

SPOTLIGHT ON SEGUIN

WINTER 2012

An Advocate MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Duane Dixon can tell you about all the wonderful things that have changed in his life because of Mary Beth McGloon Nelson. Today, Duane and Jack Schneider, his housemate, own their own home and live more independently as a result of her assistance. Mary advocated for individuals with developmental disabilities for over thirty-five years until her recent passing. Today, Duane and Jack enjoy all the freedom and pride that accompanies home ownership because of Mary's work. Her advocacy enabled them to achieve a level of independence that they would not have imagined possible without her sacrificial gift of caring and friendship.

Duane met Mary when he was being served by a Du Page County social service agency in the 1990s. Duane had endured abuse at the Dixon Developmental Center and unnecessary limitations at several nursing homes earlier in his life. He was relieved to be out of those

several jobs over the years to pay the mortgage for their home.

Although her job ended there, Mary continued to reach out to these men. Mary brought her large extended family into the lives of Duane

Mary's advocacy for these men has been a shining example of a life well lived.
Her life truly made a difference!

severe difficulties, but still desired a more normal life—one where he would work and live life as he chose. Through Mary's efforts he was living in an apartment with Jack and had found part-time work with a local employer. He still desired a more permanent solution to meet his housing needs. As part of her job, Mary tried to find community housing for individuals who needed adaptive housing. In 1995 Mary helped Duane and Jack to become among the first in Illinois to take advantage of a program to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in purchasing their own homes. Duane and Jack worked

and Jack. Mary asked everyone she knew to help the men furnish their home. Mary's late husband Gary and her brother Bill McGloon built a wheelchair ramp and adapted the kitchen to meet the needs of Duane. Mary, Bill and their large family of brothers and sisters have extended themselves even further, welcoming these two men into their family. They celebrate birthdays and holidays together. They have supported Duane and Jack as we would support one of our own dear relatives or closest friends who need help—by loving, helping and cherishing their adopted family members.



*In loving memory of Mary Beth McGloon Nelson
January 27, 1952 – September 22, 2012.*

One of Mary's final acts of kindness for Duane and Jack was to connect them to Seguin Services in 2011. She looked to the future to ensure that their needs for care and services would be met. Today, Duane and Jack live in Naperville in their condominium which is fully wheelchair accessible. They receive supports from Seguin which provides day services now that they have retired. Seguin assists them with shopping and meal preparation in their home as well. Mary's advocacy for these men has been a shining example of a life well lived. Her life truly made a difference!

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Let's Make Seguin Participants DAYS BRIGHT

Dear Friend of Seguin,

David Sturgis has an indomitable spirit, bucking the odds given the challenges he has faced in his life. David has lived most of his life in a large state institution in Jacksonville, Illinois. His existence was restricted to a segregated facility, where he shared a bedroom with several others, ate in a dining hall, and participated in activities inside a fenced-in set of buildings.

But now things are different for David. In May David was one of the first of 12 individuals from the same state facility to move into one of Seguin's homes integrated into the community. He has been able to have his own bedroom and decorate it as he desires, to help plan his own meals and his own social activities, and to seek employment and to go shopping with money he has earned himself. He is learning to make his own choices. A wonderful change has happened . . . and David is thrilled!



David Sturgis with Case Manager Victoria Mendoza

David loves the outdoors, fishing, hunting, and camping. He recalls fondly times long ago when he and his father would spend time together engaged in these sporting activities. When he came to Seguin in May, he wanted to take up fishing again and teach his housemates to fish. He celebrated his birthday this summer and now he is happy to display his new fishing poles, tackle box and gear in his room. He gushes with enthusiasm as he relates his latest fishing exploits and tells of his plans to go fishing again. He also talks of his job, working in Seguin's Portillo's Learning Kitchen, where he is learning to be a responsible employee and engage in productive, meaningful work. He especially likes being paid! David has also contemplated starting his own lawn care business sometime in the future, cutting his neighbors' lawns. Today, David sees that his life has possibilities . . . and it's a wonderful feeling!

David is just one of over 600 persons we are serving at Seguin. We hope you will support Seguin to help David and others like him to reach their dreams, and enjoy the fruits of life in the community.

Please enable Seguin to integrate, enrich, and empower children and adults with disabilities and other special needs by donating generously. All contributions are tax deductible. Please make a donation today by sending a check in the enclosed envelope, by visiting www.seguin.org, or by calling Dawneen Suriano at 708-222-4251.

Warmest Regards,

John Voit, *President and CEO* Jim Haptonstahl, *Executive Vice President*

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Donate Today
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Kiplinger's has a new tool that may be useful to you in your retirement. It can pinpoint the most advantageous time for you to start collecting your Social Security benefits enabling you to maximize your receipts during your lifetime.



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SEGUIN EXCELS BY CREATING

Permanency For Children in Foster Care

Anytime a child must be removed from their home due to neglect or abuse it is heart-breaking. Yet Seguin's faces these difficulties with uncommon vision and strength.

