

Sight From Within

Spring 2008

A newsletter from the Association for the Multiple Impaired Blind, Inc.

Brenda Hanton Moves into New Howell Home



At the dining room in AMIB's new group home in Howell, new resident Brenda Hanton opens a welcome gift from AMIB — a DVD of the musical "Grease."

Brenda Hanton is the first of four residents to move into AMIB's latest group home in Howell, which was completed in January and recently inspected and licensed by the state.

Brenda arrived in early March, is adjusting well to her new surroundings and looking forward to welcoming the three other residents who will soon be joining her.

When she arrived, staff members helped Brenda unpack, gave her a basket of personal products, and greeted her with a welcome-to-your-new-home party.

Brenda comes to AMIB from Vineland Developmental Center, where she lived for the past 25 years. She has been visiting AMIB for the past two months, sometimes staying overnight.

Brenda, who will be 58 on May 17, was born in Bridgeton, NJ. Her parents, Alexander and Irma Hanton, are deceased. Her brother lives in Rochester, NY.

Brenda says that her favorite activities include listening to music, dancing, going on trips and dining out. She is also looking forward to cooking in her new home.

Rosemary Oughten of Forked River Named Caregiver of the Year



Rosemary Oughten, Forked River Senior Group Home Manager, recently received the Sister Mary Burns Care Giver of the Year Award for 2007. The award is named after a former director of St. Joseph's School in Jersey City, where many residents lived before coming to AMIB. Rosemary's dedication and devotion radiate throughout the group home.

Her commitment to residents, staff, families and professionals alike never wavers. With the ring of the telephone, she can be at the home in a matter of minutes.

Because of Rosemary's caring concern, residents of the group home have grown to expect respect from visitors. Rosemary supports their choice of activities and of decor in the home from lawn ornaments, to bird houses, to curtains and wall decorations.

Rosemary sets high standards for her staff. She offers in-service training, support and tools for them to research and learn about each issue.

She ensures that residents' days are filled with meaningful activities best suited to their needs and desires. She encourages them to make decisions about community activities, whether they involve a visit to a nursing home or creating back-to-school baskets for neighbors.

Recently Rosemary supported resident Mary Ann Miller's decision to donate her hair to children who have cancer. After watching a television show about an agency that donates ponytails to

children suffering from hair loss, Mary Ann decided to cut her hair and donate it to Locks of Love (see photo below).

Rosemary's commitment to AMIB shows time and time again, through every tribulation and every success.

Forked River group home residents all say that Rosemary is their best friend.



Forked River group home resident Mary Ann Miller cuts 10 inches off her hair to donate to Locks of Love, an organization whose mission is to provide hair prostheses to children suffering from cancer. Her decision was supported by Rosemary Oughten.

From the President



Dear Friends:
With your generous support, I am happy to report that to date we have reached 76 percent of our goal to raise \$327,000 to cover the purchase of our sixth group home. We plan to complete this mini-

campaign within the next few months.

Our next newsletter issue will introduce the three other residents who will, by then, have safely moved into this new home in Monmouth County. Hopefully we will also be able to include photographs of the newly renovated home and our celebrations of the completion of its purchase and renovation.

The AMIB board of trustees recently completed an all-day board retreat. During the retreat members discussed plans for the purchase and/or construction of our seventh and eighth group homes.

The AMIB Endowment Fund board recently welcomed a new member, Steve Kelmar, who is introduced below.

Our sincere thanks to every one of you for your continued donations. In these tough economic times, we appreciate and need your support more than ever before.

Through your generosity, you do, indeed, make a real difference in the lives of our residents and of their families.

Kenneth J. Carson, Jr.

From the Director



Greetings, I hope this finds you doing well. AMIB has officially opened its sixth group home, the first in Monmouth County. By December 1, construction was complete and, in January, the home

was inspected and fully licensed by the State of New Jersey.

Thanks to all the financial support in response to our last newsletter and year-end mailing, we have begun the final stage of renovation: the exterior beautification and the process of landscaping and replacing the broken fence.

Brenda Hanton (featured on the front page) was the first resident to move into the home. She moved in in early March and has adjusted well to her own bedroom and the layout of the house.

A big thank you goes to all the new group home staff who have made Brenda feel safe and comfortable in her new surroundings.

I also would like to thank Tamara May, Group Home Manager, and Deb Roche, Director of Operations, for their assistance with the transitioning of all four residents scheduled to live at the new home.

AMIB is now in the process of establishing two more residential

programs in the near future, taking additional individuals out of institutional settings and giving them a community-based home.

Please contact me if you or someone you know would like more information on the support AMIB can provide. And remember to check out AMIB.net online for the most recent news and services.

We look forward to the opportunities ahead and will keep you posted on our progress.
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 *
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Margaret J. McLean
Vera Monaghan
Ann Pambello
Edna Thorsen *
Polly Wilson *

* deceased

Steven B. Kelmar Joins Endowment Fund Board



AMIB Endowment Fund welcomes Steven B. Kelmar as a member of its board of trustees. Steve was head of public affairs for Merck and Company, Inc., where he was responsible for public

affairs, policy advocacy and corporate responsibility including the Merck Company Foundation. Before joining Merck, Steve led the global public affairs and communications functions for Novartis AG in Basel, Switzerland.

Steve spent 14 years in public service in several executive positions. In 1990, George Bush appointed him Assistant Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services.

He also served as chief of staff to two members of Congress, worked in several legislative capacities for members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and served on the board of several health care companies.

