Students Cultivate Knowledge and Friendship Through Gardening

With opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom, our students are cultivating their skills and making new friends with the help of wonderful gardeners from the community.

Students from the Lehmann School and the Schroth School have been invited to participate in Georgian Court University’s new Mercy Garden, an initiative of their sustainable environment program.

One of the aims of the three-year old program is to teach participants to grow food for themselves and others within the community. In addition, local Home Depot stores generously sent volunteers and contributed plants and supplies to create beautiful gardens at the Schroth Center and our Mill Creek Group Home in Bayville.

Gardening stimulates the senses and has great therapeutic value for our students. Activities such as walking through the garden, sitting on a bench, holding a shovel, picking produce, or using switches to communicate, help our students meet their therapy goals.

There are significant health benefits to being outdoors. Spending time outside with plants and trees boosts the immune system, reduces stress, and improves concentration and creative reasoning in children and adults.

The garden setting makes learning real for our students. Lehmann School teacher, Denise Pfister, incorporates horticulture into her curriculum and relates activities in the garden to vocabulary, math, science, cooking and art.

The students received a butterfly bush to care for from the Mercy Garden program and witnessed first-hand the life cycle of a butterfly from larva to caterpillar. They also crafted wind chimes as an art project.

Schroth School students welcomed a group of their peers from Christian Brothers Academy who worked to clean up and clear the way for the creation of a garden provided by Home Depot, Neptune. The store contributed a bountiful array of flowers, herbs and vegetable plants and sent a group of volunteers with an inspiring “can-do” spirit, led by Kathryn Cosby, Special Services Supervisor and Team Depot Captain.

Our students were delighted to participate and see the garden take shape. Over the course of the summer and fall, students continued to enjoy educational and recreational activities in the garden.

Our adult clients are also cultivating friendships in the community. Thanks to Rick Gilmore of the Home Depot in Toms River, the residents of our Mill Creek Group Home have a new fenced-in garden. Mr. Gilmore arranged for a caring group of his coworkers together with friends from his church to help. Home Depot contributed fencing, supplies, flowers, herbs and vegetable plants for the garden project.

Lessons learned in the garden and blossoming friendships are providing our students with opportunities for personal growth and the accomplishment of their goals.
Responding to needs, changes and challenges throughout our 62-year history has shaped LADACIN Network into an organization dedicated to creating growth and opportunity for people with disabilities and their families. We continue to transition and adapt as New Jersey makes changes to the way it funds social service agencies. Nearly 40% of our funding comes through the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, which will be switching from a contract reimbursement model to a fee-for-service system. We are persistently working to ensure that our infrastructure will adequately support this change which involves becoming a Medicaid provider, moving to an electronic health record system, increasing billing supports and staff, and marketing our services in the “new world”. In my capacity as Executive Director of LADACIN Network and as President of the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD), I have been working closely with the state, advocating for the best possible outcomes for our families.

LADACIN has experienced significant positive growth this year through increased enrollment in our programs and the expansion of our facilities. We are now engaged in more critical strategic planning, envisioning our goals for the next three years and planting the seeds for future opportunities for the people we serve.

The programs we provide for infants, children, adults with disabilities and their families gave them the opportunity for personal growth. It is also important to LADACIN to cultivate the talents of our staff by offering training. LADACIN was most fortunate to receive a NJ Department of Labor Workforce Development Grant this year to help us achieve that goal. The grant provided for 37 beneficial workshops for our staff.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to LADACIN Network Board Member, Bob Lynch, for his devoted service to people with disabilities and our Agency. Bob resigned from the Board in February after 12 years. We appreciate his guidance during a time of great change and economic uncertainty. Bob generously shared his considerable business and fundraising expertise and was instrumental in developing our “Eat, Drink and Be Caring” restaurant fundraising program and garnering support for the construction of our administration building.

We welcome two new Board members, Tino Fontes, Vice President and Senior Market Manager, Investors Savings Bank, and Andrew Martin, Relationship Manager, Commercial Lending, OceanFirst Bank.

The Agency also experienced significant personnel changes at many levels over the past several months. In June, we saw the departure of Greg Horlavadi, Director of Finance, each after 25 years of dedicated service to the Agency. The Agency grew tremendously during their tenure. The Agency was pleased to fill these positions from within our ranks. Controller, Crystal Pendry, assumed the role of Director of Finance, and Network Administrator, Richard Hileman, was promoted to the newly created position of Director of Facilities and Information Technology. We welcomed Jocelyn Armstrong as our new Director of Human Resources.

As we continue through this period of transition, we will remain focused on our mission and dedicated to cultivating growth and opportunity for the people we serve.

