

# spotlight ON SEGUIN



## Scheck Family Announces Major Donation at House Dedication

*Richard N. Scheck and Scheck Family Donate Rascal's Restaurant to Seguin  
Valued at \$1.62 Million – Largest Donation in Seguin's History*

Seguin Services dedicated The Scheck House, in honor of Richard N. Scheck, former Mayor of North Riverside for his longtime support of children and adults with developmental disabilities served by Seguin. This home in North Riverside currently serves as residence to five individuals with disabilities served by Seguin, one of 60 such homes in Cook County's western suburbs. The entire Seguin community was delighted to bestow one of its highest honors on one of its most generous supporters. As well as being a champion for the cause of persons with disabilities and other special needs, Mayor Scheck has provided personal gifts to more than 300 individuals annually for a decade, was responsible for creating jobs for Seguin individuals through the contractual snow

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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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*Former Mayor Richard N. Scheck (second from the left) with sons, Rick, Mike, and Chris enjoy the evening of the house dedication.*

*continued from cover*

removal program he developed, and he secured significant donations of goods and services from major Chicago-area unions to assist in the renovation of Seguin's Carr Center.

The evening of the house dedication, Seguin Services was thrilled to announce that Mayor Scheck and his family are donating Rascal's Restaurant, located at 1136 N. Maple in La Grange Park, to Seguin in honor of the late Mrs. Betty Scheck. This is the largest single donation to Seguin in its history, and is valued at \$1.62 million. As our nation faces difficult economic times, it is wonderful to see that philanthropy is still alive and well in the heartland of America. Therefore, with true gratitude, we thank our long time friends, the Scheck Family.

*This facility is easily adaptable to our needs as a Senior Center and is located in a prime location.*

Richard and Betty Scheck were married for 29 years and lived in North Riverside, where Mr. Scheck was the dynamic longstanding mayor. The Schecks had always felt that they should give back to the community. The concerns that seniors and their families face were close to their hearts since they cared for Mr. Scheck's mother before her death. Mr. Scheck's mother had Alzheimer's, and Betty Scheck cared for her mother-in-law personally for several years. Therefore, Mrs. Scheck realized the many concerns that individuals must face as their relatives grow older. Given their current needs as well as Betty Scheck's focus on aging issues, Seguin has immediate plans to convert the restaurant into a senior center for individuals with and without disabilities. This facility is easily adaptable to our needs as a Senior Center and is located in a prime location. The Scheck Family sees this donation as a wonderful and enduring tribute to Betty. The center will be named "The Betty Scheck Senior Center" in honor of Mrs. Scheck.

# Seguin Moves Ahead with SeguinCares:

## *Creating Jobs and Addressing Emerging Community Needs*



living environments aimed at accessibility, comfort and safety while promoting a stress free atmosphere for each resident.

The first of three homes, located at 1844 S. Austin Blvd in Cicero, is opening its doors this fall to five individuals. This home is a special place where individuals with Alzheimer's, Lewy Body, frontal temporal dementias, and other memory or behavioral disorders are lovingly and compassionately cared for in a private and personal setting that is part of the community.

Seguin has proactively approached this initiative through collaboration to develop its innovative program. Seguin has brought together its own knowledge using the principles it has learned in its more than 60 years of service to individuals with developmental disabilities. This know-how is now partnered with the wealth of knowledge that the Greater Illinois Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association (GIC) and Satori Pathway possess. Satori Pathway has provided assistance to Seguin in overall development of a comprehensive residential program that can serve residents with significant challenges. GIC's Professional Training Institute assisted SeguinCares in developing comprehensive staff development. In addition, Seguin is implementing time-tested practices from its years of addressing the challenges of persons with special needs not unlike those with dementia.

This is a truly unique new program, one that balances practicality, a loving, compassionate environment and modern amenities to bring sensitive and competent care to individuals faced with some of life's most difficult behavioral challenges. For information, please call 708-222-2220 or see [www.seguincares.com](http://www.seguincares.com).

Dementia. Will the disease affect you or someone in your family? According to national studies chances are 1 in 7 individuals will. Many affected persons will require specialized homes for care, creating job opportunities for individuals interested in providing such care.

