

IN REVIEW

SUMMER 2016 EDITION

JICLTM
journeystn.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ANNUAL CELEBRATION...PG 2-5

ANNUAL CELEBRATION PHOTOS PG 6-7

CAREERS INITIATIVE PG 8-9

OPEN HOUSE PG 10

VOLUNTEERS & GRANT PG 11

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES PG 12-13

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR PG 14

IN REMEMBRANCE PG 15



BETTY PIGG HONORED AT JICL '16 ANNUAL CELEBRATION



Pigg's housemates, Connie Bain (Center Right) and Michelle Purkins (Center Left), accepted Pigg's award on her behalf.

Her fun-loving, friendly and caring disposition are among the many positive attributes that helped earn Betty Pigg the most premier honor awarded by local nonprofit Journeys in Community Living at its annual fundraiser on April 28.

"Over the years, Betty has learned many new skills in taking care of herself," said George Cunningham, director of the more than 40-year-old organization that assists adults with disabilities as they choose and realize their visions of where and how they live, work and socialize.

Cunningham's comments were addressed to the roughly 130 people in attendance at Journeys' 2016 Annual Celebration & Silent Auction at the DoubleTree Hotel on Old Fort Parkway in Murfreesboro. The event serves as both an annual fundraiser and an outlet for honoring the good work being undertaken daily in the community to support the agency and people it serves.

The Individual Achievement Award, which Pigg received this year, is awarded to an individual with disabilities who has made great strides towards being independent.

"Betty has become especially experienced in being part of her community – going out to restaurants, attending the senior citizens center, shopping for her own personal items (purses and hats are two of her favorites), and attending church," Cunningham explained.

While those achievements may seem small in the eyes of a non-disabled person, Pigg's transformation at Journeys over the past 20 years has been truly remarkable, Cunningham explained. She was very introverted

when she first entered the program and required a higher degree of care than she needs today.

"Betty had been living at Clover Bottom Developmental Center, but we were able to help her move back into her community, where she lives in one of our supported living homes with two housemates," Cunningham said. "Recently, a former nurse from Clover Bottom ran into Betty and her staff while in the community.

She expressed her amazement at how much Betty had learned and progressed since she had known her. She said Betty had really blossomed into a loving, outgoing person and seemed to be enjoying her life to the fullest."

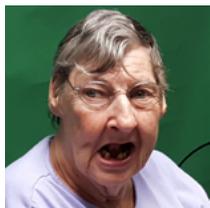
BOARD MEMBER JANET BOWMAN AND OTHERS ALSO RECOGNIZED

In addition to honoring Pigg, Journeys also awarded two staff achievement awards, a health care leader award, a business leadership award and its traditional Robert Rose Community Service Award.

First Vision Bank Business Development Officer and Journeys' Board Member Janet Bowman was the recipient of this year's Robert Rose award. Rutherford County Mayor Ernest Burgess took to the stage at Cunningham's request to help present the award.

Bowman has been active in the Murfreesboro Noon Exchange Club, American Heart Association, Rutherford County Heart Walk, Leadership Rutherford, Rutherford County Diplomat Program, Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Business Alliance and on the local United Way allocations panel.

"Janet has dedicated herself to helping others in her community in many ways," Cunningham said. "For four years, Janet has been one of the hardest working and most dedicated board members we've ever had (at Journeys). If we had a perfect attendance award, she would have won it every year. She always brings



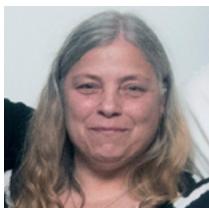
Betty Pigg



Janet Bowman



Mike Pinkston



Carol Poteete

her warmth, sense of humor and intelligence to every project that she approaches.”

Journeys staff members Michael Pinkston and Carol Poteete were honored for their dedication as residential supervisors at Journeys. Cunningham explained that Pinkston and Poteete work hard to train and schedule their staff, and inspecting homes regularly, as well as supporting the individuals who live in them.

“Michael and Carol do outstanding jobs as residential supervisors,” Cunningham said. “Both of these supervisors are extremely conscientious, hard-working, and very caring of the clients for whom they work. Their jobs are very demanding and they carry much responsibility.”

Embassy Suites was recognized with the Business Leadership Award for its pivotal role in Project Search, an important job training program for students in their senior years of high school who are graduating with special education diplomas.

