



Home

Fall 2017

Happenings

Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.
extraordinary people, extraordinary programs



The Freedom of the Open Road: VICTORY RIDE 2017

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Charles Walczak, CEO

Message from the CEO

Thanks to you, we have broken ground for our first new home

It has been a busy year, and we have a lot of great news to share with you!

The solicitation phase of our Hope, Compassion and Possibilities capital campaign is now complete, and I can tell you that community support—*your* support—has not only exceeded our expectations

but has also surpassed our campaign goal. We are now able to turn our attention to the vital work of building the houses that will enable our residents with complex medical conditions to live in true community homes.

On September 18, we broke ground in Fairview on our first new medically equipped home. We are pleased to be working again with Lake City Homes. In addition to providing high quality construction, they are great to work with and passionate about our mission. In addition, I want to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of Bostwick Design Partnership, Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, PNC, Fairview Township, and our new Fairview neighbors. It takes the work of many hands to tackle a project of this scope, and we have been privileged to work with the best.

Once the Fairview home is complete, we will start on a second home in Millcreek Township. Because these are modular homes, both residences should be completed by early 2018. Construction of our third home will likely begin in early spring.

In addition to moving the current residents in our main facility out into the community, addressing the state waiting list for services has always been a major priority of the campaign. The directors of our residential program have already started contacting institutions and agencies statewide to let them know that EHCA will soon have openings in skilled care homes.

I am deeply grateful for your support of this project, this agency and, most importantly, the individuals who will live in these community homes. Because of your generosity, more children and adults who need our care will find a home at EHCA.

Management Team

Charles Walczak, MBA, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Shannon Weber
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Bev Keep
Chief Operational Officer (COO)
Peg Smith-Rich
VP of Residential & Community Services

Jonathan Rilling
VP of Marketing, Advancement, & Communications
James R. McMann
Director of Education & Training
Lorine Boboshko
Executive Secretary
Penny Bebko
Director of Human Resources

Home Happenings

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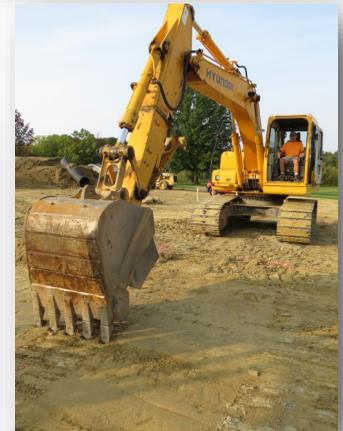
www.ehca.org

The mission of EHCA is to assist people with disabilities to live rich and fulfilling lives.

Admissions, provision of services, and referrals of residents or program participants shall be made without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age, gender, or limited English proficiency.

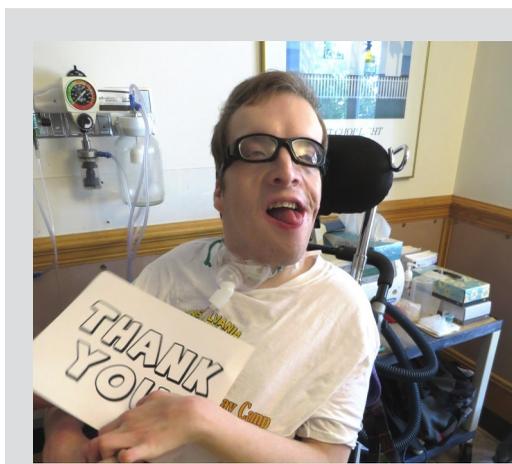
Breaking ground to ensure residents enjoy both a home and a community

First the land is cleared of brush and stumps. Then the ground is shaped, the utilities routed, and the hole for the basement dug deep and wide. Next comes the strong foundation upon which the hopes and dreams of all those who will live and work there will rest.



Construction Begins

Construction of the first medically equipped community home funded by the Capital Campaign has begun in Fairview Township. Pictured upper right: Howard Beeman and Lisa Garity-Carr, Lake City Homes; John Vogel, Maintenance Supervisor, EHCA. Pictured upper left: Kevin Brooks, KB Concrete & Excavating.



Meet John Hoopsick

John, age 23, has been a resident of EHCA since 2012. He is one of the six residents who will move into the new home in Fairview. His family lives in Girard, so this will truly be a homecoming for him. John is affectionately called “Mr. Smiley” by employees because he is always happy and smiling. He loves bright colors, toys, and football (he’s a Steelers fan!). He communicates with staff and friends by covering his trach to make sounds.

“A disability is what I have, not who I am.”

Local Wendy's receives Employer of the Year Award based on nomination submitted by EHCA

The Wendy's restaurant at 5902 Wattsburg Road, Erie, has been named the 2017 "We Are Worth It" Western Region Community Employer of the Year. The award, sponsored by PAR (*Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources*), honors community employers who have demonstrated innovative leadership and supportive hiring practices for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism. Melissa Love, director EHCA's Life Sharing program, nominated Wendy's for the award.

