

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Ted Polak

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”

– Alan Kay, Computer scientist

2010 was another successful year at the Fogarty Center. We continued to provide quality services and programs for the people we serve, and were able to expand them as well, assuring future opportunities for all. This was made possible through efficient management and the diligence of our entire staff and Board of Directors, who are always upbeat and forward-thinking as they carry out their duties and responsibilities.

I can always depend on staff, our board members and our family members to go “above and beyond.” Their enthusiastic response has led to innovative solutions that empower people with disabilities to lead lives of dignity and respect with an array of opportunities to grow.

Even with the uncertain economy of 2011, I am eager to work with the entire Fogarty community to create more opportunities for folks of all ages. We have reached out to sister agencies to share resources so that we can effectively carry out our mission. To that end, the Pawtucket Day Care Center is now fully under the Fogarty Center’s management. We have made progress in the endeavor to establish

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A Tribute to Tommy Germani: A true testament to the tenacity of the human spirit

April 15, 1948 – December 13, 2010

When you spoke with Tom Germani, or Tommy as people knew him, you could not help but marvel at his positive, pleasant demeanor. His story is truly remarkable and the obstacles he faced throughout his life were great. Though most people would have become discouraged, Tommy always kept smiling and embraced each day as a gift.

For years, Tommy and his brother Ronnie lived in the same residential community as their mother Cristallina, and he freely admitted that he loved being so close to his family. But as the years went on, Mrs. Germani, now 86 years old, needed some additional assistance. Having been with the Fogarty Center since 1999, Tommy secured his own apartment and had several successful jobs. Whether working at Stop & Shop or performing janitorial service, Tommy took pride in helping others.

In 2008, Tommy was diagnosed with Esophageal Cancer and began intense chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Donna DiMeglio, Service Coordinator for Fogarty’s Supported Living Program, worked with Tommy for years, and remembers how gracefully he dealt with his



Tommy and Donna DiMeglio

and in such pain, but he kept smiling ... he really was an excellent example for others to follow,” concluded Donna.

By 2009, Tommy was responding well to the treatments and even vacationed on a cruise with friends. With his cancer in remission, he really started to live life, and moved to a new apartment in Warwick. But, in less than a year, Tommy was fighting adversity yet again, as his apartment was deemed inhabitable after the historic flooding in March of 2010.

All the while maintaining his resilient spirit,



Tommy and his mother Cristallina

Tommy was evacuated and moved in with Fogarty staff member, Anne Marie McKenna. After a short time, he was anxious to get back out on his own. Following a few temporary placements, he found a home in North Providence and, for the first time in his life, he had a roommate, Jerry. “Jerry is my good friend,” Tommy often said. “I like living with him and we take care of each other.”



Tommy and his roommate Jerry

Unfortunately, Tommy’s cancer recurred last year and he immediately began treatments every other week at Rhode Island Hospital. Despite his illness, Tommy was always a hit with all the nurses and doctors, and they looked forward to spending time with him. While undergoing treatment, Tommy continued to participate in the day program of Cornerstone Adult Services, and enjoyed every moment with his friends at Fogarty and his loving family.

Tommy lost his battle with cancer on December 13, 2010 but his spirit lives on through all the people whose lives he touched. Everyone at the Fogarty Center loved Tommy and the people who worked closest with him still marvel at his tenacity. “Tommy was truly a special person,” commented Donna. “He never wanted anyone to fuss over him and he just had a great outlook on life. I wish more people could embrace life the way Tommy did.”



In Memoriam

We remember a great friend and advocate, Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr., who died on January 19th. He was the husband of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of Special Olympics.

Sargent Shriver was Chairman of the Board Emeritus for Special Olympics, and served as president of the Special Olympics Movement for twelve years. His greatest legacy to the Special Olympics organization was the establishment of the Sargent Shriver International Messengers. These Special Olympic athletes help promote a spirit of peace and unity throughout the world.

We acknowledge with gratitude his dedication and advocacy for people with disabilities.



Want to know what's going on at Fogarty?



Get the latest news and event information about Fogarty Center by visiting www.fogartycenter.org and provide us your email address.

