



Happy Holidays



Winter 2016 | Issue 16

Magnolia Community NEWS

Leading the way for individuals with developmental disabilities since 1935.

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A Note from Our Executive Director

We are super excited to announce that we have earned our CARF Accreditation for all our programs and services. Accreditation was a major undertaking for everyone at Magnolia, requiring significant effort, strong teamwork, and a commitment at all levels of our organization to provide quality services. Administrators were charged with re-vamping and reorganizing policies and procedures, while other staff members worked on enhancing the services that we provide.

In the coming months you will notice an increased “community” focus in all that we do – fostering a sense of community among the people we support and their families, involving the community-at-large in activities on and off of our main campus, and promoting community-based client activities. We will be looking for ways to involve the community in volunteerism the wellness center and our upcoming outdoor musical garden.

Magnolia Earns CARF Accreditation



Magnolia participating in a resource fair; we can now add CARF-accreditation to our organization highlights.

Magnolia has earned accreditation from CARF International, an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services organizations. CARF accreditation identifies Magnolia as an organization meeting internationally developed standards in the following areas:

- Community Employment Services: Employment Supports
- Community Employment Services: Job Development
- Community Housing
- Community Integration
- Organizational Employment

Services

- Supported Living
- Personal Supports Services - **we are the ONLY provider in the state accredited in this program area!**

We are honored to be counted among the world’s best developmental disability services providers. Thank you to all the clients and family members who participated in the accreditation process. Please join us in applauding the employees who lead the way every day and helped make this major accomplishment possible.

Family and Friends November Meeting

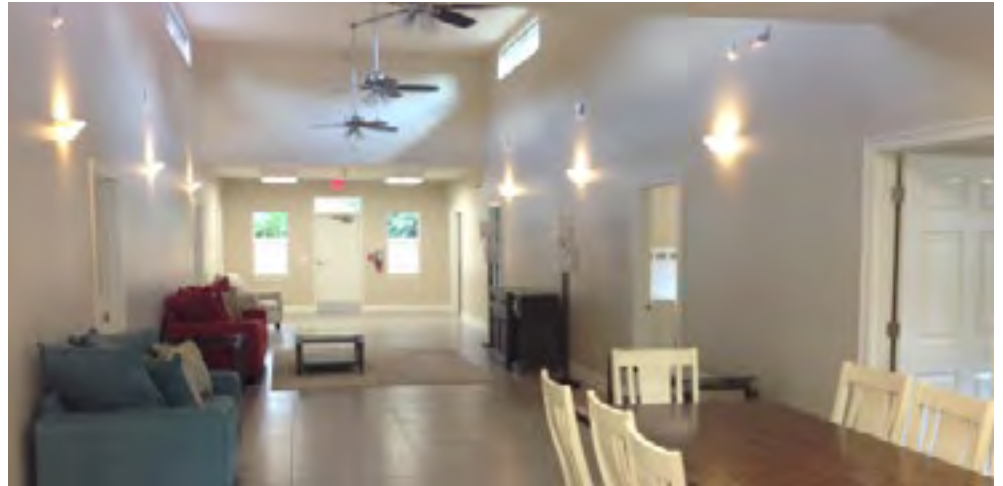
I would like to thank all who came to our family meeting on November 17th. Many of our families attended and enjoyed an informative presentation by Lee Eagan, one of our governors emeritus. He reviewed our funding structure and our recent efforts to streamline administrative processes. I shared the many ways our family members may engage in the programs and activities that we offer. Since the meeting, several family members have contacted me to explore how they might participate; and, we have come up with some great ideas. If you have a talent or hobby that you would like to share, please contact Mary McDuff, our Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator at Marym@mcs-nola.org or 504-731-1339.

New Homes on Jefferson Heights

Our guys at 575 Central have finally moved into their new home at 680 Jefferson Heights. They all have their own bedroom, and Angel Wings Foundation purchased new furniture for the entire home. Our next home to open will be at 821 Jefferson Heights, and will house 6 newly admitted women. We anticipate this home opening in the next month. Finally, about one month after 821 Jefferson Heights opens, the ladies from our Saratoga home will move in next door at 825 Jefferson Heights.

This is an exciting time for all of us as we grow and evolve, and I am eager to see where the road will take us in 2017. To all of you, I wish the happiest of Holidays!

Welcome Home: Two New Group Homes



Magnolia is expanding our residential program to include three new homes located near our main campus. One of the homes, built and furnished by the Angel Wings Foundation, a key partner in our residential group home program, will house 6 people in private bedrooms, which is one of Magnolia's residential program goals.

Michelle, a vocational client moving into one of the new homes, is excited to have roommates because she has been lonely; she is looking forward to having friends to share a home with.

A few blocks down the street, Magnolia is opening another group home that will remove 6 people from our waiting list. The new group homes are bright and airy and in addition to private bedrooms, feature tall ceilings, an open floor plan, space for family visits and dedicated office space for direct support professionals in the home.

Client Spotlight: Freeman



Freeman joined the Magnolia family 6 months ago and is a participant in the vocational day program's janitorial work center. His trainer, Donna Dempster has worked with him for 6 months and says Freeman can sometimes be the "class clown" and has a great sense of humor. She describes him as helpful, jolly, polite and funny. When he is working, Freeman is attentive to the task at hand and he loves his job because it gives him the opportunity to earn some money.