This past year, Seguin has served nearly 200 children through its Children's Foster Care program, with primary funding and oversight by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). DCFS frequently assigns children with developmental disabilities or other special needs and their siblings to Seguin due to Seguin's expertise. DCFS's expressed goal is to safely return children to their biological parents if possible, or attain permanent homes and families for each child through adoption or subsidized guardianship. Each year since starting its foster care program in 1994, Seguin has successfully fulfilled this important goal for the children in its care.

One child who moved out of foster care into a permanent home is Nakee Barnes. In the past year Nakee was adopted by his Foster Parent Casseola Barnes. Casseola offered just what Nakee needed and wanted—a family he can call his own. While he was in foster care and continuing after his adoption, Nakee has worked hard to learn basic life skills and attend to the demands of school. His Seguin Foster Care Case Manager, Francee Henley, and his mother have observed a major transformation in Nakee. He has learned to make eye contact, to converse engagingly with others, and to read and do his arithmetic. Today, he is a real charmer! Thanks to Nakee's determined efforts and to his mother's and Seguin's support, Nakee has a very bright future!

Nakee is one example of how Seguin strives to provide the best for children who have been placed in foster care. Our staff excels as they prepare parents for their children to return home or find permanent, safe and loving homes for those children who cannot return to their biological parents. In fact, Ms. Henley was recognized by the Office of the Public Guardian for her outstanding case management for the children in her care.

They said she "surpassed all expectations . . . with a degree of intelligence, professionalism, and empathy that far exceeded 'reasonable efforts'. If not for Ms. Henley's involvement, the children's physical and emotional welfare would have been at risk."

This year, Seguin has achieved permanency for 38 children. This includes those reunited with their parents, adopted, placed in subsidized guardianship, or aging out into a Seguin group home. How wonderful for each of these children now to have a home to call their own! *Seguin could not achieve these wonderful results without the support of its friends, through your generous donations and other contributions to the Seguin cause.*

Case Manager Francee Henley
with Nakee Barnes



OVER 120 SEGUIN
golfers

took to the links of Ruth Lake Country Club in Hinsdale on August 20, 2012 at the 20th Annual Seguin Services Golf Classic.



Attendees enjoyed challenging golf, silent auction and raffles and an appearance by Rob Johnson of CBS 2 Chicago for an "Out Drive the Anchor" contest. Thanks to more than 36 sponsors and donors, \$70,000 was raised to support individuals with disabilities and other special needs served by Seguin!



THE WESTIN LOMBARD TURNED INTO
"A NIGHT ON BROADWAY"
 FOR SEGUIN ON JUNE 20, 2012.

Over 350 friends and supporters of Seguin attended the Gala to honor McDonald's with the Marjorie A Feeney Volunteers of the Year award, Jamal C. and the men of 1111 S Taylor in Oak Park with the Shining Star awards, and The Coleman Foundation with The President's Award. Rob Johnson of CBS 2 Chicago once again joined us as emcee. More than \$120,000 was raised for Seguin's innovative services!



Seguin Events



Race For The Cause

On July 20th Mary Lou Miller and Patti Paul organized their 2nd Annual "Race for the Cause" at Maywood Park, honoring Mary Lou's daughter Mallory. Over two years, Mary Lou and Patti have raised more than \$11,000 to benefit Seguin participants.



Inaugural Parker Porker Pig Roast

On Saturday August 25th 140 family and friends gathered for the 1st Annual Parker Porker Pig Roast. Attendees were treated to a day full of fun, food and music while commemorating Jerry and Sean Parker. Thanks to organizers Patricia Parker and Steve Kirby, the event netted proceeds in excess of \$15,000 for the Seguin cause!



Lincoln Middle School 10k for Seguin

What do a pizza party, a DJ, and generous 8th graders have to do with Seguin? The 9th annual Berwyn Lincoln Middle School 10K "Walk-a-thon" for Seguin brought together over 200 students with more than 50 Seguin participants for fun and friendship. Over the years Lincoln students have raised over \$70,000 for Seguin through their incredible efforts!



Home Is Where The Heart Is Raffle

The donation of a beautiful, red Mazda Miata convertible by Tom and Taylor Gleitsman turned into an exciting way to raise funds for Seguin's new home under construction in Lombard. Nearly \$20,000 was raised to fund this project thanks to friends of Seguin. Congratulations to the winners: Mazda Miata -Dan Proft (donated vehicle back to Seguin), Rolex Explorer watch -Pat Gallagher, \$1,000 -Derrick and Monica Young!

Some Ways Your Donations

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

\$50 - Provides one person with disabilities with on-site job-coaching support as they start a new job in the community or at Seguin Auto Center or Seguin Gardens & Gifts

\$100 - provides a Seguin Special Olympic athlete with a uniform and staff support to participate in Special Olympic basketball; or provides crucial time with a Seguin nurse to a foster child to address medical needs

\$250 - provides school supplies, backpack and gym shoes for a child in Foster Care for the school year

\$500 - provides a new bedroom dresser and furnishings for a resident with disabilities moving into a Seguin group home

\$1000 - covers the monthly costs of life skills training and enrichment services, enabling an individual with disabilities to engage in fitness exercises, horticultural therapy, art, dance and music enrichment, and vocational skill development activities.

