MOBILITY MATTERS!

Biking around the neighborhood on a warm sunny day. Walking across the room to pick a toy to play with. Sitting at a table with friends for lunch.

For many of the students and clients here at LADACIN, these everyday movements can be challenging and often times they are unable to do on their own. We are devoted to finding ways to improve the health and quality of life for the people we serve, helping them achieve as much growth and independence as possible.

From standers and KidWalks to adaptive bikes and Lite Gaits, assistive mobility devices are essential to our mission at LADACIN. Encouraging autonomy, each of the devices is equipped to fit a wide range of sizes, needs and abilities. Mobility is one of the most important factors in the well-being, both physically and socially, of children and adults with disabilities. Supported movement can strengthen muscles and bones as well as improve respiratory, pulmonary and digestive system functioning.

Pablo, a student at the Schroth School, had a life changing experience last November when he and four others received adaptive bicycles made possible through

(Continued on page 3)

CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY

LADACIN’s Schroth and Lehmann Centers are committed to assisting our students and clients in their journey to inclusion. The Agency has initiated an innovative program with local schools that has been a huge success. “The Abilities Awareness program helps my son interact with regular education students,” said one parent. “I see him taking pride in showing his regular education peers he can participate in the same activities even though he has a few differences from them.”

Unique integration activities have taken place both at our Centers and with trips to other schools. These activities have been transformational for the students from these schools as they break down barriers and develop relationships. The attitudes of these young people have been changed for life. For the clients, the connections they have made in the

(Continued on page 4)
Message from Executive Director
Patricia Carlesimo

Dear Friends,

What a year we have had at LADACIN! We have had various additions to our Schroth and Lehmann Centers, from Hydroponic Gardens to adapted bicycles and state of the art mobility equipment. Our programs are thriving and we are continuing to break down barriers that exist in the community.

We have had the opportunity to build life-changing relationships with local schools in the community through LADACIN’s Abilities Awareness Program. LADACIN is committed to answering the needs and advancing the potential of the adults and children we serve. I hope as you read the newsletter, you will learn more about LADACIN’s mission and enjoy reading about the different ways in which we are growing and breaking down barriers for the future. Whether those barriers are architectural, employment, community, health or attitudinal, LADACIN believes with education and integration comes acceptance.

I would like to say thank you to our donors, volunteers, supporters and Board of Directors who help make LADACIN a place where children and adults with disabilities or delays can flourish. Our success would not be possible without the time and effort you selflessly give year after year.

I am excited to see what the new year brings and anticipate wonderful things!

Patricia Carlesimo, Executive Director

LADACIN’s Mission

The mission of LADACIN Network, a non-profit Agency, is to provide a continuum of care, including educational, therapeutic, social, residential and support services to infants, children and adults with complex physical and developmental disabilities or delays.
Did you know?
Learn about Early Intervention

Did you know that in 2016-2017, LADACIN Network Early Intervention Practitioners served 978 families and evaluated 2,511 infants and toddlers? Currently, we average about 140 hours a day in sessions! Early Intervention is a family training and coaching model, for children aged 0-3 years old with disabilities or delays, which works with caregiver and children in the home or natural environment. Parents or family members are present for each session and learn strategies and activities to do with the child. The mission of the New Jersey Early Intervention System is to enhance the capacity of families to meet the developmental and health related needs of children birth to age three who have delays or disabilities. Our staff do amazing work and continue to make a difference in so many lives!

“`My son’s therapists have been a blessing to his development. Both are patient and knowledgeable. I couldn’t be happier with the services!”

Mobility Matters! (cont. from pg. 1)

a collaboration with the McLindon Foundation and RallyCap Sports. Compensating for limited strength in his legs, this bike allows him to pedal with his hands and ride with ease. Amid cheers, applause and confetti, Pablo rode the bike for the first time and shouted, “I’m livin’ the dream!” Imagine the joy of finally being able to participate in an activity with your friends and classmates! The smiles that day said it all!

Along with the state of the art equipment at both the Lehmann Center and Schroth Center, we are lucky to have various forms of therapy available to our children and adults including Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Physical Therapy. Our teams work hard every day to provide individualized and unique therapy services to each person we serve.

Access Unlimited is LADACIN’s in-house vocational training and work program. Our clients are trained in various job skills which give them the opportunity to gain and maintain employment and lead more independent lives.

The adults at the Ocean County Access program have been busy counting out and bagging supplies for a company in Lakewood, Garden Medical Supply Company (pictured left Mark Bakst and Avi Rabinowitz). Everyone participated and finished the job in record time!
“Connecting to the Community” (continued from page 1)

community have resulted in employment opportunities and unique experiences.

Red Bank Catholic High School is one of many schools that has formed an irreplaceable bond with our students and clients over the years. The students in a club at the High School called Casey Caregivers have volunteered for many years. They recently read the inspirational and influential book Determination—What I’m All About, which was written by a former Schroth School student who is now an Instructional Assistant at the Schroth Center, Denise. The RBC students hosted Denise and spoke to her about her communication device as well as her experiences and her book.

