



## AMIB Acquires Two Future Group Homes in Monmouth County & Begins Renovation

Since the publication of our last newsletter, AMIB has acquired two new homes in Monmouth County — one in Tinton Falls; the other in the Stonehurst section of Freehold Township — that will eventually be home to eight visually impaired, developmentally disabled individuals.

The Tinton Falls property is a single-family ranch home on a corner lot of two thirds of an acre. Its three-bedroom, two-bath floor plan will be rearranged with an extension to include four bedrooms and two handicapped-accessible bathrooms, plus an office area, medication station, widened hallways for wheelchair access, handrails throughout the house, and indirect lighting to reduce glare for those with a visual impairment. The 1955 kitchen



will be updated, and the garage floor will be raised to the level of the main floor and converted into a living room. The laundry room will be relocated from the basement to the first floor. The main entrance will include closets and a ramp; the side entrance will have

a small level concrete area for individuals to sit outside, barbeque, feel the breeze and enjoy the serenity of neighboring horse farms. The home will also be equipped with a fire suppression system, integrated fire alarm system and backup generator.



This property is a single family ranch sitting on a half-acre lot in the Stonehurst section of Freehold Township in the immediate vicinity of Routes 9, 33 and I195, and close to CentraState Medical Center and a variety of community stores, restaurants and leisure activities. The current three-bedroom, two-bath floor plan

will be rearranged with an addition towards the rear of the home to accommodate four bedrooms and two handicapped-accessible bathrooms, widened hallways for wheelchair access, handrails throughout the house and indirect lighting to reduce glare for those with visual impairments. The two living room areas, kitchen and

detached garage will all remain. The laundry room will be moved to the first floor from the basement, and the attached garage area will be turned into an office area. Both front and rear exit areas will have accessible ramping to enable residents to leave easily in the event of an emergency. The uneven backyard will have a small deck area for individuals to enjoy the warmth of the sun and listen to birds. The 1963 home has the original siding and windows, all of which will be replaced. The home will also be equipped with a fire suppression system, integrated fire alarm system and back-up generator.

**Total cost for the purchase and renovation of these two homes is projected to be \$1.6 million. More detailed information about this Monmouth II Project will follow next month.**

## From the President



Dear Friend:  
What a difference you all made in the quality of life for our blind/visually impaired and developmentally disabled group home residents. On behalf of the AMIB trustees, I want to thank you for your overwhelming

support of our generator project. You helped us raise over \$136,000, which allowed us to provide a safety net for our residents by purchasing and installing a generator in each of our 10 group homes this past year.

Our staff has also asked that we express their gratitude to all of you who made this possible through your gifts, knowing they now will have emergency electricity available during major electrical storms and power outages in each group home for which they are responsible. Thank you so much.

We ask for your continued support as we embark on our next project to purchase and renovate two more group homes that are highlighted in our front page feature story and in Aaron Soto's letter.

With gratitude from all.

Kenneth P. Carson

### 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.

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 Executive Director



Greetings, I hope this finds you doing well. I am happy to report that AMIB has begun the process of developing two group homes that will give eight additional visually impaired and developmentally

disabled adults the opportunity of fulfilling their dreams of living in a least restrictive community-based home.

Since our last newsletter, we have secured a home in Tinton Falls and another in the Stonehurst section of Freehold Township.

While the identification of specific individuals and a move-in date is a long way off, AMIB has once again partnered with the very talented architectural staff of Conant Architects (which recently merged with Vocon, Inc.). They will assist us in designing these homes to be barrier-free, and meet the environmental needs of those with visual impairments and accessibility needs of those in wheelchairs.

AMIB has been steadfast in ensuring that the homes individuals move into are as accessible as practical. With the rising costs of renovation materials and labor, we are hoping our extended family — those who receive our news and updates — will be able to play a role in supporting the renovations of these two homes for eight future residents. (See cover story for scope of renovations.)

Be sure to check our Facebook page for progress updates on the development of these new programs in Monmouth County.

Aaron Soto

Association for the Multiple Impaired Blind is qualified by the IRS to receive contributions which are deductible for federal income tax purposes. This charitable organization is registered with the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey. Information may be obtained by calling 973-504-6215. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## 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  
Charitable Trust**

**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*

Scenes from  
**AMIB's Annual Picnic**  
**Friday, June 6, 2014**  
 at Veterans' Park Pavilion, Bayville



1. Family members get together at annual picnic: Clara Helle and her daughter, Bayville resident Andrea, are joined by Andrea's sister Lillian Johnsen, standing right, and her husband Alf Johnsen.
2. Elizabeth Duckworth Tirone assists Bayville group home resident Melvin.
3. Peter Mentnech, new manager of AMIB's group home in Lanoka Harbor (standing left), joins residents: Fred and Rita (standing) and seated, from left: Mary Blair and Darla.
4. Staff member Karolina Paczesna with Bayville resident Barbara.





