



AMIB Completes New Group Homes in Pine Beach



Above: AMIB's new Merion Avenue group home in Pine Beach before renovation

Left: Same home after renovation.

AMIB has completed the renovation of two single-family, one-story homes in the Borough of Pine Beach. Each home underwent extensive renovations to meet the basic needs of the visually impaired individuals we serve. Major renovations included:

1. Raising all flooring areas and garage to make the home one level throughout.
2. Constructing an accessible bathroom and roll-in shower for residents who require wheelchairs
3. Building ramping egresses to avoid the potential hazard stairs pose to residents with visual impairments
4. Incorporating indirect lighting to eliminate glare for those with minimal vision
5. Equipping homes with fire alarms and fire suppression systems to ensure residents' safety
6. Installing wall handrails throughout the living areas and hallways to enable the visually impaired to independently navigate their home.

While the Borough of Pine Beach is beautiful in its own right, AMIB believes that it has made this little town a more attractive place by the renovations we have completed and in the way in which we have beautified these two properties.



Above: AMIB's new group home on Midland Avenue in Pine Beach before renovation.

Right: Same home after renovation.



From the President



Dear Friend:
This has been an extremely productive year for AMIB, but our progress and achievements come at a cost.

As you know, we purchased two new group homes earlier this year and, as you

can see from photos in this newsletter, eight residents from Bayville have temporarily moved in, while we renovate their home.

We hope to complete extensive renovations to Bayville, our oldest home, by the end of the year.

We ask for your continued annual support of AMIB, which is so important to the delivery of ongoing services we provide to the blind and developmentally disabled.

If you would also like to help us with the \$1,438,632 costs we must meet toward the renovation of the Pine Beach and Bayville homes, please just write "Renovations" in the memo portion of your check.

Thank you for your contributions. We would not be able to provide the services we do without your caring generosity. We are grateful to you for your support.

Kenneth J. Carson, Jr.

Giftback.com: Another way to give back

Are you looking for a birthday, get-well, thank you, house-warming, or new baby gift to send to a friend, family member, employer or employee? Then consider going to **Giftback.com**.

The site offers a wealth of items from fresh flowers to fruit baskets to engraved items and electronics. Giftback actually has the ability to locate almost any type of gift . . . to be delivered any time to anyone — to him, to her, to them.

And better yet, after you have selected your gift, you can select the **Associated for the Multiple Impaired Blind** as the charity of your choice, and Giftback will donate 10 percent of the purchase price to us.

From the Director



Greetings, I hope this finds you doing well. As we near the end of this year, AMIB is also nearing completion of renovations to the three-group-home project we began over a year ago.

The two homes purchased in the town of Pine Beach have been completely updated and renovated. Each includes various accessibility features, and each houses four new residents.

All in one day mid July, Reliable Movers of Toms River did a wonderful job in helping us relocate the eight residents from the AMIB Bayville home to the two Pine Beach homes.

We look forward to their assistance again when these individuals move back after the Bayville home is renovated.

Purchased in 1983, Bayville is AMIB's oldest group home. As residents age and encounter physical disabilities, they need a home that is more accessible and barrier free.

We have contracted with StructureTone Inc. and Scelfo General Contractors to begin the full scale renovations of this Bayville home, which will cost over \$500,000.

AMIB has taken the initiative to turn the 3,000-square-foot home into a 4,600-square-foot fully accessible, state-of-the-art group home, converting the garage to livable space and building an addition with eight bedrooms — one for each resident.

We anticipate the renovations will be completed by December, after which we will move the eight residents back from their Pine Beach residences to their new and improved Bayville home.

In many ways, this has been an eventful year for all of us. AMIB is proud to have continued this project through these trying times with your continued support. We know we can count on you to help us fund and finish this project.

I will keep you posted on our progress in our spring newsletter.

Aaron Soto

The Legacy Society



We wish to acknowledge and thank the following who have become members of The Legacy Society through a bequest or planned gift:

Janet Andruss *

David R. Bixel *

Elaine O. Behr *

Kenneth J. Carson, Jr.

Mary J. Carson

Phil Cochran *

Albert R. Costa *

Viola Ellison

Peter & Mildred Galanti *

Richard F. Harries &
Carol J. Harries

Austin & Clara Helle

Betty Wold Johnson

The Keith Wold Johnson
Charitable Trust

Robert Wood Johnson 1962
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Kellogg Endowment Fund

Harold W. Korradi *

Mary Katherine Lightner *

Muriel Martucci

David Mathey *

Daniel J. McCarthy

Patricia McKinley

William McKinley, III

Margaret J. McLean

Vera Monaghan

Ann Pambello

Edna Thorsen *

Polly Wilson *

* deceased

A New Look for our Newsletter A New Look for our Website

The new masthead on the front of this newsletter reflects the new look for our website. It's an exciting, colorful new site, where all our progress is just a click away. Please visit us at www.AMIB.net and check it out — our photo gallery, programs and locations. Click on "Programs and News" to read our newsletters on line, and click on "Support AMIB" to find out the different ways you can make a donation and make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Moving On Up . . .

