

# Sertoma Center Events

Mark your calendar now for the Sertoma Center Gala Auction on Friday, August 17, 2007. This year's theme is "Ciao Bella Sertoma" and it is going to be a fun event that you will not want to miss! Contact us if you are interested in donating auction items, receiving an invitation or sponsorship opportunities. For more information, call Joan at (865) 524-5555 ext. 239 or email joan@sertoma.com.

The 2007 Kenny Withers Sertoma Center Golf Challenge was held on May 11th at The Landmark at Avalon and was a great day of golf which benefited the Sertoma Center's MyLife Foundation. The chairman of the event, Jimmy Hyams from the Sports Animal, and his committee planned a great day of golf and fellowship!

The tournament had two flights with about 200 people participating. Breakfast was provided by Hardee's and lunch by Chick-Fil-A. A big thank you to our hard working committee as well as our Title Sponsor, Wireless Properties, and our Gold Sponsors: The Kenny Withers Family and Crown Castle International. We want to thank everyone who came out and played or who participated in some way in making this tournament a big success.



Yes, I would like to support Sertoma Center!

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

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### INSIDE:

Making Dreams  
Come True

Building Dedication  
a Smashing Success



*Sertoma Center*

INCORPORATED

*News*

## SERTOMA CENTER KEEPS MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

By John Mark Hancock

*Sertoma Center Executive Board Member*

John Grubb is only 37, but in his time with Sertoma Center, he has seen many of his life dreams come true. Weighing as much as 380 pounds at one point, he has now lost over 100 pounds and at 265, he is well on his way to his goal of getting down to 200 pounds.



How has John done it? He takes advantage of some of the nutrition services the state provides through Sertoma Center. He also does a lot of walking, mows his own lawn, swims, works out at the new Cansler Family YMCA, right across the street from Sertoma Center in a membership funded by Sertoma, and in general sees physical exercise as its own reward.

John is motivated by hard work. His house manager, Dervan Brown, has helped him achieve a healthy lifestyle and he is also supported by his Residential Coordinator, Heidi Walsh.

Another dream that Grubb has always had is to live in the country and to own his own home. He is originally from Blaine and is much more comfortable around trees and grass. Home ownership is a dream instilled in him by his family.

In preparing for having his own home, he has taken advantage of the budget training classes provided by Habitat for Humanity, in which he has learned to pay bills and keep up with his income. He has also learned how to use tools, do housekeeping, and be able to do minor home repairs at classes at Home Depot.

John has picked out a lot for his new home in the October Woods subdivision just off Rutledge Pike in Northeast Knox County. The groundbreaking for it will take place next month. Not only will it fulfill his dream, but he will be living nearer his family in Grainger County.

John Grubb is a loving individual and a wonderful client that Sertoma Center serves. He loves to draw and to give his art away, as well as displaying it in his home. He has even had one of his prints published in one of the disability resource magazines that is distributed statewide to every provider agency in Tennessee.

John never meets a stranger. He will give you a big bear hug to go along with his big smile every time he sees you.

Grubb's job is in the community. Through Goodwill Industries, he does maintenance work at the Tennessee Department of Transportation East Tennessee regional headquarters building on Strawberry Plains Pike daily. He has held this job for over two years and is proud of his work there, which gives him a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Kimberly Cowan, Sertoma's Director of Residential Services, says that John Grubb is one of Sertoma Center's biggest success stories. Helping our service recipients achieve their dreams is what our agency is all about.

We invite you to come see John move into his new home this summer or to actually help with the building of his new home. We also invite you to come to one of our Public Relations luncheons at Sertoma Center that are held periodically to find out more about all of the good work we are doing daily.



## SERTOMA CENTER BUILDING DEDICATION A SMASHING SUCCESS

By John Mark Hancock

*Sertoma Center Executive Board Member*

On Friday, March 2, 2007, Sertoma Center dedicated its newly-renovated building with a ribbon-cutting that was attended by several dignitaries, including Congressman Jimmy Duncan, State Representative Joe Armstrong, Mayor Bill Haslam, and City Councilmembers Joe Bailey and Barbara Pelot, along with David Leaverton, Senator Bob Corker's new East Tennessee Field Director, and Bob Griffiths, Congressman Duncan's Chief of Staff. Television and print media outlets also sent representatives, and many of our donors and supporters were able to meet and greet our board, staff, and the individuals we serve in the open house that followed.

Congressman Duncan was instrumental in obtaining a quarter million dollar federal appropriation recently for the Sertoma Center to upgrade its employment training programs. These programs provide jobs for our clients, but also just as importantly provide a reliable work



force for various businesses and governments in the Greater Knoxville area.

Our Sertoma Board of Directors has been hard at work making these federal dollars stretch the farthest possible to do a complete makeover of the Sertoma Center headquarters on East Fifth Avenue near Downtown Knoxville. The Center has been a beehive of activity recently with painting, carpeting, and roofing going on almost simultaneously. There has not been any significant improvements to the building in over a decade.

All around the Center, things are happening. The new Caswell Park softball fields, the new Cansler Family YMCA, the Ashley Nicole city park for children with disabilities, and the newly-renovated O'Conner Senior Citizens Center, are just a few of the things that are transforming the neighborhood, all within walking distance of the Center.

In addition, the new Hall of Fame Drive connecting the Civic Coliseum and the riverfront with Broadway, comes within a couple of blocks of Sertoma. Combined with the improvements that are being made to Magnolia Avenue, our Center is far more accessible than it has been previously.

New community day programming has begun. New learning labs and work procurement space has been built. Private donations have been combined with the federal appropriation to maximize the projects we were able to accomplish.

Sertoma hosts public relations luncheons on a regular basis at the Center. Make plans to attend one of these so you can see first hand the work we do and have the opportunity to meet some of the wonderful individuals that we serve. If you would like to attend one of these informal lunches, call 524-5555 or email [becky@sertoma.com](mailto:becky@sertoma.com).