

AMIB Welcomes Residents into Two New Homes in Monmouth



New home opens in Wall Township

AMIB recently welcomed residents into its newly remodelled homes in Wall and Freehold townships in Monmouth County.

About a year after purchasing these homes, AMIB has completed all renovations, and the houses are now home to six new residents, with two more expected to arrive soon.

Darren and Anthony were the first of four men to move into the newly remodelled home in Wall Township. Both came from the New Lisbon Developmental Center, where they had spent most of their adult lives.

They arrived on March 15 and were warmly greeted by staff members with welcome banners and balloons.

With the help of staff member Michael Esposito, Anthony jumped out of the van, then walked excitedly up the ramp into the house. *(See photo top right.)*

Darren was full of anticipation as he entered his new home with the

assistance of staff member Flora Puerta. He then spent time ambulating himself in his wheelchair, becoming familiar with his new environment. *(See photo bottom right.)*

After exploring their new home, both men decided they were ready to eat. Anthony used sign language to indicate his need. Darren stated: "I want a snack."

Staff members were delighted to see how quickly the two men made themselves at home. They look forward to helping them both progress towards independence at their own pace and become integrated into the community.

Last fall Juanna and Patty were the first to move into the Freehold County home in time to celebrate the year-end holidays.

Their new 1970's Levitt-style, one-story ranch has been completely renovated and made wheelchair accessible.

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Left: AMIB's remodelled home in Wall Township opened early this year and welcomed residents, Anthony and Darren, in March.



Above: Anthony jumps out of the van that brought him from the New Lisbon Developmental Center and walks excitedly up the ramp into his new home in Wall Township.

Bottom: Accompanied by Residential Specialist Flora Puerta, Darren looks forward to exploring his new home.



From the President



Dear Friend:
On behalf of the AMIB Board of Trustees, I would like to congratulate AMIB Executive Director Aaron Soto and his staff on a job well done on the successful comple-

tion of renovations to our two new Monmouth County group homes in Freehold and Wall townships.

I also extend a warm welcome to our new group home residents who come to us from the Vineland, Woodbridge and New Lisbon developmental centers in New Jersey.

A very special thank you to all of our generous donors who not only support this and our other efforts but also allowed the AMIB to achieve the milestone of opening its tenth group home and serving 50 individuals in its residential programs.

Please drop in on our website from time to time (www.amib.net) to see our programs in action, and I also invite you to "Friend" us on Facebook.

Your continued support is deeply appreciated. Gifts to AMIB may be made online via PayPal or by check using the envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

Thank you for your support!
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 well. These are exciting times for AMIB. We have completed the comprehensive accessibility design renovations to our group homes in Freehold and Wall

townships, and both homes are now open and fully operational.

In September of 2012, AMIB began its recruitment efforts of hiring over 25 direct-care residential specialists and managerial support personnel to staff these two new programs. We proudly introduced them all to you on our Facebook page.

The Freehold group home opened late November, and two women from the Woodbridge Developmental Centers moved in and were able to celebrate the winter holidays in their new home.

The Wall group home officially opened in March, and two men from the New Lisbon State Developmental Center moved in on March 15. We are now in the process of transiting two more from this center. Prior to permanently moving in, AMIB staff members visited the individuals in their institutionalized setting, getting to know their history and medical files in depth, and shadow the existing staff to learn how best to approach and guide them.

The individuals then began short stays at their group home to learn the layout of the house and spend time with housemates getting to know them.

After several daytime visits, the AMIB staff scheduled a few overnight visits. When individuals indicated they were comfortable in their new home, they moved in permanently.

So far the staff has done a wonderful job making these programs operate smoothly and turning the houses into real homes for the new residents.

I am extremely proud of our Recruiter, Coordinator and staff for helping these individuals move from their developmental centers into integrated community settings.

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 Andrus *

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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.

Forked River Resident Named Cochran Award Winner of 2012



Cochran Award Winner Lizzie is shown at the Christmas holiday party with her proud mother, Joan Ratcliff.

Elizabeth “Lizzie,” a resident of the Forked River home, received the Annual Cochran Award at the holiday party held at the Toms River Clarion Hotel on December 8. The award is presented annually to a resident who has made great strides in self advocacy, independence and community integration.

Lizzie moved into the Forked River home in 2003 and, until a year ago, was not comfortable mixing with people in any social situation. When she returned from her day program, she would not mingle with housemates but go straight to her room to listen to favorite shows on the radio or television. She could not even tolerate anyone sitting next to her at the dinner table. With the encouragement of staff members, Lizzie started to blossom. Through strong will and determination, she has shown that she

can try new things and be successful at them. Now, when she returns from her day program, she takes small walks with staff members.

At first it was small steps — daily walks from the front door to the mailbox and back — but now she steps out adventurously, walking with staff and housemates around the block, singing and greeting neighborhood children.

