

## From the President



Dear Friends:  
It was with deep sadness that we learned of the death of David Bixel, president of the AMIB Endowment Fund, who was killed in August in a fatal automobile accident. In addition

to his role as head of the Endowment Fund, he also chaired our recent Capital Campaign to open the first long-term care group home in the State of New Jersey. Dave's association with AMIB goes back 20 years or more when he worked with Al and Polly Wilson in creating the AMIB Endowment Fund. In Dave we have lost a good personal friend, one who was devoted to AMIB. He is greatly missed.

On a brighter note, I am happy to report that we received a wonderful response to the Weinberg Challenge (see below) from some of our donors. We are very close to reaching our challenge goal and would welcome any additional support you might be able to provide.

AMIB is grateful to each one of you who provides us with the means to serve the needs of the blind/visually impaired and developmentally disabled.

On behalf of the board of AMIB and the group home residents we serve, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

Kenneth J. Carson, Jr.

## From the Director



Greetings, I hope this finds you doing well. This year has been a time of recognition for AMIB. With the success of Emerald Court, we continue to receive compliments from the State and the Lacey

neighborhood on the construction and design of the fully accessible home for the visually impaired and disabled.

Awards went to long-time staff member, Peggy Sherman, for the wonderful work she has done advocating with and for the people of AMIB, and to residents: Artie Koweek for his dedication to deliv-

ering Meals on Wheels to seniors, and Billy Holmes for volunteering his time to the community and to worthy causes. We are so proud of them. More recognitions are to come, so stay tuned.

For 2006, AMIB is gearing up to complete and implement its long-range plan. On the table are plans to develop AMIB's own day program, provide in-home support and expand our recreational program to the multiple-impaired blind who live at home with their families. We look forward to the opportunities ahead and will keep you posted on our progress.

Thank you to all board members, staff and supporters. I wish you a healthy winter.

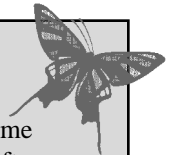
Aaron Soto

## The Legacy Society

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following who have become members of The Legacy Society through a bequest or planned gift:

Janet Andrus \*  
David R. Bixel \*  
Elaine O. Behr \*  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth J. Carson, Jr.  
Mary J. Carson  
Phil Cochran \*  
Albert R. Costa \*  
Viola Ellison  
Peter & Mildred Galanti \*  
Richard F. Harries & Carol J. Harries  
Austin & Clara Helle  
Betty Wold Johnson

The Keith Wold Johnson Charitable Trust  
Robert Wood Johnson 1962 Charitable Trust  
Muriel Martucci  
David Mathey \*  
Daniel J. McCarthy  
Patricia McKinley  
William McKinley, III  
Margaret J. McLean  
Vera Monaghan  
Edna Thorsen \*  
Polly Wilson \*  
\* deceased



### The Weinberg Challenge

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation made a generous \$150,000 challenge grant to the Vision of Independence Capital Campaign. AMIB will receive the grant once it has met the following challenges:

- Raised \$132,000 in new and/or additional contributions to the campaign, and
- Received \$113,667 in outstanding pledge payments.

We invite our readers to help us meet this challenge by sending contributions made out to the AMIB Capital Campaign and restricted to the Weinberg Challenge.

### A Bequest to the AMIB Endowment Fund

A tax-deductible bequest in your will is an excellent way to become a member of The Legacy Society and make a significant gift that may not be possible during a lifetime. If you have an up-to-date will and want to include a provision to provide permanent assurance of the future of AMIB residents, ask your attorney to add an amendment, known as a codicil. Suggested wording for a will or codicil could be:

*"I give and bequeath to the AMIB Endowment Fund, 909 Cedar Bridge Avenue, Brick, New Jersey 08723-4259, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate) and/or the following property \_\_\_\_\_."*

Some other opportunities to make a planned gift to AMIB's Endowment Fund and become a member of The Legacy Society include: creating a charitable remainder trust; giving a paid-up insurance policy; and arranging for a gift of appreciated long-term capital gain securities or real estate.

# As the Past Catches Up with Us

## AMIB Benefits from a Major Charitable Remainder Unitrust

*“Drop a pebble in the water: just a splash, and it is gone. But there’s a half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on. Spreading, spreading from the center, flowing on out to the sea. And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.”*

Anonymous



David Mathey



Dean Mathey

Over the years, that is the way it has been with AMIB people. They tell someone about AMIB and the difference it has made in the lives of residents, and there is no telling where the end is going to be. Perhaps, when that someone is ready to consider a significant gift or make out a will, he or she may remember how much it would mean to AMIB and those it serves.

