

News to **S.M.I.L.E.** About

Happy Fall!!!

I hope each of you are enjoying the cooler weather. Some of us have been apple picking and taking in all of the outdoor festivities that Fall brings. We also receive one of the most gorgeous gifts from nature, as we enjoy the changing of the leaves.

I hope each of you get a chance to get outdoors and enjoy it!

CARF Update



We made it through our CARF Survey and await their decision on our accreditation. We feel it went really well! Hopefully, we will know the outcome by the end of October/first of November. Many thanks go out to everyone for your continued support!



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FYI...From the
Lawrenceville Patch





Day Program Holiday Closing Dates

The day program will be CLOSED on the following dates to allow all to enjoy these holidays with their family and friends.

Wednesday, November 23rd - Friday, November 25th in observance of Thanksgiving.

Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th in observance of Christmas, and

Friday, December 30th and Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year's.



Happy Birthday

October

Crystal J. 10/11

Lisa M. 10/12

November

Darcy S. 11/16

December

Amari A. 12/15

Josh N. 12/20

Courtney H. 12/23

Nevin S. 12/28

Special Olympics

Many of our individuals participated in the Georgia Special Olympics softball games in Gainesville this past weekend. Every one of them played their heart out and they all came away winners! We are so proud of all of them for the good sportsmanship they displayed. Some professional athletes could learn so much from them! Congratulations to all for a job well done!



August "Employee of the Month" was awarded to Gina Beasley. Gina began working with us in May of 2013. She has worked with many of our individuals in many different capacities. She always goes over and above to help our individuals and their families.

Congratulations, Gina!

However, I am sad to report that Gina has moved on to another opportunity. Although we are sad to see her go, we are excited to see her grow and begin her next chapter. Gina has taken on a new position with Professional Case Management where she will be a wonderful advocate for this population. We will truly miss her! Congratulations and Best Wishes to Gina!

A large group of the S.M.I.L.E. individuals and staff traveled to Chatsworth, Ga on October 2nd to attend the **Faith and Sharing Mass** with Bishop David Talley. It was a long day, but everyone enjoyed the Mass and Potluck Social afterwards.

The S.M.I.L.E. Sewing Class

continues to amaze us with their accomplishments. One major project they've been working on is making a quilt. Each of the individuals is working on their squares and they are doing an unbelievable job. It will take some time to complete this project, but once it's finished, they plan to use it as a fundraiser for S.M.I.L.E. We will display the quilt so that everyone will have an opportunity to take a chance on winning it. I think you all will be surprised with their handiwork!



Holiday Plans

S.M.I.L.E. will be participating in the Lilburn Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 3rd. Please watch for further details! And, please watch for details about our Holiday Party. Plans are in the making at this time. Once they've been finalized, we will send out the information.



FYI...From the Lawrenceville Patch:

"The Budweiser Clydesdales, and their trademark carriage, will appear in the Lawrenceville inaugural Christmas Parade on Friday, December 2nd at 7pm."

As you begin to think about your holiday giving, please keep S.M.I.L.E. in mind. We depend on donations throughout the year and are extremely grateful for your generosity.



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DSP (Direct Support Professional) Week

We celebrated DSP Week, September 12th - 16th, with our amazing staff. Each day we surprised them with various treats. Thank you all for your thoughtful notes and cards you sent in for them. The staff was so touched by your kind words and gestures.



Nurse's Note

Should I Keep My Family Member Home "Making the Decision"?

The cold and flu season is fast approaching; we use every precaution to avoid getting sick but if you suspect your family member is ill, here are some guidelines with helping you make that decision.

1. Fever greater than 100.4 degrees
2. Vomiting/diarrhea
3. Upper respiratory symptoms such as a heavy cough accompanied with coughing up green/yellow phlegm.
4. Sore throat with a fever, swollen gland or tonsils.
5. Red, irritated eyes with a discharge (may indicate pink eye).
6. Unexpected rash; not all rashes require that you stay home, check with your doctor first.



Your family member should stay home from the day program if he/she is sick or ill. If you have any questions, the nurse/office staff can explain agency policy.

Nurse Denise

St. Mary's Independent Living Extensions

St. Mary's Independent Living Extensions (SMILE) is a nonprofit organization of trained caregivers who work around-the-clock to enrich the lives of adults with developmental disabilities by maximizing independence, breaking down barriers and advocating for greater community access.