

spotlight

ON SEGUIN



Seguin Builds Bridges For Special Ed Students

Secures Major Funding for Innovative Collaboration

Seguin Services, as the lead agency in a major multi-agency collaboration, is excited to be working with five other partners to expand their Building Bridges to the Future project. This innovative project, initiated last year by Seguin, Park Lawn of Oak Lawn and Clearbrook of Arlington Heights addresses the needs of special education high school students as they transition to adult life. This year, these three agencies have been joined by three additional agencies, including Helping Hand Center of Countryside, Elim Christian Services of Palos Heights, and PACTT Learning Center of Chicago as they seek to reach more students with developmental disabilities and their families with this much needed assistance.

While special education students are growing up, funding for their education is mandated by law. But once these students reach 22 years of age their education ends. They face the reality that no such mandate for adult services exists. To complicate matters, in Illinois, state support for social service agencies is in peril due to a severe budgetary shortfall. In effect, many students are left without a safety net after they graduate from high school. Families are faced with the prospect of their loved ones with disabilities languishing at home in an unproductive environment. Matters are further complicated for those parents working in regular jobs outside the home.

Seguin and its partners saw the distress these families faced in the absence of services available to their children. In response, Seguin and its partners formed

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Seguin Services provides innovative programs to people with developmental disabilities enabling them to be productive, valued members of society.

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the Building Bridges to the Future project. This project offers hands-on help to insure successful transition of special education students, age 14 to 21, from high school to adult life. Transitional Outreach Specialists for the project work with the students and their families from the south, west and northwestern suburban Chicago high schools, helping them to secure financial, medical, and legal resources, and providing coaching and adult services training experiences. Project staff provides assistance to students and families in obtaining Social Security benefits, in becoming Medicaid-eligible, and being placed on the State waiting list for adult services. In addition, PACTT is providing special consultation and training for students with autism who make up about 25% of the project participants. Last year, the three founding agencies were able to serve 199 students and their families in twelve area high schools. Through the expansion of this program to three additional agencies, Seguin and its partners expect to serve up to 340 students and their families in thirty area high schools.

The Building Bridges project has received significant anchor funding through The Coleman Foundation, which has made grants to the project in the past two years totaling \$370,000. Additional funding has come from private and public sources. Among those funders is The Arc of the United States, which awarded two of its chapter agencies—project partners Seguin and Park Lawn—a sub-grant funded by The Walmart Foundation. Additional funding sources include an anonymous local Foundation, the Westlake Health Foundation, the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park, River Forest Township, the Rotary Club of Oak Park & River Forest, the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission, the Community Chest of Cicero, and the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation. All these funding sources are essential to ensure this successful and necessary program is available to as many high school students with developmental disabilities and their families as possible. Through the investment of these generous grantors this model project can grow and be replicated by other agencies and schools, offering hope for students with developmental disabilities and their families.

The anonymous Foundation mentioned above has challenged Seguin and the five other agencies to raise an additional \$40,000 to benefit this worthwhile program by raising these dollars from new donors or additional dollars from current donors. Seguin needs to raise \$10,000 to meet its portion of this grant. Therefore, we have chosen one of the recipients of the program as the focal point of our Holiday Appeal letter this year. This should enable us to meet this challenge while benefiting this innovative program. For more information, read our Holiday Appeal Letter on page 3.

Participant Camron Riley with his mother Lydia Riley
pictured on the cover.

Help Seguin To Build Bridges

Double Your Support by Responding to the Seguin Holiday Appeal Challenge



Participant Camron Riley

“We have some wonderful news! Camron and I are so blessed thanks to Seguin,” exclaims Lydia Riley, mother of Camron Riley of Bellwood.

At age 21 Camron was attending PAEC School and quickly nearing the time when he would have to leave his special education environment. Like so many other families of special needs students, Camron’s family was stressed and confused about what to do after he left school. While public education is mandated to provide services to individuals like Camron, no such mandate exists for adult services. Fortunately for Camron and his family, they were provided supports through Seguin’s Building Bridges to the Future Project.