Today, Seguin is expanding its services to include this community of individuals in need. SeguinCares is unlike any other program that focuses on serving individuals with dementia and other memory and behavioral disorders. Last fall Seguin announced the receipt of a \$509,000 multi-year federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Community Services to create jobs associated with initiating a new project serving persons affected with dementia, Alzheimer's disease or mental illness. SeguinCares will ultimately create up to 28 jobs for low-income individuals, while providing critical residential services for approximately 20 persons in three homes in the western suburbs of Cook County. The homes will be designed to become special

# Coleman Foundation Provides Major Grant

*New Partnership Helps Special Ed Students Transition To Adult Life*



*Seguin's Transition Outreach Specialist Isaul Castillo interviews parent Debra Vines as they discuss transition opportunities that Debra's son might use as he moves from high school into adult life.*

To address their child's adult years, parents work with school special education programs to establish a transition plan during their child's final years in school. Planning, however, is no guarantee of future success. While special education students are in school, funding for their services is mandated by law. Once these students reach 22 years of age, all bets are off. No such mandate for funding of adult services exists. Many of these students "age out" of school with no safety net of programs in place. Illinois' support of service provider agencies has been stagnant at best, resulting in thousands of individuals and their families facing little or no services to insure an effective transition to adulthood.

Leaders within three top organizations in the Chicago area have sought to tackle this "transition" challenge. Seguin Services, from the west

suburbs, Park Lawn, from the south suburbs, and Clearbrook, from the northwest suburbs, have seen that parents of children with developmental disabilities are not getting enough support to insure a successful transition to adult life, with a network of services to support their entry to adulthood.

Through the efforts of The Coleman Foundation, Seguin, Park Lawn, and Clearbrook came together with eight other similar agencies to form what is now called the "Intersect for Ability" Network. Coleman, formed by the family associated with Fannie May candies, has long supported the cause of persons with developmental disabilities. Last year Coleman convened this group of agencies, determined to focus on services on which the Foundation could have significant positive impact.



One of those areas of need identified by this nascent network was that of life's transitions – from school to adulthood, from middle age to old age. Coleman issued a challenge to the network agencies: form partnerships and collaborative projects to address these needs, and we will

successful transition to adulthood. For the first year of the project, Building Bridges expects to help 120 students and their families.

Isaul Castillo, Seguin's transition specialist, has focused his initial efforts on students in Morton

*Coleman Foundation responded with a \$175,000 grant to support this demonstration project for its first year.*

provide funding to make it happen. In response, Seguin, Park Lawn and Clearbrook proposed the Building Bridges to the Future – Transitions from School to Adulthood initiative. The Coleman Foundation responded with a \$175,000 grant to support this demonstration project for its first year.

Through the Building Bridges project, each agency has hired a Transition Outreach Specialist. These transition specialists are now providing parents, guardians, and family members and students, age 18-21 years, with an array of supports. First of all the staff are attending the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings for each student targeted for the project. The project staff then provide coaching, linkages to financial, medical, and legal resources, and adult services training experiences to ensure the students' suc-

cessful transition to adulthood. For the first year of the project, Building Bridges expects to help 120 students and their families. Isaul Castillo, Seguin's transition specialist, has focused his initial efforts on students in Morton schools in Berwyn and Cicero, Oak Park-River Forest High School, and at Proviso Township based schools using funds from the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission. Isaul has targeted the needs of Latino students and families, many of whom have historically experienced difficulty in gaining access to services. The high school teachers and officials have been helpful in coordinating the Building Bridges efforts as well. They have a vested interest in seeing the students, for whom they have worked so hard, succeed as adults after they transition from high school.

Thanks to the outstanding support of The Coleman Foundation, Building Bridges is making the future look brighter for special education students and their families.

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# Seguin Dedicates Home to Former Illinois Speaker Lee Daniels

*Honoring Daniels' leadership for individuals with developmental disabilities*

On October 2 Seguin Services dedicated a home in honor of Lee Daniels, former Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. This dedication honored Lee's longstanding relationship with Seguin, but also his commitment to people with developmental disabilities and their families. This home, located at 5132 W. Madison in Hillside, currently serves families as a weekend respite home for individuals with developmental disabilities in Chicago's western suburbs.



