

## Oops!

You may have noticed some links on last week's Family Buzz did not work. Here is a corrected version with repaired links. We apologize for any inconvenience, and thank you for reading the Family Buzz!

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Staff members *Tatiana Adkins*, *Toinette Alexander*, and *Shantay Gaines* amid the *Sponge Bob* scenery at Apartment 1.

## Halloween, Part 1: Campus apartments get creepy

Residential staff members from Bancroft's Haddonfield campus went all out this Halloween - creating spooky scenes and scary (but tasty) treats - as they competed in Halloween decorating and baking contests.

Staff and students decorated all eight campus apartments, with themes that varied from a spooky graveyard to Elm(o) Street (a la Sesame Street). Tying for first place were Charlotte House with its Charlotte's Web theme, and Apartment 1 with its Sponge Bob decor.

For the bake-off, each apartment submitted two entries -- one by each group of staff who work different parts of the week. The winners were Apartment 1 for its Body Cavity Cake (most creative category), Apartment 4 for its Bubbling Cauldron (best tasting), and Jenzia House for its Ear and Eyeball Pasta and Cockroach Sandwiches (scariest).

The winning apartments will receive a party of their choice, such as a bowling, pizza, skating or movie party. Winners were determined by votes from about 100 employees, including Bancroft's executive staff, and volunteers from Wegmans supermarket in Cherry Hill.

**Our own piano man**

Thank you to all who helped make this a very happy Halloween for the campus residential program!

**New registry of offenders**

For more photos of these Halloween happenings, [click here](#).

**Guardianship workshop****Haddonfield property update**

## Halloween, Part 2: Kids' homes go ghostly

Parents Karen D'Ambrosio and Mindy Maranon [sent these pictures](#) from the annual house-decorating contest they host for Bancroft's pediatric and adolescent homes in the community.

**Upcoming Events****Tuesday, November 09**

Brain Injury Workshop:  
Overview of Cognitive Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury  
Time: 3:00PM to 5:30PM  
Contact: Joy Furgiuele  
(856) 524-7242

"Many houses were very happy with their prize packs, which included gift cards or passes to Funplex, Playdrome, Laurel Lanes, Johnson's Farm, Cherry Hill Skating, Pump It Up, Regal and Cinemark Cinemas and Barry's Bistro," said D'Ambrosio. Participants also received coupons for Rita's Water Ice and Philly Pretzel Factory.

A big thank-you to all the people and businesses that donated to this fun competition! And special thanks to the Knights of Columbus, whose generous donation paid for a few more last-minute gift cards.

**Friday, November 12  
Clarence York Lecture:  
Breaking Through:  
Advances in Assistive Technology**

9:00AM to 12:00PM  
Cherry Hill Public Library  
Cherry Hill, NJ  
Advance registration is required.  
Contact: Sue Crouse (856) 348-4010



*Former Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski and his wife, Liz, meet Beth Kaiser Thompson (shaking hands) and her husband David. Looking on (in brown gown) is Bancroft executive Joan Galon King.*

**Assistive Technology Vendors Fair:**

## Butterfly Ball surpasses goal!

Thanks to all of our friends and supporters, this year's Butterfly Ball was record-breaking, both in revenue and attendance! The Oct. 22 event was an extraordinary

10:30AM to 4PM  
Cooley Hall  
Gym,  
Haddonfield  
Campus  
[Learn more](#)

**Wednesday,  
November 17**

Bancroft  
Developmental  
Disability  
Workshop:  
*Strategies for  
Reducing  
Holiday Stress -  
FREE*  
Time:6:30PM to  
8:30PM  
Contact: Pat  
Reid,  
(856)524-7353,  
or -7371

**Wednesday,  
November 24**

Jump Rope for  
Heart  
Time:9:30AM  
to 10:30AM  
Contact:  
Sylvie Moran  
Phone:  
(856)524-7033

**Thursday,  
December 9**

Overview of  
Cognitive  
Rehabilitation  
*Part of  
Bancroft's free  
workshop series  
on topics related  
to brain injuries*  
3:15 to 5PM  
Lebensfeld  
Building  
Cherry Hill, NJ  
[Learn more](#)

success in terms of raising needed funds, and also in spreading awareness of our important mission to new friends and associates. Early reports show \$335,000 in proceeds -- \$10,000 higher than goal! And 294 guests attended the black-tie evening.

