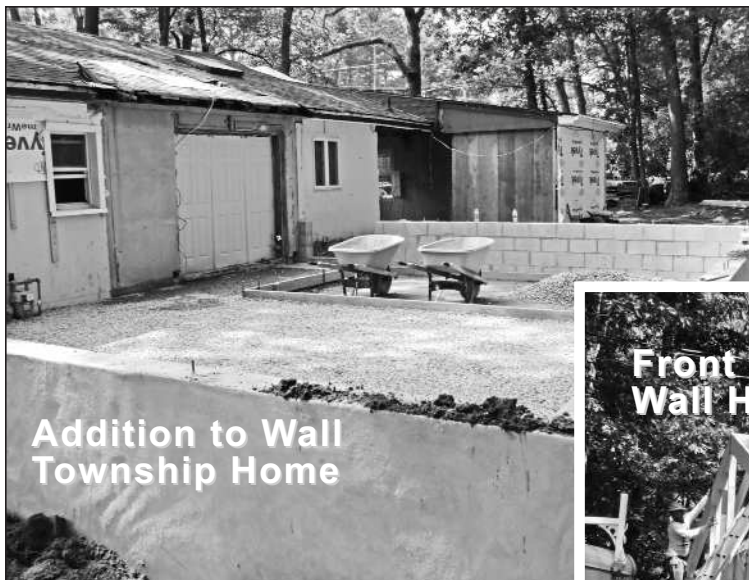




Renovations to Freehold and Wall Homes Near Completion



New Front Door at Freehold Township House

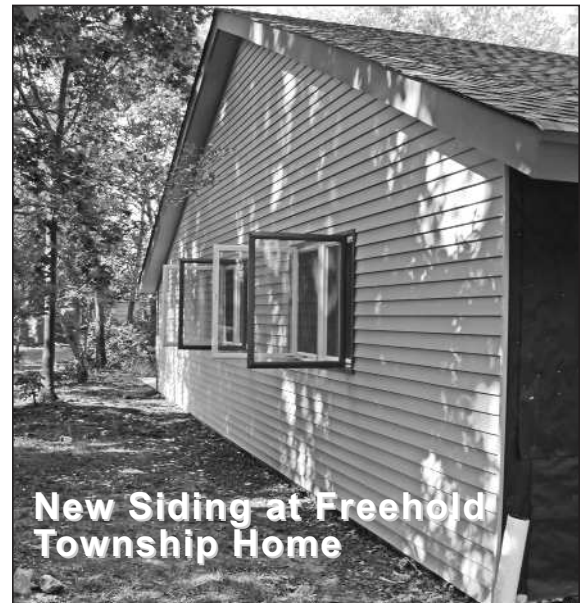


Addition to Wall Township Home

Although the Wall group home experienced permit delays from the township due to the absence of official inspectors, we are now approximately halfway through the renovations having completed all the initial electrical, plumbing and structural trades. The home is expected to be ready for occupancy next month.

AMIB has made considerable progress renovating the two new group homes in Monmouth County, making them accessible for eight new residents from developmental centers.

The Freehold Township home has received a full makeover with new roof, siding, insulation throughout, a handicapped-accessible kitchen area and an additional bedroom, making a total of four. We have also finished installing the fire suppression system, completing the new paved driveway and are now awaiting the certificate of occupancy.



New Siding at Freehold Township Home



Front Entrance at Wall Home

From the President



Dear Friend:
Recently, as you can read on page 4 of this newsletter, AMIB lost three of our residents: Margaret Alford, Billy Holmes and Donald Adams.

Margaret will be missed for the wonderful musical talent

that she shared with housemates and her church. Billy, who entered AMIB's first home in Barnegat in 1977, will be missed for his congeniality and for his many volunteer activities. They will both remain in the hearts and prayers of the AMIB family.

Donald Adams, who spent almost two years in the newly completed Pine Beach South home, passed away in July.

As our AMIB family mourns the loss of its residents, we also have been expanding our organization to serve more residents and new communities. This newsletter describes the tremendous progress being made in the renovation of our two new Monmouth County group homes.

Thanks to all of you who have supported this project. It will improve immeasurably the quality of life for eight adults from state developmental centers who will have a whole new world of opportunity opened up to them when they move into their new homes in Monmouth.

We ask that you please continue to help us through this important project.

We can't do it without you and your generosity. Your financial support is greatly needed and deeply appreciated.

Kenneth P. Carson

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**.

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.

From the Executive Director



We welcome the Fall after a busy but beautiful summer. I hope this letter finds you well. Since May, AMIB has had Conant Architects and Scelfo Contractors working hard on the renovations to our

newest group homes in Monmouth County.