"Illinois now ranks 51st in the United States for support of people with developmental disabilities," comments John Voit President and CEO of Seguin. "Our memories of Lee at the helm of the Illinois House tell a much different story – one of outstanding commitment to our cause. Given these tough times, we need leadership like Lee's now more than ever."

## *Seguin is forever indebted to Lee Daniels.*

The naming of the Daniels House represents one of Seguin's highest honors. Seguin named this home in honor of Lee's service as Chairperson of Seguin's "Building a Better Life" Capital Campaign, as well as for his service as champion for persons with developmental disabilities - both when in the Illinois House, and now as he has "retired" but remains active and committed to the cause. In total, Lee has been responsible for generating \$1.6 million on behalf of Seguin and the people we serve. Among his accomplishments was the securing of \$600,000 for our Fail Safe project, through which Seguin had fire detection and sprinkler systems installed in every group home. Lee also secured \$100,000 for the Community Employment Program, which develops and maintains jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities. These are but a few of the cases in which Lee has personally contributed to Seguin or advocated on our behalf to promote Seguin's services in the community.

Lee Daniels' passion began as a result of his ex-

*John Voit, right, happily greets former Speaker Lee Daniels on the evening of the Respite Home dedication in Lee's honor. Seguin's successes bring both men great pleasure.*

perience and love of his daughter Laurie, who was born with a severe disability. Lee's experience in finding service and support for Laurie led him to understand the struggles families face daily in gaining access to employment, training services and housing. Using this knowledge, Lee spearheaded major legislation that today helps families, through establishing family trusts, housing support and working with organizations like Seguin to provide support.

Speaker Daniels has received many awards for his advocacy work, including: National Federation for the Handicapped; Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; United Cerebral Palsy; the Alliance for the Mentally Ill; and the Legislator of the Year Award from The Arc of Illinois. Lee has continued to use his leadership skills and forward-thinking approach with Seguin, as the Chairperson of their Capital Campaign. As a result, Seguin's Capital Campaign has raised \$3.5 million of the \$5.7 million goal to renovate Seguin's day service and administrative facilities, as well as construct the newly opened Seguin Gardens & Gifts, creating jobs for adults with developmental disabilities.

Seguin is forever indebted to Lee Daniels. The Daniels House stands as an enduring tribute to his commitment and dedication to Seguin Services, and to individuals with developmental disabilities everywhere.

# Vigil Of Hope & Prayer

*Brings Attention To Proposed State Funding Cuts*



*During our Vigil of Hope & Prayer, Pastor B.J. Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, the wife of Vice President of Children's Foster Care Jerry Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, led Seguin employees and participants in prayer to impart wisdom upon our state legislators.*

In mid-June of this year, Seguin and every other human service agency in Illinois faced a major crisis in funding. The General Assembly in Springfield had yet to decide on a budget for the soon-to-begin new fiscal year. Given the impasse, Governor Quinn threatened serious cuts in funding to community social service agencies. The State agencies that provide much of Seguin's funding, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Child and Family Services, were proposing significant reductions. Between them Seguin faced as much as \$7 million in cuts to its \$24 million budget.

For Seguin, these proposed State of Illinois funding cuts, if implemented, could have resulted in the closure of Seguin's residential and foster care programs, forcing 360 children and adults with disabilities to be cared for within high-cost institutions. That would have meant taxpayers would ultimately be paying two to three times as much for the programs needed to provide 24-hour supervision to some of the State's most vulnerable citizens.

John Voit, Seguin's President and CEO, was determined to counter these proposed cuts with a dramatic statement: conduct a six-day, six-night "Vigil of Hope & Prayer" to bring attention to our cause. As Voit stated to Seguin staff gathered just prior to the Vigil, "At the level of cuts the State is proposing, Seguin simply cannot provide enough staff to cover 24 hours of care required to meet needs of individuals totally dependent on others for assistance. We have reached a point where the health, welfare, and safety of our people will be seriously compromised."

Starting Thursday June 25 at 10 a.m. to June 30 at

midnight, Seguin conducted the "Vigil of Hope & Prayer", at the front of the Carr Center in Cicero. This Vigil was held twenty-four hours a day for six days to hope and pray that our state legislators would be given wisdom to resolve this budgetary gap, thereby meeting the basic needs of our most vulnerable population. Staff pitched several tents on the front lawn, and volunteers stayed overnight in solidarity with the cause. The tents became a powerful visual symbol for the Vigil, and the basic shelter to which every human being is entitled.

