



Sycamore
Services,
Inc.



Summer
2011

Calendar of Events

Monday, September 5
Labor Day Holiday
September 12 at 7 PM
ARC Meeting
September 27 at 7 PM
Board Meeting
October 25 at 7 PM
Board Meeting
November 7 at 7 PM
ARC Meeting
November 22, 2011 at 7 PM
Board Meeting
November 24-25
Thanksgiving Holiday

SYCAMORE RECEIVES HIGHEST ACCREDITATION FROM NATIONAL SURVEY

Sycamore Services has to maintain standards of quality in services provided, documentation of services and benefits received by service recipients. To maintain our funding contracts, we must maintain our accreditation and to assure that requirements are being followed, we are surveyed on a regular basis by State and National accreditation agencies.

In June, Sycamore was surveyed by CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Four surveyors visited offices for three days and visited consumer service sites, reviewed file records and talked with consumers, families and funding agency representatives. It is a comprehensive process and, at the end of the survey we are given feedback on findings of all the surveyors. Final results are not presented until weeks later after a further review of accreditation officials.

Mission Statement

Sycamore Services, Inc. makes a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities and others experiencing daily challenges by providing individualized training and services to increase independence and enhance their quality of life.

Our wait is over. Early in August, Sycamore received notice that we had been granted a three-year accreditation. This is the highest award possible. Our CEO, Pat Cockrum, expressed his gratitude to all staff and added, "It is nice to get affirmation of what we already knew. That is, our services are of the highest quality." Since our first CARF Survey, Sycamore has received three-year certifications and we are proud to fulfill the expectations that come with these awards.

- Did you know?
- Sycamore Services was first incorporated in 1961—50 years ago!!
- In 1961 Sycamore—as Opportunity Cottage—served only children and had a pre-school?
- Sycamore added supported employment in the early 90's?
- The building used for the pre-school is now apartments owned by Sycamore?



For more agency information or to make a donation

www.sycamoreservices.com

Or call 317.745.4715



Matt's Perspective

My name is Matt Hobson. I have autism. I am also nonverbal. However, I can communicate very well. When I was young, I learned to type with the help of a facilitator. A facilitator is a person who helps stabilize my hand so I can type. Facilitated communication has been quite controversial since Doug Biklen started the Syracuse University Institute in the late 80's. In an excerpt from my book, I'm SO Glad You Found Me in Here, I tell about some negative publicity and about the hope found in facilitated communication.

"60 Minutes had done a show about facilitated communication. I had been afraid to watch it, but my parents wanted me to. The show made FC look like a hoax. The man who was interviewed worked with disabled people who had communication disorders. He had a PhD from Syracuse University, the same university where Doug Biklen worked. This man set out to prove that facilitated communication was not valid. He conducted experiments where a disabled person was shown a picture. Then this person, by typing, had to tell the facilitator, who had not seen the picture, what the picture was. He showed that the facilitator and the disabled person almost consistently failed this "blind test." Therefore, he concluded the method was not a scientifically valid technique.

As I watched the show, I was furious and disheartened because I knew there was evidence that did exist to prove that facilitated communication does work for some people. I have typed things that my facilitator has not known. This is not formal testing but can, and has, validated that I do the typing. Also, some individuals who were facilitating can now type independently. Other individuals can type with a facilitator's hand on their shoulder. (I can't do that yet, but hope to some day.) There is not a scientific explanation as to why that hand is necessary, but it works for some people. Other strange things happen with scientifically demonstrated support. For example, an individual with autism who I know has the gift of playing the organ extremely well. There is no scientific explanation as to how he can play so well, but he can do it.

Because of the negative controversy, communication has been taken away from many non-verbal, disabled people. Some autistic people tragically lost their desperately needed ability to communicate. Communicating is the key so many of us are searching for. Giving us hope and then stripping us of that hope is cruel."

I want people to not give up hope. You can learn to communicate, just keep looking for your way. Mine is facilitated communication.

