



**BLANCHARD VALLEY  
RESIDENTIAL**

# The Valley View

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

AUGUST 2011

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

**Recreation  
activities**

**Staff Awards**

**Upcoming  
Events**

**EDEN Alter-  
native**

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Superintendent

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## Residential Has a Newsletter!!!

We have created a quarterly newsletter to share the positive happenings going on in residential. We will be sharing events, upcoming activities, staff recognition, and all residential news.

### EDEN Alternative... Culture Change at BVRC

What is Eden? Eden is an initiative/ culture change Blanchard Valley Residential is striving to create. The term Eden Alternative is a movement that is spreading across the United States and abroad. It focuses on the development of long term care communities that values everyone's gifts and contributions; an environment where individual independence is supported to the greatest extent.

For years, Blanchard Valley Residential has provided good services to the residents and families we serve. Through the Eden Alternative, we hope to further enhance the quality of care provided. This is a process of creating a home environment that enriches the well-being of all who live, play, learn, and work. The best way to describe Eden is by the 10 principles that drive the Eden Alternative.

#### 10 Principles of Eden

##### Life Long Living

1. The three plagues of loneliness, helplessness, and boredom account for the bulk of suffering among people.
2. A Life long community commits

to creating a human habitat where life revolves around close and continuing contact with other living things. It is these relationships that provide a pathway to a life worth living.

3. People deserve easy access to human and animal companionship. Loving companionship is the antidote to loneliness.

4. A Life long living community creates opportunities to give as well as to receive support. This is the antidote to helplessness.



5. A life long living community imbues daily life with variety and spontaneity by creating an environment in which unexpected and unpredictable interactions and happenings can take place. This is the antidote to boredom.

6. Meaningless activity corrodes the human spirit. The opportunity to do things that we find meaningful is essential to well-being.

7. Medical treatment should be the servant of genuine caring, never its master.

8. A Lifelong community de-emphasizes top-down authority by placing the maximum possible decision-making into the hands of all its members.

9. Creating a Lifelong community is a never ending process. Human growth must remain part of human life.

10. Wise leadership is essential in the struggle against the three plagues. For it, there can be no substitute.

Eden is a term you will repeatedly hear and see in the months and years to come. We hope you will embrace and support this exciting new mission of Blanchard Valley Residential!

Attached to this newsletter is a warmth survey. We would greatly appreciate if you could return this tool by September 1st. This survey is an Eden tool to assist in our transformation. We want to know how we are currently doing, and ideas you may have to help accomplish our vision.

✉ Tammy Bonifas, Director

# New Garden

The garden really took off in July. We have been picking strawberries and cucumbers and fixing them in some of our favorite dishes. The sunflowers popped out from their hidden spots amidst the pumpkin vines at the end of July. Everyday we have been monitoring the progress of the watermelons and squash. They seem to get bigger by the day! The tomato plants are so large, they have begun to topple over the edge of the garden box. We can't wait to start eating some of the fruits and vegetables that we have put so much tender, love, and care into.



Mark standing in front of the new garden.

## Recreation Events

July definitely lived up to its hot expectations this year and we took in as much of the warm weather as we could. We kicked off July by celebrating Independence Day. Everyone enjoyed a cookout with lots of delicious food, family, friends, and fireworks. We always have such a great view of the fireworks from our very own backyard.



Playing giant Snakes and Ladders!



Below: De and Ron keeping cool  
Right: Katie and Kathy throwing water balloons



Relaxing! Above: Vickie  
Below: Connie, Missy, Genny, and Nicole

We also took advantage of the warm weekend afternoons by digging out the yard games and bubbles. Everyone also enjoyed beating the heat with the squirt guns and splash balls.



Above: Vicki playing "Pin the Nose on Frosty"

By the end of July we were ready for a cool off and celebrated with a Christmas in July party. We listened to Christmas music as we played "Pin the Nose on Frosty", made Jingle Bell Necklaces, and ate Christmas poke cake and drank peppermint egg nog.

