

Echoing Hills Connection

Spring/Summer 2021

*A
Season
of
Hope*



2021 Remains THE Year of HOPE!



"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created Spring," said the British moral philosopher Sir Bernard Williams. I'm pretty sure I agree. Winter 2021 was gray (like every other winter), BUT there was something different this year. With spring, we are hearing and seeing everything come alive

around us. Birds are chirping, trees are budding, and flowers are beginning to bloom. But the same expectancy and excitement that produces hope have been here since the start of the year.

Attribute it to the hope of returning to a somewhat 'normal' life. With the number of people vaccinated and COVID numbers decreasing, we have been preparing for the opportunity to re-emerge and re-engage. As I have been gradually and safely making my way across the state to our different regions and programs, I can't help but get excited as I 'feel' the warmth and joy around me. The staff so diligently preparing to get those they serve out more, and the programs increasing capacity back into their adult services. Those we serve reconnecting with family and friends face-to-face, in person. It's comforting to get to be a part of that reunion and witness the love. We can all agree; God created us for a relationship with Him and with one another.

Not only am I filled with hope because of these things, but knowing that God will never let us down. He is always by our side. He continues to bless Echoing Hills with amazing people we have the privilege to serve, their families, a caring and loving staff, and dedicated supporters like you. I pray that as you experience God's goodness all around you this spring, that you can enjoy the beauty in everything and every person.

God Bless,

Timothy D. Newell

President/CEO

COVID Vaccine – A Shot of Hope

Individuals and team members in Echoing Hills' five regions have had the opportunity to receive the COVID -19 vaccine.

We are excited to begin the steps to return to what we consider normal — the ability to be close to one another, to hug, to hold each other's hands, and to smile and talk without a mask.

HOPE



In Memoriam Those We Lost to COVID

Penny Flesher
Joan Burkhardt
Thomas Krabacher
Deborah Marcum
Cecelia Gradijan
Randy Pascual
Ron Queen

Joe Red Tomahawk
Keith Green
Cloyd Campbell
Teresa Perkins
John Skala
Arnold Adams

The Ultimate Storyteller, Gordon Lives at Echoing Hills Central Ohio

A 105-year-old great-grandfather wanted to teach his 5-year old great-grandson a lesson about life. The two of them went out into the woods together. It was autumn and the animals of the forest were getting ready for winter. The two of them found a caterpillar and they put the caterpillar in a jar and took it back to their house.

A few weeks later, winter came and the great-grandson went to his great-grandfather's house to see the caterpillar. To his surprise, the caterpillar wasn't there. Instead, there was a large, gray lump hanging from the branch. The great-grandfather explained that the caterpillar had built a cocoon and was inside the cocoon. "Is the caterpillar dead?" asked the great-grandson. "You will find out this spring," answered the great-grandfather.

Spring came and the great-grandson went to his great-grandfather's house. The great-grandfather said to look in the caterpillar cage. To the great-grandson's astonishment the caterpillar wasn't dead but had become a beautiful monarch butterfly. The great-grandfather explained if the caterpillar had remained a caterpillar forever it never would have become a beautiful monarch butterfly. He went on to say this is what happens when we die. We exchange our earthly bodies for magnificent heavenly bodies.



The great-grandson realized his great-grandfather had done more than teach him about butterflies, he had taught him the meaning of life itself.



Echoing Connections:

Just before spring began, Echoing Connections of Northeast Ohio welcomed back Master's level OT students, actively completing their clinical hours, from Walsh University. The individuals who benefit from Echoing Connections loved seeing the new faces and were excited to experience the activities the students brought with them.



Community Living: Spring cleaning and freshening up is the norm in our homes just like yours! A fresh coat of paint and new carpet in some homes where needed has surely added joy to these bright and sunny days. Additionally, excitement is bubbling with the anticipation of upcoming planned trips to the zoo, local parks, a farm, and of course socially distanced shopping. Spring has sprung at Echoing Hills!

