

# WELCOME HOME, JOHN!

On a recent Saturday, one of Sertoma Center's clients, John G., became the proud homeowner of a Habitat for Humanity home. John and his DSP staff, Dervan Brown and others, put in the sweat equity and work required to be qualified as a Habitat homeowner! Shown in the picture with John, in the front middle, are some of the people who helped make this dream come true.



Yes, I would like to support Sertoma Center!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please find my gift enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Sertoma Center

Please charge my:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Fall  
**2007**  
Issue



*Sertoma Center*  
*News*

INCORPORATED

## SERTOMA CENTER'S LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTER AND NEW DAY PROGRAMMING A BIG HIT WITH STAFF AND CLIENTS ALIKE

By John Mark Hancock

*Sertoma Center Board Member*

Betty Gamble has spent seven years at Sertoma Center focusing on what people can do and not on what they can't do. In overseeing the new day programming that has been in progress, she is proud to see that with the development of the Life Enrichment Center in our newly-renovated upstairs, clients we serve are making great strides toward individual goals.

Sertoma Center service recipients want to give back to their community and they volunteer to deliver meals to the homebound elderly through the Mobile Meals program, helping at Second Harvest Food Bank, and working in partnership with the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department in landscaping the Ashley Nicole Park for disabled children, adjacent to the John T. O'Connor Senior Citizens Center. They have even started their own "Sertoma Focus" newsletter, written by the clients about themselves and their activities.

Valeria McBee, a 12-year veteran with Sertoma Center as a Community Specialist, has for years been a leader in providing constructive things for our clients to do. Now that the new classrooms are self-contained, they are a lot more conducive to productivity, and all individuals stay very busy with a variety of activities every day. Our clients are learning about our community leaders, our policemen and firemen, about wearing the proper clothing on warm or cold days, and the little things in life that many of us just take for granted. The new curriculum in the day programming is teaching useful life skills.

Sertoma Center clients are also learning the basics of personal hygiene, financial basics such as writing a check, participating in exercise programs, working on computers in our computer lab, and learning table manners, housekeeping, basic kitchen safety, healthy eating habits and a myriad of other useful topics.

One staff member has been working with clients with current events, puzzles, music, the daily newspaper and reading books. Linda Smith performs a very vital role in overseeing the packaging that our clients do for businesses in Knoxville, doing contract work in our work procurement area for ChromaGraphics and Lokar, packaging letter kits, rolling metallic tape to stripe vehicles, and assembling and packaging screws.

For four years, Donna Daugherty has worked with our clients in crafts of all kinds, making suncatchers, bird feeders, candleholders, flower pots, holiday items, beaded bracelets and necklaces. They also learn to work with stencils, scissors and glue. We also have an art therapy class on Fridays led by local artist, Beverly Gleason. In this class, they learn to work with various different

forms of art mediums and learn to express themselves. Some of their artwork was auctioned off this year at our Gala Auction. There are nearly 50 of our clients that participate in these activities daily. Art is one of their favorite classes.

Dorothy Smith came to Sertoma Center two years ago. As a single mom, that move has been good for both her and our clients. She related a story to me about how one of our clients who basically had no interaction at all with anyone is now very outgoing with both the staff and other clients now that our new curriculum has been fully implemented.

Sertoma Center now provides a leisure room where the individuals can rest and relax between their work and learning opportunities. Things such as an indoor garden, bingo and movies are fun things they enjoy.

Expressing life's joy is one of the things that lengthens life. The Life Enrichment Center has breathed that life into our programming. Our clients and staff are truly enjoying themselves as well as meeting their individual goals.

Since opening the Life Enrichment Center, our staff has done a great job of bringing out skills that we didn't know existed before in the clients we serve. The clients themselves have gotten to know themselves better as well.

Sertoma Center is all about bringing hope to everyone. We work with each individual to bring happiness and fulfillment to help them obtain their personal best. This is a true success story that we at Sertoma Center are proud to celebrate and broadcast to the community. Come and see what we're doing to transform the lives of these special citizens of Knoxville!



## A DIFFERENT SUMMER VACATION

For the last few summers, a group of teens from the Confrontation Point Ministries has selected Sertoma Center as a project. Teens from around the U.S. come to Crossville to camp out and spend a week of volunteer service in the East Tennessee area.

Each day, the teens are taken on a "Mystery Project." They spend at least one day a week at Sertoma Center houses doing yard work, painting, scrubbing and anything that needs to be done to make our homes prettier and more comfortable for our individuals. Many friendships are made along the way. Thank you to this great group of young people!



## YUMMY!

A chili cook-off competition was held recently at Sertoma Center to select the best chili recipe to go on to the East Tennessee Chili Cook-Off held on Sept. 29 at the World's Fair Park.

Six houses and classrooms from Sertoma Center prepared their best chili recipes to be judged by our distinguished panel of judges: Moira Kaye of WBIR-TV's "Style" show, Chef Walter Lambert of WVLT-TV, and Gay Lyons, the restaurant critic of "Knoxville" magazine. The staff and individuals of our Pepperdine house won "Best Chili" and went on to the citywide competition. Shown are DSP staff Zina Johnson, George M., judges Moira Kaye, Chef Walter Lambert, Gay Lyons, DSP staff Sameka Cohem, and Jimmy O.



## CIAO BELLA SERTOMA

On Aug. 17 at the Foundry, the Sertoma Center held its largest fundraiser, "Ciao Bella Sertoma," our gala auction. It was a night filled with great food, wine, music and wonderful live and silent auction items. This year's auction was our most successful ever. After the silent auction closed and auctioneer Bear Stephenson banged the final gavel, Sertoma Center made over \$66,000 to be used for unfunded needs. The plea for the elevator repairs brought in \$6,500. A big thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Pilot, and our Event Sponsors, Jewelry Television and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee. Standing in front of some of the artwork being auctioned off is board member Michelle Hardin and Jennifer Holder of First Tennessee Bank.