According to Melissa's nomination, LC came into EHCA's Life Sharing program a wounded soul. He spoke very little and would not make eye contact with anyone. After several years, he began to settle into his new home and community. One day, LC was asked if he wanted to have a job. He said he would, and soon he was assigned a job coach. The job coach helped LC apply for a job at the Wendy's restaurant near LC's home. Little did LC know that his life would soon change forever.



LC keeps the dining areas shining



Former Wendy's manager Kate Deroos with LC

The Wendy's manager who hired LC, Kate Deroos, had worked with people with disabilities in the past, so she didn't hesitate to welcome him. LC was diligent about showing up for work. His tasks consisted of wiping tables and chairs and sometimes refilling the condiment packets. Other Wendy's employees began to engage LC in conversation. Little by little, LC's shyness barrier broke down and he could look people in eye when he spoke. Eventually LC learned so much that he no longer needed his job coach's guidance. LC was on his own. He continued to work hard, side by side with the rest of the Wendy's crew.

LC has been employed by Wendy's for more than 10 years now. He greets customers with a warm hello, often holding the door open for them. The young man who used to clean tables has advanced to working at the drive-thru window helping to prepare orders. Customers frequently compliment him by name on satisfaction surveys.



LC now helps at the drive-thru, too



LC with current Wendy's manager Joe Brine

LC has received numerous awards from Wendy's, including twice being named Employee of the Month. He proudly wears his Wendy's hat adorned with pins representing his accomplishments and his years of service. Wendy's has provided LC not only job skills and a paycheck but also a feeling of belonging and a sense of purpose, which are invaluable.

The award will be presented at the "We Are Worth It" Awards Ceremony on Monday, October 23, during the Annual PAR Solutions Conference in Harrisburg. Award winners will be seated in the Capitol Building on the PA House of Representatives Floor.

Your generosity is already opening doors

As Co-Chairs of EHCA's Capital Campaign of Hope, Compassion and Possibilities, we have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the tremendous community outpouring of support for both EHCA and this project. The cost to build all four medically equipped homes was estimated to approach \$5 million. We thought initially we could raise \$1.5 million for the cause. It is our honor to announce that because of your outstanding generosity, we raised almost \$2.8 million!

The foundation of the Capital Campaign is the great work provided at EHCA by its staff. To give to a Capital Campaign, donors must believe in the mission of the agency, and we have a terrific mission staffed by wonderful employees. Without a doubt, the campaign wouldn't have been a success without their daily efforts to provide services to the agency's many clients.

Our remarkable individual donors and corporate partners demonstrated their passionate support for EHCA's vision by contributing to the campaign. Erie is known to be a very generous community, and these folks proved it in ways that both inspired and humbled us. Thank you.

Secondly, the employees of EHCA stepped up in a big way. We received \$66,792 in pledges from agency staff! Other donors we spoke to were significantly impressed that those who work here also believe in the mission and were willing to donate their hard-earned dollars to the cause.

Our Board of Directors also contributed greatly. We had 100% participation from the board, with current and former board members pledging \$390,000 to the campaign. Again, this dedication encouraged other donors to give. The Board of Directors, led by Board President Jerry Cannon, also worked hard to oversee building project details and timelines to ensure construction plans were ready to go.

We want to thank CEO Chuck Walczak for his leadership and enthusiasm, Jonathan Rilling for his dedication to this exciting project, Ted Wood for his invaluable guidance, and Bev Keep, Peg Smith-Rich, Shannon Weber, and other members of the agency's executive staff for their endless help and efforts.

Finally, it has been a wonderful experience to work with the talented and caring group of people in our Capital Campaign Cabinet. They worked tirelessly to make this campaign a success. We also want to thank campaign committee members Paul Carpenedo, Libby Lechner, Carly Manino, and Nan Mehl. Their devotion, time, and efforts created a vital impact for EHCA and its residents that will last well into the future.

We will keep you informed about the progress of the project and the impact your dollars are having in the lives of the extraordinary individuals served by EHCA. On their behalf, we thank you.

*Ann Halupczynski and Ed Smith,
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs*



Members of EHCA's Capital Campaign Cabinet: (seated) Vickie Lampe, PNC Financial Services Group; Jerry Cannon, Board President, EHCA; (standing l-r) Jim Martin, Northwest; Charles Walczak, CEO, EHCA; Frances McCormick, Esq., Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett; Jonathan Rilling, EHCA VP; Ann Halupczynski, Campaign Co-Chair; Michelle Robertson, Hamot Health Foundation; Edwin Smith, Esq., Campaign Co-Chair.

We celebrate our donors and the dreams their support has made possible

As the EHCA Capital Campaign winds down, let us take a look back at all that's been accomplished and a look ahead to all that's yet to come. When we began this journey over two years ago, we learned that donors to this campaign wanted to be part of something meaningful, something that would make a difference in our residents' lives. And they were willing to translate that desire into the financial support that has brought us to where we are today.

