



## New Life Opens Up for Residents in East Pine Beach Group Home



*Top: AMIB's group home in East Pine Beach.*

*Above: Group Home Manager Gina Haas helps Rich learn about watering marigolds.*

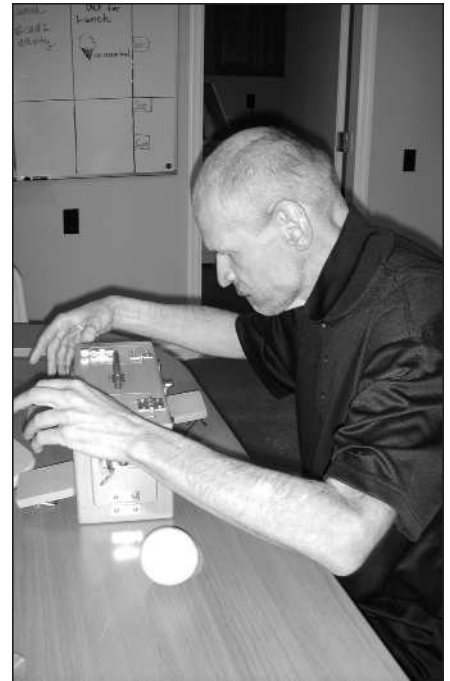
*Center: For the first time ever, Steven experiences the sensation of putting his toes in a swimming pool.*

*Right: Bud begins to understand the workings of his wooden puzzle.*



A different world is beginning to open up for three residents as they start a new life with AMIB, watched over by loving, caring staff members in our recently completed group home in East Pine Beach.

In the institutional center of New Lisbon, Rich, Steven and Bud often spent much of their day curled in a fetal position or rocking back and forth.



Although blind and non-verbal, each man is now being challenged to experience new activities and sensations.

Rich, who never knew about plants, is encouraged to water some marigolds. With the help of Group Home Manager Gina Haas, he puts his hand in the dry earth and understands why the flowers need water for nourishment.

For the first time ever, Steven dabbles his toes in a swimming pool and feels the cool sensation of the water on his feet.

Gina helps Bud feel and understand the workings of his wooden puzzle.

For these three men, it's the beginning of a whole new life of activities, sounds and sensations.

## From the President



Dear Friend:

It is with deep appreciation that I write to thank all of you who have been involved in AMIB's growth and expansion. During the past two years we have, with your help, successfully added and renovated two

additional group homes in Pine Beach, as well as given our Bayville home a complete makeover, so that all are barrier free and totally accessible for our residents.

Recently we have experienced some sad occasions with the deaths of residents Albert Coath and my sister, Mary Carol Carson, and the passing of Viola Ellison and Vera Monaghan, two loyal and supportive members of our Legacy Society. We are deeply grateful to both Viola and Vera for their generous and thoughtful bequests, which you can read about on page 3.

On a happier note, earlier this year we were able to open the door of our Emerald Court home to an enthusiastic new resident. We also welcomed three blind, non-verbal residents from a developmental center to one of our Pine Beach homes. We believe this has opened up a world of opportunities for these men and given their lives new meaning.

This newsletter is full of other examples of how our residents continue to blossom as they are exposed to different activities and experiences.

It is your dollars and support that enable us to continue to make a difference in the lives of our blind/visually impaired/developmentally disabled individuals.

Thank you for helping us make this happen.

Kenneth J. Carson, Jr.

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## From the Director



Greetings,

I hope this finds you doing well. I can report happily and proudly that AMIB is complete with its Three Group Home Renovation Project. In May the original individuals from our Bayville group

home moved back to their newly renovated fully accessible home.

Along with making the house one level and providing all adults with their own bedrooms, AMIB also constructed a day activity area within the house for the older individuals to engage in tactile, olfactory and music therapies, as well as create arts and crafts.

