

ADVOCACY IN ACTION NEWS

Volume III, Issue III Special Edition

December 2007

INCLUSION: CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

PRESENTING:

Kathie Snow
Saturday, February 2, 2008
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Holiday Inn Independence
6001 Rockside Rd.
Independence, OH 44131
Cost: Parents \$50,
Professionals \$75



Registration Deadline: January 18th
email gmitchner@cmr-cleveland.org

Kathie Snow is a parent of two young adults—one happens to have a disability and is a successful college student.

Kathie's presentations, articles, books and products ignite positive and long-lasting changes in the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

Since 1991, Kathie has presented hundreds of keynotes and workshops, for parents of children with disabilities, adults with disabilities, service providers, educators, and others. Kathie is the author of

Disability is Natural: Revolutionary Common Sense for Raising Successful Children with Disabilities, and the widely disseminated People First Language article. She publishes a free monthly E-newsletter, and her website www.disabilityisnatural.com features innovative articles and a variety of products that promote new ways of thinking about disability.

Kathie is enthusiastic, positive, and passionate about ensuring children and adults with disabilities live real lives, fully included in their homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.

Disability, like ethnicity, religion, age, gender, and other characteristics, is a natural part of life. Some people are born with disabilities; others acquire them later in life. When we deconstruct disability, use People First Language, and focus on people's strengths and abilities, change is possible. We need to think differently and act differently to make this change happen!!

Inclusive Education

What does an inclusive school look like? How does a school make the change and how do the roles of educators change? Writing better IEPs can lead to better outcomes for students with disabilities. Activity-based goals and the appropriate curriculum modifications can ensure a student's IEP is relevant and meaningful to the student, ensuring his/her success. When educators, parents, and students work together, inclusive classrooms—caring classrooms—where all children learn and belong can become a reality!

Testimonial

"You really shook my ground when you presented...some of it was hard to hear, but you planted a seed. I'm a changed person because of it." *Amy, mother of a 4-year-old with autism.*

Contact Gina Mitchner at 216-622-0755 for more information.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

CMR is pleased to announce the selection of three new individuals to its Board of Directors. The new directors are **Michael C. DeAloia**, (Senior Director for Business Development SchoolOne), **Michael A. Donzella, Ed.D.**, (Adjunct Professor, Notre Dame College of Ohio, College of Education), and **John S. Tepfenhart**, Director of Corporate Business Development, ka Architecture.



Michael C. DeAloia



Michael A. Donzella, Ed.D



John S. Tepfenhart

CMR's 2008 Executive Committee is headed by **Elizabeth Kelley, Esq.**, President, **Robert E. Schweid, Ph.D.**, Vice President, **Sanford C. Trado, CPA**, Treasurer and **Mark Hicks**, Secretary (Vantage Financial Group), and **Daniel F. Waldeck**, Member at Large (Senior

Vice President, Regional Manager Corporate Banking, National City Bank)

The three new Board members will serve alongside current trustees **Duane F. Bishop, Jr.** (Senior Vice President, Forest City Enterprises), **Jamie Debenham** (Senior Vice President, Neace Lukens), **James DeFeo** (Thompson Hine LLP), **Wilson Huhn**, **Douglas Kanouff** (Vice President, Director of Corporate Application Management, AmTrust

Bank), **Ellen B. Minadeo** (Senior Vice President, Private Banking Manager, Citizens Bank), **Dick Russ** (Managing Editor/Anchor/Reporter, WKYC T.V.), and **Brad Schwartz** (B.E.S.T. Solutions). CMR Honorary Trustees include **Karen Baker**, and **Lydia Esparra** (Reporter and Anchor, WKYC T.V.) and Director Emeritus, **Ben M. Bonanno**.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Executive Director	Page 2
Save the Date	Page 2
Legacy Luncheon	
Highlights Special Insert	Page 3-5
Golf Outing	Page 6, 7
CMR Thanks	Page 7,8

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Cindy Norwood

CMR's mission is to provide unique and critical services to those with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families.

CMR advocates for, educates and supports individuals in the

Greater Cleveland area who are not serviced by state and local governmental agencies and those that are not receiving the services they are entitled to.