Team members of Echoing Connections have planned trips to the Towpath, a walking and biking trail that runs through Canal Fulton, and purchased a trike for individuals to use on the paths. They are also getting YMCA memberships back up and running for the individuals they serve.

echoingU: EchoingU of Northeast Ohio expanded in April! There are now two campuses to meet the educational needs of individuals with disabilities. The curriculum for both campuses includes advocacy, communication and social skills, critical thinking, job market preparation, and technology.



Fruit of the Spirit Celebrated at Echoing Hills

We are excited to have the Fruit of the Spirit become part of our Echoing Way. The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22). The presence, and absence, of these attributes, can affect every aspect of our lives personally and professionally.

In February and March, we recognized those team members that display the fruits of love and joy every day. Their gifts bring happiness to all who benefit from Echoing Hills. We will continue to acknowledge team members for displaying the Fruit of the Spirit throughout this year.

Follow our journey through our blogs on ehvi.org/about-us/blog/ and our Facebook page.

LOVE

Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.
-1 John 3:18



Jacquie – QIDP

"Jacquie is 100% all about the individuals we serve, and it shows in her daily actions. She has a fantastic way of making sure she gives 100% of her attention to each individual once, sometimes multiple times a day. Jacquie does it naturally throughout her workday plus getting her tasks done."



Cliff – Maintenance Coordinator

"Cliff is always available and willing to make time to help anyone in need. He is a total team player and goes above and beyond every day. Cliff makes it a point to ensure all those he has contact with walk away with a smile."



Rebecca – LPN

"Rebecca brings a lot of positive energy when working with any individual. Just recently, one of the individuals we serve was not feeling well. Rebecca spent some time with her to calm her down. This individual loves Rebecca so much. By spending some extra time with those who need it, Rebecca shows everyone every day the love she has for all."



Shannon – DSP

"Shannon has been with Echoing Hills since 1996. She is always positive and upbeat and can bring a smile to folks even on the worst of days. Shannon shows the Fruit of the Spirit "love" by her joy and light every day throughout this pandemic. She is always looking for ways to brighten the days of the individuals we serve, whether through activities or just conversation.

She truly cares about the ministry and all of our stakeholders. She shows love through her kindness towards everyone and her willingness to help in any way she can."

Northern Leadership Team

"So many of our employees have sacrificed so much during this pandemic. I wanted to take a moment to recognize Mindi and her leadership team. Due to staffing needs and the COVID crisis, Mindi and her team missed nearly all of Thanksgiving and Christmas with their families. The simple reason is their love for the people we serve. They are a representation of the love displayed every day by so many people in all of our regions."

Ramona – DSP

"Ramona is one of the most dedicated employees. She is committed to the mission of Echoing Hills and really lives the value. She is motivated to do good, not only for herself but to give the best life to those we serve. She has integrity and loves what she does for the individuals, showing that this is more than just a job for her. She is what others should aspire to become."

Loretta – Group Home Coordinator

"Loretta displays the fruit of love in so many ways. She has worked for us for over 20 years and has dedicated her life to Echoing Hills and those we serve. Loretta has a special relationship with each person she works with. She does not see a disability but a person. She does not see a behavior, but a person trying to express themselves when they do not know how. Whenever she is at work, everyone feels safe and at home. Many people call her mom, grandma, or even sister – individuals and team members alike! She never shows judgment, just love."



Brandi, Sharon, Tracy, Irvin, Pauletta, Alexandria – Drivers, Class Coordinators, and Hub Coordinator

"For Christmas, we did a home delivery of gifts for our students as many had been joining us for classes virtually. Watching the love that went into preparing and delivering their gifts lets me know how much my staff truly love the students. It was a great Christmas gift for me to see that and how the students (and their families) reacted!"

