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## In This Issue

[Mullica Hill group nominated for service award](#)

[Bancroft Unplugged, Parts 2 and 3](#)

[April is Autism Awareness Month](#)

[Bancroft clinician earns rare certification](#)

[Staff competes in comedic 'Bancroft Classic'](#)

[Staff team wins statewide 'Snow Bowl'](#)

[Students and staff raise 'Pennies for Patients'](#)

[With spring comes flowers, sunshine - and special memories of our Phillies!](#)

[Mom shares miraculous story in new mailing](#)

[Inclusive Ministry Workshop slated for May 1](#)

[Special carnival coming to Rutgers-Camden](#)

[Free workshops and booklet on N.J. insurance issues](#)

[DDD Today newsletter](#)



The Mullica Hill group poses with their award. Clockwise from top left: Grant Rushnell, Charlie Reese, Josh Gottlieb, Ray Granrath, Teasha Brown, Violet Mwangi, and Joanne Tozzi-Wydra.

## Mullica Hill group nominated for service award

The Mullica Hill Program was recently nominated for their volunteerism in the community, by the United Way of Salem County and the Salem County Chamber of Commerce.

Although the group did not win the "Community Spirit Award," several volunteers who are supported in Mullica Hill were honored at the awards banquet for their service delivering "Meals on Wheels" in the area.

Joshua Gottlieb, Ray Granrath, Charlie Reese, and Grant Rushnell enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the Centerton (N.J.) Country Club, where they were recognized for their work in front of about 200 other volunteers and community leaders.

"Under the leadership of Caleb Wilder, the Bancroft team is very reliable, and is willing to lend a hand when needed," said Peg Marshall, executive director of Meals on Wheels. "Our clients always enjoy seeing them."

**Call to action re:  
closure of  
developmental center**

"They deliver to two of the most challenging and lengthy routes in the Elmer and Pittsgrove area," stated the group's written nomination. "This volunteer service has been a 'win-win' situation for everyone involved."

**Upcoming Events**

**Friday, April 15**

9:30 am to 12 pm

**The Bancroft School  
Spring Show**

**Location:** Haddonfield  
Memorial High School  
auditorium

**Contact:** Dottie Walls

**Phone:** (856) 524-7360

**Friday, April 15**

7:30-8:30 pm

**The Bancroft School  
Spring Dance**

(Ages 13 - 21)

**Location:** Cooley Hall  
Gym, Haddonfield  
Campus

**Contact:** Dottie Walls

**Phone:** (856) 524-7360

**Wednesday, April 20**

6:30-8:30 pm

**Medical Developments  
in the Biology of  
Autism**

*Bancroft Developmental  
Disabilities Workshop  
Series*

**Location:** Farrington  
building,  
Haddonfield Campus

**Contact:** Pat Reid

**Phone:** (856) 524-7453

**Email:** [preid@bnh.org](mailto:preid@bnh.org)

**Sunday, May 1**

2:45-6:45 pm

**Inclusive Ministry  
Workshop**

**Registration:**

2 - 2:30 pm

**Location:** The Bancroft  
School gymnasium,  
Haddonfield Campus

**Cost:** \$10

**Contact:** Sister Krista  
Mote

Noted Violet Mwangi, senior program director at Mullica Hill: "We were very proud to see the men get some recognition for their Meals-on-Wheels work. They are doing a great job and the people they support in the community really appreciate their help."



Four speakers at the Bancroft Unplugged event in Cherry Hill, N.J., after receiving certificates for their participation. From left: Dan Livecchi, Joe Peterman, Gavin Rogers, and Adrienne Beattie. For more photos, including shots from the Plainsboro event, please [click here](#).

## Bancroft Unplugged: Events conclude with more inspiring stories

In the previous issue of the Family Buzz, we reported on our first "Bancroft Unplugged" event, held at our Brick, N.J., facility. Over the past two weeks, Bancroft Brain Injury Services presented its other two Unplugged events, in Plainsboro and Cherry Hill.

Each event featured a series of brief, heartfelt speeches by people with brain injuries, describing their journey toward rehabilitation and fulfilling lives. The evenings helped mark Brain Injury Awareness month in March.

Here are some excerpts from the speeches:

- "We are not just victims... we are overcomers!... My goal is to go back to work, and have a family... With this staff, we cannot go wrong!" - Stepfon Walters
- "[I] moved out here and everything has been going really good. I'm

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getting a computer. I take Access Link. I am making a lot of progress. I'm very thankful to everyone." - Joe Rivera

- "After my brain injury, I lost confidence in myself. Now I'm able to do things independently that help me feel better about myself." - Dan Livecchi

For more excerpts, please [click here](#).

For a media story on the Cherry Hill event, [click here](#).

Thanks to everyone who helped make the three Bancroft Unplugged events possible!

## April is Autism Awareness Month



Autism affects one in 110 children - a 57 percent increase from 2007 figures, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Bancroft is marking Autism Awareness Month with two free workshops:

- Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders, held this week.
- Medical Developments in the Biology of Autism, set for **April 20** (For details, [click here](#).)