Residents move from Bayville . . . to a new temporary home in Pine Beach . . . while a better renovated Bayville group home takes shape where they will return later this year to have their own room, and more



Above: Bayville resident, Barbara, unpacks and folds her clothes in her temporary home in Pine Beach, as she waits to return to a renovated Bayville home where she will finally have her own room.

Right: Residential specialists Koye Sobayo (left) and Helen Runion (right) help Artie Koweek settle into his temporary home on Merion Avenue in Pine Beach. Eventually, when renovations to the Bayville group home are complete, Artie and the other seven Bayville residents will move back and have their own room.

This past July AMIB moved the eight individuals who occupied its oldest group home in Bayville to the two newly renovated group homes in Pine Beach. The Bayville home will be missed, but not for long, for the individuals are scheduled to move back sometime by year's end. The original Bayville home has gone through numerous renovations since the organization acquired it in the early 1980's. Additions were constructed, and bathrooms created, but AMIB was not able to give residents the accessibility they required as they grew older and faced additional physical disabilities within a house that was multi-leveled.

So AMIB decided to start from scratch incorporating all of the accessibility design features accumulated throughout our last few group home renovations.

In conjunction with Conant Architects from New York, AMIB has come up with a floor plan that is all one level, incorporates accessibility features in bathrooms, kitchen, medical therapy room and activity room, and will provide all residents with their own private bedroom.





Left: Construction is currently underway on the 1,200-square-foot addition being built onto AMIB's group home on Muller Avenue in Bayville. In addition to eight bedrooms, one for each resident, the new area will include a laundry room and an accessible bathroom.



Above: The original Bayville home does not have a second floor, but does have two step-down levels: from the living room to the dining room, then another three steps down to the exercise room area. Residents, who had lived there for 28 years, managed to memorize and know when the steps were coming, but as they grew older, it became more dangerous for them. In addition, there was no way they could move around in wheelchairs because the hallways were too narrow, so hallways needed to be made wheelchair-accessible. When the renovations are complete, the Bayville will be on one level, with eight individual bedrooms, wide hallways, accessible bathrooms and . . . no steps.

Lanoka Harbor Residents Visit Hershey, PA

Accompanied by AMIB staff members, residents of Lanoka Harbor home enjoyed a trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania, this summer, where they stayed at the Hershey Lodge. The lodge was well equipped, accommodating to their needs and located near the attractions. Rita, Jimmy and Mary, seen right in the lobby of the lodge, visited Hershey Park, toured the chocolate factory and tasted the chocolate. On day two they visited Zoo America, where they learned about exotic animals. The trip ended with a trolley ride through historic Hershey and a visit to the museum where they bought souvenirs. All three had a wonderful time and are excited to visit again. Many thanks to the staff members for making this such a memorable trip for our residents.



Residents Enjoy the Annual Picnic

Right: AMIB Administrative Assistant Nicole Giamarino, greets Lanoka Harbor resident Billy at the annual picnic. Nicole arranged the picnic this summer at Berkeley VFW. The facility helped cook the hot dogs and burgers and arrange the picnic tables. Nicole decorated the tables with festive cloths and balloons, arranged a goldfish centerpiece and organized arts and crafts activities for residents.



Below right: Day Support Instructor Teresa Necci (left) assists Howell resident Brenda with arts and crafts activities, including making a visor.



Below: Frances Levitz and her daughter Susan of the Bayville home enjoy the day together.

Bottom: Barbara, a resident of the Brick home, shows off her visor.



Dancing to the Sounds of Disco

AMIB staff member Roseann Fetzer (center) joins Paul Martucci of the North Dover home (left) and Mary Ann Miller of the Forked River home, as they dance to the sounds of disco. Dressed in their best, residents who attended this annual formal were picked up by limousine and enjoyed a night of dining and dancing under the disco ball.



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Brick Residents Take a Trip to the Camden Aquarium



This past summer, four Brick group home residents took an all-day trip to the Camden Aquarium. While at the aquarium, they were able to hold and touch some of the sea animals, including turtles and fish, and hear about the different creatures that live in the water. Irene, who has partial vision, also loved seeing the different colors of the fish. Brick residents seen right at the aquarium are: back from left: Eugene and Margaret, front from left: Irene and Barbara.