CMR helps individuals of this special group with matters relating to education, housing, health care, and social concerns. Without CMR, basic needs and entitlements can go unsatisfied. For example, CMR assists parents of children with autism and intellectual or developmental disabilities to secure individualized educational programs in public school systems. Similarly, CMR prepares individuals to be viable members of the work force and to be self-advocates so that they can live an independent and full life. In addition to these services, CMR also allocates a

portion of its budget to provide scholarships for children to attend summer camp. The families of many children are unable to afford camp tuition, and without CMR's support, these children would lose out on this special opportunity.

For 45 years, CMR has been able to sustain itself with funding from foundations, grants, and minimal fundraising. Because of its success and compassion for its constituency, the demand for its services is growing. As a result, we have the need to come to you as part of a communitywide appeal for financial support. I would appreciate you taking a few moments to review the agency newsletter and our website, and consider making a donation to this special organization.

The mere smile of a child who learns he or she will be going to camp next summer, or the relief of parents who learn that their children will be provided the necessary educational assistance, or the comfort of an adult moving into his or her new residence, will warm your heart beyond your imagination. Thank you for your support and consideration.

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE—

EXPLORING CAMPS AND MUCH MORE...

10th Annual Recreation Fair Saturday

February 23, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Woodside Party Center

5025 E. Mill Road

Broadview Heights, OH

Cost: Free

Visit and talk to representatives from camps and organizations from around Ohio.

Organizations and camps for individuals with disabilities ages preschool through 22 years. There is something for everyone. [Browse the information tables](#)

- day and residential camps
- academic programs
- arts/therapeutic programs
- social and recreational programs

Visit with *small animals* from the Lake Erie Science and Nature Center

Pick up your free copy of the "2008 Summer Recreational Directory" For more information or to reserve your copy of the Directory, call the Cuyahoga Special Education Service Center, Bonnie Simons at (216) 524-2770 Applications for the Ben M. Bonanno Camp scholarships will be available at the Fair and by calling the CMR office. We have once again teamed up with the Cuyahoga Special Education Services Center and the Northeast Ohio Parent Mentor Project to present an opportunity for information, recreation, and fun for families.

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 14, 2008

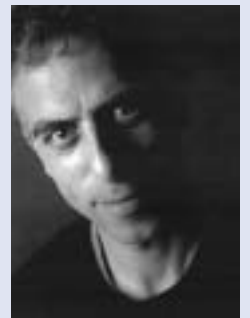
Including Samuel



Samuel Habib taken from the film *Including Samuel* by Dan Habib

CMR will host local screenings of the new documentary, *Including Samuel*. Photojournalist Dan Habib rarely thought about inclusion before he had his son Samuel seven years ago. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. Habib's documentary film, *Including Samuel* examines the educational and social inclusion of youth with disabilities as a civil rights issue. The film is built on the efforts of Habib and his family to include Samuel, 8 in all facets of school and community. *Including Samuel* also features four other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with dozens of teachers, young people, parents and disability rights experts. The film recently won the annual Positive Images in Media award from TASH, an international group committed to the full inclusion of people with disabilities. The film was also named

"Best Documentary" of the 2007 Somewhat North of Boston Film Festival, and has been featured on NPR's All Things Considered and in the Washington Post and Boston Globe. A select few local screenings of the film with facilitated discussions led by Dan Habib will be hosted by CMR on April 14, 2008. The target audience will be the general public, students at the middle and high school levels, general and special educators, and college students and teachers. Look for more information on details of where you can see the film and be part of the exclusive local screening to be announced soon.



Dan Habib photo by Franz Nicolay

2007 LEGACY LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS

Presentation of 2007 Awards



The Excellence in Self-Advocacy Award
Presented to Mike Rich by Vic Leanza and Fran Leanza



**The Ben M. Bonanno
Excellence in Advocacy Award**
Presented to Dick Russ by
Ben M. Bonanno

Photos by George Shuba



These four legends in advocacy helped make the event a huge success Ben M. Bonanno, Dick Russ, Del Donahoo and Mary Verdi- Fletcher

CMR 2007 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President

Ellen B. Minadeo

Vice President

Robert F. Schweid, Ph.D.

Treasurer

Sanford C. Trado, CPA

Secretary

Brad Schwartz

At-Large

Douglas W. Kanouff

Board of Directors

Duane F. Bishop Jr.

Jamie Debenham

James L. DeFeo, Esq.

Lia DiRienzo - Hoffman

Walter M. Drake II

Mark Hicks, CLU, ChFC

Wilson Huhn

Elizabeth Kelley, Esq.

Jonathan P. Lehman Psy.D.