JOY

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

-John 15:11

Jeanette – Floor Nurse

"Jeanette is someone who is always smiling and is a fun person to be around. She does not let anyone get to her. You often catch her laughing and having a good time with her coworkers and those we serve. You could tell Jeanette that the building was on fire, and she would smile and say, "Okay, let's do this!" Her smile brightens up a room and has lifted many spirits, especially during this last year."

Rachel – Director of Adult Services

"Before the pandemic, Rachel always tried her best to bring joy into everyone's lives. She has worked with many community partners, including the Athens County Community Choir and the Athens Animal Shelter, to ensure continued happiness for those she serves. During this past year, while all individuals stayed home, she has continued to bring joy by delivering arts and crafts supplies, setting up zoom meetings for the choir to practice, and many other things. Her smile, energy, and commitment bring joy to everyone around her."

Nyeeda – Habilitation Coordinator

"Nyeeda displays the fruit of the spirit "joy" every day through her interactions with the individuals she serves and the employees she works with. She is always a positive light, even during difficult situations. Nyeeda has brought joy to the individuals we serve through sharing devotion and prayer with them and through the amazing activities and creativeness she brings to Echoing Hills. She brings a joyful energy to the work we do here at Echoing Hills and that is very much admired and appreciated."

Anastasia – LPN

"Anastasia is full of life, always has a smile on her face, and is always on the floor working with the individuals. She has a heart of gold and truly puts the individuals first when she is there. We recently had multiple individuals needing to be sent to the ER. She went from one ER to the other to make sure they were all cared for, taking her big smile and love to each of them. She is truly worthy of the Joy award."

Vicki – DSP

"Vicki has worked in one of our waiver homes for the past year due to the pandemic. She worked at Echoing Connections prior, and all individuals love when she is at work. Vicki brings joy by spending extra time with each person, and she does an amazing job preparing a home-cooked meal. The smell of her cooking will always bring joy to everyone."

Shanna – DSP

"Shanna loves to make people laugh and has an amazing heart! She is nicknamed "Raven" by a few individuals because of her fun, wonderfully hearted, and joking nature. Shanna is always able to make people feel good about themselves and laugh. She has a natural knack for getting people out of a funk and laughing with fist bumps. She is also a natural leader and works hard to initiate getting things done and ensuring things are taken care of."

Elyssa – QIDP

"Elyssa's heart is bigger than I have ever seen. She is a strong advocate for those she serves and desires nothing but the best for each of them. Her drive and love of people, coupled with her caring actions, makes her a highly valued employee. Elyssa will do everything in her power to ensure everyone has a good day and smiles."



*WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS
THERE IS FREEDOM!*



Community Spreads Love to Echoing Hills

In celebration of Valentine's Day, Cristy Bower, Accounts Payable, wanted to provide cards to individuals who live at Community Living of Central Ohio. She uses her creativity to decorate the Central Ohio campus every holiday but knew she wanted to focus on the individuals for the day devoted to love.

"It was important to me because these individuals have been self-quarantined since last March," shared Cristy, "I wanted them to know there are people who love them and continue to pray for them."

Cristy's original thought was to decorate all of the windows of their home with Valentines. She placed a message on her personal Facebook page to see if friends and family would want to participate; however, word of mouth quickly took over.

In total, there were over 300 Valentines received in addition to candy, games, decorations, stuffed animals, and even homemade fabric snowflakes cut from red and pink fabrics.

"There are a lot of really creative people in the world," shares Jeff, an individual who lives at Echoing Hills. "Thank you for sharing your creativity with us."

We would like to thank everyone who participated - Echoing Hills employees and their families and friends, members of the greater community, Coshocton Christian School, Coshocton Church of the Nazarene, and the New Hope Home Educator's Group. This act of love brought so much joy to those at Echoing Hills!



In honor of Disability Awareness Month in March, we highlighted the amazing abilities of those we serve. Many people with disabilities are told they cannot or will not be able to do something. We are here to show the world our incredible friends doing the things they were told they wouldn't be able to do (check out Echoing Hills of Central Ohio's Facebook!)