1. Relief Manager Hakim Sharp sits with Lanoka Harbor resident Jimmy.
2. Staff member Josh Wilson (standing center) joins Brick group home residents Jorge (left) and Eugene (right).
3. Staff member Annemarie Murphy (left) dances with Gary, a new resident of one of our Pine Beach group homes.
4. Human Resources Assistant Nikki Fornal (left) gets together with Human Resources Manager Lucille Petti-Goldblatt.
5. Bayville group home resident Brian (left) is joined by his brother David.
6. Staff member Patricia Parsons-Jones (left) accompanies North Dover resident Chris.



## Residents Enjoy a Summer Trip to Timberland Lake Campground

Among the fun activities enjoyed by residents this summer was a trip to Timberland Lake Campground in Cream Ridge, NJ. Residents Paul (seated left) and Tommy (seated right) of our North Dover home are joined by Mary and Darla of Lanoka Harbor (seated center), and residential specialists (standing from left) Jacinda Grossman, Theresa Cavello, Leslie Quintero and Alima White-Hamilton as they enjoy a picnic lunch by the lake and heat up marshmallows. After lunch they moved into their cabins complete with airconditioning and television. The following day, Paul and Mary went on a paddleboat ride on the lake, as Tommy and Darla watched from the dock and took photos of their friends in the boat. In the evening the campers relaxed by the campfire, helped prepare a barbecue, and told stories of some of their most memorable moments.



## Madeline Mattas Retires as AMIB's Bookkeeper



After almost nine years of service, on the occasion of her retirement as bookkeeper for AMIB, Madeline Mattas displays a clock that she received on her last day — April 25, 2014 — inscribed with her name and dates of employment. Executive Director Aaron Soto presented the clock to Madeline and was joined by the administrative staff as they all wished her a happy retirement and many years of good

health and happiness during the next chapter of her life. Madeline's favorite strawberry shortcake was served. She spoke with some emotion about her time at AMIB but said that she looked forward to not having to set the alarm the following Monday. During her years at AMIB, Madeline had seen the organization more than double in size, which helped her to learn quickly to be adaptive to change.

# AMIB, Inc.

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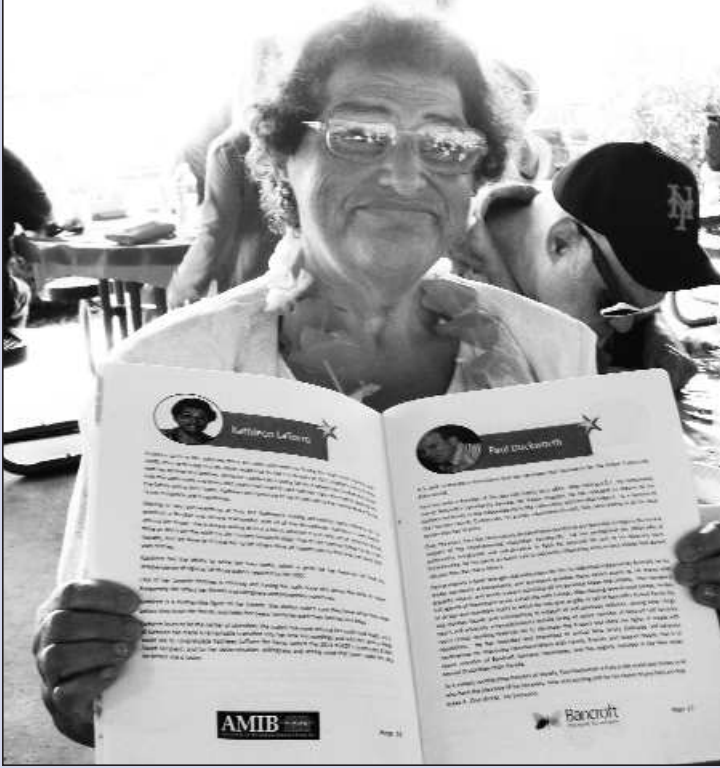
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## Kathleen Receives NJACP Award



At the 15th annual awards presentation ceremony on May 13, 2014, at the Stone Terrace in Hamilton, NJ, Emerald Court resident Kathleen received the NJACP (New Jersey Association of Community Providers) “Stars Award.” The award is presented to individuals with developmental disabilities who have shown considerable progress developing skills in independent living and becoming integrated into the community. Before moving into the Emerald Court home in January 2013, Kathleen lived at home with her mother and brother. Upon her mother’s passing, Kathleen was introduced to the Emerald Court home and its residents, and in a short space of time she made a remarkable transition into her new home. At left, Kathleen holds the program for the awards presentation open to the page that tells her story.