Special thanks to Ron Jaworski for making the evening so enjoyable, the Joyful Noise chorus for starting the evening off in a very special way, our honorees Dr. Steve Bromley and KDA Architects for their passionate remarks, our special guest Beth Thompson for speaking from the heart and, of course, our many sponsors and attendees for your support of Bancroft through this event and in many other ways. Your generosity and ongoing commitment to those we serve and their families is sincerely appreciated.

[Click here for more photographs from the evening.](#)



*Kathy Warren (center) is joined by Bancroft President Toni Pergolin (right) and Chief Advancement Officer Joan Galon King, after receiving her raffle prize.*

## Staff member wins vacation raffle at Ball

Kathy Warren, a longtime member of our Mullica Hill staff, was the lucky winner of a seven-night trip for two to Jamaica. The raffle, which was drawn during the Butterfly Ball last month, raised more than \$10,000 for Bancroft.

"All I kept saying was 'OMG, you're kidding me!'" emailed Warren, who's never flown before. "I'm very excited about being able to go to Jamaica. I can't wait to see the waterfalls and climb to the top.

"This will be the stepping stone for me to travel to all those places I've dreamed about," adds Warren, who considers flying her "biggest challenge to date," and who's driven to every state in the continental U.S., plus Alaska and Mexico. "I'm applying for my passport in the next two weeks. I still can't believe I won!"



## ABCD award winners

**Left photo:** Victoria Brown (center), a woman who is supported by Bancroft, poses with Bancroft President and CEO Toni Pergolin (left) and Dawn Apgar, deputy commissioner for the N.J. Department of Human Services, after receiving the Self-Advocate Award from the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD), a statewide advocacy group.

**Right photo:** Bancroft parent William Wills (center) stands with Kenneth Ritchey (left), assistant commissioner for the N.J. Division of Developmental Disabilities, Bancroft's Toni Pergolin, and Steve Proctor, president/CEO of Matheny Medical and Education Center, after accepting the Alex Gallione Family Advocate Award from ABCD, for his strong advocacy at the state and local level, and his deep commitment to people with neurological challenges.

*Congratulations to all nominees and award recipients!*



*Breaking ground, from left: Ed LaMonica, Joshua Gottlieb, Toni Pergolin, Ann Frambes, and Violet Mwangi.*

# The ground is broken!

Many people we serve, staff and family members participated in a groundbreaking event last Friday on the Mullica Hill Campus to celebrate the beginning of a two-year, campus-wide reconstruction project.

Bancroft President Toni Pergolin spoke about how excited everyone is to see the beginning of the work to bring our vision to reality. After years of planning, this is the first visible sign the work is really going to happen!

Campus Senior Director Violet Mwangi spoke more personally about what will be happening for those who live and work on the campus. We all know there will be some disruption, but she encouraged everyone to remain focused on how nice things will be after construction is completed.

Josh Gottlieb, who has lived on the campus for many years, shared his excitement about the new facilities, and Ed LaMonica spoke eloquently about what this project means to him.

"Mullica Hill has helped me in so many ways to achieve everything I have worked for, and with the new construction about to begin, it will only get better," he said. "I have seen the plan for the new condominiums and the layout looks beautiful...The best thing about the new condo is the additional room with a new washer and dryer, so I do not have to walk across campus" to do laundry.

Ann Frambes, who has worked on the campus for 26 years, stated: "I have seen many changes on the campus; however, none more exciting than today."