A student uses an iPad as an opportunity for learning in the classroom.
The availability of easy-to-use SMART Boards and iPads has significantly enriched the learning experience for our students and clients. In the last three years, we have expanded the technology program we offer. The Agency now has 52 iPads, some loaded with as many as 150 apps covering a wide range of subjects. LADACIN staff member, Dee Hoban, a RESNA-certified Assistive Technology Practitioner, offered a series of workshops open to our staff and the community over the course of this year. All staff have been trained on the basic operation of the iPads.

The iPads are used on a regular basis in all classrooms (see picture left) to cultivate skills such as reading, writing, math, art and music. They can also be used as a communication device providing students and clients with a voice and the opportunity for self-expression. Students and clients use the iPads in speech and occupational therapy sessions as well as outings into the community.

The touch screen design of these devices makes them highly accessible for people with disabilities. The technology enables our students and clients to work independently or with little assistance. The large, colorful SMART Board screen makes it easier for people with visual impairments to work on activities. Students enjoy other benefits as well, including the strengthening of fine and gross motor skills and the opportunity to collaborate with others. Clients at the Lehmann Center use technology to choose recipes for their cooking groups. In the group, they learn to hit switches to activate the blenders and mixers, and learn life skills such as cleaning, washing hands and setting the table. Teachers and instructors report the clients are making huge strides toward their goals and objectives and are eager to participate in technology groups.

The Agency’s expanding technology program is opening up the world for our students and clients and affording them the opportunity for personal growth.
LADACIN Network is grateful for the relationships we have cultivated with foundations and community groups. Their generosity provides opportunity for positive growth.

Our vital clinic program offers specialized services to children and adults with disabilities at no cost. We are grateful for contributions of $2,500 from the Provident Foundation, $1,000 from Sam’s Club and the Walmart Foundation and $500 from Wells Fargo to support this program.

The Gannett Foundation and the Asbury Park Press generously funded our Group Home Generator Project with a grant of $6,000 for the Dewey Street Group Home, allowing for our clients’ safety and security during power outages.

A contribution of $5,000 from Nordstrom is enabling LADACIN Network to preserve and strengthen our early childhood programs and brighten the future for the children and families we serve.

A grant award of $9,000 from the TD Charitable Foundation supports the Dewey Street Group Home Pathway to Independence Project which is allowing adults with disabilities to live in the community with dignity and respect and help them to achieve their highest level of independence and self-sufficiency.

BlueClaws Charities, through their Community Partner Grant, made an award of $1,000 to support our Give and Take Child Care and Preschool Center enabling us to strengthen a program that provides a safe, nurturing and healthy environment for children aged three months to nine years.

LADACIN was pleased to be honored by Holiday Express with their Dennis Husserl Award and received $5,000 in recognition of our programs and services. We were also fortunate to participate in The Holiday Express Giving Partners Program, which provided assessment bags for the educators and therapists in our Early Intervention Services as well as educational items for our Vocational Training Program.

The OceanFirst Foundation awarded $10,000 for the replacement of the roof at the Asbury Avenue Apartments, a barrier-free facility for individuals with disabilities. The Foundation also provided local nonprofit organizations, including LADACIN Network, with the opportunity to participate in the OceanFirst Foundation Charity Challenge on Crowdrise.

LADACIN Network partnered with JVS Corporate Services, East Orange, to seek funding from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. We were awarded a $36,420 Skills4Jersey Grant. JVS has provided a variety of customized training sessions for Agency staff throughout 2014.
LADACIN Network relies heavily on the support of our local communities and beyond and wishes to thank all of the many volunteers who enhance our programs throughout the year, including:

- Home Depot - Jersey Shore District 107 (top left)
- TD Equipment Finance Group (top right)
- Full Circle Dojang Martial Arts School (middle left)
- Christian Brothers Academy (middle right)
- The Academy of Allied Health and Science (bottom left)
- Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs (bottom right)

To our Corporate Sponsors, event sponsors, grantors, volunteers, communities, clubs, local businesses, schools, staff, and all those who give so much to help make a difference in the lives of so many, thank you!

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS

PREMIER BENEFACCTOR
CWR Electronics, Inc.

