The grand re-opening of the newly renovated Holley Street home took place in August. Originally opened in 1979 as Lifetime’s first home, Holley Street underwent significant updates and improvements. The renovations entailed converting the single family Victorian home into three separate apartments for four female residents. The renovations were made possible through a HOME grant from the County of Monroe.

The four women have known each other for over 10 years and desired to continue their friendship and independence. Moving into the village of Brockport offers the opportunity to be together and to enjoy being within this lovely community.

The ladies celebrated their new homes at the grand opening party with agency staff, family and friends. Congratulations and best wishes!
Employee on the Move
Ernie Haywood, NYSACRA Board Seat
Ernie Haywood, Vice President for Residential Services and Development at Lifetime Assistance has been appointed as an At Large Board Member to the New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA). Ernie is a 29 year Lifetime employee.

Don Lowry Garden
In July, a celebration and dedication was held for Lifetime Assistance founder and former board chairman, Donald Lowry. In recognition of Don’s extraordinary horticultural achievements and to honor his passing in 2009, friends, family and community members joined together at the Rochester Museum and Science Center for the dedication of “The Don Lowry Garden.”

The Greater Rochester Perennial Society, the Greater Rochester Iris Society, the Genesee Valley Hosta Society, and the Finger Lakes Daylily Society, organizations that Lowry and classmates of Master Gardener Class of 1997 founded, hosted the event. Don also served on and chaired the Board of Directors of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County.

“The planning committee worked diligently to create this event and they did a wonderful job,” said Donna Lowry. “I know that Don would have been proud to receive such an extraordinary honor. A garden is a living, growing memorial, and I am deeply touched by everyone’s kindness.”

A New Chapter
Sandy Mitchell Retires
Lifetime Assistance congratulates and recognizes the outstanding career of a truly dedicated employee and a dear friend, Sandy Mitchell. Sandy’s career began in 1978, as she was the second employee hired by Lifetime Assistance.

“I will miss all of my wonderful colleagues and the people I have had the privilege to serve during my rewarding years at Lifetime,” said Sandy.

James Branciforte ———
Throughout this Lifetimes you will find uplifting news of community engagement, caring and commerce that reaffirms our commitment to meaningful, quality lives for citizens with developmental disabilities. It is always a pleasure to share the good news of our wonderfully inclusive community and the results of the efforts of so many.

On a more sobering topic, the difficult economy and government budget pressures are impacting funding for services, and New York’s outstanding community based services are facing very significant state policy changes in the coming years. While the details of planned service system changes are yet unknown, New York State is pursuing a new five-year “People-First” waiver (from federal Medicaid regulations) that will substantially alter services in the years ahead. An overwhelming concern expressed by families, is that a redesign of today’s comprehensive, quality services, may well result in significantly limiting service availability. While presently there are many more questions than answers about New York’s efforts to transform the current system of services over the next five years, it is certain that major changes will occur. Further, it is critical that individuals with disabilities, families, advocates, and friends and neighbors who value dignified lives and choices for persons of all abilities, are especially attentive to proposed changes and to be a voice in public and legislative arenas.

Remaining true to our roots of serving individuals and families in need, Lifetime Assistance will stand strong on unyielding principles, to support meaningful, quality lives for New York’s citizens with development disabilities. Be assured that Lifetime will remain actively engaged in affecting public policy changes and will be increasingly reaching out to our community for “grassroots” participation in legislative and public policy decisions. Thank you for standing tall with your Lifetime family, on behalf of those in need.
Direct Support Professionals often build enduring relationships with the individuals we serve, playing an integral part of their success and growth; are committed to each person’s goals, exploring possibilities and realizing the opportunities of a lifetime.

Lifetime recognizes our amazing employees in a week long event, National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week, September 11th through the 17th.

On behalf of Lifetime Assistance and the individuals and families we serve, we extend a most sincere thank you to all of our compassionate and hard-working employees.
In 2007, Lifetime Assistance launched a wellness initiative in all residential homes. Since its inception, the Health and Wellness program has had a dramatically positive impact on the health and well-being of the individuals who have participated. The Health and Wellness Committee, comprised of registered nurses, house managers, and occupational therapists has identified multiple new opportunities for healthy living.

“Building on the synergy between our nursing and residential staff, we established an enjoyable and individualized program while creating a completely new paradigm for healthy living at Lifetime,” says Jennifer Stow, Residence Nursing Coordinator, who started the program. Some of the most exciting activities include Wii dance nights, Zumba classes at local recreation centers, and healthy cooking sessions. This community-integrated program has allowed participants to shed pounds while piling on the fun!

When the program was first launched, 108 participants had a Body Mass Index greater than 30. Within a year, 84 of the individuals were able to reduce their BMI to a healthy target.