Thanks to the generosity of staff, Board members, and all of the folks who have adopted this agency and this cause as their own, we will soon be able to provide our most medically fragile residents with homes of their own. They will live in our neighborhoods and become part of our communities, all while enjoying state-of-the-art care in a warm and comfortable environment. The success of the campaign will also allow EHCA to serve a number of individuals who are currently on Pennsylvania's Waiting List, needing just the type of care that this agency can provide.

So, we celebrate all of our donors and the dreams that they've allowed to become a reality. On behalf of the EHCA Board of Directors, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who contributed, to all who participated, and to all who have dedicated their time and their efforts to this tremendous accomplishment.



*Jerry Cannon,
Board President*

EHCA welcomes new board members

EHCA is pleased to welcome three new members to its Board of Directors.

Dawn Coburn Joy brings a wealth of medical and leadership experience to the board. She is Director of the Villa Maria College School of Nursing, Gannon University. She is also the president of Coburn Consulting and Resources in Erie. She received her Ph.D. in Organizational Learning and Leadership from Gannon University and her Master of Science in Nursing from West Virginia University.

Allen L. Bonace also has extensive nursing experience, working at Saint Vincent Health Center and Hamot Medical Center before joining the nursing faculty at Gannon University and later Director of Nursing at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge. He currently serves as Vice President for Special Projects at Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge. He has a Master of Science in Nursing and Master in Business Administration from Gannon University.

The board's newest member, **Gregory R. Maras**, is Vice President of Human Resources at Meadville Medical Center. His prior experience includes Director of Employee Relations at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations at the County of Summit Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. He received his Master's Degree in Labor Relations and Human Resource Management from Cleveland State University.



Here is a list of equipment and supplies that would be greatly appreciated by the individuals and families we serve.

Project First Step

Diapers, baby wipes
Personal hygiene products
Gas cards
Car seats (infant and larger)
Cribs, pack-n-plays

Contact Tina Ferraro at (814) 315-1714.

MOVE Program

Art/craft supplies
Fabric and sewing supplies
Yarn, knitting looms, craft kits
Scrapbooking/stamping supplies
Gift cards for supplies
Gift cards for restaurants, activities
Guest passes to the YMCA

Contact Debra Niland at (814) 315-1904.

Erie Elks Fun Days bring Options friends together

Thanks, Erie Elks, for generously providing a summer meeting place for all the fun-loving participants in our Options program. Clients and staff met every other Tuesday for picnics and yard games behind Erie Elks Lodge 67.



Thank you,
Erie Elks!



With a paintbrush and a smile...

We are grateful to the terrific group of USI Insurance Services volunteers who shared their time and talents to make the walls and foundations a little brighter for our residents and community clients.



SUMMER CAMP



Riding on to victory

This year's Victory Ride on August 26 was an inspiring event. We want to send a huge THANK YOU out to the riders, sponsors, sidecar drivers, prize donors, the Chrome Angels, CMA riders, and staff and community volunteers who helped make Victory Ride 2017 a huge success. Even the weather was perfect! Your participation and generosity will help provide new community homes for our residents with complex medical conditions. And that is the best victory of all!



The Chrome Angels led our resident ride!



Victory Ride 2017 Sponsors:

Lawrence Park Athletic Club, Circolo Nazionale Lodge #122, East Erie Moose Lodge #593, Welders Supply, PDC Pharmacy, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, Knights of St. John, Harley-Davidson of Erie, DeSantis Solutions, Cascade Park Club, American Legion Post 571, CYS Club, Millcreek Coffee, Bianchi Honda, Mound Grove Golf Course, Bates Collision, Career Concepts, Slovak National Club, and Blackburn's Rehab



Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.
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extraordinary people, extraordinary programs

Be a holiday friend...

Make the holidays merrier by shopping for someone special



You are invited to share the holiday spirit with our community program participants and their families. The **Be-A-Friend** project provides gifts for children and adults served by EHCA's Options program and Project First Step. Recipients range in age from infant to age 70. Gift donors will receive a card with the recipient's name, age, and "wish list" to make shopping easier.

Contact Barb Renker at 814-315-1735 or email her at barb.renker@ehca.org by **October 27** to add an EHCA participant to your shopping list. Donors should bring their **unwrapped** gifts to EHCA's main office by **Friday, December 8**.

Help spread the cheer!

Save the Date

ZUMBAthon®

All proceeds benefit Erie Homes for Children and Adults

WHEN: Thursday, October 26
 6-8 p.m. (Registration 5-6 p.m., kick-off at 5:45)

WHERE: EHCA's MOVE Program facility
 4950 West 23rd St., Erie, near Wegmans West

TICKETS: Available at Wegmans Service Desk
 \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door

Healthy snacks • Raffles • Music with DJ Tony B

Sponsored by:

Wegmans
 Iron Oxygen Fitness
 Tony B DJ Productions



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