The students in Project Search are trained on work skills and ethics, social skills, transportation, hygiene, and time management. They’re taught by a special education teacher from Rutherford County Schools and by a job coach from Journeys. All training

is done at Embassy Suites, where the students are taught in areas such as laundry care, food service, and housekeeping.

In their first year Project Search and Embassy Suites worked with 6 students. In the second year – with 8. The program is being expanded to 10 students in the upcoming school year.



Delrico Howard

“From the first day that Project Search started at Embassy Suites, our staff found that the hotel staff were very supportive and caring,” Cunningham said. “The human resources department, the management staff, and all employees demonstrated that they are eager and happy to work with the students and the staff. The Embassy Suites personnel are always friendly and positive.”

Psychologist Marty McCoy, PhD, received the Health Care Leadership Award for his role in providing counseling to persons with disabilities served by Journeys.

McCoy has been providing assistance to Journeys since he was in graduate school at MTSU. He reached out to Journeys with an interest in providing counseling services to persons with

disabilities and came to Journeys offices to do so.

"Over the years, the staff and clients at Journeys have come to care for Marty a great deal," Cunningham explained. "He is a compassionate, caring person; a great listener; and a big supporter of rights for people with disabilities. He always puts the interests of the clients with whom he works first."

Prior to the awards ceremony, Larry Flowers from WKRN News Channel 2 gave a keynote speech on the meaning of volunteerism. The event was emceed by Kelli Beam from the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by several local businesses, including National HealthCare Corporation, Gordon Images, First Vision Bank, Mitchell Technical Services, State Farm Agent Andy Womack, and Middle Tennessee Reprographics.



Larry Flowers, WKRN News Channel 2, served as Journeys keynote speaker at the 2016 Annual Celebration.



Kelli Beam (right) served as event Emcee. Her daughter, Carlee Beam, was by her side supporting her mom.



Kimberley Frederick, a direct support staff, supplied musical entertainment to guests.





2016 Annual Celebration & Silent Auction



CAREERS IN THE NEW YEAR

Journeys launches new 'Hire Us' section on Web site after first-ever 'Careers in the New Year' event

Journeys is continuing in an endeavor to fight unemployment and underemployment in the population of people with disabilities by launching a brand new "Hire Us" section on its Web site, www.journeystn.org.

The idea for this section was born while Journeys was preparing for its first-ever Careers in the New Year event at the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce in January.

The new section features people served by Journeys who are currently seeking employment. The site is set up to work as a reverse job application, which potential employers can peruse for an employee tailored to their needs.

The 'Careers in the New Year' event

served as the jumping off point for the new section.

At the event, local business persons met with leaders from Journeys and Lynnette Henderson, a representative of Tennessee Works, at the event, where they learned about the many benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

The event was held in response to big changes promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which has stated that people with disabilities who wish to work will as be expected to enter the competitive workforce alongside non-disabled workers.

Henderson discussed the financial incentives associated with hiring people with disabilities, as well as the

reductions in costs associated with lower turnover rates and retraining costs in the population. She also highlighted how employing people with disabilities leads to increases in customer base, lower accident rates and an improvement in morale for local businesses.

Lauren Meeker, the vocational services director at Journeys, made a brief presentation about the programs at JICL and how the organization assists businesses with their hiring needs.

Journeys currently serves approximately 100 people with disabilities, helping them with everyday living needs, their healthcare and supporting them as they seek and obtain employment.

Until very recently, what was considered 'typical employment' for people with intellectual disabilities was going to work in 'workshops' run by organizations that also support them in other areas of life.

Under the new rules set by CMS, however, organizations will no longer be allowed to operate segregated workshops.

What this means for Journeys is that the organization will be shifting its

focus in the vocational services area to assisting individuals with obtaining competitive employment. This is not new for Journeys. The organization has assisted individuals it serves with obtaining competitive employment for many years. The organization will just be doing it on a larger scale now.

Journeys not only supports these changes, but also understands that assisting people with disabilities in obtaining competitive employment is the next logical step towards total integration for people with disabilities.

Journeys now hopes to earn the support of local employers on a larger scale.