Seguin was able to secure help from various religious leaders and politically active religious organizations, who came and spoke or led individuals gathered in prayer at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each day of the Vigil. Thirteen religious leaders from eleven different churches or temples—including Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Hindu faiths—participated in the Vigil. Five Seguin staff also led those assembled in prayer. Seguin staff and others who attended expressed that they felt a true sense of "community" through this Vigil.

*Seguin faced as much as \$7 million in cuts to its \$24 million budget.*

The end result was wide media coverage, including features on ABC-7 Chicago and Fox Chicago News. The Protestants for the Common Good included the Vigil in their June 26 e-newsletter to their constituents, and on their website with an imbedded YouTube video from our June 25 Vigil. More importantly, the State officials finally got down to business, and approved a budget for the new fiscal year. After the smoke cleared, most of Seguin's services had funding fully restored to last year's levels. On the other hand, Seguin's Supported Employment program was funded for six months only at about a 10% reduction, with the State working to convert this grant to a new fee-for-service funded program starting January 2010. This may result in further reductions to this essential program.

For the next fiscal year (starting July 2010), the funding picture looks difficult once again. Friends of Seguin will once again need to be prepared to battle for fair funding as the General Assembly goes into its Spring Session. We may once again have to stand in "Vigil" to bring about the financial support necessary to insure high-quality services to the State's most vulnerable citizens.

# Living The Dream

## *Seguin Services Celebration Gala Another Smashing Success*

Once again Friends of Seguin were awed by The Pavilions at Brookfield Zoo on June 11, 2009, as they gathered at Seguin's Celebration Gala to recognize Seguin participants, volunteers and supporters. Guests enjoyed an amazing dinner and live music by Rick Hunt. The Gala's emcee, Suzanne Le Mignot of CBS 2 Chicago, provided inspirational introductions to the evening's awardees. Guests were also able to bid on exciting silent auction items and raffle baskets as well as an amazing live auction experience with the Chicago Tribune's Phil Rogers. The event raised \$96,000 to benefit individuals with disabilities and other special needs served by Seguin.

Excitement was in the air all evening as attendees waited to hear who won the 1966 Ford Mustang grand prize in the "Gear Up for the Garden Center" raffle, which itself raised \$30,000 through sales of more than 1,400 tickets. Comcast was honored with the Marjorie A. Feeney Volunteer of the Year Award for the efforts with Comcast Cares Day at Seguin. ABC 7 reporter Karen Meyer was recognized for her support of Seguin and those with special needs with the President's Award. And John Saldana and Debra Cozy, both Seguin Participants, were recipients of Shining Star Awards. Each honoree "lived the dream" by starring in their own video as part of the ceremony. As if that weren't enough excitement, during the Celebration Gala, Dave Lencioni, Cicero firefighter and Trustee with the Perotto Family Charitable Trust, announced the gift in excess of \$300,000 from the Trust to the Seguin Services Capital Campaign.



*Debra Cozy happily receives her Shining Star award as Leatrice Simmons, John Voit and Suzanne Le Mignot share the moment.*

Master of Ceremonies  
Suzanne Le Mignot  
CBS 2 Chicago

Marjorie A. Feeney Volunteer  
of the Year Award Recipient  
Comcast

President's Award Recipient  
Karen Meyer  
ABC 7 Chicago

Shining Star Recipients  
John Saldana, Seguin Participant  
Debra Cozy, Seguin Participant

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*Gala attendees peruse silent auction baskets*



*Seguin's Master of Ceremonies Suzanne Le Mignot of CBS 2 Chicago enjoys the evening with Mike Maher of ABC 7 Chicago*



*Maria Castro and Jason Gumbs (left to right) receive Volunteers' of the Year Award for Comcast with State Rep. Lisa Hernandez, Illinois District 24*



*Karen Meyer of ABC 7 Chicago (center) receives the President's Award from Jim Haptonstahl, John Voit and Julie Lerch (left to right)*



*John Voit (left) and Suzanne Le Mignot (right) present John Saldana with the Shining Star Award.*

# A Beautiful Day “Fore” Golf

*The 17th Annual Seguin Golf Classic*



*Above: Anthony Miezio, Brian Ball, Scott Welch and Anthony Way of USI Insurance enjoy their day on the course.*