Also new this month:

- An article titled "Highlights in Autism Progress" from the The National Institute of Mental Health. To view the piece, [click here](#).
- Awareness updates from the Autism Society - [click here](#).

## Bancroft clinician earns rare certification



Bancroft neuropsychologist Mary Brownsberger, Psy.D., recently became one of just 143 professionals nationally to receive certification from the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) in the area of rehabilitation psychology.

"ABPP certification means that Dr. Brownsberger not only has all the required knowledge of her field of psychology, but that she demonstrates competency in

applying that knowledge," notes Cynthia Boyer, Ph.D., senior clinical director of Bancroft Brain Injury Services.

"In that way, board certification - which is voluntary - goes above and beyond the standard licensing requirements for health professionals," she explains. "It's a strong indicator of high-level skills."

Rehabilitation psychology - the area in which Dr. Brownsberger is board-certified -- is a specialty within the field of psychology. It focuses on assisting people with an injury or illness in achieving optimal physical, psychological and interpersonal functioning, according to the ABPP.

Dr. Brownsberger works primarily in Bancroft Brain Injury Services' (BIS) Plainsboro, N.J., program, while also providing her services at other BIS sites.

Congratulations on this outstanding recognition, Dr. Brownsberger!



Bancroft President Toni Pergolin (left) poses with The Alpha Dogs, the winning team from this year's Bancroft Classic. Next to Ms. Pergolin, clockwise from left: Sonam Dubal, Matt Lasoski, Thomas Rhoden, Adam Payton, Solomon Blocker, Katie Chamberlin, and Amyr Hill (kneeling). For more photos from the event, [click here](#).

## Staff competes in comedic 'Bancroft Classic'

Nearly 300 people attended this year's Bancroft Classic, a wacky competition between employees from across the organization. Held last month, the event raised \$3,000 toward staff-recognition efforts.

"People really seemed to enjoy the Classic, whether they were watching or competing," says staff member Michele Habingreither, who chairs the event committee.

The winning team was "The Alpha Dogs" from The Lindens, Bancroft's crisis stabilization program in Haddonfield. This was the Dogs' second consecutive win of the Classic, which features silly relay races, musical chairs, a tug-of-war and much more.

Congratulations to Captain Solomon Blocker and his team. Each player received a \$10 Wawa gift card, championship shirt and their team name on the coveted Championship Cup!

In second place was "TBA Team" from Pediatric and Adolescent Community Residential Services, while "The Incredibles" from The Lindens took third. Teams from Mullica Hill, Brain Injury Services, Pediatric and Adolescent Campus Residential Services, Education and Community Services for Adults also competed.

Many thanks to those who supported the event, by attending, participating, volunteering, or buying raffle tickets or T-shirts. The Bancroft Classic is the only event that benefits Bancroft's staff recognition effort.



## Staff team wins statewide 'Snow Bowl'

*Efforts help raise thousands for Special Olympics*

A team of Bancroft employees and friends recently won the "Snow Bowl," a statewide flag football competition held at Giants Stadium in North Jersey.

The annual two-day event, which benefits Special Olympics of New Jersey, this year raised over \$200,000.

After a nail-biting first match, which the Bancroft squad lost in overtime, our team proceeded to six straight victories - including four straight shutouts - to bring home the championship trophy.

The team name - Bancroft Dogs - will also be displayed on a plaque at the Special Olympics competition center in Princeton.

Team members were Emmanuel Taylor (captain), Corey Biles, Patrick Billingsley, Justus Boyd, Joe Coleman, Tony Gravinese, Sam Harmon, Tawan McNair, Joe Napolitano, and Steve Paul.

This was Bancroft's third year competing in the Snow Bowl.

Kudos to these staff members for going the "extra mile" to support Special Olympics - which benefits so many of the children and adults supported at Bancroft.



Students and staff count each penny, to wrap up their recent fund drive for a children's cancer charity.

## Students raise thousands of 'Pennies for Patients'

Classes throughout The Bancroft School recently collected more than \$550 in change for the national "Pennies for Patients" campaign. The coins benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's efforts to fight childhood cancers.

Taking **first place** for raising the most money was **Heather Brooks'** class, which raised \$121.41. Their prize: a pizza party.

**Second place** went to **Laurie Duckett's** class, which raised \$72.07. Their prize: a \$20 gift card for an ice cream party.

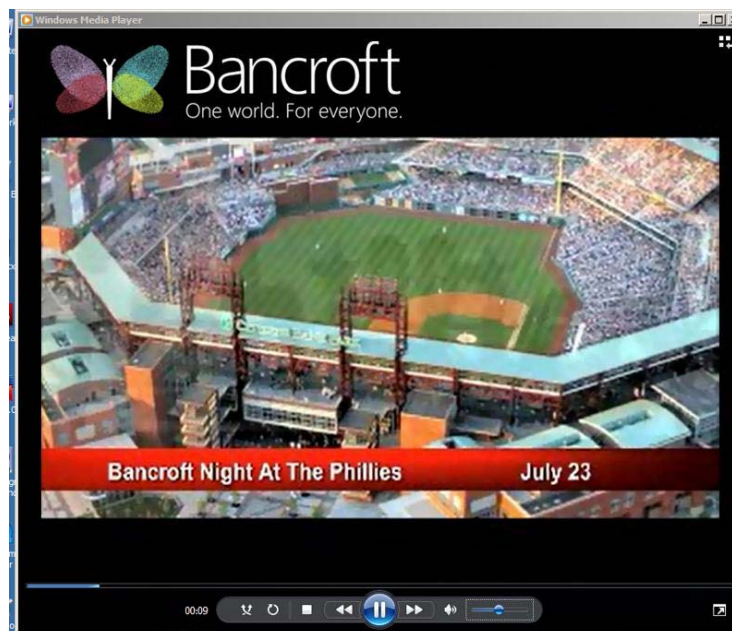
Other top fundraising classes and amounts raised:

Marie Rosic's class - \$57.58

Margorie Cutler's class - \$34.83

Ginni Kassa's class - \$31.91

Thanks to everyone who supported this worthy cause!



**With spring comes flowers, sunshine -  
and special memories of our Phillies!**

Those of us in the Philadelphia / South Jersey area are already enjoying another great Phillies season!

To see our video from last year's fabulous Bancroft Night at Citizens Bank Park, [click here](#).

Go, Phillies, go!

Video is courtesy of Ryan Flamini. Thank you, Ryan!



## Mom shares miraculous story in new mailing



Margaret  
**BANCROFT**  
Annual Fund  
MAKE YOUR MARK

When Mary Kay Steakin's son Michael fell 50 feet at his job, doctors didn't think he'd survive. But Michael not only survived, he has thrived - thanks to his family and Bancroft.

Mary Kay tells Michael's inspiring story in our spring fundraising letter. To check it out, please [click here](#).

## Inclusive Ministry Workshop slated for May 1

Bancroft will hold a workshop to help religious congregations include more people with disabilities in more meaningful ways.

Our "Ninth Annual Interdenominational Inclusive Ministry Workshop" will be held Sunday **May 1** in The Bancroft School gym on our Haddonfield campus.

Designed for both the public and religious leaders at all levels, the workshop will address how to reach out to enrich the spiritual lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It will provide a forum to share ideas about how congregations can welcome people with

disabilities.

In addition, a panel of adults with disabilities will discuss their views about having opportunities to attend religious services and practice their faith.

Registration will be from 2 - 2:30 p.m., and presentations will take place from 2:45 - 6:45 p.m. The cost is \$10.

Advance registration is requested, and light refreshments will be served.

For a flyer with more details, [click here](#).

For more information or to register, please contact Sister Krista Mote at (856) 524-7248 or e-mail [kmote@bnh.org](mailto:kmote@bnh.org).

## Special carnival coming to Rutgers-Camden

Sororities at Rutgers-Camden will hold a free fair for kids with disabilities.

The first annual "Greeks are For Kids" spring carnival will be held Saturday **April 16** from noon to 4 pm at Rutgers' Camden campus.

For information or to register, call Amanda O'Keefe at (856) 904-6871 or email [alokeefe@verizon.net](mailto:alokeefe@verizon.net).

For a flyer on the event, [click here](#).

## Free workshops and booklet on N.J. insurance issues

Two advocacy groups will present a free workshop for parents and professionals, and also offer a related guide for parents.

The workshop - "Maximizing Coverage Under the New Jersey Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities Insurance Mandate" - will be held from 6 - 8 pm on:

- May 5 in Cherry Hill
- May 17 in Wayne
- June 9 in Paramus
- June 14 in Robbinsville

The sessions will be held by Autism New Jersey, in collaboration with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN).

"Navigating insurance coverage for treatment of autism and other developmental disabilities can be challenging," the groups state, noting that new regulations have brought additional questions.

For the workshop brochure and registration information, [click here](#).

To download the free guide for parents, [click here](#).

## DDD Today newsletter

For the March/April issue of DDD Today, [click here](#).

This publication is the newsletter of the N.J. Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities.

## Call to action re: closure of developmental center

The following message is from the New Jersey Association of Community Providers.

### **United We Stand: Support the Closure of Vineland in the Governor's SFY 2010 Budget**

Let your legislator, policymakers and the governor know that you support the closure of Vineland Developmental Center in Governor Christie's SFY 2012 budget as a step in the right direction to rebalance resources toward community inclusion. Not only does closure begin to end decades of segregation and promote people's civil rights, but it allows people the opportunity to have a quality, active and engaged life in the community.

Ask your policymakers to maximize the use of additional federal funds available to help people live in the community under Money Follows the Person and the Community Choice Option. At 49th in the nation, almost every state has gone before us; it is time for NJ to act now!

Policymakers will hear the voices of those who support keeping institutions open. It is critical they hear from everyone who supports community living. It takes only a few seconds to click on the link below and send an electronic letter.

<http://www.voterveice.net/groups/njacp/advocacy/?issueid=24409>

We encourage you to share this call for action with friends, families and colleagues.

For more background information on the Vineland closure, visit [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/centers/vdcclosure.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/centers/vdcclosure.html) or NJACP's website: [www.njacp.org](http://www.njacp.org).

Thank you for all your efforts.



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