And, our Food Services team demonstrated their creativity once again by serving "dirt and worms" to our groundbreaking guests. It was the tastiest dirt and worms ever!

For more details on the construction project, [click here](#).

## Get a grip... press their buttons... and much more!

**Touch, test and try cool assistive technology on Nov. 12**

From specially designed can-openers to machines that talk for you, assistive technology covers a wide range of devices and services. But all have one thing in common: They help people enhance their abilities and independence.

On Friday Nov. 12, you can try many of these products and resources for yourself, and see how they can help the children and adults we serve. Just come to our free Assistive Technology Vendor Fair between 10:30 am and 4 pm in the Cooley Hall gym on the Haddonfield Campus.

Plus, if you'd like to see a particular technology or learn how to address a specific need, one of our exhibitors - Advancing Opportunities - will give you a customized demonstration. Simply view the following links to identify technology that interests you, then contact Beth Greer with your request by Nov. 8 at (856) 524-7035 or

[bgreer@bnh.org](mailto:bgreer@bnh.org).

- [Aids for Daily Living](#)
- [Augmentative Communication](#)
- [Computer Access](#)
- [Educational Aids](#)
- [Environmental Controls](#)
- [Ergonomic Aids](#)
- [Recreation and Toys](#)
- [Switches](#)

"This is a great way to better understand what a screen reader is, what the difference is between a switch and a switch interface, or what an environmental control does," says Greer. "If you don't see what you're looking for at these links, call me with your request." [For a flyer on the vendor fair, click here.](#)

The vendor fair is being held in conjunction with Bancroft's fall Clarence York Lecture, titled "Breaking Through: Advances in Assistive Technology." [For the lecture brochure, click here.](#)

Attendance at the lecture is not required in order to attend the free vendor fair. Questions about assistive technology or these events? Call Beth Greer at (856) 524-7035 or email [bgreer@bnh.org](mailto:bgreer@bnh.org)

## Help needed for Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will help put books in the hands of our students, staff and families, as well as in Bancroft classrooms. To host a successful fair, we need LOTS of helping hands!

If you can help for a couple of hours on any of the following days, please contact Deb Conner at (856) 524-7023 or email [dconner@bnh.org](mailto:dconner@bnh.org)

Also, mark your calendar today so you can be sure to stop in.

### **When:**

November 29 - December 3  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Nov. 29, Dec. 2 and 3  
9 a.m. - 4 pm. on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1

### **Where:**

Bancroft Hall Room # 1  
Haddonfield Campus



## Wegmans employees roll up their sleeves for Bancroft

About ten employees from Wegmans supermarket in Cherry Hill did a variety of landscaping work in the backyard of Bancroft's Haddonfield campus apartments last month. The store also donated supplies, including topsoil, mulch, plants, sand, paint and painting supplies.

"Wegmans donation and volunteer work has gone a long way to make the backyard welcoming and beautiful for our kids," says Deb Conner, Bancroft's volunteer manager. "It's amazing what a few extra hands and willing hearts can accomplish!"

In fact, the Wegmans team finished the garden begun last year by volunteers from Ameriprise. They cleaned, raked, weeded, filled the sandbox, removed vines from the fence, and created a garden with beautiful mums and pansies. The group also painted the playground equipment, shed and picnic tables, and power-washed the steps and porches.

And to top off their day, they even helped judge the apartments' Halloween decorating and baking contest! (See story above.)

*Thank you, Wegmans volunteers and management!*

To arrange a day of service for your company or group, contact Conner at (856) 524-7023 or email [dconner@bnh.org](mailto:dconner@bnh.org)



*Employer Peter Brown (second from left), owner of the South Jersey Guitar Shop, poses with employee Gavin Rodgers (third from left), and Bancroft executives Dan Keating and Caroline Eggerding, during Bancroft's employer-recognition event.*

## Bancroft honors employers

Bancroft honored more than 60 organizations last week that employ over 100 adults we serve.