Immediately thereafter in June, AMIB moved individuals out of the New Lisbon Developmental Center and gave them their first home in over 40 years at one of the Pine Beach group homes.

Currently we are working with the staff at the Vineland Developmental Center to deinstitutionalize additional individuals and relocate them to the second home we recently renovated in Pine Beach.

We continue to appreciate your support, and we look forward to additional ways of continuing to help people with developmental disabilities and visual impairments become integrated into our communities.

Aaron Soto

### **Giftback.com: Another Way to Give Back**

Are you looking for a birthday, get-well, thank you, house-warming, or new baby gift to send to a friend, family member, employer or employee? Then consider going to **Giftback.com**. The site offers a wealth of items— from fresh flowers to fruit baskets to engraved items and electronics.

And better yet, after you have selected your gift, you can select the **Associated for the Multiple Impaired Blind** as the charity of your choice, and Giftback will donate 10 percent of the purchase price to us.

## 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 Andruss \***

**David R. Bixel \***

**Elaine O. Behr \***

**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**

**Kellogg Endowment Fund**

**Harold W. Korradi \***

**Mary Katherine Lightner \***

**Muriel Martucci**

**David Mathey \***

**Daniel J. McCarthy**

**Patricia McKinley**

**William McKinley, III**

**Margaret J. McLean**

**Vera Monaghan \***

**Ann Pambello**

**Edna Thorsen \***

**Polly Wilson \***

*\* deceased*

## Meet Nicole Gawronski . . . AMIB's Director of Operations

Even since she was a teenager, Nicole Gawronski has had a special place in her heart for the developmentally disabled.

It all began when her best friends' sister had a baby who was born with hydrocephalus (cerebrospinal fluid in the brain). Nicole saw the pain that caused mother and child, and stepped in to help as much as she could.

After high school, Nicole volunteered in nursing homes. She later worked for and helped to run group homes and schools.

For 14 years, Nicole was with Bancroft NeuroHealth in Haddonfield, New Jersey, one of the nation's first private schools for children with developmental disabilities. At Bancroft, she served first as manager and then as director of operations.

In October 2008 Nicole joined AMIB and was promoted to Director of Operations, responsible for group home management and staff.

At AMIB Nicole works closely with Executive Director Aaron Soto in recruiting staff. She takes an active and personal role in meeting with them, visiting them and interacting with them as she gets to know each one personally.

"In all of our programs, management and staff work together to meet the needs of those we serve in a well-coordinated team effort," said Nicole.

"In comparison to developmental centers, AMIB offers residents one-on-one attention and opportunities to learn to the best of their ability and become participating and contributing members of society. All individuals participate

in some type of day program activity, and some may even enjoy a trip to local museums, animal shelters or the beach," she added.

While she has served in the field for many years, Nicole feels personally honored to work with AMIB, where her priorities are to help residents look forward to and get involved with as many new experiences as possible.

Nicole is currently studying to become an RN. She starts night school in September.



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## AMIB Receives Two Bequests Motivated by Lifelong Friendships

Two members of AMIB's Legacy Society died recently. Both had generously remembered AMIB in their wills and left significant bequests to help us provide a secure future for our residents.

**Viola Ellison**, who was featured in the fall 2002 issue of this newsletter, was born on Valentine's Day in 1920 and passed away on February 4, 2010, just ten days short of her 90th birthday. She left a bequest of \$20,000 to AMIB.

Viola had been a close friend of Albert and Polly Wilson. After the Wilson's daughter, Mary Blair, entered AMIB's group home in Toms River, Vi became a regular contributor to the annual appeal and later a member of The Legacy Society.

To help improve the quality of life of Mary Blair and residents like her and to demonstrate her loyalty to Al and Polly, she decided to include AMIB's Endowment Fund in her will.

Vi lived in New York City and was an avid traveller. She was a member of the board of the Halsey Day Nursery, a member of the Huguenot Society of New York as well as the Colony Club and several tennis clubs. She played tennis up until her late eighties.