James M. Mackey, Esq.

Dick Russ

Daniel F. Waldeck

Honorary Directors

Karen Baker

Lydia Esparra

Executive Director Emeritus

Ben M. Bonanno

Executive Director

Cynthia F. Norwood

CMR acknowledges the commitment and dedication of the Legacy Luncheon Committee for making this year's event possible.

Elizabeth Kelley, Esq., chair

Ben M. Bonanno, CMR executive director emeritus

Joseph Benny, Office of Dennis J. Kucinich

K. Michael Benz, United Way Services of Greater Cleveland

Paul Blumberg, Howard Hanna Smythe Cramer

Jeff Hastings, Esq.

Christine Hlabse

Lula Holt Robertson, Cuyahoga County Board of MR/DD

Bob Kasarda, Gemini Video Productions

Paul Orlousky, WOIO - 19 Action News

Kip Reader, Esq., Ulmer & Berne LLP

Robert Tayek, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland

Mary Verdi-Fletcher, Dancing Wheels

Loree Vick, University Hospitals

Tim White, WKYC-TV3

Ulmer & Berne LLP
is pleased to
support the
Center for Mental
Retardation.

Kip Reader
kreader@ulmer.com 216.583.7380

Harold E. Friedman
hfriedman@ulmer.com 216.583.7130

ulmer | berne | llp
ATTORNEYS

Cleveland Columbus Cincinnati Chicago

CMR extends its sincere appreciation
to Bob Kasarda and
Gemini Video Productions Inc.
for producing the videos presented at
the Legacy Luncheon.



FOREST CITY
ENTERPRISES

LEGACY LUNCHEON THANK YOU CONTINUED

The Center for Mental Retardation thanks the following sponsors for their support of the 2007 Legacy Luncheon.

Gold Sponsor

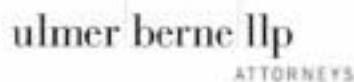
Paul A. Thomas



Silver Sponsor



Elizabeth Kelley, Esq.



Bronze Sponsor



CLIMACO/LEFKOWITZ/PECA/
WILCOX & GAROFOLI CO. LPA



Cuyahoga County Board of MR/DD

*The DiGeronimo Family
Foundation*



NorthernOhioLive



Table Hosts

The Brennan Financial
Group Ltd.

Mary Pat Healy &
Bob Cerminara
Friends of Dick Russ

Board of
Cuyahoga County
Commissioners

Congressman
Dennis J. Kucinich

High Five Club
Paul E. Blumberg

United Way of
Greater Cleveland

Friends of the Arc of Cuyahoga County

Achievement Centers for Children
Catholic Charities

Cornucopia Inc. / Nature's Bin
Richard Fleishman & Partners Architects Inc.

Hickman & Lowder Co. LPA
Jones Day

North Coast Community Homes
Thompson Hine LLP

UpSide of Downs of Greater Cleveland

Mark W. Hicks, MetDESK® Specialist, Vantage Financial Group Inc.

Margaret W. Wong & Associates

Inaugural CMR OPEN Benefit Golf Outing

On behalf of CMR, we want to thank all of our sponsors for making this first-time event a success.

Held September 12, 2007

Coppertop Golf Course at Cherokee Hills in Valley City
Everyone had a great time. This is one tournament where even if you didn't play well, participants can still go home feeling fulfilled and thankful that you were able to help individuals and children with disabilities live, learn, work, play and be a part of the community.

Birdie Sponsors:



VANTAGE
FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.
A SINGLE-SOURCE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY



CITIZENS
BANK



THOMAS
Bilski
D.D.S.



CMR Open Chairpersons

Mark Hicks, CLU, ChFC
Daniel F. Waldeck

Committee Members

Jamie Debenham
Douglas W. Kanouff
Elizabeth Kelley, Esq.
Gerald Thomas
Larry Wallace

GOLF HIGHLIGHTS



Tim White WKYC TV 3 and Bill Wills WTAM share the morning roundup as MC's



Mike Grady President/Executive Director Cleveland Sight Center and CMR Director Emeritus, Ben M. Bonanno



National City and Neace Lukens teams



Committee member Gerald Thomas and PD reporter Sam Fulwood



Mark Hicks co-chair presents 1st place awards to Steve McPeake, Ethan McPeake and Milo Abercrombie



Mark Hicks presents the Highest score award to Jessie Huhn, Larry Gaia and Jeremy Gaia



Co-Chair Dan Waldeck and Jeremy Gaia congratulates Event coordinator Paulette Gaia



Co-chair Mark Hicks, Director Emeritus Ben Bonanno and dinner MC Vic Gideon WKYC TV3

CMR THANKS ITS GENEROUS DONORS

The Center for Mental Retardation wishes to express its gratitude to the following supporters for their generous donations from July 1 through November 30, 2007. If your name is incorrect or inadvertently omitted, please contact us so our records can be corrected.