*Left: Seguin Participant Larry Mikrut (2nd from left) and John Voit (back) present the Lowest “Yellow Ball” trophies to the winning foursome, led by Larry’s brother Tom Mikrut (left).*

Clear blue skies, pleasant temperatures, and a renowned golf course—it was a perfect day for golf! Tuesday, August 25, 2009 brought sunshine and ideal conditions to Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont for the 17th Annual Seguin Golf Classic. Over ninety golfers received a fabulous lunch, 18 holes of challenging golf and an amazing dinner, all while supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and other special needs served by Seguin Services. 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. 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.

Highlights of the day included Low Men’s Score winner James Shanahan and Low Women’s Score winner Trish Gurtner. The Low “Yellow Ball” Team winning foursome consisted of Robert Levin, Tom Mikrut, Timothy Rogers and Kenneth Zilka. The Longest Drive was earned by Derek Temple.



*It's all fun and games for  
Golf Classic attendee, Jack Horchler*



*Stella Tsokolas, parent of a Seguin participant, shows us her winning ticket in the "Big Raffle". Stella generously donated her \$500 in winnings back to Seguin!*

The Golf Classic "Big Raffle" winner was Stella Tsokolas, mother of a Seguin participant. Stella graciously donated her \$500 winnings to Seguin's Capital Campaign on behalf of her family.

We are especially thankful for the continued generosity and support of all sponsors, staff members, participants and volunteers – without whose help the 17th Annual Seguin Golf Classic would not have been possible.

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**18<sup>th</sup>**  
*Annual*  
Golf Classic at Ruffed  
Feathers Golf Club  
August 2010

# Seguin Staff Are Really Shooting Stars

*Awards Announced as part of Staff Appreciation Month*

On September 30, Seguin celebrated Staff Appreciation Day – the Grand Finale of its 11th annual Staff Appreciation Month – and announced the 2009 Shooting Star award winners.

The Selection Committee, which included last year's award winners, chose 5 new winners from the many nominations submitted by co-workers, supervisors and clinical professionals. Each winner's contribution is a truly inspiring story of how just one person can make a huge difference in raising the quality of life and facilitating the growth potential of people with disabilities.

This year we were proud to recognize: Lovie Twine for Community Integration and Active Treatment Excellence; Francine Harvalis, Life Skills Mentor, for Coaching and Mentoring; Gloria Corral, Life Skills Instructor, for Teamwork and Person-Centered Support; Susanna Abarca, Life Skills Mentor, for Teamwork; and, Ben Hollins, Home Support Specialist, for Person-Centered Support.

As a “snapshot” illustration of how these awardees have acted to enrich the lives of those we serve, we give you Lovie Twine's story. Lovie works as an accountant for Seguin full time and is raising three sons and an adopted niece. Yet, Lovie decided to volunteer her time as the Seguin Penguin's basketball team coach for the past two years, leading them to win a Gold Medal in the downstate competition. Lovie went to college on a basketball scholarship and wanted to share her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for the game with the participants. She has worked to foster teamwork and sportsmanship, guiding and challenging the participants to improve their attitudes and basketball skills through her positive, yet firm leadership. Lovie also included her children in her volunteering by bringing them to games to be the Seguin cheerleaders, as well as to the championship playoffs downstate, even paying for her own hotel rooms. Her “Above and Beyond” commitment to the team and to Seguin has taught her team and her co-workers many worthy lessons.

Each of our 5 new Shooting Stars deserves our praise and recognition. We are so thankful for their commitment to Seguin and the inspiration they present to us all!



*The five brilliant Shooting Star Award recipients, Ben Hollins, Lovie Twine, Fran Harvalis, Suzanna Abarca, and Gloria Corral (left to right), are honored at the culminating event of the Staff Appreciation Month.*



*Lovie Twine was “all net” as one of our Shooting Stars.*



# Make A Difference Through Your Charitable Gift Planning



*Board President Joe Pedersen and wife Peg are charter members of the Edouard Seguin Society, having included Seguin in their estate plans as they look to the future for Seguin and their son Craig, a Seguin participant.*

This year has been a very difficult year for all charities, and especially those Illinois charities that depend on the State of Illinois for a major portion of their funding. Seguin is one of those charities. In June of this year, we faced significant proposed funding cuts from the State. Seguin's President and CEO John Voit spoke to all Seguin Services staff and told them that we were encountering possibly the worst of times for our participants as well as for the agency and its employees.