The 16th annual employer recognition event, held by our Adult Supported Employment program, was one of the best, according to many guests.

From the setting - Pennsauken, N.J.'s beautiful Cooper River Boat House at sunset - to our guest speaker, to the three "focus employers" and many other special guests, to the music and the food...everything was exceptional.

The October event also marks National Disability Employment Awareness Month. And this year, our nation celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which established civil rights of people with disabilities.

Yet despite such advances, most firms are still not hiring people with disabilities, Bancroft executive Dan Keating noted in his remarks. In contrast, employers that partner with Bancroft to provide job opportunities truly help make it "one world for everyone," he noted.

The event singled out the following three "focus employers:" Haddonfield Child Care, South Jersey Guitar Shop in Collingswood, and Whole Foods in Marlton. All three employers spoke enthusiastically of their experiences with adults enrolled at Bancroft.

In addition, guest speaker Rosemarie Poverman, a psychotherapist and social worker, gave an entertaining talk on the positive power of humor. If we allow an angry person to affect our mood, we are giving away power, she noted, and it's important to remember we have other options.

At the event's conclusion, Program Director Rose Dougherty reinforced our appreciation of Bancroft's many employer-partners, stating: "Your connections to the business world are invaluable to our program, and we are most grateful."

Thanks to Anita Garcia and the other members of the Supported Employment team for coordinating the event, including Bancroft's Business Advisory Committee, and Thom Kent for the evening's music.

To view a special thank-you listing all of Bancroft's employer-partners, [click here](#)

[Click here for more photos from the event.](#)

## Walter Rotzell: a fine Piano Man



Walter Rotzell, a man who is served by Bancroft, recently gave a piano concert for a group of senior citizens.

Rotzell, who learned piano at an early age, performed three ragtime numbers and finished with America the Beautiful. His audience - about 15 residents of the Spring Oak Assisted Living Center in West Berlin, N.J. - responded with smiles, laughter and clapping.

The ragtime-era Spinning Song, in particular, got people "grooving to the beat," reports Rose Dougherty, a director of Bancroft programs for adults. "We expect Walter will give another spectacular appearance in the near future!"

## NJ establishes registry of offenders against people with developmental disabilities

New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has created a central registry for offenders against people with development disabilities. The registry, which is accessible by any DDD-funded employer, is maintained at the state's Department of Human Services (DHS).

"The registry is... going to go a long way toward ensuring that the individuals we serve are protected and safe from previous offenders," said Assistant DHS Commissioner Kenneth W. Ritchey.

The registry will list people who have exploited, abused or neglected an individual in their care while they were an employee or volunteer of DDD or of an organization with which DDD contracts to provide services. Employers providing these services are required to determine if potential caregivers are included on the central registry.

Individuals will be listed in the registry following a finding by a DHS investigator, even if the action did not rise to the level of a crime. Those on the list will be barred from consideration by the employer.

Gov. Christie signed the law creating the registry in April.

[For more about the registry, click here.](#)

## Guardianship workshop on Nov. 8

Values into Action, a nonprofit advocacy organization, will present a workshop titled "Exploring Alternatives to Guardianship."

**When:**

Monday Nov. 8  
9:30 am - 1 pm.

**Where:**

Ocean County Library - Jackson Branch  
2 Jackson Drive  
Jackson, NJ 08527

For contact info and to view the workshop flyer, [click here.](#)

## Haddonfield Property Update

The borough has withdrawn its redevelopment plan for our Haddonfield campus, and is in the process of determining its next steps related to our property. We are optimistic that a new redevelopment plan will be created that would still enable Bancroft to sell our campus in the near future, while enabling the town to attain facilities and revenue that benefit its residents. As previously noted, it is our goal to sell our Haddonfield campus, so we can relocate and build new facilities.

Please watch for future updates here, as this process continues. If you have questions, call Kathy Ross, vice president of communications and community relations, at (856) 348-4008 or email [kross@bnh.org](mailto:kross@bnh.org).

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