



Helles' Story Featured in Essex Fells Magazine



Austin Helle, a well-known general contractor of Essex Fells, and his wife, Clara, were among the original founders of AMIB. Austin has served as a member of the board since it was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in 1970. The Helles are the parents of Andrea, one of the first residents to enter AMIB's Bayville home. Although Andrea, now 54, has been blind and non-verbal all her life, she has learned signs that enable her to communicate.

In 1995, the Helles became the first members of AMIB's Legacy Society, formed to help secure the future of AMIB and protect those residents whose families were no longer able to adequately care for them. Members of the Legacy Society make a charitable bequest or planned gift that helps to give AMIB this secure future.

This year the Helles celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary. Their story is told in the September issue of *Essex Fells Magazine*, part of which is excerpted here:

* * *

Austin was born in Norway in 1921 when his parents made a trip back to

the United States. When Austin was three, his father returned to the US to find a home for the family . . .

Austin and Clara first met when one of his friends wanted to double date for a church picnic held on July 4th while Clara was visiting a cousin. It turned out that both were Norwegian, and Clara's parents had lived close to Austin's hometown . . .

They married on February 14, 1942, in Chicago where her family was from, and then started their own home in East Orange. Soon after their wedding, however, Austin was drafted to fight in World War II where he spent 29 months overseas in the Pacific as a Seabee as a part of the U.S. Navy. At the end of the war Austin was stationed in Okinawa and he had the privilege of being transported back to the US on the battleship USS Wisconsin, which was the one that went to Tokyo forcing the Japanese into surrender . . .

After the war, Austin and Clara began to build a family. Over time their four daughters were born; the oldest, Cheryl, then Lillian, Andrea and the youngest, Janine. Austin and Clara moved to Essex Fells in August 1961,

buying the land from one of their friends who gave them the option to buy any lot they desired for \$1,400 . . .

Austin and Clara were among the founders of AMIB because their third daughter, Andrea, was born blind and mentally handicapped. They continue to serve on the AMIB board, where their second daughter, Lillian, is now vice president. Today AMIB has grown to offer 10 group homes and has a staff of over 130.

Excerpts: Courtesy of N2 Publishing & Essex Fells Magazine

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Writer: Helena Voltmer

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Introducing . . .



Jennifer Gottlieb, who joined the AMIB Endowment Fund Board of Trustees at its June 5, 2013, meeting. As the President of Twist Marketing, a W2O Group

Company, Jenn works with health-care companies in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, device and consumer health in the integrated marketing communications industry. She has worked with the top pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer, GSK, Roche, EMD Serono, Bayer, Galderma, and Novartis and continues to work as a partner to most of these companies today.

She is the busy working mother of two young children, is a member of PRSA and HBA and volunteers with the American Diabetes Association and the North Shore Autism Circle.



From the President



Dear Friend:
The AMIB Board of Trustees joins me in congratulating the Helles on being recognized in their local hometown magazine.

Austin and Clara, among the founders of this organization,

have served AMIB with dedication and devotion for over 40 years, and continue to serve.

Their wisdom, direction and leadership have helped us not only to grow but to add immeasurably to the quality of life of those we serve.

With ten group homes now in place and residents settled in their new homes, AMIB is updating its long-term plan to ensure the continued expansion of services to our current residents.

In the meantime, we have noted below some essential items we need for our residents for which we would greatly appreciate your help.

Thank you for your past generosity and for your consideration of a gift toward one or more of the items outlined below.

With gratitude,

Kenneth P. Carson

Our Mission

is to promote community integration and participation of people who are blind or visually impaired and have multiple disabilities by providing opportunities for community living, training and support.

From the Executive Director



Greetings, I hope this finds you doing well. The past few months have been quite busy with finalizing the transition of all individuals into the newest Freehold Township and Wall group homes.

With the most recent development of these programs, AMIB has taken the opportunity to enhance its current infrastructure by adding two additional positions.

The first is a second Nurse Case Manager to assist in the oversight of individual care for five of the residential programs. Some of our individuals require 5 to 10 medications a day, and weekly follow-up with primary care physicians and therapists to maintain optimum health.

Nurse Case Managers assist in the coordination of these appointments and help train direct care staff on specific individuals' medical needs that we can provide at home.

The second position enhancement is Quality Assurance Coordinator. This position focuses on the efficient implementation of all agency internal systems in the deliver client care and community integration, as well as preparing the programs for state licensure.

We now look towards the future. Management and the Board are discussing further expansion to help additional individuals with a visual impairment and developmental disability live in an integrated community setting.

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

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

Please consider a special gift:

Furniture Replacement at Older Homes	\$5,000 +
Capital Maintenance for Group Homes	\$1,000 +
Two Wheelchair Weight Scales	\$1,850 each
Four Commercial Food Processors	\$1,100 each
Four Outdoor Relaxing Swings.....	\$228 each

To underwrite any of the above, please note designation on the memo portion of your check or on the return envelope. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Residents Enjoy Summer Activities



Brenda, Mary, Janis and Linda from the Howell group home spend a summer day at the Brick Reservoir. They enjoy the warm breeze from the reservoir before sitting down to a picnic lunch.

Anthony, who was one of the first residents to come to the new Wall home from the New Lisbon Developmental Center in March, is quickly settling into his new home. In August he visited the Point Pleasant boardwalk with Residential Specialist Stephanie (below). He was so excited during his ride on Tilt-a-World that he continuously smiled and clapped his hands, then pointed to and ran towards another ride.



Below: In the Bayville home, as the summer days draw to a close, residents have been enjoying cooking out in their backyard. Susan's favorite way to help out is to shuck fresh Jersey corn.



Everything was perfect including the weather for an overnight stay at Timberland Lake Campground for residents of the North Dover group home. Tommy and Paul enjoyed swimming, miniature golf, arts and crafts and gathering wood for the fire. They stayed overnight in a cabin and met many new friends. In the evening Chris, John and Douglas joined them for dinner (above). They ate hot dogs, salad and s'mores 'round the camp fire, told stories and sang songs.

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Residents Welcome Rosemary to Freehold Home

In August, residents of the Freehold group home welcomed their new housemate, Rosemary. Rosemary is a great addition to the home. She participates in social activities including dancing, cookouts, shopping in the local community and going to church. She also attends the AMIB self-directed day services. Rosemary recently enjoyed going to the movies with other residents to see "Airplanes."

At right Rosemary visits the library with Residential Specialist Yvonne and works on puzzles.

