

CHOICES

Summer 2011

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Senator Joseph Kyrillos Accepts the Betty Pender Award

As a tireless advocate for people with disabilities, Betty Pender made an impact on the lives of countless people with disabilities, their families, and those who serve them. To continue to honor her memory, Community Options presents the Betty Pender Award to someone that exemplifies the mission of the organization on an annual basis. This year, at our annual Spring Event, which took place at Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey, Community Options gave the Betty Pender Award to Senator Joseph Kyrillos of New Jersey's 13th Legislative District.

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*Senator Joseph Kyrillos
accepts the Betty Pender Award
presented by Timothy P. Dunigan,
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Community Options, Inc.*



a Community Options Enterprise, is a charming flower shop that offers high quality floral services and delivery to anywhere in the world. We are committed to serving our customers with the finest floral arrangements and gifts, backed by our 24-hour guarantee.

We specialize in contemporary wedding and event floral design. Our team of professional creative designers will guide you through the creation of a floral display that will enhance and distinguish your wedding, special occasion or corporate event.





Featured in Photo from left to right: Anthony, Billy, Carol and Leo Martin, and Joe

A Generous Donation

Thank you Leo and Carol Martin

In the fall of 2009, Community Options was contacted by Leo Martin of Demascus, Maryland who was in search of a nonprofit organization to which he could donate his family home. After hearing about Community Options from a Syracuse resident, Mr. Martin met with Cynthia Barnaby, Executive Director of Syracuse COI, to discuss the mission of the organization and the vast range of services that we provide. The Martins were impressed with Community Options and recognized the significant impact their donation could have on the lives of people with disabilities. They generously donated their home to Community Options and the necessary renovations were made. Three men are the recipients, and are thankful for their new home.

On June 10, 2011, Community Options held an open house to thank and honor Carol and Leo Martin for their generosity. The Martins are extremely pleased with the renovations and the purpose of the home. It was wonderful for them to be able to meet the people Community Options is supporting in the home, as well as the staff who work there.

Accreditations from CARF

Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

CARF is an independent, not for profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

Throughout the past year, the following programs were awarded three-year CARF accreditations: Community Options Enterprises' Employment Services: Job Development; Employment Services: Job Supports; and Employment Services: Job Site Training. Community Options, Inc. of New Mexico's Community Housing; Community Integration; Host Family Services; Respite Services; Supported Living; Employment Services: Job Development; Employment Services: Job Supports; Employment Services: Job Site Training.

This accreditation outcome represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization, and demonstrates the organization's commitment to the standards established by CARF. In order to receive a three-year accreditation, organizations administer rigorous peer review processes and are able to demonstrate that the services provided are of the highest quality.

5th Annual iMatter Surf Camp for Children with Autism Saturday, August 13, 2011 at Cupsogue Beach in Westhampton, NY

www.comop.org/surf_camp



My first time volunteering, it was an amazing experience..One girl I took out surfing was so funny...I think her name was Patricia...every time I saw a wave coming in and asked if she was ready, she would look at me, smile and yell "No! Wait for a bigger one!!!"

Bob Ocon

Dear Cynthia,

Thank you so much for inviting us to share in the dedication ceremony and celebration of the Martin IRA.

We are glad that the property was able to be reconfigured for the needed accessibility. It looked brand new and beautiful to us. The structure is basically sound, and, hopefully, will be of service for your residents and your agency for many years. It greatly pleases me that my former family home is now an IRA that will further the exceptional work of the outstanding people and mission of Community Options.

It is hard to express our great satisfaction that the simple, and comparatively easy, act of donating the house could further enable your great work.

Sincerely,

Carol and Leo Martin

Community Options Chicago

Community Options, Inc. expanded its reach to the Midwest in December of 2010, opening an office in Chicago, IL under the management of Executive Director, Brooke Reynolds. Many Chicago residents heard the name "Community Options" for the first time at Cupid's Chase 5K Run in Lincoln Park, Chicago this past February. The event was extremely successful with over 400 runners and spectators in attendance. WGN Chicago and ABC Channel 7, made an appearance, resulting in critical media exposure for the newly established location.

"This is the beginning of many great things to come for the Chicago branch of Community Options," said Brooke Reynolds. Ms. Reynolds looks forward to implementing programs that will provide Chicago residents with disabilities with increased access to a variety of necessary services.

So, why Illinois, and more specifically, why Chicago? An estimated 1,516,000 people in Illinois have a disability, or 13.1% of the population age 5 and over. An estimated 283,000 people 5 and over, have difficulty performing self-care activities, also known as Activities of Daily Living, such as dressing, bathing, or simply navigating independently in their own homes. Of the 1 in 5 adults in Illinois living with a disability, 20% reside in the Chicago Metropolitan area. These astounding statistics represent the clear need for support services for people with disabilities in Chicago.



Save The Date
February 11, 2012

CUPID'S CHASE 5K

www.comop.org/cupidschase



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Senator Joseph Kyrillos Accepts the Betty Pender Award

Senator Kyrillos spoke at the event confirming his commitment to Community Options and their mission, and his unwavering support of community living for people with disabilities. Senator Kyrillos has committed to working alongside organizations like Community Options to ensure that institutional closure in New Jersey continues to remain at the forefront of the political agenda. The support of governmental figures such as Senator Kyrillos is critical to the closure of institutions in New Jersey, as well as throughout the country. Community Options is truly grateful to the Senator for all of the work he has done to improve the lives of people with disabilities.



Senator Joseph Kyrillos, Betty Pender Award Recipient, Robert Stack, President and CEO of Community Options, American Idol's Scott MacIntyre, Kathryn Oram, Godby Realtors and Chair of Annual Spring Event and Susan Kyrillos, wife of Senator Joseph Kyrillos.



Susan Holston and Senator Joseph Kyrillos enjoy a cup of coffee at her Middletown group home.



Bernard Krakowsky, Robert Stack & Senator Joseph Kyrillos at Community Options Spring Event.

A special thanks to Kathryn Oram for chairing our highly successful Annual Spring Fundraiser!



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^{6th Annual} **i Matter Conference**



Community Options, Inc. will hold its 6th Annual iMatter Conference from September 18, 2011 to September 21, 2011 at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The theme of this year's conference is "Families." Lectures will feature prominent leaders in the field of disabilities, prominent national business speakers who have children with disabilities, governmental figures, as well as some hands on workshops.

The conference will highlight the importance of ensuring that families of people with disabilities have access to the vast variety of resources that are available. The conference will focus on providing necessary leadership training that will allow attendees to challenge myths and stereotypes that inaccurately portray people with disabilities as unemployable, incapable of learning, or unable to become contributing members of society. We know that limiting the potential of people with disabilities, limits the potential of our entire nation. This conference will empower families of people with disabilities by providing them with knowledge and skills that they can transfer into their everyday lives.

Join us this year in Pittsburgh! For more information please contact Jessica Guberman at jessica.guberman@comop.org.

www.comop.org/conference