FunWALK14 - A Walking Warriors ‘team’ effort!

The weather cooperated with sunny, blue skies and warm temperatures and Disability Services staff, clients and client family members came out in force on Sunday morning, Oct. 5, to participate in the 2nd annual West Haven Community House FunWalk & Wellness Fair event.

In all, the Walking Warriors registered a total of 44 walkers, many pictured above, just edging out the Community House’s Board of Directors team for the “Most Walkers” team award.

Also, with a total of $2,629 in funds raised by the Walking Warriors, they bested by about $400 the same Board of Directors team for first place in the “Most Money Raised” category too. See related story, page 2.

Disability Services clients enjoyed all the various activities along the walking route, including hopscotch, Simon Says, trivia, cork darts, bean bag toss, spoon egg walk, potato sack hop, wheelchair obstacle course, limbo stick, jump rope and spelling bee, among others.

Congratulations again to all the Walking Warriors for a job well done - once again!
Client bake sale supports FunWALK14

Clients in the Community Connections Day program expressed an interest in baking, and the result in September was a successful “Bake Sale” fundraiser supporting the efforts of Disability Services Walking Warriors team, part of the agency’s FunWalk14 special event.

Two Community Connections Day program groups honed their skills in planning, shopping and cooking as part of the effort. After creating a recipe list, the group shopped to purchase the items on the list. Clients then set their sights on the kitchen, baking tasty treats with the help of staff.

The bottom line after the Bake Sale was held was impressive, too, as clients earned an impressive $183.50 thanks to the support of our staff, families and program participants who purchased the baked goods. The clients, including Kanita, Isabel, Yolanda, James, Joe, Marcus, Charlene, Erik and Nina – and the staff who coordinated the effort – all enjoyed the activity.

Staying fit hiking at Sleeping Giant

In an ongoing effort by all to stay healthy and fit, our day program participants enjoyed challenging their endurance by spending a day in July hiking at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden. Clients walked one of the many wooded trails and enjoyed cheering each other up and down every hill. After the walk was completed, everyone including Yolanda, Kanita, Nina & Isabel enjoyed a picnic-style lunch on the grounds.

Residents take in the sites at Cape May

Four Residential program clients recently vacationed in Cape May, NJ, where they visited the local zoo and Atlantic City, as well as taking a fun boat ride that included the sighting of a school of dolphins. The group was joined by several staff members and all enjoyed their time in a rented beach house about one block from the water.
‘Anybody for some tennis?’
Clients attend CT Open at Yale

Day program participants visited the Yale Bowl during this year’s Connecticut Open tennis tournament held from August 15-23, part of the World Tennis Association tour. They were able to walk the grounds, see some tennis matches and participate in activities that celebrated the annual tennis tournament. Joe, Allison, Erik, Isabel, Kanita, Charlene and James all had a good time.

Happy 50th birthday, KC

It was a very happy occasion recently as KC celebrated her 50th birthday. Above left, she is pictured with her presents, while at right she poses with her mom. Many happy returns, KC!

Rock Cats baseball remains popular

A trip to see the New Britain Rock Cats play minor league baseball was among the favorite destinations our Day program clients requested this summer. This year, the trip was taken in July, and although the early evening event made it a long day for some, everyone had fun. After attending the Day program with their peers, our baseball fans then enjoyed pizza and a movie prior to heading up north to the ballfield. While they caught no foul balls, they enjoyed watching our local team from the third base line side of the field. Participants included Purnell, Tallance, Nitsa, Jamie, Carlos, Nina and Russell. Several Residential program clients also attended, including Frank and Mike.

Patriots, Eagles entertain clients at preseason practice in Foxboro

Football season is now in full swing and Community Connections clients including Nitsa, Michael, Robert, Eric and Theresa got a jump on the new season when they visited Gillette Stadium in Massachusetts, home of the New England Patriots, on Aug. 15, to watch the Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles practice just before their pre-season game, which was an exciting, back and forth offensive display by both teams with the Patriots coming out on top, 42-35. Clients and staff watched their favorite Patriot players, such as Tom Brady & Gronk (Ron Gronkowski) along with players of the Philadelphia Eagles. They also visited the pro shop and overall just enjoyed being a part of “Patriot Nation” for a day.
It is with sadness and sorrow that we say goodbye to one of our residents, Jennie, who passed away recently. Jennie was a participant in the original day program at the TEC Center since 2003 and she moved into our Residential program in October of 2006. Jennie passed on October 9, 2014, surrounded by her family and friends at Branford Hospice. All will remember Jennie for her spit-fire personality and great love of singing and dancing!

**Some people come into our lives and quickly go.**  
**Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never, ever the same.**

She also very much enjoyed spending time with her brother, Anthony, and sister, Ameila. Jennie was always present at dances and you could find her on the floor moving to the groove of Michael Jackson and others of her oldies tunes! Her family, housemates and staff will miss Jennie’s bright personality, and we will be forever changed and blessed for being able to be a part of her life.

Myrtle Beach, SC, was the vacation destination for four residents accompanied by staff members Cheryl and Paula. The trip included a stop at “Broadway by the Beach,” a popular shopping and entertainment center featuring many shops, an aquarium, boardwalk, carnival rides and live entertainment. Other activities enjoyed by the visitors included miniature golfing and watching the fish. The group had a beach view 3-bedroom suite where they enjoyed a breakfast buffet right on the water. Other area attractions include a well-known 10-story Ferris wheel ride.

One of the great New England traditions in the late Summer and Fall each year is the “Big E” fair in West Springfield, MA. Residents and staff from Savin House, pictured at left in front of the potato w/toppings truck, went in September for fun-filled weekend day trip. Everyone enjoyed great food and seeing the various farm and other animals on exhibit. The sports cars and each state’s exhibition houses were fun. The Big E is purported to be the largest fair in New England, the largest agricultural fair on the U.S. Eastern seaboard, and the sixth largest fair overall nationally.