said Laura Gerlich, Bridges Program Director. "Our participants love having them with us and look forward to the days they are here."

Kelly Wade, Community Internship Coordinator for the University of Akron said, "As a representative of the graduate program, we are so appreciative of the opportunity to partner with such a great organization as Ardmore. This opportunity not only allows students

to have financial stability throughout their graduate program, but also helps them to gain much knowledge by working with individuals with developmental disabilities and helps them to prepare for working as Speech and Language Pathologists."

"Having Ben & Emma as a part of the Advocacy program has already proven to be a success,"



Ben Mason and advocacy participant Jack C. (At a Halloween party)

shared Leigh Belvedere, Director of Ardmore's Advocacy Program. "They bring something new to the table with their willingness to learn and enthusiastic personalities. In just a few short weeks both have developed relationships with participants in the Advocacy program and I am looking very much forward to the impact they will make in the program over the next 2 years."



Emma McFarland with Karen D. And Melissa G. (Advocacy participants) at Halloween party.

Ardmore & the University of Akron: A Partnership that Works

Nursing Students Make a Difference at Bridges

University of Akron nursing students have been providing health assessments and health promotion education to Bridges' participants since 2008. Annette Mitzel, previous Ardmore, Inc. Board Member and faculty at the University of Akron, assisted with the founding of the partnership. Bridges hosts two to three student nurses who rotate every six weeks. The students prepare health education programming for Bridges' participants on topics such as nutrition, heart function, the nervous system and many other topics. Students also monitor

participants' blood pressure and even were instrumental in identifying a blood pressure-related condition in one of Bridges' participants. "We have a non-verbal client who was not showing any symptoms of someone with untreated high blood pressure," said Laura Gerlich, Bridges Program Director. "Our student took the time to patiently work with our client and build up enough trust for her to take his blood pressure. He did indeed have high blood pressure and has been found to be pre-diabetic. He is now on medication and he and his mother are

working with a dietician and taking walks in the park. He loves the outdoors! This student has made a huge impact on this client, his family and his future."

"This experience has been eye-opening for many of my students as they embrace working with individuals with disabilities...I truly believe my students learn just as much from this caring and fun-loving group at Bridges as the participants learn from my students," said Sherry Acierito, teacher/instructor at the University of Akron Nursing Program.



Help Ardmore by spending money on the products you love!

Save Your Receipts!

Save all receipts dated September 18, 2014 through February 4, 2015. Ask your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to shop and save their receipts, too! Ardmore will receive 5% of the Cash Back value! Drop your receipts off at the Ardmore office or send them to us by February 15, 2015. Send your receipts to:

*Fred Strelbicki,
981 East Market Street,
Akron, Ohio 44305*



EARN 5% CASH BACK for your non-profit Organization!

Thank you to our Day of Action Volunteers!



Myers Industries, Inc.: Mike Gioiello, Dana Wobser, Angie Swaino, Katie Riffle, Michelle Stroup, Doug Stroup

On a sunny spring morning in June, 37 volunteers from five Akron businesses and community groups appeared with shovels and hoes on the front lawns of Ardmore's Foundation-owned homes. The Ardmore Foundation owns eight group homes, seven of which are used by Ardmore, Inc. as residential living for adults with developmental disabilities.

Faced with the prospect of landscaping and mulching, weeding and pruning, these volunteers set to work with gusto! The volunteer effort was part of the annual community-wide United Way Day of Action. This year, 1400 volunteers coordinated by the United Way of Summit County, volunteered on a single day, (June 20, 2014), at 78 locations within the county.

Ardmore's Foundation-owned homes hosted the landscaping crews who transformed the properties. Two



Downtown Akron Rotary: Brian Chima and Barry Hollis

volunteers from the Downtown Akron Rotary even borrowed a neighbor's chain saw, cleaned out an overgrown stand of pine trees and hauled off a huge load of debris. Other volunteers from Akron AAA, Myers Industries and Royal

Chemical, found they needed additional mulch and managed to secure donations from local Wal-Marts and Lowe's stores in order to complete the work.