Through this innovative project, Seguin staff assisted Camron and his family by walking them through the many complex steps of transition from school to adult life. With Seguin’s help, he and his family secured funding from the State of Illinois to support his entry, the day after he turned 22, into day services at Seguin. They did not have to worry about how he would cope at home every day with nothing to do. Today, Camron is able to participate in an array of adult services activities including vocational training in the Portillo’s Learning Kitchen and a car-washing job at the Seguin Auto Center. His mother Lydia knows Camron is continuing to grow and develop just like any other twenty-something does.

Camron is just one person of many whose needs have been met through this vital initiative. Today you can help us expand this project to build bridges for more area high school students with developmental disabilities and their families. Through the generosity of an anonymous area foundation, all donations by new donors or increased donations by current donors will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the foundation, up to \$10,000. That means your contribution to Seguin is doubled! Will you help us to meet this challenge?

Now, with the help of Seguin, the outlook for Camron’s life is brighter. At this holiday season, we would be thankful if you would support Seguin in fulfilling its essential mission by donating generously. All contributions are tax deductible.

Please make a donation today by sending a check in the envelope attached to this newsletter; by visiting www.seguin.org or by calling Dawneen Suriano at 708-222-4251.

Seguin Launches NEW WEBSITE



Seguin is pleased to announce the launch of our newly designed website: www.seguin.org



Please take the time to browse through the new site. You should notice some substantial differences – and major improvements. The website will take you on a tour of everything that makes Seguin a special organization, from descriptions of our innovative programs and businesses, to multi-media news features and videos that tell the Seguin story in an engaging way. The site is user-friendly and easy to navigate. Persons seeking employment or volunteer work can readily find current job listings, volunteer opportunities, and other ways to get involved with Seguin. A new “Donate Now” button gives friends of Seguin a quick and secure way to donate to the cause.



In addition, we include links to separate websites for some of our projects and businesses: SeguinCares, Seguin Gardens & Gifts, and Seguin Auto Center. At the websites of these businesses, you are able to access additional information for each initiative, such as our current inventory of used cars, products for purchase at Seguin Gardens & Gifts, and a 360 degree view of our first SeguinCares home in Cicero.

We encourage each of you to share this new site with your family, friends, and associates...and help us share the exciting Seguin story.

 Go to www.seguin.org today!

Carnivale - Seguin Services Unmasks A Year Of Change

Once again Friends of Seguin were awed by The Pavilions at Brookfield Zoo, as they gathered at Seguin's Celebration Gala on June 10, 2010 to recognize Seguin participants, volunteers and supporters.



The evening's emcee, Rob Johnson of CBS 2 Chicago, provided touching tributes to each of the night's awardees. Guests were also able to bid on exciting silent auction items and raffle baskets as well as purchase tickets for the Building Bridges To The Future raffle. The event raised \$86,000 to benefit individuals with disabilities and other special needs served by Seguin.

The Volunteers of BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding Center were honored with the Marjorie A. Feeney Volunteers of the Year Award for their work in providing physical and emotional therapy through the power of horseback riding. The Richard N. Scheck Family was recognized with the President's Award, for their support of Seguin and those with special needs through their donation of the Betty Scheck Senior Center. And Jim Ursich and Nakee T., both Seguin Participants, were recipients of Shining Star Awards for their outstanding achievements in the past year. Each honoree "unmasked their changes" by starring in their own video as part of the ceremony.



Master of Ceremonies

Rob Johnson
CBS 2 Chicago

Marjorie A. Feeney Volunteers of the Year Award Recipient

The Volunteers of BraveHearts

President's Award Recipient

The Richard N. Scheck Family

Shining Star Recipients

Jim Ursich, Seguin Participant
Nakee T., Seguin Participant

Major event sponsors included:

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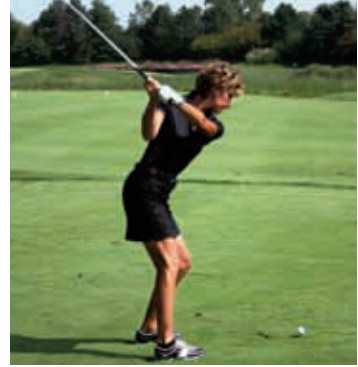
Annual Celebration Gala - June 2011

A Beautiful Day “Fore” Golf

The 18th Annual Seguin Golf Classic

Clear blue skies, pleasant temperatures, and a renowned golf course — it was a perfect day for golf!