The Freehold Township house is essentially complete as we finish up punchlist items and purchase furniture to ready it for four new housemates. The four women, who have visual impairments and developmental disabilities, expressed a desire to live in an integrated setting.

All four are between the ages of 40 and 50 and come from two state-run institutional centers (two from Vineland and two from Woodbridge). Staff have been hired and are meeting with the women to ensure their smooth transition into the new home.

The women have lived in a congregated institutional setting for over 35 years. Thanks to your support and federal initiatives to support people in these least restrictive environments, they now have the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of community living.

The Wall Township house was initially delayed by the township inspection approval process but is now well underway. In October all rough inspections were completed and we began closing the walls with sheetrock, siding the house, painting and carpeting.

We anticipate moving four men into the home from the New Lisbon Developmental Center by early December.

Remember to login into AMIB on Facebook and "Like Us" to keep up with the latest news.

Our prayers go out to the family and friends of our recently deceased residents whose obituaries appear on page 4 and who we supported, lived with and loved for many years. In their names, we continue our mission of supporting those with developmental disabilities and visual impairments.

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 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

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Charitable Trust**

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Kellogg Endowment Fund

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Mary Katherine Lightner *

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David Mathey *

Daniel J. McCarthy

Patricia McKinley

William McKinley, III

Margaret J. McLean

Vera Monaghan *

Ann Pambello

Edna Thorsen *

Polly Wilson *

** deceased*

Scenes from North Dover Residents' Overnight Camping Trip

North Dover residents enjoyed an overnight camping trip to Timberland Lake in Jackson, NJ, with many activities including mini-golf, hiking, volleyball, paddle boating and fishing.



Above: Tommy plays mini golf

Top right: Chris and Residential Specialist Jacinda Grossman make a tasty treat of smores.



Right: Paul, Residential Specialist Theresa Cavallo and Tommy cook hot dogs over an open fire.



Camden Aquarium Outing Offers Residents Educational and Sensory Experiences



Raeona and Darlene of the Pine Beach homes enjoy an outing at the Camden Aquarium that offers them educational and sensory experiences. Accompanied by Pine Beach Program Staff Member Colleen Wright (standing left) and Pine Beach South Program Manager Melissa Barnett (right), the two get to touch baby rays and manatees. Raeona (seated left) enjoys different textures as Darlene (right) reaches out to touch the model of a shark.

In Loving Memory of Three Members of AMIB's Family



Margaret Alford of the Brick home passed away on September 23 at the age of 68

Margaret came to AMIB in 1998 and brought with her much enthusiasm and a great spirit. She immediately became friends with her four housemates.

Earlier this year she was selected as AMIB's representative to receive the New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP) Community Star Award in which she was acknowledged for her successes while living in the community.

Margaret had an exceptional musical talent. She could play any song on the piano after hearing it just once. After dinner, she would often entertain residents with her accordion and with keyboard sing-alongs. She had a full schedule that at times would rival that of any sighted person.

Margaret attended a day program where she had many friends and where she enjoyed providing in-house entertainment. She was also employed as the organist at her local church in Wayside where she played at every Sunday Mass.

Margaret earned her high school diploma through home tutoring and had

the determination to accomplish whatever task she was presented with. She had a strong faith in God and at times would quote verses from the Bible to remain uplifted and inspired.

She had a way of making everyone who came in contact with her smile.

Billy Holmes, who entered AMIB's first home in Barnegat in 1977, died on June 1. He was 77.

When AMIB opened its long-term care facility in Lanoka Harbor in 2004, Billy was one of eight residents who moved from AMIB's Toms River home into the newly completed home. Lanoka Harbor was the first long-term-care group home for the blind and developmentally disabled in New Jersey.

Billy did a lot of charity work. He took part in walkathons to benefit people suffering from breast cancer and MS. He volunteered at a day program and at a local animal shelter, where he walked the dogs and fed the cats. He also collected canned goods for the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean counties.

In 2005 Billy was selected by AMIB to receive the New Jersey Association of Community Providers Community Star



Award for his remarkable strides in dealing with physical and developmental challenges.

In 2000 he was honored by the NJ State Senate and General Assembly in a joint resolution for his individual acts of charity, including his participation in the MS walk, Toys for Tots and food donations at the holidays to local food banks for needy families. Billy served as an officer of and was very active in AMIB's self-advocacy group, the Dream Weavers.

Billy and Margaret will always be remembered among AMIB's Shining Stars. We love them and miss them.

Donald Adams, who came to our Pine Beach South home in January 2011 from the New Lisbon Developmental Center, died on July 10 at the age of 56. Donald, who was non-verbal, had lived in institutions since he was 2. However, he adapted well to his AMIB home, made friends with his housemates, overcame his anxieties and was able to participate in community activities.