In June, we put our muscles to work by washing down the vans. Everyone had a great time using the hoses, brushes, and sponges to get the vans



Left: Mark with our Christmas in July cake.  
Above: Alyssa and Genny enjoying the warm weather



Candy working hard on van cleaning day

# Good For You, Good For Us Award Winners

Residential has an award program to honor staff for exceptional performance. Any Employee, Guardian/Family member, or Resident can write a good deed or act that illustrates going above and beyond the call of duty. These awards are shared with all staff and one employee is chosen from a committee to be the monthly Good For You, Good For Us Award Winner. If you would like to nominate an employee for this award, please call or e-mail Michelle Post at 419-422-6503, mpost@blanchardvalley.org

At the beginning of every year, a selection committee is formed to examine all 12 winners from the previous year. The goal of this committee is to select one winner to be honored as the **“Gloria Shook Exemplary Employee”**. What does it mean to be honored with this award? As an employee, you exemplify the values and principles of the mission of Blanchard Valley Center, and you are an honest and trustworthy person committed to resident satisfaction and good interpersonal skills. The selection committee looks at the following criteria: length of service, attendance, interpersonal relationships, and work performance.

The award was named after Gloria Shook, an employee of the center who lost her battle with cancer in 2009. Gloria was a person who touched the hearts and lives of everyone that knew her. She was compassionate, and put forth 110% in everything that she did. Even when Gloria was ill, she would be at work with a smile on her face, trying to put smiles on all of our faces.

May 2011

**ALICIA PATTERSON**



Thank you for your continued efforts to reduce the dietary costs. You are appreciated

Did a wonderful job preparing lunches for the Cedar Point trip. Thank you so much.

Alicia took the time to go outside and clean the residential grills. We all appreciate her hard work and positive attitude!!

Thanks for all of the help during the past several days of having weather. You made sure there was enough food for the residents, went to get dinners earlier and did more shopping to make sure things were taken care of. Thanks for all your efforts.

During the flood Alicia did a great job getting dinner and arranging meals for the next day.

June 2011

**CONNIE LEWIS**



Worked as a team to complete hair treatments and extra laundry on top of all her other daily tasks. With garbage bag hair covers and sleeves rolled up, all staff along with nursing helped the Eibling ladies and maintained a calm and positive environment for the residents.

You always have a positive attitude and a smile on your face. Thank you for all your encouragement.

Thank you so much for coming in for the Torch Run. Without your help, our girls would not have been able to participate.

She does all she can when she's working. She gets programs done and does active treatment with the residents. She reads the Three little pigs and is very theatrical about it

We took all the Eibling ladies for a cook-out. Connie did a great job setting up and making it fun for the girls.

July 2011

**KRISTINE KIN**



Kristine called the administrator on call to see if she could go home instead of working hours she signed up for. She told the AOC this left plenty of staff for 3rd shift. Once she was ok to leave, she realized 3rd shift would actually be short at 5am. Kristine drove back and covered the hours because it was her responsibility. This good deed deserves recognition. Kristine's willingness to step up and take responsibility for the hours she signed up for is a great example of being accountable and a team player.

Kristine came in early on the weekend to take Graf Women to the zoo. Thanks so much!

For working so hard and getting everything ready for Graf Women's zoo trip.



Hancock County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

## Blanchard Valley Residential

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[www.blanchardvalley.org](http://www.blanchardvalley.org)

Helping people with disabilities reach  
for their stars



### August 2011

August 15th at 4:30 – 9th Annual  
Camp Berry Day...Please join us  
for a cook out and activities.

August 19th– No work for resi-  
dents due to staff in-service at BVI.

August 31st—Ohio Department of  
Developmental Disabilities Licen-  
sure Survey.

### September 2011

Hancock County Fair—August  
31st– Sept. 5th... Blanchard Valley  
Center has a fair booth to say thank  
-you to Hancock County for their  
support. If you are interested in  
volunteering to work at the booth  
please contact Brooke Pratt.

Lunch on the Lawn Sept 16th from  
11:30am-2:00pm. Everyone is wel-  
come!

### October 2011

Blanchard Valley Center Chili  
Cook Off– TBA

Halloween Dance– TBA