Keep It Clean Boot Camp Program

You cannot deny that James Tiernan is a man who loves his job. When asked what the best part of his day is, he warmly responds, "Going to work." The *Keep It Clean Boot Camp Program*, administered by Training & Employment Specialist Kiernan O'Donnell, is the commercial cleaning service training program available to Fogarty consumers. The six-week program teaches industrial level cleaning services, as well as essential life skills such as self enrichment, time management, and proper workplace etiquette.



Jimmy Teirnan

"Jimmy immediately took to his classes," said Keirnan. "He was proud of his involvement and would study at home, even though it wasn't a requirement. At the end of the program, he received a certificate and letter of recommendation ... if I could write another one, I would. He really has become a celebrity at Bucklin," he added.

As custodian at the Bucklin Facility, Jimmy has learned how to identify potential hazards, through the use of material safety data sheets. To make sure he manages his time correctly

and arrives to work prepared, Kiernan designed a checklist that Jimmy utilizes each day to keep him on track.

"This program has enhanced Jimmy's life and has given him the confidence to explore the opportunities available to him," said Kiernan. At the Fogarty Center, we are always looking for new ways to honor all abilities under the sun.



Alliance for Full Participation *Gala*

A great time was had by all at the *Alliance for Full Participation Gala* held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. This event honored Fogarty Center friend and employee Shana Metheny and spotlighted her tremendous accomplishments. Shana, who is a receptionist at our Picillo site, was excited to receive this recognition.



Shana Metheny and Craig Stenning, Director of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

The *Alliance for Full Participation* highlights individuals with disabilities who are making a real difference within their community.



Save The Date
 14TH ANNUAL
FESTIVAL OF FLAVORS
 MAY 19, 2011
 ROGER WILLIAMS PARK BOTANICAL CENTER

Meet the Candidates Forum



L-R Karen Coffey, First Lady Stephanie Chafee, and Matt West

Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston was the setting October 20, 2010 for the *Meet the Candidates Forum*. This event, which is a statewide initiative that brings agencies serving the needs of persons with disabilities together to meet and greet political candidates, highlights the importance of maintaining quality services.

Mary Sue Tavares, director of residential services, believes Rhode Island must maintain its commitment to people with disabilities. She explained that, as a provider of services for persons with disabilities, our qualified staff has first-hand knowledge of what type of impact future cuts would have on the ability to deliver

quality services. She emphasized the importance of decision-makers hearing from the people who work with this community and their families on a daily basis, in order to make educated decisions on how to best provide for individuals with disabilities.



Congratulations Wendy and Pat!!!

The Community Provider Network of Rhode Island (CPN-RI) is made up of 19 member-agencies that provide services for people with developmental disabilities. Each year, CPN-RI recognizes direct support professionals throughout the state for outstanding contributions to the welfare and quality of life of the people they serve. Two members of the Fogarty Center staff, Wendy Harrison and Patricia Farias, were recognized last year for their work with consumers at the Center.

Wendy Harrison is an integral part of the Fogarty Center's success. She interacts compassionately with the individuals she supports - listening carefully and responding with respect.

She is a true leader, who developed an art program that began at the Picillo Center, and later expanded to Fogarty's entire community.

Through research and trial and error, much on her own time, Wendy develops activities that inspire and promote individual creativity. Her projects have included paintings, greeting cards, wrapping paper, piñatas and gallery showcases. Under her guidance, the art program flourishes and continues to grow every year. She began as a receptionist in 1999 and later became a direct support professional, first at the 220 building, then at the Picillo Center.

A 25-year veteran of the Fogarty Center, Patricia Farias has set a high standard of excellence in her work, and serves an example for others to follow. Patricia works in the Residential Program as a medical aid to the residential nurse. She has assisted in several group homes, and her hallmark of professionalism and integrity has touched

the lives of every resident that she has served. Her duties include accompanying consumers to appointments with doctors, and she has a knack of making them feel comfortable during each visit.

Her calm and reassuring demeanor is appreciated by staff members and by the people she supports, making everyone feel confident that any obstacle can be overcome. Her inner strength can be seen in her "can-do" spirit, together with her professional skills and extraordinary ability to work with and communicate with verbal and non-verbal individuals that she supports.

We at the Fogarty Center extend our congratulations to these fine employees who enrich the lives of the people they encounter each day.



Wendy Harrison



Patricia Farias



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The Fogarty Center

Please remember to send in your Annual Appeal ...