ELITE BENEFACCTOR
Turning Point Restaurants

BENEFACCTORS
Greater Media New Jersey - 95.9 WRAT & 100.1 WJ有利于
New Jersey Natural Gas

GUARDIANS
Platinum
Kessler Foundation

Diamond
OceanFirst Bank and OceanFirst Foundation
T.F. Produce
The County Woman - Monmouth • Ocean • Atlantic
Willis

Gold
Hospital for Special Surgery Investors Bank and Investors Foundation
Preferred Home Health Care & Nursing Services
Surburban Transit / Coach USA

For more information on this program, contact the Director of Development at 732.493.5900 or email directorofdevelopment@ladacin.org.
Co-chairs Marlene Bell and Bonnie Hogan, along with the committee, did an outstanding job of planning the 9th Annual Casino Night and Auction. Guests and supporters participated in exciting games and raffles, enjoying an evening of prizes and fine dining to benefit LADACIN Network and its mission. The event was held on October 17th at Eagle Oaks Country Club in Farmingdale, raising over $34,000.

**Casino Night and Gift Auction**

June 16th was a perfect day for the 12th Annual WRAT Rock Open Charity Golf Classic at Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Lakewood. More than $32,600 was raised this year as both men and women swung their clubs in hopes of a hole in one. Darrin Singleton and Doug Sjonvall co-chaired this event with the aid of the committee as 91 golfers hit the green.

**WRAT Rock Open Charity Golf Classic**

More than $45,400 was raised by the 31 runners of “Team LADACIN” at the annual NJ Marathon in Long Branch. Runners participated in the full marathon, half marathon and team relay, honorably representing the dedication of LADACIN Network staff, volunteers and supporters. This event, organized by Joseph Walker and Nicola White, was held on April 27th.

**NJ Marathon - Team LADACIN**

The 6th Annual Polar Bear Plunge was held on January 18th at Leggett’s Sand Bar and Restaurant and Manasquan Main Beach. Each year this event attracts over 200 plungers and hundreds more spectators. Plungers braved the cold, charging into the frigid waters led by Joe Russell, event organizer. The event raised over $95,700 this year.

**Polar Bear Plunge**

In Support of the J. Michael Hartnett Memorial Fund
The 33rd Annual Rosebud Gala Dinner Dance was held on March 15th at the Sheraton Eatontown Hotel. The gala is the Agency’s largest fundraiser, and raised more than $169,700 for LADACIN’s programs and services. Working closely with the committee, Marilyn Shapiro and Kathy Vivona co-chaired the event as guests danced into the evening. Honorees were T.F. Produce, Kessler Foundation, Wegmans of Ocean Township, and Emil “Em” Schroth III (posthumously).

We are pleased to announce the Honorees for the 2015 Rosebud Gala... Hospital for Special Surgery, Home Depot - Jersey Shore District 107 and Surf Taco.

### Notable Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Served</td>
<td>3,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Facilities</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Intervention Children Served</td>
<td>849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Intervention Evaluations</td>
<td>1,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCESS Unlimited Employers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals Served</td>
<td>38,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Health Procedures</td>
<td>33,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medications Administered</td>
<td>30,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trips</td>
<td>1,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency Transport Vehicles</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rides Provided (Transportation)</td>
<td>67,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles Traveled</td>
<td>428,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Affiliations</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>3,520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cultivating Employment Opportunities

LADACIN Network’s Access Unlimited programs have been busy this year. The workers are enthusiastic, ready and able to assist with business needs and offer a variety of services including document scanning and shredding, mailings and specialized tasks. In addition to completing office tasks, one client volunteers in the Give and Take Child Care and Preschool Center by reading stories and taking walks outside with the children.

Clients have begun making beautiful hand printed flower note cards which will soon be available to purchase. They are sold in packages of six and will be available at LADACIN Network locations and at various businesses in the community as well. The look of satisfaction a client has when completing an assignment or a contract is wonderful!

---

**You, too, can make a difference. Please consider making a donation to this year’s annual appeal by returning the enclosed envelope with your contribution. Thank you!**
Ways That You Can Give to LADACIN Network

♥ Remember a loved one with a memorial or tribute by making a donation in memory of or in honor of that special person.

♥ Consider donations or bequests to LADACIN Network when planning your finances and your will.

♥ Make a donation in lieu of favors for a special event/wedding. We will make cards for your guests upon request.

♥ Host a fundraiser, such as a car wash, bake sale, garage sale, walk-a-thon, or 50/50, or come up with your own unique idea for raising money.

♥ Make your donation go even further by initiating or participating in a matching gift program. You can challenge donors to give by promising to match up to a certain amount. Some companies will double or triple employee donations – check your company’s policy.

For more information call the Director of Development at 732.493.5900 Ext. 266 or email: directorofdevelopment@ladacin.org.

Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events!

Polar Bear Plunge
January 17, 2015
Manasquan Main Beach

Rosebud Gala Dinner Dance
March 7, 2015
Sheraton Eatontown Hotel

NJ Marathon Team LADACIN
April 26, 2015
Long Branch

For more information contact Community Relations Department at 732.493.5900 Ext. 263 or email communityrelations@ladacin.org.