Tuesday, August 24, 2010 brought sunshine and ideal conditions to Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont for the 18th Annual Seguin Services Golf Classic. Over 100 golfers received a fabulous lunch, 18 holes of challenging golf and a delicious dinner, all while supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and other special needs served by Seguin. During dinner attendees indulged themselves with a silent auction filled with items signed by Chicago sports greats, as well as fine dining opportunities and vacation getaways. Many took their chances with the ever-popular basket raffle or the golf “Mystery” gift raffle. The awards ceremony and trophy presentation wrapped up the exciting day. More than \$60,000 was raised to benefit children and adults with disabilities and other special needs.



We are especially thankful for the continued generosity and support of all sponsors, staff members, participants and volunteers – without whose help the 18th Annual Seguin Golf Classic would not have been possible.

Major Sponsors include:

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SAVE THE DATE

19th Annual Golf Classic at Ruffled Feathers
Golf Club - August 2011

Holiday Happenings at SEGUIN GARDENS & GIFTS

Saturday, December 4, 2010

Jingle Bell Bash • 10 am - 5 pm

We invite you to visit Seguin Gardens & Gifts to see the store explode for the Holiday Season! All shoppers will receive a special holiday discount ranging from 10% to 40% - but you will not know what it is until you arrive at the store! Refreshments will be served.*

Holiday Wreaths & Bows • 10 am • \$15 class fee

Certified Floral Artist Susie Pece will lead the class in a designing a holiday wreath for your door as well as teach the fundamentals of tying a perfect bow. Each participant will go home with their personalized holiday wreath. All materials provided in the class fee.*

**All events and classes to be held at Seguin Gardens & Gifts, 5621 West 31st Street, Cicero, IL. RSVP to 708.222.2772.*

Holiday Baskets



\$39.95

'TIS THE SEASON GOURMET BASKET

The perfect holiday selection for those important people you know. The recipient will enjoy Gourmet Dipping Pretzels & Pepper Creek Farms Honey Mustard; delicious Red Bell Pepper Jelly, Garden Vegetable Crackers and Tomato & Basil Cheese accompanied by a lovely silver spreader; Olives with Provençal Herbs that can be served in the accompanying ceramic dip bowl; as well as two packages of "A Touch Above" Gourmet Dip Mixes and a sweet treat of Be-Bop English Toffee Biscotti.*



\$29.95

CHOCOLATE DREAMS

A Chocolate Lover's Dream Come True! It is all here in this sweet selection of dreamy chocolate treats: Gourmet Baking Company's Dark Chocolate Cupcake Mix, Pepper Creek's Dutch Chocolate Hot Cocoa Tin, Be-Bop English Toffee Biscotti, Chocolate Walnut Fudge and White Chocolate Covered Pretzels.*



\$15.95

WINTER WARM-UP

This sweet treat will hit the spot with any chocolate enthusiast! Packaged in a holiday ceramic mug are Bellagio Chocolate Truffle and White Chocolate Hot Cocoa Packet, Too Good Gourmet Cookies, White Chocolate Pretzels and Lindt Chocolate Truffle Balls.*

** Items in baskets are subject to substitution with like product, based on availability.*

To place your order for holiday gift baskets, visit SeguinGifts.com or call 708.222.2772.

seguin
gardens & gifts

Seguin Employees Recognized As Shooting Stars



We salute our five
newest Shooting Stars
Janita, Cecelia, Bernadette,
Nartarsha and Carolyn
for a job well done!

On September 29, Seguin celebrated Staff Appreciation Day as the culmination of its 12th Annual Staff Appreciation Month. To cap off the day, Seguin announced its 2010 Shooting Star Award winners. These award winners were chosen by a selection committee comprised of last year's winners. The committee's job is a difficult task given the selfless acts of service routinely demonstrated by Seguin staff.