SeguinMade, MADE WITH PURPOSE

Seguin Gardens & Gifts is truly a destination that gives its customers the chance to purchase with a purpose.



Among its wide array of plants, products and services are unique items that carry a special label: SeguinMade. These products show the remarkable skills and creativity of people with developmental disabilities employed there. The “SeguinMade” line involves Seguin participants working in concert with Seguin staff to create these wonderful products, which are then sold at Seguin Gardens & Gifts. People with developmental disabilities are fully engaged in the product design, material and supply selection and purchase, and in the final product creation.

The people behind these products have their own extraordinary stories. LaQuita has a real talent for creating an assortment of jewelry for sale at Seguin Gardens & Gifts. But LaQuita has overcome the challenge of her severe visual impairment to produce this beautiful jewelry, working with Seguin staff to select the various individual pieces that she constructs into a finished necklace or bracelet. Mary loves to take raw cloth and re-shape it into a functional and attractive apron or holiday table runner. Sonia and Jesus take pride in using various molds and dried botanicals to create a variety of sweet-scented soaps. Many other Seguin participants are involved in the production of everything from ceramics to Bark-Bone cookies made in the Portillo’s Learning Kitchen, from packaging gift baskets to creating holiday ornaments.

Among the many distinctive SeguinMade items available at Seguin Gardens & Gifts are the following:

- Hand Sewn Women’s, Men’s & Children’s Aprons, Holiday Table Runners, Wine Bottle Bags, and Christmas Ornaments
- Mesh & Grapevine Decorative Wreaths
- Gift Baskets
- Homemade Pet Treats - Bark Bone Cookies
- Jewelry - Earrings, Bracelets & Necklaces
- Soaps
- Ceramics, including serving pieces, platters & bowls
- Greeting Cards
- Beautiful Floral Arrangements

So when shopping for your table or for gifts for the holidays, be sure to check out the wonderful selection of SeguinMade items at Seguin Gardens & Gifts. Visit the store at 5621 West 31st Street in Cicero as well as the website – www.SeguinGifts.com.

You can purchase with a purpose—and support people with disabilities who engage in meaningful employment!



SEGUIN CONSTRUCTS NEW GROUP HOME

To Meet Need for Shortage of Affordable Housing for People with Disabilities

Seguin Services is constructing a new group home – the Nakroshis House – at 708 E. Berkshire Avenue in Lombard for people with developmental disabilities and other special needs who are waiting to receive residential services in Du Page County.

As of December 2011, there were approximately 2000 individuals with disabilities in Du Page waiting to receive needed services. These services include day time, residential, employment and respite services. Seguin is one of the agencies to step in to fill these needs. This house will be a state-of-the-art residence to six individuals, many of whom have physical as well as other disabilities.

Seguin is committed to integrate, enrich and empower people with developmental disabilities and other special needs, so they can be productive, valued members of society. This mission also blends well with Governor Pat Quinn's recent rebalancing efforts. The decisions to close costly state run institutional

facilities in favor of smaller community-based housing alternatives actually saves Illinois taxpayers money while providing a more community-integrated quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and other special needs.

Seguin has combined several individual donations with corporate foundation assistance to fund the construction of this much-needed home. The initial purchase of the land was enabled by a generous bequest by Dolores Nowicki. Then, Tony & Estelle Nakroshis of Homer Glen, proud parents of T.J. Nakroshis who has been served by Seguin for over 25 years, provided a major donation. This was combined with a mortgage from United

Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago to begin the construction. In addition, the Chicago Board of Trade Foundation provided a grant to help make this home a reality. As part of Seguin's efforts, the remaining funds are being raised in a variety of ways from members of the greater metropolitan Chicago community—through cash donations, special events, and gift registry purchases to benefit this Lombard Home.

Recently Seguin held the "Home Is Where the Heart Is" Raffle to benefit the Nakroshis House. The prizes included a beautiful 1990 Mazda Miata red convertible, a men's Rolex watch, and \$1,000 cash. Two generous friends of Seguin donated prizes for the raffle. Tom Gleitsman donated the Miata and former Seguin Board Member Steve Kirby contributed the Rolex watch. With the help of the raffle, Seguin was able to raise an additional \$20,000 to benefit the construction of this beautiful home.

We expect the house to be finished in late fall or early winter so the residents can move in . . . and make this a happy home where they can feel warm and welcome.

AN AUTO DONATION PROGRAM THAT WORKS!

All auto donation programs are not created equally!

- Maximize your tax deduction
- 100% of proceeds benefit & support children and adults with disabilities
- Your donation provides jobs for people with disabilities
- Highest return for donor's income tax; we do not send your donation to an auction, they are resold at Seguin's licensed, not-for-profit used car dealership!

To donate your vehicle, call the Auto Center at
708.652.5037 or visit www.seguin.org