But thankfully, a few blessings came our way. The State restored funding, for most programs, to last year's levels. We also received notice of two large, unexpected gifts that we had worked to secure but were, due to their size, unpredictable. These gifts demonstrated, in an astounding way, that philanthropy is alive and well in our nation, in our communities. But we would be remiss to think the future for social services agencies in Illinois, including Seguin, is rosy, without concerted effort on our part to provide, in a committed and dedicated way, for the individuals whom we serve.

Therefore, today, we ask you to consider your future and your ability to donate to Seguin

Services in a planned manner. There are several ways this might be accomplished:

**Bequests:** Please consider including Seguin Services in your will.

**Appreciated Assets:** Many assets that grow over time frequently provide little cash. You might make a large gift to Seguin, costing you little income, which could fund a gift annuity to increase our income. Or donate assets that cost money to maintain, like real estate, coupled with receiving an IRS deduction, which could be very appealing to you. You might donate personal property including cars to Seguin's Auto Center, or furniture, collections, intellectual property, securities, artwork, as well as real estate such as homes, condominiums, farms, undeveloped land, hotels, warehouses, industrial property or recreational properties.

**Retirement Plans:** Name Seguin as a beneficiary in your retirement plans, (for example in any IRAs, 401Ks, etc.) as these are heavily taxed if passed on to your heirs.

**Life Insurance:** Here is another "no hassle, no cost" gift that would be heavily taxed if passed on to your heirs.

Seguin Services is a charitable organization that leads its peers in innovation. Seguin has been especially responsive to the needs of individuals deemed most vulnerable in our society. But Seguin cannot accomplish its work, and benefit children and adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs, without the generosity of its community of friends...without people like you. Please give serious consideration to the idea of these gift options for your charitable gift planning. If you have already included Seguin in your estate plans, let us know, so we can list you as part of our honored Edouard Seguin Society. If you would like further information, contact Dawneen Suriano at 708-222-4251, [dsuriano@seguin.org](mailto:dsuriano@seguin.org), or Jim Haptonstahl at 708-222-4250, [jhaptons@seguin.org](mailto:jhaptons@seguin.org).

# Lincoln Middle School & Seguin Services – A Winning Combination

*Youth Leadership and Disability Awareness Unit & “Walk-A-Thon for Seguin”*



*Lincoln Middle School students, Giovanni Gomez, Diego Bolanos, Ishmael Abdur-Rafia, and Vanessa Patenoude (left to right), walk to raise money for Seguin participants including Maria Vanik (center).*

On Saturday, October 24, 2009, nearly 350 eighth grade students from Lincoln Middle School in Berwyn put on their walking shoes to raise funds for children and adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs. The “Walk-A-Thon for Seguin” was the culminating activity of a Youth Leadership and Disability Awareness Unit in which the entire eighth grade participates. The students read a book titled “The Man Who Loved Clowns”

by June Rae Wood and spent approximately six weeks increasing their awareness, knowledge and understanding of individuals with disabilities during this multidisciplinary unit. The book is about a 13 year-old girl who lives with her parents and her uncle, who has Down syndrome. The story weaves together experiences of growing up, trying to fit in and finding ways to accept individuals with disabilities.



*June Rae Wood, author of *The Man Who Loved Clowns*, discusses the book with eighth grade students of Lincoln Middle School in Berwyn at the completion of their six week unit focusing on Youth Leadership and Disability Awareness training.*

This was the 6th year that LMS students participated in the Youth Leadership and Disability Awareness Unit and in the “Walk-A-Thon for Seguin”. The 5-mile Walk takes place each fall at Morton West High School in Berwyn. Each year Seguin participants join the Lincoln students on their walk and share in a post-Walk hot dog lunch. With great determination the Lincoln Middle School eighth graders



*Joe Halerz, Seguin participant (center), just finished a dance with two Lincoln Middle School eighth graders, Danna Gonzalez and Jazmine Pritchett.*

have raised more than \$45,000 over the past six years to help support the numerous activities and programs at Seguin Services, on behalf of individuals with disabilities.