That is the way it was with Polly Wilson, who died last year, and her husband, Al. The Wilsons always encouraged friends and family to support AMIB and, after Al’s death, Polly served on both the AMIB and AMIB Endowment Fund boards for many years. To this day, the Wilson family tradition of service continues to be a strong force at AMIB. Their daughter, Janet Wilson Alternative, serves on AMIB’s board. Another daughter, Beverley Parry, is a member of the AMIB Endowment Fund board.

Throughout their lives, Polly and Al spoke about AMIB to friends and acquaintances in ways that reverberate to this day in unforeseen ways.

Among those friends was Dean Mathey (left), who lived in Princeton until his death in April 1972. In addition to being a true philanthropist, Dean Mathey was an investment banker, chairman of the board of Empire Trust Company, honorary chairman of the board of the Bank of New York, and author of the book, “Fifty Years of Wall Street.” In 1912 he graduated from Princeton University and years later served as a

trustee and trustee emeritus on the Princeton board.

Dean and his wife Gertrude had three sons: Dean, MacDonald and David. David (top left) was a resident of Princeton for most of his life and, although as a high school student he became afflicted with a mind-crippling disease, he found relief at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and was able to live a relatively normal life. In addition to inheriting his father’s love of tennis, David inherited his father’s philanthropic spirit. Since David was the only one of the three brothers who lived in Princeton, he focused his philanthropic giving mainly on charitable organizations based in the Princeton area.

David died at the age of 73 on February 10, 2005. Upon his death, AMIB learned that it was one of 16 charitable organizations to benefit from the David Mathey Charitable Remainder Unitrust. Distributions to AMIB from the trust, which will begin this year and continue through 2020, are expected to reach well over \$1 million.

And so the legacy of Polly and Al Wilson lives on through their family, their friendships, and through the gift of David Mathey, which will influence the lives of present and future residents of AMIB now and for decades to come.

We thank you: Polly, Al, Dean, David, and the many others whose words, deeds, gifts and legacies reach out and continue to make a difference in the lives of the multiple-impaired blind.

# Around the Houses

## Dream Weavers Advisor, Peggy Sherman, Named Self Advocacy Advisor of the Year

Members of AMIB's self advocacy group, the Dream Weavers, together with their advisor, Peggy Sherman, from the Bayville program, attended the Self Advocacy Conference on June 18, 2005, at the Double Tree Hotel in Somerset.

Selected from all self advocacy groups in New Jersey, Peggy received the Self Advocacy Advisor of the Year Award. Peggy was nominated for the award by Jody Segen, president of the Dream Weavers, who described Peggy as "understanding, warm and kind."

A leader in promoting community integration for people with developmental disabilities, Peggy began AMIB's self advocacy group in 2001 with residents from the Bayville, Toms River and Brick homes. The group now includes members of all five AMIB residences and 65 percent of all residents.

Under Peggy's guidance, the Dream Weavers have collected canned goods for the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean counties, donated to Toys for Tots, raised money for the Tsunami Relief Fund, and met with local politicians to press for paving the streets in the neighborhood to make them more safe and accessible.



Members of AMIB's self advocacy group, the Dream Weavers, congratulate their advisor, Peggy Sherman, for winning New Jersey's Self Advocacy Advisor of the Year Award. They are, standing, from left: Mel Branch, vice president of Dream Weavers; Janet Morris; and Margaret Alford, Dream Weavers secretary. Seated, from left: Jody Segen, Dream Weavers president, and Peggy Sherman, who displays her award.

Association for the Multiple Impaired Blind is qualified by the IRS to receive contributions which are deductible for federal income tax purposes. This charitable organization is registered with the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey. Information may be obtained by calling 973-504-6215. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Artie Koweek (Bayville) receives a certificate of appreciation from Meals on Wheels staff member at a volunteer luncheon in Lanoka Harbor on May 17.

Meals on Wheels staff members presented Artie with a certificate of appreciation and a star for his shining contributions to the community. He also received a Meals on Wheels meal. Artie enjoys participating in Meals on Wheels and looks forward to his job and to helping others. We wish Artie continued success with his volunteer work.

## Artie Koweek Receives Certificate of Appreciation

Artie Koweek (Bayville) began volunteering for Meals on Wheels in the fall of 2004. Since that time, he has delivered food to the needy and to seniors living in Lakewood, Pine Beach, Ocean Gate, Bayville and Lacey. On May 17, Artie was honored for his charitable efforts at a volunteer luncheon held at the Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor. The Lacey

## Residents Enjoy a Day in Atlantic City



Residents and staff members from all five AMIB homes enjoy a bus trip and a day at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City. On June 14, the group attended a performance of "Cabaret," enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch, gambled in the casino, and sang lively songs during the bus trip down and back. AMIB's recreation coordinator is planning additional day trips for both residents and for visually impaired and disabled young people living at home with their families.

