Walking Warriors Raise Most Funds for 2016 Fun Walk ... AGAIN!

The Walking Warriors Fun Walk team, consisting of about 60 walkers, raised more than $3,500 for this year’s event held on September 25th. For the 4th consecutive year, The Walking Warriors team retains both its “Most Money Raised” and “Most Walkers” team honors for the 2016 event, surpassing the next best team by $1,000.

The Community House and Community Connections would like to thank The Walking Warriors for the enthusiastic participation and support of many donors and sponsors, especially team sponsor Jamie Jerrell and Family and special donors Jane & Karen Chamberlin.

The Coolest Walkers Fun Walk team, led by team captain Paula Gary Riles, more than doubled their participation this year with more than 20 walkers raising almost $2,200.

The team had 100% participation with every resident in the residential program taking part in the annual family fun walk.

The Coolest Walkers Team getting ready to hit the pavement.
Summertime Explorations

Participants from both SMILE and Campbell Ave locations got together to enjoy some summer fun at Silver Sands State Park in Milford, CT. The fun filled afternoon included a family style picnic, in which our Campbell Ave clients made various dishes to share with their longtime friends. The day was beautiful and after lunch all enjoyed walking along the boardwalk, playing Frisbee and just being together.

August and September had everyone out and about visiting parks, beaches and walking trails enjoying the beauty of nature. Along the way on one of the many strolls along the beach, the manmade rock structures struck everyone’s interest, so rock balancing is now a part of programming with clients creating impressive structures. The clients have become pretty awesome at rock balancing.

Other summer explorations included Sherwood Island State Park, Farmington Canal, Boothe Memorial Park and Bradley Point.

Putting the FUN in FUNdraising

Throughout the summer months, clients and staff participated in various activities to raise funds for the 5th Annual Fun Walk. The activities include a ‘Spare Change Challenge’, ‘Movie Nights’, ‘Ziti Dinner & Dance’, a ‘50/50’ and a ‘Raffle’.

Everyone participated in one way or another to support the Annual Family Fun Walk.
Celebrations

If there’s one thing that the staff, clients and residents of Community Connections like to do, it’s to party! It seems that each year there is so much to celebrate. This year, we celebrated a milestone birthday, two retirement parties and, our annual Halloween party that is always a huge hit.

Frank turns 80!

This year marks Frank’s 80th birthday celebration while with the West Haven Community House. He celebrated this very special birthday surrounded by his friends and family at App’s Restaurant. A custom banner was made for this milestone birthday, which Frank proudly has hanging in his room.

Retirement Brings New Adventures

July 25 marked the end of an era. After 25 years in the Community House’s day program, James (above with coach Celeste) retired with his family to Florida. While we hate to see him go, we are pleased he will be having fun in the sun.

We Love Zumba

The clients and staff really enjoyed their weekly Zumba classes led by Community House Children & Youth Services Director, Carol James. They got a chance to show off their moves at the annual Family Fun Walk in September.

Halloween Party

Another great turnout at the annual Halloween party where several participants, including staff, dressed up in their favorite costume and enjoyed some good food, a lot of laughter and, of course, dancing. Pictured above Nitsa and Lyza hit the dance floor in their costumes while getting photo-bombed by Eric.

Pictured left, Carol James leads the teams in a Zumba warm-up.

Sharon pictured bottom left, along with Carlos, pictured bottom right, get into the groove.
Our Deepest Condolences

Saying goodbye is always so difficult. Our heartfelt and deepest sympathy for the families of staff members Monica Jackson and Sophia Brown who passed away earlier this Fall.

Monica Jackson, a Residential Counselor, passed away on October 3, 2016. She worked for Community Connections for a short period of time, but was considered a hard worker and was liked by all.

Sophia Brown passed away on November 3rd after a courageous battling with cancer. She started at Community Connections in 2012 as a coach, and soon moved into the position of activities coordinator where she designed and scheduled activities for DSO clients.

Her commitment to the clients was outstanding! Sophia touched the lives of many people including staff, friends, family and of course our clients. Up until the week she passed, her only concern was to come to work and help the clients.

She never complained and she always volunteered for parties and events. She was a bright light at Community Connections and a breath of fresh air with her upbeat personality, especially on those Monday mornings back at work! Her compassion, commitment and dedication will be greatly missed.

Bridging the Age Gap

Participants from Community Connections hosted another combined activity with children from the agency's Head Start program. Everyone enjoyed learning about the ocean, and playing with the sand and seashells. We will introduce more opportunities in the Spring for social interaction between the clients and young children.

Welcoming Peter

Peter is a new resident in the Individualized Home Supports (IHS) program. Peter moved into his own apartment this Fall. This IHS service is provided in the individual's home. Staff support helps with learning ADL skills, recreational activities and transportation to medical appointments. We would like to welcome Peter and wish him the best of luck in his new apartment.