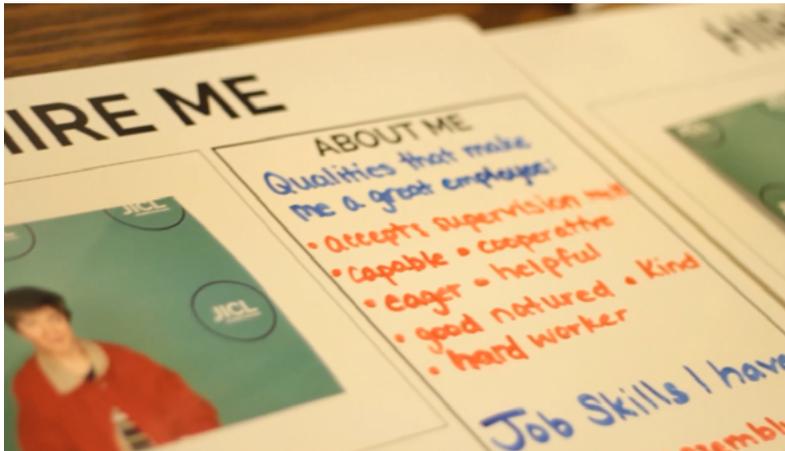


Screen grab of new 'Hire Us' section on journeystn.org. Check it out now.

'Come-and-Go Open House' offered an inside look at Journeys' day-to-day functions

Volunteers with the 2016 Class of Leadership Rutherford aided Journeys in planning and executing a March 8 open house event that gave locals an opportunity to learn about the inner workings of the organization.

The volunteers were not involved in any direct fundraising, and instead assisted the organization with the planning and execution of the open house, which was held between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the facility's main office at 1130 Haley Road.



A screenshot from one of the videos that premiered at the Open House.

"We really enjoyed helping expand community awareness of the great services this organization provides," said Glenn Robb, one of the volunteers. "Rutherford County is privileged to have such dedicated assistance to help all citizens enjoy fulfilling and productive lives."

The event served as an opportunity for the organization to make its case for community support and showcase its programs that assist people with disabilities in seeking and maintaining employment, receiving medical care, obtaining transportation and participating in volunteer work and recreational activities.

The open house also featured the first-ever showings of several professionally filmed and edited videos that are being used to promote the organization and its services. Those videos can be viewed on Journeys' Youtube page at www.youtube.com/c/journeysincommunitylivingmurfreesboro.

Journeys thanks the 2016 Class of Leadership Rutherford for their assistance!

First Tennessee Bank employees paint intensive skills room

A group of three volunteers with First Tennessee Bank, including local bank president Phil Holt, volunteered to paint Journeys intensive skills room during this year's United Way Days of Action volunteer days.

Holt, along with John Allen, Paula Mansfield and Heidi Adcock, spent the evening of Friday, April 8, painting the room, which is utilized daily by individuals with profound disabilities.

Journeys is very grateful for the great work done by First Tennessee Bank, as well as to the United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties for their help in arranging the volunteer Days of Action!

Journeys lands \$5K Charity Circle grant

Journeys is pleased to announce the organization received a \$5,000 grant from Charity Circle, a Murfreesboro-based organization that has been meeting various needs in the community since 1910.

The grant was received in February of this year and the money utilized by Journeys to assist the organization with expenses related to job training equipment.

As the organization begins to transition from a combination of facility-based and community-based support services to one that is solely community-based, it will begin to institute its Transition and Quality Improvement Plan.

Part of this plan requires that Journeys purchase several new pieces of equipment to be used for job skills training, as individuals served by Journeys plan to enter the local workforce alongside the non-disabled public.

Journeys' leadership and staff, as well as the individuals served, are grateful for the support shown by Charity Circle.

DECEMBER '15

Cathy McAdoo	12
Zena Wileman	10
Nyabuony Both	7
Orlando Hobson	3
Quadarious Jones	2
Angela Turley	2
Jonjala Temple	1

JANUARY

Irma Goodman	10
Lacretia Greer	5
Darlene M Davis	3
Mike Petoskey	2
Shaquanta Champion	2
Montrell Taylor	2
Sirak Gmichael	1
Charles Hinton	1
Kadejah Pearson	1

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

George Cunningham	32
Rachel Burch	20
James McKnight	11
Mojisola Assan	9
Hotwanique Bowen	3
Jackie Allman	3
Regina Turner	2
Javian Brooks	2
Lakeisha Garrett	1
Kegeorgia White	1
Forlanda Anderson	1
Jim Robert	1