Jennifer states, “The success of this program resulted from utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach to the issue of obesity. By infusing exercise, healthy eating, and fun into the life styles of the individuals at Lifetime, we have improved their quality of life.”
Day Services Donates Time!

Lifetime Assistance provides day services to approximately 440 individuals. Annually, 280 individuals spend 100,000 hours volunteering at 40 different locations throughout Rochester. Four volunteer sites include the Calvary Church, the Ronald McDonald House (RMH), Cameron’s Closet and Meals on Wheels, through Visiting Nurse Services and the American Red Cross.

Dawn Leenhouts, Administrative Assistant at Calvary Church shares, “We have been blessed to have three teams from Lifetime volunteer here. I don’t know what we would do without their help. Thank you so much.”

Day services has partnered with RMH for 20 years. Volunteers learn the importance of good working relationships, professionalism and the meaning of giving back to our community. The volunteers enjoy making a difference in the community and helping others.

Lifetime is proud of day services volunteers and the friendships they have built in the community.

The Joanne Mills Award for Nursing Excellence

The third annual Joanne Mills Award for Nursing Excellence was recently presented to Laurie Banker, RN. Nominated by her Lifetime Assistance nursing peers, Laurie showcases amazing dedication and an upbeat spirit. Through her exceptional nursing skills, she offers sound medical advice that positively impacts her patients’ lives.

Created in memory of Joanne Mills, RN, a Lifetime Assistance Associate Director for more than 24 years, the award is presented annually to a Registered Nurse who exhibits qualities and characteristics of outstanding nursing practices in the field of developmental disabilities. Last year’s winner was Vicky Bushey, RN.
LIFETIME ASSISTANCE

Foundation, inc.

PUTTING FOR A PURPOSE

On Monday, August 1st, 130 golfers attended the Gates-Chili Chamber of Commerce 15th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit Lifetime Assistance at Brook-Lea Country Club. The tournament raised $26,000 in support of individuals with developmental disabilities.

We extend our sincere thanks to WBEE 92.5 radio host Steve Hausmann and everyone who supported the event and, most importantly, the Gates-Chili Chamber for their continued dedication, enthusiasm and hard work.

Board Feature

David Mattia, Senior Vice President of Investments at UBS Financial has served on the Lifetime Assistance Foundation Board of Directors for more than four years. With over 20 years of experience, David draws upon his extensive investment consulting background in service to the Finance Committee. A Rochester native, he resides in Pittsford with his wife and two children. David has been an active community volunteer and has held board and advisory positions with several organizations, with an emphasis on children’s causes.

KODAK HALL AT THE EASTMAN THEATRE
ONLY 2000 SEATS AVAILABLE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH AT 7PM

Tickets on sale at lifetimeassistance.org, Eastman Theatre Box Office & all area Wegmans.

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Investing in the education of Lifetime Assistance employees is a top priority for the Lifetime Assistance Foundation, which annually awards educational scholarships to employees.

These educational scholarships are provided through the generosity of donor-specific gifts and foundation generated grants. In August, a scholarship reception was held to award eight scholarships, including the Sperandio Family and Kleiman Family Scholarships. The Foundation Scholarship Committee members are Rita Wagner, Mary Squires and Dr. Kathryn Wood.

Over 500 people of all ages and abilities participated in the 12th Annual Airport 5k. The event was in collaboration with the Greater Rochester International Airport and Monroe County. Over $25,000 was raised to benefit the services provided by Lifetime Assistance.

The Airport 5k is a family friendly event, offering participants a chance to join the leisurely walk or the challenging run on an actual airport runway! Even our younger athletes had their chance to soar through the finish line during the Kid’s Fun Run.

A very special thank you goes to agency staff, board members, corporate sponsors and event volunteers who helped make the 12th Annual Airport 5k a day to remember!
In September, the Lifetime Assistance Family & Friends (LAFFs) Committee hosted their 20th Annual Picnic at Total Sports Experience. Over 1,000 individuals came out to enjoy music from Jimmy C’s Music Machine, great food provided by Lifetime Occasions and a basket raffle. A special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 178, the committee and picnic team, the grill masters and our generous donors for making this event a great success!

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The Glue Factory Gift Shop
Tom Wahl’s
Walmart Super Center

Lifetime Assistance, Inc. Celebrates October’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Join us in honoring the good work of our employees!

LAICO Industries & Services, a division of Lifetime Assistance, Inc. located on Paul Road, combines entrepreneurial passion with extraordinary commitment to serving businesses. This unique enterprise utilizes the talent and dedication of a team of individuals with developmental disabilities to provide needed services to customers across Upstate New York.