"This was truly an amazing display of hard-work, creativity and dedication," said Becky Susany, Ardmore Foundation's Executive Director. "The volunteers' resourcefulness that day enabled more work to be completed than I could have ever imagined." Susany shared that the efforts of volunteers through the United Way Day of Action saved the Foundation over \$5000 in landscape materials and labor and beautified the homes for Ardmore's clients.

"We are more grateful than we can say for the hard work, time and energy these volunteers brought to the lives of our residential clients," said Yvette Diaz, Executive Director of Ardmore, Inc. "It was an inspiring sight!"

Peggy Craig, Maria Edwards, Gerry Bartlebaugh, Emma McMannis, and Annie Bauman



Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio: Crystal Dague, Sarah Shkoukani, Kim Dolan, and Catie Hewitt



Ante up for Ardmore!

**We are so grateful
for the support
of our generous
Sponsors!**



Annie and Bill Granchi
John and Becky Susany
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Boyd and Paula Marsh
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Summit Housing Development Corporation
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WELCOME
TO *Fabulous*
CASINO NIGHT!
ARDMORE



SAVE THE DATE

Ardmore Inc. & Ardmore Foundation

4th Annual Casino Night  **March 21, 2015**

New Location! University of Akron InfoCision Stadium First Merit Club Level



Like us on Facebook or visit our website at www.ardmoreinc.org
and see a virtual tour of the Club Level Facility.

Join us for dinner, casino games, raffles, silent auction and more!

All proceeds directly benefit Ardmore's clients.

Contact Becky Susany at 330-535-2601 for more information.



Kent State University Alpha Phi Volunteers: Breanna Cooper, Melissa Spetich, Hunter Mowen, Taylre Dugan

CASINO NIGHT DONORS

**We are pleased to
share the names
of businesses
and individuals
who supported
our 2014 Casino
Night. Thank
you for your
generosity!**

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Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer and the Summit County Probate Court
Swenson's
Walk Disney World
Target Systems
Tom Weaver
Bill White's Akron Lanes



In Memoriam

Juanieta Louise Jacob

Juanieta Louise Jacob, 82, loving wife of Ralph Joseph Jacob (deceased March 1, 2007) passed away on Sunday, June 15, 2014 at her home surrounded by her children, Douglas, Daniel, Lisa Jacob-Stump (Joseph), David (Holly), Bradley and Jeffrey Jacob. She was the beloved grandmother of Gavin (Abby) Jacob, Daniel, Sean and Taylor Massey, Matthew, Griffin, Connor, Lee, Maxwell and Abby Jacob; cherished great-grandmother of Kamryn Jacob; beloved sister of Howard Otto and Johnni (Donald) Schmidt; and a friend to many. Juanieta's love for flowers, her garden, traveling, and her faith were well known. Juanieta and Ralph were long-time supporters of Ardmore, Inc. and the Ardmore Foundation. Their generosity continues to benefit the individuals living in Ardmore's Rainier home as well as the individuals whose needs are supported by the Ardmore Foundation. Ralph Jacob was a founding member of the Ardmore Foundation and Juanieta participated in and supported Foundation events and activities. Their kindness was and is an inspiration.



Thank you to our generous local VOLUNTEERS

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Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio

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amazonsmile

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Sign up before the holidays and Ardmore's clients will benefit from any purchases you make through Amazon!

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More nonprofit tips and tricks: goodhelpings.blogspot.com

If you have any questions about the Acme Community Cashback Program or Amazon Smile, contact Becky Susany at 330-535-2601.



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Ardmore Inc.**AWARDED \$50,000****Community Development Block Grant**

Ardmore Inc. was awarded \$50,000 in 2015 Federal Community Development Block Grant funds. Funds will be used to develop a two-year, work-readiness program to help fill the gap in transitional vocational services for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities in our community. The program will be held at the, "Bridges," facility in Tallmadge and will combine classroom learning and work trial experiences. The, "Bridges to Employment Program," will offer a variety of outcome-based tiered learning modules including community living skills, self-discovery and career exploration through internships, job-seeking and technology training and job skills preparation and development. Watch our Facebook page and web site for news on this exciting program!

www.ardmoreinc.org**SAVE THE DATE****Ardmore Inc. & Ardmore Foundation****4th Annual Casino Night
March 21, 2015****New Location! University of Akron
InfoCision Stadium First Merit Club Level**