# Donors Making a Difference . . .

*In the spring issue of this newsletter, we listed and recognized donors to the 2004 Annual Fund. However, due to an unfortunate oversight, many donors' names were omitted. We sincerely apologize for this error, and hope we have included everyone on the following list. We thank all of you for generously contributing to our 2004 Annual Appeal.*

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Wilson  
Mary Zelinski

*We have made every effort to check the accuracy of this list. However, if we have made mistakes in spelling or omitted your name, please accept our apologies and call 973-376-6191 so we may correct any errors. Thank you.*

**AMIB, Inc.**  
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Robert Pearson  
\* *deceased*

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## OceanFirst Foundation Presents \$24,000 Check for Capital Campaign



Representatives from the OceanFirst Foundation visit AMIB's long-term group home at 15 Emerald Court, Lanoka Harbor, to present a \$24,000 check to the Vision of Independence Capital Campaign to cover the cost of a retaining wall that was required at the new residence. They are Nina Anuario, vice president, business development, Toms River office (third from left), and Debbie Edgecomb, assistant vice president/branch manager, OceanFirst Bank, Lacey office (right). They are joined by Lacey home residents, from left: Albert Coath, Billy Holmes and Rita Jacobs, and AMIB Executive Director Aaron Soto (third from right).

# Sight From Within

Fall 2005

A newsletter from the Association for the Multiple Impaired Blind, Inc.



## **In Memory** **David R. Bixel 1948-2005**

AMIB learned with deep sorrow of the sudden death of David R. Bixel on August 22. His loss will affect thousands of people whose lives he touched in many caring ways. He died from injuries suffered when his car was hit head-on on Route 287 by an automobile that crossed

the median from the opposite direction.

Dave had been a true friend of AMIB and its residents for many years. He served as president of the AMIB Endowment Fund, chaired the Vision of Independence Capital Campaign and was a member of The Legacy Society. The AMIB Endowment Fund recently received a planned gift of \$30,000 which Dave made through a life insurance policy. This way of giving set an example for others to follow and resulted in similar planned gifts being made by The Legacy Society members.

In 2001 Dave was honored at AMIB's seventh annual cabaret. At that time he said that his life, as well as the lives of his wife and children, had been greatly enriched by his association with AMIB.

Friends remember Dave's infectious sense of humor, his compassion for others, his dedication to improving lives and his talent for bringing diverse people together to work for the common good.

"No one can calculate the dimensions of this loss," said Home News Tribune Executive Editor Charles Paolino, who served on AMIB's Endowment Fund board with Dave. "Dave Bixel had the capacity for moving masses of people . . . to build up the lives of others. I have joined others in working with him and his family on enormous public events that few would have the confidence to undertake, and I have known him to drop everything to get help for a single stranger whom he would never meet."

Following three years as a religion and history teacher at his alma mater, St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, Dave began a career in fundraising that was to span over three decades and in which he planned and directed many multi-million dollar campaigns. Five years ago, he became president of Semple Bixel Associates Inc., a fundraising firm he joined in 1992.

Bixel is survived by his wife Patricia, daughter Vicki, and son Joseph.

## **Billy Holmes Named a Community Star**

Each year, the New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP) honors Community Stars — individuals who have made remarkable strides in dealing with physical and developmental challenges during the year. William "Billy" Holmes was selected as AMIB's Community Star for 2005.

Accompanied by housemates and AMIB staff, Billy received his award at the Westin Princeton Hotel at Forrester Village on May 2.

Billy does a lot of charity work. He participates in walkathons to benefit people suffering from breast cancer and MS. He volunteers at a local animal shelter, walking dogs and feeding cats, and he collects canned goods for the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean counties. This year Billy started volunteering for a day program in which he performs additional community-oriented activities.

As an officer of AMIB's self advocacy group, the Dream Weavers, Billy tries to make sure that the voices of people with developmental disabilities, like himself, are heard.

At 70, Billy is one of eight residents of AMIB's new custom-built home in Lacey Township, the first long-term-care residence in New Jersey for visually impaired people with developmental disabilities. Billy has successfully learned how to navigate around his new home and has also helped his housemates to do so.

Congratulations on your award, Billy!



Billy Holmes displays his Community Star Award at the awards ceremony on May 2.

*We invite our friends to make gifts to AMIB in memory of David Bixel. Gifts will be applied to the Weinberg Challenge to help complete the Capital Campaign which Dave so enthusiastically chaired. (See page 2.)*