Steve received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration and Economics from Pennsylvania State University.

He and his wife and three children live in Princeton, NJ.

Donors Making a Difference . . .

In gratitude we recognize 2007 donors to AMIB, Inc., and the AMIB Endowment Fund, Inc. and to those who helped us purchase our sixth group home. All of you have helped to make a difference in what we have been able to accomplish in our group homes and in the lives of our residents.

AMIB, Inc. Donors to 2007 Annual Fund

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Renovations to AMIB's sixth group home — our first home outside Ocean County — were recently completed, and the first resident has moved in. AMIB is grateful to the donors listed here whose generosity has helped us complete these renovations.

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 Mr. Aaron Soto

Gifts Received in Memory of Hassel Ratcliff

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ms. Eleanor Ross Abdellah | Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reid |
| Mr. and Mrs. Peter Baker | Joseph & Alyce Cerniglia |
| Carol Moran | Frank Zack & Lisa Richlin |

A Bequest to the AMIB Endowment Fund

A tax-deductible bequest in your will is an excellent way to become a member of The Legacy Society and make a significant gift that may not be possible during a lifetime. If you have an up-to-date will and want to include a provision to provide permanent assurance of the future of AMIB residents, ask your attorney to add an amendment, known as a codicil. Suggested wording for a will or codicil could be:

*"I give and bequeath to the **AMIB Endowment Fund**, 909 Cedar Bridge Avenue, Brick, New Jersey 08723-4259, the sum of \$_____ (or _____ percent of my estate) and/or the following property _____."*

Some other opportunities to make a planned gift to AMIB's Endowment Fund and become a member of The Legacy Society include: creating a charitable remainder trust; giving a paid-up insurance policy; and arranging for a gift of appreciated long-term capital gain securities or real estate.

Gifts Received in Memory of William Galey and Polly Wilson
Ms. Jane M. Baker

Gifts Received in Memory of Ken Carson, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent W. Lorenzo

Gifts Received in Memory of Sister Mary Byrnes
Mr. Al P. Maneki & Sharon Kelly

Gifts Received in Memory of Frank Ziola
Suzanne Mazzuocolo (niece)

Gifts Received in Memory of Frank Mazzarone
Muriel and Paul Martucci

Gifts Received in Memory of Ralph Mielkie
Muriel and Paul Martucci

Gifts Received in Honor of Ethel Jones
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Aaron Soto

While every effort has been made to check the accuracy of this list, mistakes sometimes do occur. If we have made an error in spelling your name or omitted your name, please accept our apologies and call 973-376-6191 so we may correct the error. Thank you.

AMIB HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007

- ❖ AMIB completes renovations for sixth group home that will open in January 2008 and expand services into Monmouth County.
- ❖ AMIB receives first-time approval to open and operate a state-funded day habilitation services program.
- ❖ AMIB expands the David Bixel Respite Fund from three to six recipients. The fund provides services and in-home support to families with blind, developmentally disabled children.
- ❖ Artie Koweek of the Bayville home receives the New Jersey Association for Community Providers Community Star Award for participation in community-based activities.
- ❖ Tommy Terry, resident of the North Dover home, receives the Cochran Award for his progress in self advocacy, independence and community integration.
- ❖ Rosemary Oughten, Residential Senior Manager of the group home in Forked River, receives the second annual Caregiver of the Year Award in recognition of her dedication and devotion to AMIB, its residents and staff.
- ❖ Sean Healey joins the AMIB board of trustees.

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.

**AMIB, INC.
Expenses for Year Ending June 30, 2007**

- Program Services 80%
- General & Administrative .. 12.5%
- Capital Improvements to Group Homes .. 6.5%
- Fundraising 1%



**AMIB, INC.
Income for Year Ending June 30, 2007**

- Dept. of Health & Human Services* .. 90%
- Private Contributions — Annual Fund & 6th Group Home 9%
- Interest/Other 1%



* Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

AMIB, Inc.

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www.AMIB.net

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Tommy Terry of North Dover Receives 2007 AMIB/Cochran Award

Thomas "Tommy" Terry of our North Dover home received the 2007 AMIB/Cochran Award at AMIB's annual holiday party lunch at the Quality Inn in Toms River in December. The award is in recognition of the progress Tommy has made over the past year in self advocacy, independence and community integration.

Tommy lived in Neptune with his family before he moved into the North Dover home five and a half years ago. His first year was challenging. He missed his family and the routine he had established over the years, but he liked his new-found independence. With the support, patience and commitment of AMIB staff, residents and family members, he settled into his home and has begun to blossom.

Tommy plays an important role at his North Dover home and is becoming more and more independent in tasks such as laundry, cooking and cleaning. He is always willing to help out and keeps



Tommy Terry (right) and housemates Chris Martynuik (center) and Doug Schneider (left) visit the Ocean Animal Shelter in Jackson with gifts of food, treats, toys and cleaning products for the animals. The three are joined by Pumpkin, one of the dogs at the shelter.

everyone on schedule especially for some of his favorite activities and for his work schedule which has become very important to him.

Tommy is now an active member of Dream Weavers, AMIB's self advocacy group. He enjoys giving back to the community and has joined an effort to feed the hungry by donating to the Cub

Scouts, Pack 175, Scouting for Food.

Among his many other community activities, Tommy participated in the Lakewood Blue Claws, Toys for Tots, and in "Shoe Boxes" for our Troops. He is also an advocate for the PopCorn Park Zoo, donating food, toys and blankets to the animals.

Congratulations, Tommy.