As part of the Youth Leadership and Disability Awareness Unit, Seguin participants visited

Lincoln Middle School students for the “Seguin Social” on October 14, for an afternoon of pizza, music, crafts and friendship. Students also enjoyed a personal reading and discussion with author June Rae Wood on October 23.

This effort is part of an overall Youth Leadership and Disability Awareness project underwritten in large part by the Comcast Foundation, which provided \$40,000 in grants over two years. Through this initiative, Seguin has reached nearly 10,000 elementary and middle school students, helping them to become more aware of and sensitive to persons with disabilities, while also developing leadership skills in conducting special activities. If any schools are interested in doing a project like Lincoln Middle School, please contact Kelley Currier at (708) 222-5143 or [kecurrier@seguin.org](mailto:kecurrier@seguin.org).

## Debra Cozy, Shining Star, Lives Her Dreams



Every person has dreams and desires for a full and joyful life. We all hope for happiness, as a result of working toward achievable goals, making progress as we strive to better our lives. In that way, Debra Cozy is just like us, but she also has faced a hardship that most of us do not face—having a developmental disability. In addition, Deb has faced her own challenges with social interactions as well as weight-related health concerns. Life has been very hard for Deb and for others in her life...until she came to Seguin.

Prior to coming to live in a Seguin group home and participate in Seguin day services in June of 2004, Deb Cozy had been served by a few other agencies. These situations did not work out and Deb decided to come to Seguin Services.

Seguin’s staff members have consistently and lovingly instructed Deb, working with her in all areas of her life. They have shown her that she can make wise choices regarding her actions, her health and in her relationships with others. As a result, Deb now chooses to eat more fruits and vegetables. She regularly exercises and drinks water so that she could lose weight. And has she lost weight – over 120 pounds in the past year! This has made Deb quite proud of herself. She is visibly accomplishing something important. More importantly, Deb has developed a happy, joyful attitude.

Erica Goolsby, Deb’s case manager, said, “When I first met Deb I never would have expected the dramatic changes that she has made . . . today she is a loving, caring person.” All one need do to see how she has transformed herself is to look at her infectious smile.

This summer at Seguin’s Living the Dream Celebration Gala, Debra Cozy was recognized for her accomplishments as one of Seguin’s Shining Star Award recipients. Today, with the help of Seguin, Deb is living her dream.

# Special Events at Seguin Gardens & Gifts



## Jingle Bell Bash!

Saturday, December 5, 2009 | 10 am - 5 pm  
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

We invite you to visit Seguin Gardens & Gifts to see what we have in store for the Holidays. Each shopper will get a holiday discount – all you have to do is reach in the jar to see if it is 10%, 20% or even 40%!



### Seguin Holiday Gift Baskets

To place your order for holiday gift baskets, visit [SeguinGifts.com](http://SeguinGifts.com) or call 708.222.2772.

#### CHOCOLATE DREAMS - \$34.99

A Chocolate Lover's Dream Come True! It is all here in this sweet selection of dreamy chocolate treats: Ghirardelli Chocolate & Hazelnut Squares, Lindt Chocolate Truffles, Chocolate Covered Almonds, Candy Cane Flavored Cereals, Chocolate Covered Graham Crackers, Chocolate Covered Crispy Rice Treats, Chocolate Covered Pretzels and other Chocolate Treats

#### SEASONS GREETINGS - \$43.95

The perfect holiday selection for those important people you know throughout the busy year. Basket contains Cashew Granola, Gourmet Cheese Spread, Crackers Bread, Lindt Milk Chocolate Truffles and Mint Truffles, Italian Sausage Roll, Holiday Cookies, Cinnamon Cookies, Tea, Sea Salt Pita Chips, Tostitos Snack Mix and Rendezvous Lemon Candy Tin.

#### SANTA PAWS - \$32.99

Pamper your Pooch this holiday! Doggie Basket contains a Big Bag of Seguin-Made Bark Bone Cookies, Rope Tug Toy, Santa Duck Plush Toy, Dragon Squeaky Toy, Rawhide Candy Cane Treats, Holiday Ornament, Knobby Woolly Ball and a Flashing Holiday Collar (fits up to 16" neck).



### Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 6 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm | Sunday 11 am - 4 pm



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