Given the progress she has made, staff members have encouraged her to drive in the van with housemates and participate in a dinner outing at a local restaurant. These are major accomplishments for someone who has always preferred to keep to herself and follow the same routine each day.

We congratulate Lizzie for the amazing changes she has made and for her determination and hard work in winning the 2012 Cochran Award.

Jacinda Grossman Receives the Sister Mary Byrnes Caregiver of the Year Award

In recognition of the dedication she gives to caring for the developmentally disabled, visually impaired individuals of the North Dover home, Residential Specialist Jacinda Grossman received the Sister Mary Byrnes Caregiver of the Year Award for 2012.

The award is presented each year to a staff member who has demonstrated the most outstanding devotion to the challenging task of caregiving and has been inspired by the beatitudes of Sister Mary Byrnes, former director of St. Joseph’s School for the Blind in Jersey City and partner in the founding and growth of AMIB.

Jacinda’s compassion for the residents goes beyond meeting their basic needs. She is an advocate for all the men of the North Dover home. She knows their goals and consistently works with them to strengthen their daily living skills.

From the moment she arrives at the home until the end of the day, Jacinda



thinks of ways to improve their lives. She volunteers on her own time to make sure the house is decorated for festivities, and she plans food, music and activities that all can enjoy. She arranges parties around holidays and birthdays and invites other group home residents to attend.

Last summer she helped to organize a camping trip for the men of the North Dover home. The trip included all the

classic camping activities such as roasting marshmallows and hot dogs around an open fire, singing campfire songs, etc.

AMIB congratulates Jacinda for her talents and thanks her for her hard work and dedication.

Above: Displaying her award, Jacinda is joined by Program Coordinator Bill Exner and Program Manager Robbin LoBue.

Donors Making a Difference . . .

In gratitude we recognize 2012 donors to the AMIB Annual Fund and Year-End Appeal, the AMIB Endowment Fund, Inc., and our Monmouth Project. 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.

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Anonymous

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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012

- ❖ In November AMIB opens its ninth group home in Freehold Township to four women from state institutions.
- ❖ Lizzie, a resident of the Forked River group home, receives the Cochran Award in recognition of her self advocacy, community integration and independence.
- ❖ Jacinda Grossman, Residential Specialist at the North Dover group home, receives the sixth annual Caregiver of the Year Award in recognition of her dedication and devotion to AMIB and its residents.
- ❖ AMIB opens its 10th group home, located in Wall Township, in early spring 2013.
- ❖ AMIB's Facebook receives over 50 followers.

A Bequest to the AMIB Endowment Fund

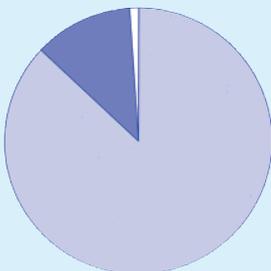
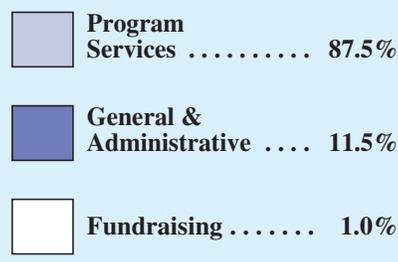
A tax-deductible bequest in your will is an excellent way to become a member of The Legacy Society and make a significant gift that may not be possible during a lifetime. If you have an up-to-date will and want to include a provision to provide permanent assurance of the future for AMIB residents, ask 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, 35 Beaverson Boulevard, Suite 13, Brick, New Jersey 08723-7812, 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.

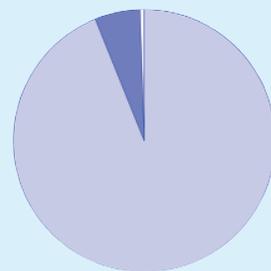
AMIB, INC.

Expenses for Year Ending June 30, 2012



AMIB, INC.

Revenue for Year Ending June 30, 2012



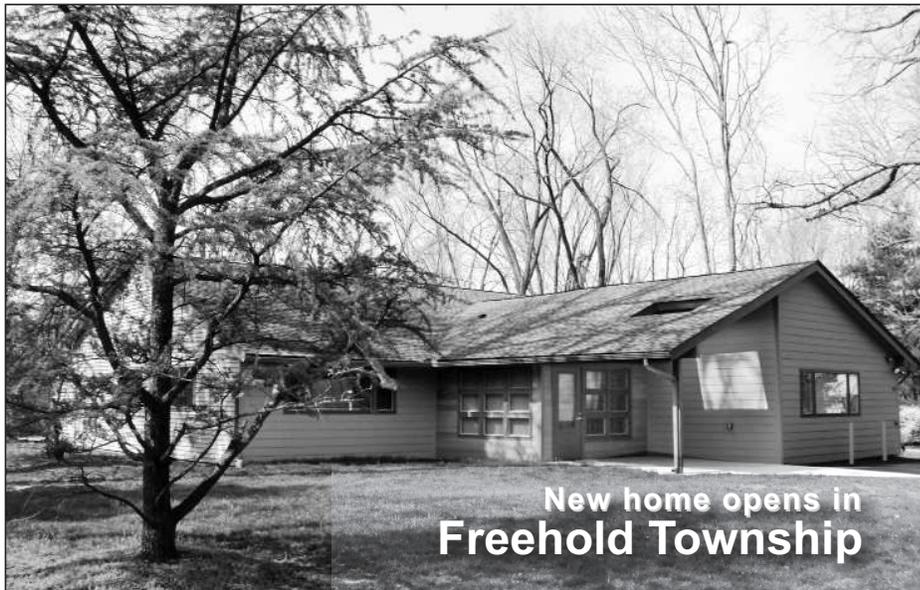
* Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