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING AUGUST 26

Coordinated efforts of United Way of Central Indiana made Sycamore Lane into Day of Caring Lane for the day on Friday, August 26. Sycamore, Senior Services and Sheltering Wings were named to host volunteers for a variety of tasks for the day.

One group of volunteers cleaned out shrubs, cleared a fence-row and enlarged the garden area while others taped and prepped rooms for paint. Painting was done in the day rooms, the sensory room, in the hallway and behind the front desk.

Volunteers started at 9 am and worked till 11:30. They had all been invited to Senior Services for lunch sponsored by United Way. In total, Sycamore hosted 29 volunteers who completed some BIG jobs. They returned to Sycamore and worked through the end of the day completing the paint job they started in the morning.

Volunteers included ~ in alphabetical order:

Amy Novero, Artie Montgomery, Bill Gabbard, Brad Ellsworth, Brian Hill, Chad Campbell, Dave Farris, Gary Godfrey, George Hieston, Greg Steelsmith, James Jones, Jason Smith, Jason Street, Jerry Knecht, John Burke, John Hartke, John Romalia, Lee Werking, Mark Henderson, Mike Spall, Monty Black, Pam Tentinger, Phil Northcutt, Rich Schach, Rick Riggs, Rusty Poore, Shane Alexander, Shelby Ballard and Tony Corradi. Shane Alexander coordinated the activity.



SYCAMORE CLOSES ON SITE OF HOUSING PROJECT

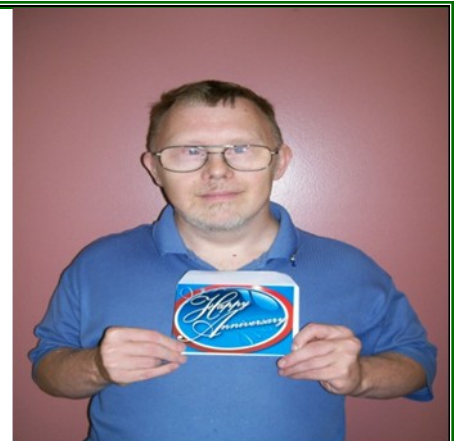
In late July, Sycamore closed on property in Brownsburg that will be used to develop apartments. The project will be a 72 unit complex, built and managed by, our partner, Herman & Kittle Properties. Some apartments will be constructed with accessibility options for rental by persons with disabilities. However, this will be an affordable housing project, open to all who meet the income qualifications.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for Friday, September 16 at 10 am. Sycamore is looking forward to presenting an attractive, safe and affordable residential option to potential renters.



Congratulations Bill!

Bill B. received an award from his employer, Kroger of Danville, to recognize 19 years of employment. Bill was placed at the local Kroger store by Marty Angrick, a Sycamore Employment Consultant now retired. Bill not only works at Kroger, but works at our Danville Center, too.



We congratulate Bill on his anniversary and on his success at becoming a more independent individual who participates in his community.

Thanks to the Tiki Team, our 2011 Tiki Time was a great success. Eric Halvorson, WISH TV Channel 8 newscaster, was the emcee and could not be a nicer man. People had fun and we raised money to boot.

Steve Elston provided music for the evening and some of us even danced! The Mayberry Café presented a wonderfully tasty dinner and Green Street Station of Brownsburg served drinks to guests throughout the evening.

A special touch was the set of cakes donated by Primo West – Five Star Catering. The cakes were decorated to symbolize the growth of our agency over the last 50 years. The tree that “grew” from cake to cake was a creative way to show how we grew from a group of families in 1961 to an agency serving Central and Southern Indiana in 2011.

Lots of people and businesses contributed to the event and we express our gratitude to all who donated, all who attended, all who volunteered. We couldn't have done it without you.

Sycamore Services/ Cooking Class



Sycamore has a cooking class at Danville that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We know when the group is meeting because we can smell some very good things. They also helped us select seeds and plants for the garden we have behind our building. Now that produce is coming on, the group will be able to use fresh tomatoes, green peppers and onions to add even more flavor to the meals they prepare.

When does the tasting begin?

