

Enriching Lives...Fulfilling Dreams

IRON AND STRING LIFE ENHANCEMENT

ISLE News & More



We Are ONLINE!!!

ISLE's biggest news came in the Fall of 2009 when we were able to launch our organization's website. After months of planning, researching and editing, www.ironandstring.org was live and ready for public viewing. Complete with information on ISLE, Golden String, The Purple Cat and Touch the Moon Candy Saloon, the site supplies its viewers all the information they need on the ISLE family. Updated regularly www.ironandstring.org features client photos, an upcoming events calendar and staff/client news updates. ISLE would like to thank Ross Morrone for his help in getting us technologically up-to-date! Check us out today!

www.ironandstring.org

Client Spotlight

Ajit Krishnan



ISLE provides residential and vocational opportunities for Ajit and we are so happy we can do so! He mainly works downtown at our offices on Phelps Street where he has grown to peacefully enjoy his responsibilities. Ajit's duties include shredding documents, vacuuming, stocking & counting candy for Touch The Moon Candy Saloon. Ajit also attends activities at The Purple Cat, including the trips to the

downtown YMCA where his favorite activity is swimming and he definitely has his routine down—he gets in the shallow end, swims to the deep end, gets out, walks back to the shallow end and starts over. Ajit also enjoys The Price is Right, Pizza Hut, water parks, bowling, pickles and Dick Clark's Rockin' New Years Eve. We love you, Ajit!

SEE INSIDE....

Golden String's Chocolate,
Wine & Beer Taste fundraiser!
Youngstown Fights Back!
April 17, 2010

Touch the Moon Candy Saloon
Easter Open House Flyer!

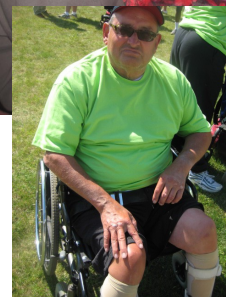
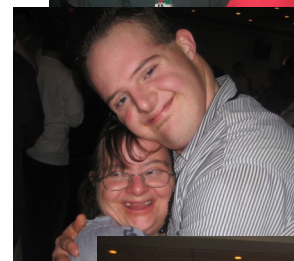
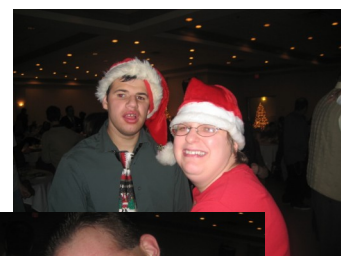
ISLE Employee of the Year

ISLE held its 3rd annual Employee of the Year luncheon at Mt. Carmel Church social hall on January 29th. Receiving the highest honor for their work done in 2009 and nominated by their peers were Mike Lucas, ISLE Employee of the Year and Kelly Buhro, Purple Cat Employee of the Year. Congratulations to both of you and thank you for always exceeding expectations!



Issue 3

Winter 2010



ISLE's Exceptional Staff!

Staff Spotlight

Mike Congemi

Mike Congemi joined the ISLE team in January 2003. Although he works full-time at the MASCO workshop during the day, he has one very important responsibility to ISLE—Rocco Romeo. Mike works directly with Rocco, an ISLE client who lives alone and needs assistance from ISLE for general everyday living skills and activities. Mike adds a delicate balance to Rocco and his busy life

filled with gardening and painting and attending his nephews little league soccer and football games. Mike never complains no matter what he is doing with Rocco and as far as he is concerned, Rocco is "the boss" in his eyes so he caters to his every need. According to ISLE President Jimmy Sutman, "Mike just gets it. He never misses and he excels at this work almost always". Thank you, Mike for all of your hard work!

Pictured left to right:
Mike Lucas, ISLE President Jimmy Sutman & Kelly Buhro

Golden String



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday March 14, 2010

St. Patrick's Day Parade Celebration

Join us at 12pm to watch the Youngstown parade from the Golden String tent @ Hill, Barth & King. Food will be for sale inside for \$1. You need to make a reservation to be in the parade. Limited spots are available for the float. Cost is \$10 per person.

Wednesday March 24, 2010

Bowling Banquet

St. Columba Social Hall will be the setting for an official bowling banquet. Dinner will be available to all Golden String bowlers. Parents may drop off the individuals @ 6:30 pm and return at 8:30 pm. Congrats to everyone on a wonderful season.

Saturday April 17, 2010

Chocolate, Beer & Wine Taste Fundraiser

See extended details next to this column!

May 27, 2010

Sadie Hawkins Prom

Join Golden String at the Jewish Community Center with your date dressed alike from 6:30-9:00 pm. Dessert, music, pictures and lots of dancing will be provided. Work on your dance moves because we will be having a dance-off for the Best Dancer and of course the crowning of the King & Queen. Cost to attend is \$12.00 per person.

Transportation is available for all events through your Level One Waivers. Please contact Adrienne to make reservations for all activities. 330-503-3894

Youngstown Fights Back!!

Chocolate, Beer & Wine Taste Fundraiser

Saturday April 17, 2010

St. Matthias Church Father Snock Center

7:00 pm—11:00 pm

On Christmas Eve 2009, the unthinkable happened. Five of our adults with disabilities and staff were robbed by masked gunmen in their ISLE residential group home located at St. Mat-thais Church. The thieves got away with petty cash and \$3,200 worth of personal property and belongings. The clients affected are Matt Campbell, Sid O'Malley, Robert Morley, Ernie White & Gabriel Tarian. Golden String wants to FIGHT BACK!

Tickets are available for \$15.00 per person. Please join this effort to help recoup what these amazing gentleman lost. Cost includes finger foods and chocolates plus craft and domestic beers and homemade wine tasting.