Help Keep Our Future Bright

ARTWORK BY JOEY A. DIPIPPA - A FOGARTY CENTER COMMUNITY MEMBER

We thank all of our friends who have supported us through the years and encourage all who have not yet submitted their donation to please do so.

Thank you.

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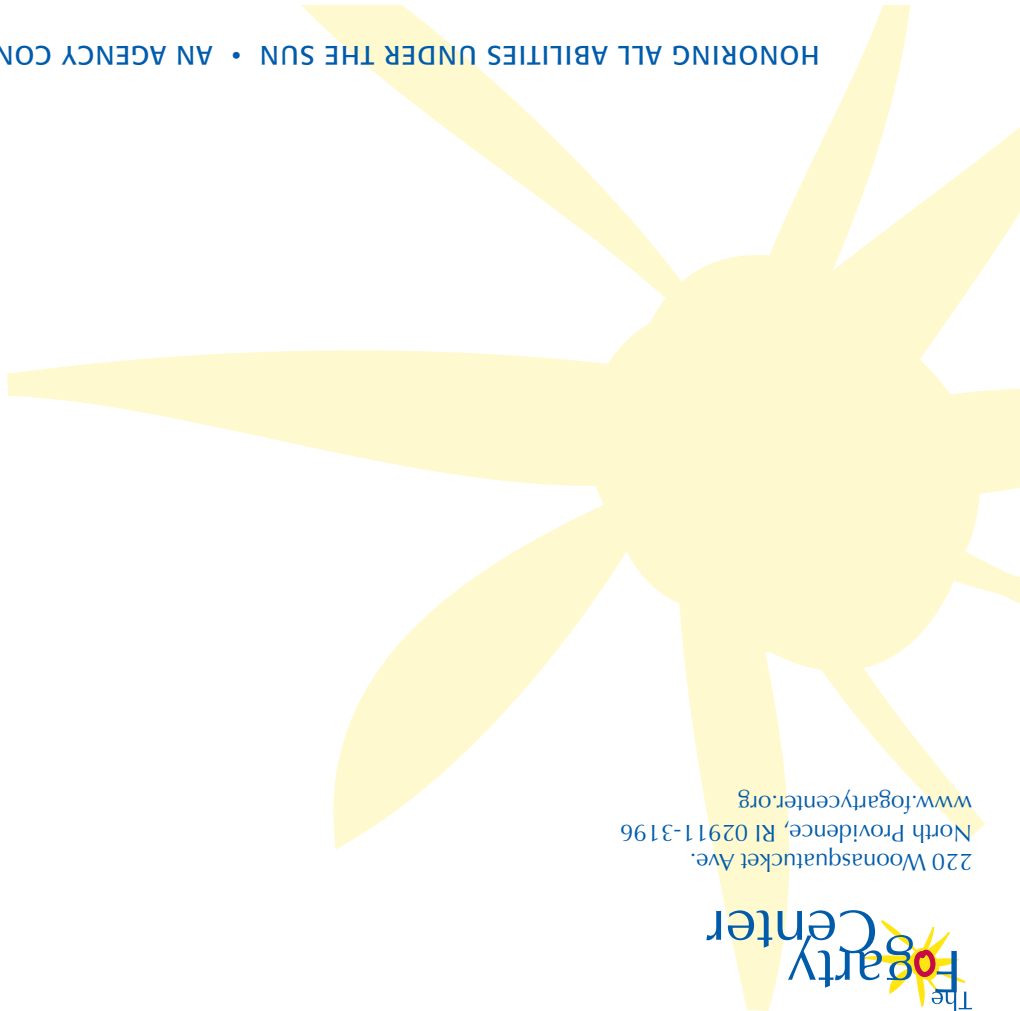
a group home for Rhode Island veterans in Woonsocket. Several grants have been approved for renovations and operating expenses, and we anticipate a groundbreaking ceremony for the project in early spring.

We are always open to innovative solutions and willing to explore new possibilities. In this way, by "inventing" new programs and services, and through the combined efforts of the Fogarty community, I am confident in predicting a successful year ahead.

Sincerely,

Ted Polak

HONORING ALL ABILITIES UNDER THE SUN • AN AGENCY CONTINUING 60 YEARS OF SERVICE



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