This year, five individuals were chosen to receive this award coveted by Seguin's employees – and they do receive the best parking spots in the lot! Seguin's appreciation for our staff cannot be overstated. The five employees were selected on the basis of exemplary service, including their overall spirit of generosity, consistent motivation, trustworthiness, and diligent attention to our participants. They are shining examples to all who know them and to the human service field as a whole. This year's winners included: Janita Harris for Person Centered Support and Advocacy; Cecelia Herrera for Person Centered Support; Bernadette Jackson for Person Centered Support and Active Treatment; Nartarsha Pryor for Person Centered Support and Safety; and, Carolyn Whittaker for Advocacy and Safety.

The award winners were lauded for their daily efforts to provide enriching activities for persons served, to intervene quickly and capably to address health and safety concerns among persons served, and to serve as dedicated advocates for the best interests of program participants. "These employees represent the pride and dedication so important to making Seguin a special organization for the people we serve," said John Voit, President and CEO.

As a result of the actions of these staff, as well as the rest of our Seguin employees, shared living companions and children's foster parents, all of our participants have benefited. Shooting Stars insure that Seguin can be proud of its quality of care and innovative services for children and adults with disabilities and other special needs.

Make a Difference for Seguin Through Charitable Gift Planning

Seguin Friends Victor & Iris Yipp Make Generous Plans for the Future



Victor and Iris Yipp (co-owner of Magic Tree Bookstore, Oak Park, IL) are brother and sister-in-law to former Seguin Participant Florence Yipp, and members of the Edouard Seguin Society, having included Seguin in their estate plans.

Seguin supporters Victor and Iris Yipp have chosen to include Seguin in their estate plans. Seguin had long provided services to the late Florence Yipp, beloved sister to Victor and sister-in-law to Iris. Iris serves as co-owner of The Magic Tree Bookstore in Oak Park, and has regularly provided in-kind donations and other help to Seguin through this special bookstore for children and youth. “Our decision to include Seguin Services in our estate plans is but a token of our heartfelt appreciation for the organization’s long-standing service and dedication to its clients,” states Victor. *“My sister Florence could not have been in more capable hands and for that we will always be grateful.”*

The Yipps have selected one avenue to accomplish their planned giving wishes. At the same time, there are a variety of possible ways to

accomplish your charitable gift plans, such as gifts of cash, stocks, real estate, personal property, retirement plan assets or IRAs.

Seguin is a charitable organization that leads its peers in innovation and service to people with disabilities. Seguin has been especially responsive to the needs of individuals most vulnerable in our society. Seguin cannot accomplish this work benefiting children and adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs without the generosity of the community – friends like you. Therefore, please give serious consideration to these gift options for your charitable gift planning. If you have already included Seguin in your charitable gift planning, please let us know. We would like to include you in our Edouard Seguin Society.

For further information, contact Dawneen Suriano at 708-222-4251 or dsuriano@seguin.org or Jim Haptonstahl at 708-222-4250 or jhaptons@seguin.org.

Seguin News Briefs:

“Building Bridges to the Future” with Park Lawn

To support the new Building Bridges to the Future collaborative project, Seguin Services joined with Park Lawn to raise funds through an exciting raffle. The agencies combined to sell more than 1,200 tickets and raise over \$61,000 to help special education students transition into adult life. The winners of this year’s raffle are:

1st Prize – fully restored 1965 Ford Mustang convertible – Ellie Crumback, 2nd Prize – men’s Rolex Explorer II watch – Christy Prewitt, 3rd Prize - \$2,500 – Cindy Schmidt, 4th Prize – John Baughman artwork – Barbara Baron and 5th Prize - \$1,000 – Francis Perkins.