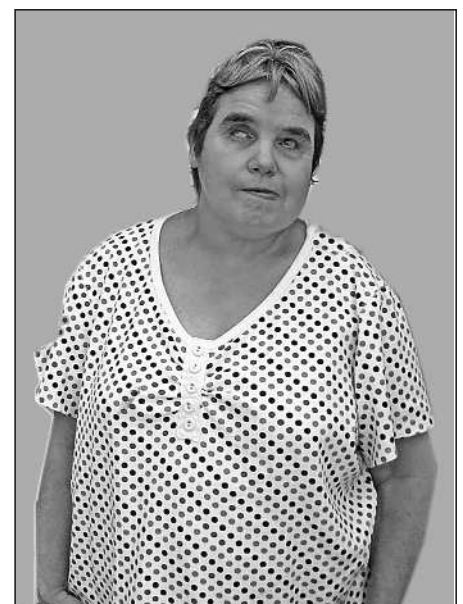


Rita Jacobs' Battle with Cancer Is An Inspiration to All

Rita Jacobs has been a resident of AMIB for the past 33 years. Now 61 years of age, she was one of the original nine residents who entered the Toms River group home in 1979 at the age of 27.

In the fall of 2004, Rita moved into AMIB's long-term care home in Lanoka Harbor. Six years later, she began a battle with cancer – a battle that has been an inspiration to all who know her. It began in November 2010 when she went through weeks of biopsies, a lumpectomy, seven weeks of radiation treatment, multiple mammograms and the complete removal of her right breast.

During the last two years Rita watched two of her lifelong friends succumb to aggressive cancer. However, she is not afraid to talk about her battle. While she is currently free and clear of the disease, she accepts the fact that cancer is not something she can control. But she is able to control how she feels about it and is determined not to let it get her down. Rita has a wonderful sense of humor and shows a great appreciation for life. Rita is, indeed, an inspiration to all who know her, especially her friends at AMIB and to all those who must deal with cancer.



Meet Residential Specialist Elizabeth Buteau . . .

Elizabeth Buteau is an especially caring woman who has dedicated ten years of her life to providing quality services to the individuals of the AMIB group home in North Dover.

Since she started with AMIB as a residential specialist on March 6, 2002, Elizabeth has worked the full-time overnight shift at North Dover where she provides compassionate care and ensures the well-being and safety of the five residents of this home.

Elizabeth has developed a strong rapport with the residents who lovingly refer to her as “Liz.”

Over the years, Liz has proved herself to be an employee with outstanding qualities and an excellent work ethic. She is dedicated to making residents’ lives better and providing them with the opportunity to live in a meaningful home environment.

She ensures that the group home is kept clean and tidy, especially the kitchen, which is her pride and joy.

She is known by residents for “Liz’s famous oatmeal” for breakfast as well as other special treats within their diets.

Over the years, Liz has proved herself to be an employee with outstanding qualities and an excellent work ethic.

Liz is a great role model for all new employees and substitute staff who come to work at North Dover. She consistently leads by example in teaching them the AMIB way.

As well as being flexible with her schedule for the needs of the program

at North Dover, Liz willingly assists in providing coverage at other group homes whenever she is needed. She focuses on individuals’ abilities and recognizes that everyone is deserving of her assistance and support.

Over the past ten years, Liz has continually demonstrated that she is a valuable part of the AMIB team.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Liz for her loyalty, dedication and service to AMIB and the individuals she serves.



Pine Beach South Residents Enjoy a Day in the Park



Over the Labor Day weekend, residents of the Pine Beach South home went on a picnic outing at Gille Park in Lacey Township. They had the opportunity to enjoy the water, the fresh air, listening to music and the laughter of children.

Left: Richard walks in the water with the help of Residential Specialist John Ripley.

Below: Richard and Steven eat lunch together. Staff brought a grinder to puree the food to a consistency residents could swallow easily, thus enabling them to stay longer at the park and enjoy the beautiful day.



AMIB, Inc.

35 Beaverson Boulevard - Bldg #13
Brick NJ 08723-7812

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Turning 70 and Loving It

Mary Ann of the Sweetwood house turned 70 on June 16. She gives a thumbs up sign as she celebrates her birthday with a party attended by her housemates and peers at AMIB's other group homes.

Her wish was for everyone to have as much fun when they turn 70 as she did.

Mary Ann came to the Sweetwood home from the Vineland Developmental Center in October 2003. She attends a day program five days and week and says she is looking forward to "retirement."

Mary Ann has a big heart and is proud of her independence. She is very generous and enjoys purchasing gifts for housemates and friends.

Everyone agreed they had a great time celebrating Mary Ann's big day with her.