Year In Review 2016

7



Magnolia programs earned **CARF International accreditation** which signals our commitment to continually improving services, encouraging feedback, and serving the community

November 2016

Darla Sanderson & John Taylor were recognized for completing the Metropolitan Human Services District Employment 1st Initiative

PROMOTIONS

Jay Curcuru was promoted to Cook III at the Superdome and Roslyn Hymel received a raise for her good work.

Magnolia bowling team members placed 1st & 2nd in the Special Olympics area games and are going to the State Indoor Games in Baton Rouge in March 2017.

2,500

Clients volunteered 2,500+ hours with Meals on Wheels, Aktion Club, Blessings In A Back Pack & more.

+2



new group homes helped us remove 6 people from our waiting list & move closer to our goal of ensuring all clients have private bedrooms.

December 2016

10

people successfully employed through supported employment

2016: By The Numbers

\$2,742
per client, per year

is the gap in funding between the services we provide and the funding we receive.

This **funding gap** reflects a number of unfunded mandates, that is, services we are required to provide without necessarily receiving adequate funds to cover their costs and includes things like: staff training requirements, ACA healthcare benefits, dental care for residential clients, mandated staffing ratios and more.

Magnolia is committed to our clients and our employees, so we will not waiver on the standard of services we provide and continually seek philanthropic sources and explore organizational efficiencies to adequately meet our financial obligations.

With a **Residential Program** waiting list of 100 people, Magnolia must grow to meet the needs of our community. Every new group home we build costs about \$1 Million and includes:

Land & Construction
Van
Appliances
Utilities

Day Program
Furnishings
Staff
Insurance

Every new home *also* means we can move people off our mailing lists and move closer to all our residents having private bedrooms. We call that a worthwhile investment!

22 fitness classes
per week

In the state of Louisiana, funding follows the individual and comes in the form of various waiver and social services programs. The **funding mix** between the federal and state government is 65% federal and 35% state.

Charitable support is our safeguard against budget cuts at the state and federal level.

65/35

\$1
Million

Magnolia clients are living more active lives and working on balance, flexibility, motor skills and mobility in the new **Wellness Center**, which opened in June 2016. Wellness Coordinator Tessa Brough works with clients individually and as a group, based on wellness goals articulated by our medical staff.

Capital One Grant & Vounteer Project

Magnolia enjoys a great relationship with Capital One. The bank has supported Magnolia's Vocational Department for several years as part of their commitment to funding workplace initiatives for underserved people. This year, they increased their committment in both financial and volunteer support. Their grant of \$10,000 will be used to fund the vocational program expansion with the addition on three work centers in 2017 and a client resource library in Whitehall.

In addition to this year's grant, the bank also brought a group of over 18 employees from branches across the Greater New Orleans area and the Wealth Management team to paint in the Schwegmann and Karen Cottage Group Homes. In total, they painted three bedrooms, two living rooms, a dining room, an activity room, and a main corridor. Thanks to Capital One for helping us lead the way!

When preparing to paint we asked one of our residents what color she would like her bedroom walls. She replied "Anything but yellow, I hate yellow." Her bedroom was two shades of yellow. The volunteers painted her walls a color she chose, making her group home feel more like home.



State of Magnolia Address

In November, over 100 family members and loved ones joined Magnolia for a special presentation on our financial position, a detailed explanation of our funding mix and information on how families can get involved. Some of the financial highlights, presented by Board Member Emeritus and Magnolia parent Lee Eagan are that Magnolia has an almost \$3,000 per person per year funding gap, that 65% of client funding comes from the federal government and 35% comes from the state government.

Executive Director Jennifer Hebert emphasized Magnolia's commitment to rewarding employee excellence, family involvement on campus and community/governmental outreach. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact Melissa Tyler, Director of Donor Relations at (504) 731-1362 or melissat@mcs-nola.org.

Moonlight on the River 2016

Over 650 guests and 130 community and client volunteers attended the Moonlight on the River Gala, raising **\$167,222** to benefit the people we serve.

Thank you to our committee, sponsors, volunteers and guests! Here are a few pictures, visit our Facebook page to see more!



CALENDAR

JANUARY

Friends & Family Association Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY

CLIENT MARDI GRAS RIDES

Krewe of Centurions

Friday, February 24, 2017, Time TBD

Krewe of Elks Jefferson

Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 11:00 AM

MARCH



**Developmental Disabilities
Awareness Month**

APRIL

Magnolia Fest

April 1, 2017, 11 AM to 5 PM



**National Autism
Awareness Month**

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW GIVING
PAGE AND MAKE YOUR
YEAR END GIFT AT
MCS-NOLA.ORG/DONATE**

www.mcs-nola.org

Give | Volunteer | Schedule a Tour

**To get our latest news between
newsletters, follow us on Facebook!**

[facebook.com/mcs.nola](https://www.facebook.com/mcs.nola)

Grainger Supports Client Wellness

The Grainger Foundation remains committed to supporting the community, based on recommendations to the foundation by senior local staff. Our local Grainger employees have chosen to support wellness services at Magnolia for the second year in a row.

Jay Duhe, local Grainger Branch Network Manager, visited Magnolia to present the grant to Executive Director Jennfier Hebert, Board President Laurie Oertling and a few of our clients. As always, our guys were happy to have a visitor and everyone was all smiles!



The Friends & Family Association meets every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Nims Center. Each meeting features different topics to help families and news about upcoming events and association initiatives. The association also hosts fundraisers and is very active in Magnolia events as volunteers and committee members. For more information about the association and how you can get involved, please contact Jennifer Hebert at (504) 731-1324.