**Vera Monaghan**, who was featured in the spring 1996 issue of this newsletter, was one of the first members of The Legacy Society.

Vera died on December 8, 2008, and left a gift of \$25,000 to AMIB, the result of several years of investment in CDs (certificates of deposit).

She decided to purchase the CDs in the name of the AMIB Endowment Fund and, because the CDs were taken out in trust for the fund, they were redeemed and paid to AMIB when her estate was finalized.

Vera first became familiar with AMIB through her long-time friends, Mary and Ken Carson, Sr.

Vera and her husband met the Carsons in the early 'seventies when both families lived in Chatham.

The Monaghans came to know firsthand the frustration the Carsons faced in finding a suitable place for their daughter, Mary Carol Carson.

Mary Carol was a resident of the Bayville home for 27 years before her death last December at the age of 61.

Vera supported AMIB because she believed that it provided a truly comfortable and caring home for people with developmental disabilities.

She said at the time that it gave her great pleasure to know that through her bequest, she could contribute to the future well-being and security of Mary Carol and residents like her.

*AMIB offers sympathy to the family and friends of Viola and Vera, and is deeply grateful to these two for their thoughtful and generous bequests.*

## Around the Houses . . .

### ← Residents Welcome Amy to Her New Bayville Home

Amy (standing third from left) moved from her foster home into the Bayville home on June 17. To welcome Amy, residents and staff celebrated her 38th birthday, which had been four days earlier, with a cake, card, presents and “Happy Birthday” played by Susan at the piano. Singing along around Amy are, from left, Director of Operations Nicole Gawronski, Program Coordinator Nirvelyn Jean Simon and Assistant Group Home Manager Liz Duckworth.



Among the residents who recently returned to their renovated Bayville home from Pine Beach are Artie and Joseph Brian, who gather together in the sun on the porch with staff members (back from left) Helen Runion, Colleen Wright, Linda Hires and Peggy Sherman. →

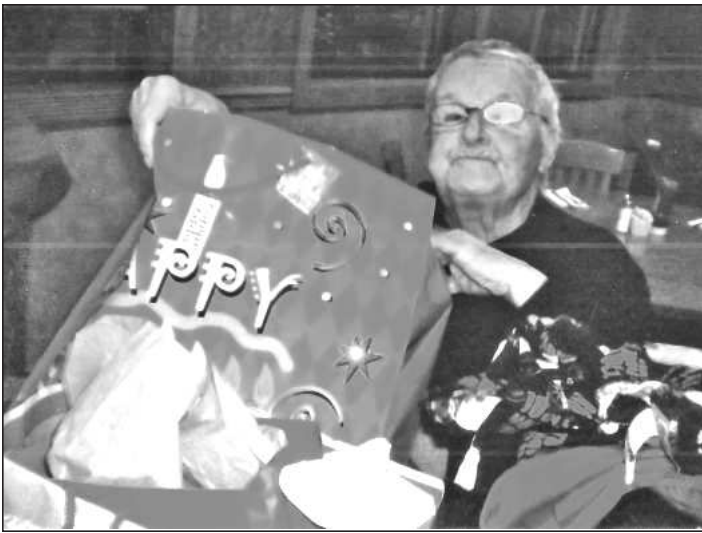


### Volunteers Bring Musical Joy to Bayville →

Residents enjoyed a Christmas party in July with holiday songs sung by Debbie Spinella and accompanist Shea Velloso on the piano on July 29. Debbie is a soloist and choir member at the United Methodist Church in Milltown. Shea is the music director at the church. Both volunteered their time which was greatly appreciated. Residents (and staff) had a great time singing and dancing along with the music and sharing the afternoon with their friends. After the show, everyone enjoyed dinner organized by the home.

↓ Among those enjoying Christmas in July are Brick resident Eugene and Janet, who is from the Forked River home.