AMIB Welcomes Residents into New Homes in Monmouth County

(Continued from page 1)

The home includes four bedrooms, wide hallways, indirect lighting, fire suppression, an emergency intercom system, stainless steel kitchen appliances and devices, and two roll-in showers.

Both Juanna and Patty had lived for over 30 years in the Woodbridge State Development Center, where they shared bedrooms with other women in an institutionalized environment very different from that of their new home in Freehold.



New home opens in Freehold Township



Annette and Rosemary moved in early this year. They came from the Vineland State Developmental Center, an environment similar to the Woodbridge Center.

All four women now enjoy having their own individual bedrooms, a spacious backyard in a comfortable suburban community, and a living area where they can sit in lounge chairs and listen to the television or radio.

Above: AMIB's remodelled house in Freehold Township is now home to four residents: Patty, Annette, Rosemary and Juanna.

Left: Juanna helps Residential Specialist Greg Mommelaar prepare a meal for residents. Juanna moved into the Freehold home last fall in time to celebrate the year-end holidays.

Please consider a special gift

We want to give special thanks to the anonymous donor whose generous gifts allowed us to purchase much-needed generators for AMIB's homes in Wall and Freehold townships. We welcome gifts that will enable us to purchase generators for our other eight homes. In addition, we welcome gifts to help underwrite some of our priority needs this year that will help us maintain the safety and quality of life for those we serve. They include:

- Furniture Replacement at Older Homes \$5,000 +
 - Capital Maintenance for Group Homes.....\$1,000 +
 - Two Wheelchair Weight Scales.....\$1,850 each
 - Four Commercial Food Processors \$1,100 each
 - Two Exercise Bicycles..... \$400 each
 - Four Outdoor Relaxing Swings..... \$228 each
- To underwrite any of the above, please note designation on the memo portion of your check or on the return envelope. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Out and About . . .

Tommy Tours BlueClaws' Stadium

Tommy, a resident of the North Dover home is an avid fan of the Lakewood BlueClaws, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Philadelphia Phillies, based in Lakewood Township.

A BlueClaws team representative reached out to Tommy to get his views on their services, his likes and dislikes, and opinions on ballpark seating and concession stands.

Tommy recommended that more TV screens be available for those who are visually impaired. He also suggested that they provide more choices of his favorite ballpark food — hamburgers.

After he was interviewed, Tommy took a tour of the stadium in Lakewood where the team plays. He visited the batting cages where players warm up before their game, as well as the weight and exercise room, the dugout, and the radio room. Before he left, Tommy thanked the BlueClaws for listening to his ideas. He received a copy of the game schedule for 2013 and lastly, he had his photograph taken in front of the BlueClaws mural. *(See photo above.)*



Mary Makes a Difference

Mary, a resident of the Lanoka Harbor group home, is making a difference by collecting bottle caps and donating them to The Ronald McDonald home in Ocean County. The donation helps offset the cost of chemotherapy and cancer research for children.

Mary, her brother and nephew have been collecting bottle caps for many years. Mary

Mary poses, above, with a box of bottle caps outside the Ocean County Hospital which coordinates the collection of the caps for the Ronald McDonald House. At left she is shown with a staff member of the hospital.

is proud of her work, and her initiative has spread to her housemates. She has encouraged staff members and residents at Lanoka Harbor and other group homes to save bottle caps in support of her cause.

AMIB, Inc.

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www.amib.net

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Lanoka Harbor Home Welcomes New Resident

Kathleen is the newest resident of AMIB's long-term care home in Lanoka Harbor. Opened in 2004, the home was the first long-term care facility in the state for blind and developmentally disabled individuals.

Kathleen first visited the home last January with her brothers, met staff and residents and fell in love with the place and its family atmosphere.

By March she set up her room with personal items and family photographs. (*See photo left.*)

Kathleen had lived at home with her mother, until her mother passed away last year. She stayed with family members for a time until she was able to move into the Lanoka Harbor home. Kathleen quickly adapted to her new surroundings and made friends with her housemates.

Because her mother raised her to be independent, Kathleen is good at helping out around the house — with such tasks as cleaning and cooking.