Belmar Elementary School has also developed an invaluable relationship with our students, hosting an annual event, “Sharing our HeARTS”, where the kids share their artwork and music with each other. One Schroth School parent described the moment the students clicked with her son (pictured above far right). “The students at Belmar sit wide-eyed and silent watching my son Alex and me, who is non-verbal and uses a large wheelchair and a feeding tube. It’s a lot to take in. I tell them that Alex is 14 years old and loves the NJ Devils, Xbox, hip-hop music and WWE wrestling. Smiles are now everywhere in the audience, the students can relate. Alex is a lot like them! As the students leave the auditorium that day, they are happy and saying goodbye to Alex just like they would anyone else. When we visit again a few weeks later, Alex is greeted by the students like an old friend. No wide-eyes, no silence... just acceptance.”

Society has progressed in the last few decades to become more accepting of differences in race, cultures and genders. However, people with disabilities have not always been afforded the same acceptance. In an era when recognizing diversity is increasing, our community would benefit from including people with disabilities more in their efforts. Together, we will continue to cultivate meaningful relationships and break down barriers.

Students from Belmar Elementary School perform a song for the “Sharing Our HeARTS” annual event while students from our Schroth School listen from the stage!

Alex is greeted by the students like an old friend. No wide-eyes, no silence... just acceptance.”

Lehmann School students and Point Pleasant Borough High School teamed up for a fun-filled Sports Day again this year. The students spent the day together playing games and participating in relay races!

A group of students from Manasquan High School visited our Schroth Center and spent some time with Denise.

An avid fan of 95.9FM The WRAT radio, Ben had the chance to spend the day touring the office, meeting the DJs and going live on air. That was an experience he will never forget!

“Breaking Down Barriers”
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

2016-2017 Grants Received

BlueClaws Charities
The Gannett Foundation
The Grainger Foundation
The Kennedy E. Kowalski Charitable Foundation
The Legacy Foundation
Monmouth Park Charity Fund
Nordstrom
OceanFirst Foundation
Sam’s Club (Walmart Foundation)
The TD Charitable Foundation
United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties
Wells Fargo

Child Care

Our Give and Take Child Care and Preschool Center offers a safe, nurturing and healthy environment where children aged six weeks to nine years old can learn and grow! Through grants from Wells Fargo, Nordstrom and TD Charitable Foundation to support our Learning Together Initiative, we will be able to continue providing an educational environment for children with and without disabilities.

Aeroponic Gardens

Through the generous support of our friends in the community, including the Lakewood BlueClaws Charities, LADACIN has had the opportunity to purchase Aeroponic Tower Garden Growing Systems for both the Schroth and Lehmann Centers this year. Our clients are working hands-on in the growing process of various vegetables and herbs. Every 3-4 weeks, plants are ready to be harvested and go home with our clients or are used in the kitchens.

The clients at one of our residential facilities are prepared for emergencies or severe weather thanks to a generous grant from OceanFirst Foundation that will fund a new generator! This completes our goal of having a generator in each of our nine residential facilities.
The Turning Point Restaurants hosted the 11th Annual “Eat, Drink and Be Caring” fundraiser, on November 5 and 6, 2016, at their six locations in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. The weekend event raised over $20,800.

On March 25, 2017, the 36th Annual Rosebud Gala was held at the Sheraton Eatontown Hotel. The Gala raised more than $166,000. Honorees were Wells Fargo, Mike and Maryanne Cohen, Jersey Mike’s and Point Pleasant Borough High School.

On September 27, 2017, Jersey Mike’s in Lakewood helped raise $4,983 at their Day of Giving event.

The annual LADACIN Plunge was held on January 14, 2017 at Manasquan Beach. There were 150 participants who helped to raise over $61,600.

Many thanks to our donors, committee members and volunteers for helping to make this year’s fundraising events so successful! You truly make a difference in so many lives!!

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Team LADACIN runners raised more than $41,800 at the annual NJ Marathon in Long Branch on April 30, 2017.

The annual WRATRock Open Charity Golf Classic was held on June 19, 2017 at Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Lakewood. There were 98 players who participated and helped to raise over $38,500.

On October 6, 2017 our Casino Night was held at Eagle Oaks Country Club in Farmingdale. The event raised over $45,000.

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Mark Your Calendars...

LADACIN Plunge
Saturday, January 13, 2018
Leggett’s & Main Beach, Manasquan

NJ Marathon
April 29, 2018
Oceanport/Long Branch

Rat Rock Open Charity Golf Classic
June 18, 2018
Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Lakewood

Saturday, March 10, 2018
Rosebud Gala Dinner Dance
Jumping Brook Country Club
Neptune, New Jersey

We are pleased to announce the Honorees for the 2018 Rosebud Gala...

Corporate Honoree
Suburban Transit / Coach USA

Humanitarian Honorees
Asbury Park-Wall Elks #128
Monmouth-Ocean Development Council

Young Leaders Award
Brick Township High School Interact Club

For more information on LADACIN Network’s Special Events, contact Community Relations at 732-493-5900 ext. 263 or email CommunityRelations@LADACIN.org.

Donate Today and Help LADACIN Break DOWN Barriers!