MARCH

Diane Smotherman	13
Tamara China	10
George McMillan	9
Sheryl Stack	5
Earnestine Smitty	4
Helen Alexander	4
Whitni China	3
Nancy McNeal	3
Brenda Showalter	2
Amaris Balfour	2
Ariel Blackwell	2
Tierra Coleman	2
Tiara Green	1

APRIL

John Martin	31
Carol Poteete	21
Betty Nelson	12
Whitney Leake	4
Ella Beckley	3
Blaine Wilburn	1
Kim Vaughn	1

JUNE

Kathy Woodroof	19
Philister Nicodemus	13
Lee Fields	12
Adrian Cammon	12
Monica Spencer	11
Towan Bonner	10
Laura Lindsay	8
Patrick Egeruoh	6
Adrienne Degen	4
Max Hurst	4
Paul Bryant	4
Timmy Swader	3
Najau Abu	2
Kara Anthony	2
Jasmine Hardge	2
Kealan Anderson	2
Brittany Stewart	2
Dannette Howse	1
Brianna Watkins	1
Lauren Meeker	1

MAY

Frances Cook	32
Angie Back	17
Angela Blackburn	15
Ron Smith	10
Josie Gooch	9
Kat Garrett	8
Ricky Kuethe	6
Becca Jess	6
Susan Bey	3
Dave Bratcher	3
Kimberly Frederick	3
Janie Nowell	3
Tierra Lumpkin	3
Amelia Brooks	3
Jackline Kiprono	1
Latisha Washington	1

JULY

Eunice Owot	10
Emily Amey	8
Adasha Simmons	5
Mark Bell	3
Chuncey Vinson	2
Emily Currie	1
Oz Jordan	1
Austin Poteete	1
Tressanique Hampton	1

CUNNINGHAM: JOURNEYS STAYING BUSY IN MIDST OF CHANGES

It is a busy time of year here at Journeys in Community Living. We completed the yearly State of Tennessee inspection the week of June 20. Everyone worked hard to ensure we looked our best for the state inspectors. We conducted satisfaction surveys of persons supported, their families and our employees. We reviewed our financial records. We made sure all offices were clean. Everyone worked together to help us have a great visit!

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In July we will experience a new kind of inspection. It is called the 'Heightened Scrutiny' visit by representatives from TennCare. TennCare is leading all provider agencies in Tennessee to transition to become more community focused. We are very proud to say that Journeys has always been community-oriented, with many of the persons supported working in the community, as well as attending recreational and educational events. We are always ready, however, to learn about new ways to become even more community involved.

One event coming up soon that we always celebrate at Journeys is Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. This year DSP Week will be September 11-17. Our direct support staff are Journeys' most valuable resource. These dedicated and caring folks work extremely hard with the people we serve in our workshop; intensive training classes; residential program; transportation program; and while out in the community. They work to keep those we serve safe and ensure their rights are protected, while assisting them with developing independence, maintaining relationships and having fun.



Cunningham

We also recently welcomed many new and returning employees, including Erika Riley, Residential Supervisor; Natalya McCord, Agency Case Manager; and Ralph Anderson, Van Driver. In a few months we will say goodbye to six of our current Board of Directors members whose terms are ending. Some employees are learning new roles within the agency as they move from one department to another or receive promotions with new responsibilities. I continue to appreciate what a great job Betty McNeely had done for 35 years as our Executive Director. She set a very high standard for leadership and quality at Journeys that I and our Management Team continue to strive for.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Staff and persons supported by Journeys said goodbye to two long-time friends in a ceremony held Tuesday, May 31. Edna Jean Acuff passed away May 21 and Andy Kimbro passed away May 23. Both were surrounded by caring friends and family members.



Edna Jean Acuff



Andy Kimbro



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK:

fb.com/journeysincommunity

TWITTER:

twitter.com/journeystn

YOUTUBE:

**[youtube.com/c/
journeysincommunitylivingmurfreesboro](https://youtube.com/c/journeysincommunitylivingmurfreesboro)**

**Journeys in Community Living
1130 Haley Rd.**

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

**Phone: (615) 890-4389 | Fax: (615)-849-8727
info@journeystn.org | Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**