Sponsorships are also available:

\$150.00 Includes 4 tickets to the event and 4 event T-shirts

\$250.00 Includes 6 tickets to the event and 6 event T-shirts

All sponsors will be recognized in the event program.

We must fight for the weak, protect the innocent & defend the meak!

Call (330) 503-2584 for more information

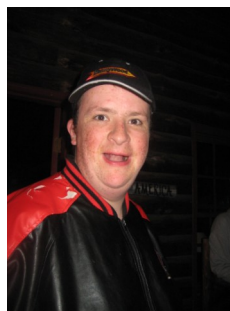
SAVE THE DATE!!

Golden String Drive for the Disabled Golf Outing

Friday, June 11, 2010

Call Adrienne for Details

(330) 503-3894



Donations Needed!

Many of our clients have very specific interests and needs. We are currently accepting donations in the form of old 45 records, art supplies, jewelry making supplies, gardening supplies and all clothing, specifically size XXL. Thank you!

SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

In an effort to increase the size of our board and expand our board members professional capabilities, Golden String is now accepting applications for new board members. The Golden String board meets the third Tuesday of each month unless otherwise specified. Please email your interest to dini.isle@yahoo.com

The Purple Cat



In order to promote a healthy lifestyle, The Purple Catters have been going to the YMCA 2x daily with Tim Sturgiss, Day Program Instructor, and having fitness competitions every week. Everyone has the option of lifting weights, using the fitness equipment, playing basketball or racquetball & swimming. They can even simply toss the ball around with their friends in the gym. Some of our recent stand-outs have been Brad Gresh who is excelling masterfully with the racquetball program. Sarah Rice set a new Purple Cat record of 50:10 on the treadmill, beating out Michael Cunningham's 2009 record of 49:38. And Stacy Clack recently did every cardio machine in the YMCA. She also plays racquetball with Tim!



As you already know, the Purple Cat believes in working hard, having fun and being kind. In keeping with our mission, we came across a charity that needs OUR

help. It is known as *Little Dresses for Africa*.

Little Dresses for Africa is a non-profit organization which makes little dresses out of pillow cases and distributes them to little girls in central Africa through orphanages and villages, to plant in their hearts that they are worthy. They aren't just sending little dresses, they are sending hope.

Join the Purple Cat in an effort to send dresses

& hope from the farm and from downtown.

WHAT THEY NEED

New or gently used pillow cases of all sizes

WHY PILLOW CASES?

They are readily available

They already have a hem in the material

Please consider helping these poor, young girls. Send in your new or clean, gently used pillowcases today. The Purple Cat will be accepting pillow cases until the end of March. Call Jill or Jessica at (330) 536-2100 with any questions.

For more information on this cause you can visit www.littledressesforafrica.org

WAY TO GO EVERYONE!!!



Purple Cat Hot Pepper Jam

ON SALE NOW!!

\$5.00 PER JAR

Purple Cat is now selling a wonderful Hot Pepper Jelly made by the clients.

It is delicious on top of a cracker spread with cream cheese. They are selling like hot cakes so call in your order today!

(330) 536-2100



Touch The Moon Candy Saloon

Now available at the candy store....

German Candy Bars, Japanese Bubble Gum and our line of Idaho Candy Company chocolates including an Idaho Spud which tastes like a chocolate covered Hostess Sno-ball. Idaho also makes a Cherry Cocktail Bar which is a large chocolate covered cherry with a minced peanut covering. We also have new T-Shirts that say "Youngstown American" on the back—\$20 each!

As always at the candy store....

\$2.00 Lunch Special-Hot Dog, Chips & Soda daily

\$2.50 24-oz. Root Beer Floats daily

The Best Root Beer Floats in Town!

Made with Frostop Draft Root Beer & Velvet Vanilla Bean Ice Cream
See coupon on Easter Open House Insert!



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Letter from the Director-Jimmy Sutman

Dear Friends,

A friend of mine, Father Bob Bonnot, pastor at St. Nick's Church in Struthers, recently gave me a book titled "Living L'Arche" by Kevin S. Reimer. The book was absolutely transfixing. It describes the philosophies of Jean Vanier and the L'Arche Communities. L'Arche communities are ones in which individuals with disabilities cohabitat with individuals who are non-disabled. Money is not exchanged. All individuals share home responsibilities and monthly bills. Although, not prevalent in our area, there are many L'Arche communities in the Pacific Northwest and in Canada. At the heart of Vanier's philosophy and central to L'Arche is the concept of *Downward Mobility*. I am a firm believer in downward mobility. Reimer describes it on page 22 as "the impetus to uphold relationships as paramount to the fullness of human experience." In other words, to live life at its fullest, you must delve deeply into relationships. Not just any relationships but relationships with those on the fringes of society.

Those which society deems the most fragile or possibly the most unwanted. I try to live my life this way. The best part of my life is the connection that I feel with my friends with disability. Our friendships are real and deep. They are often wrought with problems, but the good times we share are more memorable and vibrant than most times in my life. I laugh deeper and often even cry. Most everything else in my life does not bring me to such emotion. I am blessed to be part of their lives. Think about the phrase *downward mobility*. Society asks us to "get ahead" and to "climb the corporate ladder." To keep moving upward. Downward mobility asks us to move downward. Down to those who need us most. When we do this, we truly experience life. We truly know how it feels to live. Try it sometime. I know most of you who are reading this agree with me because you already know how it feels. Keep up the good work. You are an inspiration! Happy Passover and Easter!

Love, Jimmy



Jimmy Sutman

Golden String still offers monthly *Golden Ticket of Kindness* donations to individuals with special needs outside of their physical or mental disability. Please call the ISLE office for nomination forms.