In Honor of Jeremy Moyle Mark W. Hicks

Achievement Centers
for Children
Ron Adams
Laurie Ailworth
Cheryl and Saadi
Alikhan
American Metal
Recycling
AmTrust Bank
Application Consulting
Group
Cherrymae Aromas
Hakan Aydin
Patricia Azusenis
Joe Baker
Charles Banks
Tina Barnhart
Catherine Bartzis
Beacon Hill
Technologies
Poinsettia Beeks
Marie Belcher
K. Michael Benz
Sharon Benz
Lila Bernie
Thomas M. Bilski, DDS
Doreen Binnie
Carol S. and Mark F.

Blakeslee
Cheryl Blockson
Paul Blumberg
BMT Auto Group Inc.
Joseph Benny
Duane F. Bishop, Jr.
Cheryl Blockson
Ben M. Bonanno
Gail Boyd
Brennan Financial
Group, LTD
Erick Bridges
Carole Brown
Buckeye Community
Health Plan
Buckingham Doolittle
& Burroughs, LLP
Carfagna Family
Foundation
Naomi Carter
J. Donald and Alice
Cairns
Crystal Carlson
Robert Caruso
Catholic Charities
Catholic Diocese of
Cleveland
Bob Cerminara
Citizens Bank
Brian Clark
Hubert Clarke
Cleveland Clinic

Cleveland State
University
Climaco, Lefkowitz,
Peca, Wilcox &
Garofoli Co., L.P.A.
Mary Cluts
Andrew Coniglio
Mae Ann Corbett
Cornucopia Inc.
Doug Corwon
Elena Cotrau
CPI
Cuyahoga County
Board of MR/DD
Cuyahoga County
Commissioners
Joe Dallos
Don Davis
Dorothy Dawson
Day Family Fund
Jones Day
DDE Philanthropy
Jamie Debenham
James L. DeFeo, Esq.
Raymond Dent
Expedito Dejesus
Curtis Delaney
Ellen Delong
Dell Inc.
The DiGeronimo Family
Foundation
Cindy Distefano

Lia DiRenzo-Hoffman
Beth Dobbs
Aaron Dowell
Scott Duennes
Dorothy Durham
Sunil Dutta
Carl Duy
Freddie Dryant
Enerco/ Mr. Heater
Lydia Esparra
Gladys Everhart
Bill Ewing
Suha Farraj
Shirley Ferris
Richard Fleischman &
Partners Architects Inc.
Robert Fleming
Forest City Enterprises
Harry K. and Emma R.
Fox Foundation
Alice Freeman
Alan Frey
Howard Friedman
Howard Frushtick
Fran Furjan
Michael Gabor
Tina Gardner
Mark Gebler
Mary Gilbride
Clifford Griffith
Hand Therapy
Specialists

George Hankins
Stephanie Harris
Ken Hasel
Jeff Hastings, Esq.
Huey Haynes
Dwayne Hawkins
Mary Pat Healy
Jim Heinrich
Lorenza Henderson
John Heraghty
Lillie Hicks
Mark W. Hicks
Hickman & Lowder Co.
LPA
High Five Club
Anthony Hill
Hitachi Data Systems
Christine Hlabse
Stephanie Holland
Doug Houck
Paz Huerta
Alberta Huff
Wilson Huhn
Shirley Hunt
Luke Isler
Charles Jackson
Sudama Jaisar
Gerald Jensonosky
Michael Jirousek
Betty Lou Johnson
Machelle Johnson
Eric Jorgenson

CENTER FOR MENTAL RETARDATION

The Arc of Cuyahoga County
1331 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
Phone: 216-622-0755
Fax: 216-622-0752
www.cmr-cleveland.org

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH
Permit No. 176

DONATE
your **CAR**



A LOCAL CHARITY

- Help individuals with disabilities
- Get a tax reduction

24-48 hr. pickup

CALL 24hrs/7days
1-877-267-0001

CMR
CENTER FOR MENTAL RETARDATION
The Arc of Cuyahoga County

BMT Auto Group, LLC acts as a professional solicitor on behalf of CMR to operate the car donation program.