“I commend the 300+ LAICO employees who work hard and provide an invaluable workforce to our region’s businesses. We stand ready to support your business needs in light manufacturing, assembly, packaging, commercial shredding, document scanning and storage, and placement of employment-ready workers in your business,” states Jamie Branciforte.

For more information, visit www.laicoindustries.com or call (585) 426-4120 x 3400.
Project SEARCH Graduates

Project SEARCH has completed its first year! Project SEARCH provides employment and education for individuals with developmental disabilities, focusing on workforce development that benefits the individual, community and workforce.

Project SEARCH at Wegmans is operated in partnership with Monroe 1 BOCES, the Institute for Innovative Transition at the University of Rochester’s Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities and the Warner School of Education, Adult Career & Continuing Education Services/ Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR), the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and Lifetime Assistance.

Six students spent the 2010-2011 school year learning new skills working at Wegmans’ stores. With classroom support and job coaching, the interns were able to master skills in three departments. The first year concluded with a graduation ceremony at the Calkins Road Wegmans.

To learn more about Project SEARCH, please visit www.projectsearch.us.

Classified Shredding Services Shred Day

Identity theft remains the #1 concern among consumers who contact the Federal Trade Commission and nine million Americans have their identities stolen each year.

Twice each year, in partnership with the New York State Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection and Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and Lifetime’s Classified Shredding Services (CSS) host a Community Shred Day at the Lifetime Assistance facility on 425 Paul Road.

By offering free Shred Days, Lifetime is able to give back to the community, and workers enjoy the opportunity to interact with friends and neighbors while providing a valuable service and improving the environment.

In addition, this past June, CSS employees partnered with the Town of Brighton to provide shredding for the Town’s 5th Annual Computer and Electronics Recycling event, securely shredding and recycling tons of documents for citizens in Brighton. These events provide a valuable service to local residents and businesses.

The next Community Shred Day is October 25th (a maximum of three boxes per person permitted).

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Lou Ann Owens at (585) 756-2233 or e-mail info@ClassifiedShredding.com.
Summer State Games

In June, Pat Dadey, Recreation Coordinator and Lauren Miller, Recreation Counselor traveled to Utica College with ten athletes from Lifetime Assistance who participated in this year’s Special Olympic Summer State Games. Each of the athletes performed well, representing Lifetime and Monroe County Track and Field.

A Golfer’s Generosity

The Country Club of Rochester’s Ladies Golf Association held a Charity Day Golf Tournament in June. The winning team – Boots Allen and Lifetime Assistance Foundation Board member Anita Dixit selected the Lifetime Assistance Foundation to receive $400 in winnings. Thank you ladies for your generous contribution.

• Bruce Hinsdale, Maria Bianco, Andy Krens and Dan Lunn, residents at the home on Lake Road, qualified for the Bowling Special Olympic Competition

• Jim LeBeau donated 15 tickets to the Rochester Airshow to the Recreation Department

• Shontell Williams successfully completed the summer Upward Bound program

• LAICO participant Wayne Parks has been nominated for the William B. Joslin Award for outstanding performance at his job

• The Blue Cross Arena donated 100 tickets to the Tony Bennett concert

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Rita Wagner is a firm believer in giving back. Every week for the past five years, the 61 year-old Brockport resident, accompanied by her certified therapy dogs, Widget, a 5-year-old cockapoo, and Josie, a 14-year-old English springer spaniel, visit clients at Lifetime Assistance’s Lowry Center to provide socialization and therapy. Wagner has been involved with the group since 1987. She has served on the Lifetime board of directors and served as treasurer. She lives for the individual interactions where she can positively affect someone’s life.

“When I first started, there was one young man who was so tense,” Wagner said. “Honest to goodness, you didn’t know if he knew you were there because he was so introverted. One of the staff put him on a beanbag mattress and I put Josie next to him. All of a sudden, his hands relaxed, he relaxed, and he started to smile. I never thought I would see anything like that in my life. It was just fabulous.” During a therapy session, each individual gets opportunities to interact with the dogs, whether it is petting while Widget sits on their laps or guiding Josie around with a leash. It quickly becomes apparent from the smiles and the laughter that the dogs are a positive influence.

When her husband passed away in 2002 and Rita retired shortly thereafter, she said her dogs helped her immensely. “If it wasn’t for those dogs, I never would’ve gotten out of bed,” Wagner said. “It was then I realized the healing power of animals.”

“I’ve been very blessed in my life in many ways,” Wagner said. “I feel obligated to pay it back, to share. And by sharing it, I get back twice as much. I think people really have an obligation to do volunteer work. It’s the driving force in my life.”

Wagner is especially devoted to those at Lifetime Assistance. “These folks in particular are here not by any choice of their own. They are the most vulnerable population in our society,” she said. “You absolutely have to reach out and help them.”

This article was adapted with permission of Democrat & Chronicle staff writer Will Cleveland.