Seguin & UCP Announce Exciting New Partnership

Seguin Services and United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Greater Chicago are combining their expertise in curriculum while also pooling their program space to enrich the lives of the nearly 900 persons they collectively serve. A group of UCP participants are utilizing the newly remodeled, state-of-the-art Seguin Carr Center. These facilities are shared with participants from UCP. This partnership will be augmented with



program curriculum and technology expertise developed over many years by UCP and its celebrated Infinitec Program. In addition, both organizations have partnered to open a new program in Villa Park – the Seguin CLIMB Program. This initiative is designed to meet the needs of young adults with disabilities who graduate from school, supporting them in meeting the challenges of adapting to adult life.

Youth Leadership & Disability Awareness



For the 7th consecutive year, Lincoln Middle School in Berwyn joined with Seguin to promote increased awareness of individuals with developmental disabilities

among the 8th Grade students at Lincoln. Students participated in a six-week curriculum centered on the novel “The Man Who Loved Clowns” by June Rae Wood. Students were able to meet Ms. Wood and discuss her work. They also interacted with Seguin participants at a pizza party, and raised over \$6,600 for Seguin through a Walk-A-Thon at Morton West High School in mid-October. In total Lincoln students have raised more than \$52,000 for Seguin over the past seven years.



Montini Catholic High School in Lombard has incorporated the Youth Leadership and Disability Awareness project into their curriculum this fall. Senior Theology students read “The Man Who Loved Clowns”, while sophomore students visited Seguin during their annual retreat day. At the school’s invitation, Seguin participants have also been frequent attendees at Montini Bronco football games.

For more information on Seguin’s Youth Leadership and Disability Awareness Project, contact Kelley Currier at 708.222-5143 or kcurrier@seguin.org.

Make Friends with Seguin Initiative

Seguin has begun a new donor cultivation and fundraising initiative, entitled “Make Friends with Seguin”. Friends of Seguin – family members, staff, Board members, and all other community supporters – are invited to host their own small events, such as dinner parties, bowling get-togethers, salsa parties, birthday parties, gatherings at sporting events or other activities that bring people together to support

the Seguin cause. These events are intended to bring new donors into the Seguin community, while also giving our current donors a chance to know even more about Seguin.

For more information, contact Dawneen Suriano at 708-222-4251 or dsuriano@seguin.org.

Dedication of Betty Scheck Senior Center

Seguin formally dedicated the Betty Scheck Senior Center in La Grange Park on July 15. The Center opened in May and currently serves seniors with developmental disabilities and other special needs. This beautiful new facility is a wonderful tribute to memory of Betty Scheck, late wife of former North Riverside Mayor Richard Scheck. This was the largest single donation to Seguin in its history, valued at \$1.62 million. We again thank our long time friends, the Scheck Family: Rich and Judy, Rick and Megan, Mike and Kate, and Chris Scheck.

Dedication of the Gibilterra House



The Gibilterra Family

Former Board Member Connie Gibilterra, her son Jim, their family and friends, and Seguin Board and staff gathered on September 8 to dedicate the newly named “Gibilterra House”, Seguin’s group home for persons with disabilities at 1341 S. Euclid Avenue in Berwyn. The house was dedicated to the memory of Joseph Gibilterra – Connie’s son, Jim’s brother, and a former Seguin participant – who lived a life of meaning and purpose, and in honor of Connie and Jim Gibilterra for their long-standing support of Seguin Services and people with disabilities.

Baird & Warner Fundraiser

The annual Baird & Warner Charity Gala was once again a great success. Nearly \$13,000 was raised to benefit Seguin Services and Noah’s Hope. Thanks to longtime Seguin friend Mike Zawislak and his colleagues at Baird & Warner of Downers Grove for their continued support!

New Grants Help Seguin Find Jobs for People with Disabilities

Seguin has been awarded two significant grants to support our efforts to secure jobs for individuals with disabilities. Through federal stimulus funds from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is providing over \$130,000 to Seguin for a job placement initiative. In addition, Seguin was granted nearly \$320,000 over the next two years through The Coleman Foundation and the Hope Institute, for a special corporate job development project with the Intersect for Ability Network. We ask our Friends of Seguin to provide us with job leads, through your own places of business or other employers you may know. For more information contact Lori Opiela at 708.222.4834 or lopiela@seguin.org.

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