CMR THANKS ITS GENEROUS DONORS *continued*

The Center for Mental Retardation wishes to express its gratitude to the following supporters for their generous donations from July 1 through November 30, 2007. If your name is incorrect or inadvertently omitted, please contact us so our records can be corrected.

Douglas W. Kanouff	Mark Miciak	Doretha Patterson	Marilyn Schott	Gary Valek
Bob Kasarda (Gemini Video)	Microsoft	Margaret Paul	Judy Schuler	Vantage Financial Group Inc.
Jamie Kaucic	Harold Miles	Myrna Pendery	Penelope M. Schuette	Lloyd Veluya
Elizabeth Kelley, Esq.	Charles and Patricia Mintz	Jim Petroff	Robert E. Schweid, Ph.D.	Mary Verdi-Fletcher
James Kelly	Dianne Misenko	Raymond Petrello	Lori Scot	Loree Vick
Nancy Keys	Carl Monday	Channagiri Phanindra	Sheryl Sims	Joseph Vidlicka
Venessa Khenti	Racena Moore	Rosari A. Pingatore	Richard J. Slosar	Marko Vokcevic
Lynn Kilbane	Andrew Moragne	Joseph J. Ployhart	Sogeti	Daniel F. Waldeck
Joseph King	Prince Moultry	Allen Potillo	Joseph Solitro	Alfred Wallace
Paul King	Donald Murdoch	Kip Reader, Esq.	Timothy Sopko	Walter & Haverfield LLP
John Klindworth	Debbie Nagel	Ian Readus	Gary Soucek	Lindsey Washington
Elaine Krieg	National City Bank	Francis Reiman	Squire Sanders & Dempsey LLP	Erica Warren
Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich	Felix Nazario	Mike Rich	Theresa Stewart	S. K. Wellman Foundation
Milton Lakin	Neace Lukens	Lula Holt Robertson	Frank Stopiak	William M. Weiss Foundation
Hattie Larlham Care Group, Inc.	Ellen Minadeo	Myles Roche	Ron Stowell	Civia Wiesner
Jeffrey T. Leitch	Peggy Mosely	Bo Rog	Charles Suggs	Tom Wilson
William Leppla	Richard Najdusak	Susan Rolland	Mark Suhy	Patricia Winfield
Jenny Levine	Paul Nalepa	Joseph Roman	Drew Sultzter	West Geauga Schools
Jennifer Ligetvari	William Neugebauer	Joseph Rothenberg	Anthony Supan	Edward Weston
David Long	Carla Niemes	Margaret Ruffner	Joyce Suri	Penelope Whatley
Dianne Long	Noble Foundation	Jeff Rumbarger (Tremont Technologies)	Debra Tagg	Tim White
Tony Lopez	North Coast Community Homes	Dick Russ	Patricia Tansey	Darcell Williams
Richard and Barbara Lorius	Northern Ohio Live	Peter Rzepka	Robert Tayek	Richard and Shirley Williams
James Mackey, Esq.	Northwestern Mutual	Alicia Robinson	Glenn Terrell	WKYC-TV3
Toni Magana	William Noves	M. Joseph Robinson	Gerald Thomas	Margaret W. Wong & Associates
Helen Mazzara	Cindy and Jessica Norwood	Deidre Roselli	Paul A. Thomas	Michael Wu
McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal and Liffman Co., L.P.A.	John Oliver	James Ryan	Willie Thomas	Shezai Xhemalaj
Raszella McCoy	Joan Olszko	Michael Sadowski	Thompson Hine LLP	Herbert Young
Philip McDonnell	Mike O'Malley	St. Luke's Foundation	Ulmer & Berne LLP	James Zakany
Edward McKinney	Cliff Oravec	Melinda Saltz	United Way of Allegheny	Sonny Zarlis
LeeAnn Meda	Paul Orlousky	Donald Saverno	United Way of Delaware	Erik Zednik
Met Life Investors	Oracle	Charles Sawyer	Upside of Downs of Greater Cleveland	Dean Zevchek
	Donald J. Ostapowicz	Joe Scarpitti	Paul Valely	
	Edis Pascal	Sam Schiuva		
		Sarah Schlik		