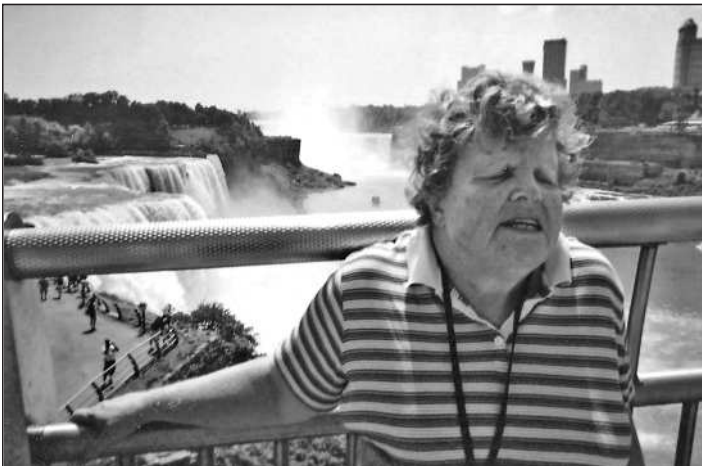


← Joined by friends and housemates, Billy, a resident of AMIB's long-term-care home in Lanoka Harbor, celebrates his 75th birthday at a local establishment. He is seen here opening his presents before enjoying a birthday cake.



← Bayville resident Susan enjoyed her visit to "Peter Pan" on June 24 at the Paper Mill Playhouse, which she attended with Residential Relief Manager Peggy Sherman. The show was audio-described, meaning that an orator articulated the acting to the audience to help those with visual impairment follow the play.

*These photos show how our residents, who are visually impaired, are exposed to and stimulated by different activities, sounds, smells and tactile sensations, including the feel of mist on the face . . .*



A highlight of the summer for Brick resident Margaret was a visit to Niagara Falls, where she sailed the Maid of the Mist boat, and was invigorated by the feel of the mist on her face and the sound of the falls.



Accompanied by Residential Specialist Theresa Cavallo, Brick resident Barbara enjoys a May afternoon at the local reservoir and on the hiking trails, where she listened to the sounds of nature including the lapping of water on the lake.

Far right: Decked out in her gardening hat, Howell group home resident Linda enjoys her morning ritual working in the garden — crumbling the earth in her hands, smelling the flowers, pulling weeds and watering the plants. →

Linda was one of four Howell residents to visit Battleview Orchards where she picked fruit, enjoyed the smell of the apples and felt the round shapes and fuzzy texture of peaches and the smooth skin of the nectarines. →





*Residents Enjoy*





## *a Night on the Town*



Each year AMIB residents have the opportunity to enjoy a prom sponsored by a local agency.

1. Dressed in their best, Doug, Chris, John, Paul and Tommy of the North Dover home say goodbye to staff members Jackie Appel and Jacinda Grossman, as they prepare to leave to dance the night away and enjoy a sit-down meal. This night also gives them the opportunity to socialize in a different setting with individuals of other agencies whom they get to know during their day services.
2. Residential Specialist Anita Mulligan and Lanoka Harbor resident James enjoy dancing together.
3. Janet and Paul laugh with delight as they take to the floor.
4. Delma and Melvin (Bayville) step out onto the floor.
5. From left: Bayville residents Artie and Melvin are accompanied by staff members Roseanne Fetzer and Heather Roberts, who holds and supports Andrea.



# AMIB, Inc.

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## Residents Welcome Newcomer to Lanoka Harbor Long-Term-Care Home

Residents welcome Mary (center) as a new resident of AMIB's long-term-care home in Lanoka Harbor. They are: Billy (front left) and Rita (front right), who are joined by Director of Operations Nicole Gawronski and Group Home Manager Jennifer Bray, pictured at back,

Mary moved into the home in the spring of 2010. "I love it here, and I feel so lucky," she said, adding that "I am really young at heart, and there are so many things I want to do in life."