When this friend of ours moved in with us a few years back she was not able to feed herself or drink without dropping her utensil and/or cup. With a little support and encouragement from her family, staff, and friends, she is now doing it with very little hands on assistance. It is pretty rewarding to see how relaxed she becomes when she no longer needs a staff's help to take a drink out of her cup! Her hard work is a prime example that anyone can do anything they want, as long as they put in the hard work and practice!



What Our Partners Are Saying

"We fell in love with Cordell Brown and his ministry and passion for Echoing Hills. We give so each of you can continue to serve those in need of your services." -Kelly

"Our son resides at Renouard Home. We appreciate the ministry and superb care provided to special need individuals. David loves to come home and loves to return there also." - Robert

"Our daughter, Kelly, used to go to Camp Echoing Hills. She passed away several years ago, but we still thank you for the enjoyment in life made possible through you." - Tom



Saying Thank You

My family and I wanted to do something to say "Thank You" for the outstanding way that you cared for Aric and all the residents at Echoing Hills during this horrible pandemic...and especially these last few months as you dealt with the outbreak at Echoing Hills Central Ohio.

It is the most helpless feeling in the world to have to literally look on from the outside as a sickness ravages your loved ones home. Each time we came to see Aric through the window we always had the thought in the back of our minds that this could be the last time we saw him. There were definitely moments of fear and anxiety as we wondered if he would be the next one to contract Covid, and we worried that his body would not withstand it. We questioned why this was happening and when this would end. But in all of this, we NEVER questioned the level of care he was receiving or if staff members were doing everything they could to keep him safe and happy. We knew without a doubt that you were going above and beyond to protect him and to make life as normal as possible. We saw you dressed head to toe in protective gear. We saw you working overtime, and providing care that went above and beyond your job description. We know you missed holidays and special occasions with family to try to prevent bringing Covid to the individuals. We saw you tired, and stressed and still going...just putting one foot in front of the other to try to make it through the day. You may think your sacrifices went unnoticed as you served day in and day out with no family members around to see what was going on, but they did not! We noticed, and we are forever indebted to you for the way you stepped up and loved Aric when we could not. We are grateful for the birthdays you made fun, for the times you went out of your way to give him a taste of normalcy (like letting him drive his old mower), for holidays that you made special, for medical concerns that you addressed, for keeping him happy and safe these last ten months.

So today, as there is hope for an end to this horrible pandemic, we just wanted to express our gratitude. Enjoy a muffin and coffee on us and know that you are prayed for and appreciated more than you realize.

God Bless,
Aric's family





Are You Looking to Make a Difference This Summer?

Would you like to experience the fun of camp with the contagious joy brought by campers?

We are still looking for paid staff and volunteers for our 2021 camp season. You will come to touch the lives of others, but leave forever changed!

Contact us to learn more – Lauren Unger, Camp Administrator
740.327.0300, option 2



Testimonials:

"Camp Echoing Hills allowed me to build strong relationships with people that pushed me to love well, work hard, and grow as a person. I firmly believe I would not be the person I am today without everything I learned and put into practice while working at Camp Echoing Hills." - **Lauren S.**

"I started volunteering at camp at the age of 11. When you work at or with Camp Echoing Hills, you aren't just working a job, you are creating memories that will last you and everyone at camp a lifetime. My years at camp were all consuming in the best way possible and I wouldn't have it any other way. It is the most exhausting excitement I would love to repeat." - **Becca F.**



"Camp has shown me how to be a true leader by focusing on serving others. This has helped me develop professionally in the field of education. By focusing on serving my students, rather than focusing on myself, I am able to develop the skills I need to serve my purpose as an educator." - **David R.**



Echoing Hills
36272 CR 79
Warsaw, Ohio 43844



740.327.2311
info@ehvi.org
ehvi.org



Residential



Adult



Education



Recreation