

# family FOCUS

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## Constant Companions rapidly expanding: Doggie Day Care & Boarding open for business

The first Constant Companions Doggie Day Care & Boarding facility is now open for business. Located next door to the Middletown day program, the all-inclusive facility has everything to treat your dog like a celebrity.



(above) Jamie Patrick, an employee of Constant Companions Doggie Day Care & Boarding, spends time with a couple guests.

The facility features a large living room area, one indoor and two outdoor fenced-in play areas. Also, there are seven private rooms for every pup's personality with themes such as Moulin Pooch, Tiki Mutt and Little Camper.

The new program employs people with disabilities to care for the dogs. Working closely with a job coach, the employees will have the opportunity to work on and learn a variety of skills including animal care, cleaning and basic work skills in a community setting.

Ten employees and their job coaches are ready and waiting to pamper your

pooch. For more information, call 513.423.8782.

The Doggie Day Care & Boarding facility will soon share its building with another new Constant Companions program. The Constant Companions Kids' Respite Program will be a kid friendly version of the current adult day program.

Designed to provide after school and weekend respite to families who have

### Constant Companions featured on TV

The new Constant Companions Doggie Day Care & Boarding facility was recently featured on Fox19, WXIX, Cincinnati. To watch the complete segment that aired on the news, visit [www.hattielarham.org](http://www.hattielarham.org).

children with disabilities, the program will focus on creating a safe place for the children to spend time while giving their parents and caregivers a much needed break.

Special consideration and focus is being placed on the needs of children with autism although children with all disabilities are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Constant Companions Kid's Respite Program is scheduled to open in 2007. For more information, call 513.423.8771.

Constant Companions is in the process of expanding services to Summit County. In October, Rick Parson joined Constant Companions as the regional manager for Northeast Ohio and will head up the new site. Starting with an adult day program, the new site will also include a Doggie Day Care & Boarding facility or a Kids' Respite Program. The new program is scheduled to open in early 2007.

These new programs and locations are just the beginning of what Constant Companions is looking forward to in the coming year.

### Focus on planned giving

There are many options to help Hattie Larlham continue its work in the future. One important way is through planned gifts. This issue of "family FOCUS" features the first in a series of articles about our planned giving program.

As part of your estate planning, a bequest in your will or living trust is an easy method to support our mission. Because bequests are revocable, they can be changed or modified if your circumstances change. Your assets are not affected during your lifetime. Also, a bequest reduces the value of your estate for federal estate tax purposes.

Bequests can be structured with or without restrictions. Some donors prefer to include a gift in their will with no conditions, so that their contributions can be used for general purposes at our discretion. Others prefer their funds to be designated for specific programs or projects. Either way, they are helping to provide comfort, joy and achievement for our individuals.

For a Hattie Larlham Estate Intention Form or more information about various types of bequests and suggested wording, please visit our Web site at [www.hattielarham.org](http://www.hattielarham.org) or contact Stuart J. Kleiner, J.D., associate director of planned giving at 800.233.8611, ext. 3147.

Look for more articles about planned giving in future issues of "family FOCUS."

### Hattie's Café gift cards now available

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Treat your sweetie to special gift of a Hattie's Café gift card. Your loved one can choose from delicious food off our menu or our gift selection in our shop. To purchase a gift card, see an employee at the register.

To find out the latest information about Hattie's Café, visit its new Web site at [www.hattiescafe.org](http://www.hattiescafe.org).

### Hattie Larlham opens nostalgic café

Hattie Larlham officially opened Hattie's Café, Fountain and Gifts, on Oct. 15, in downtown Hudson.

"Our focus is to create a family atmosphere, while providing individuals with disabilities a safe and educational work environment," Dennis Allen, CEO, said.

In conjunction with the County of Summit Board of MR/DD, Hattie's Café will serve as a training and vocational site for people with disabilities throughout the community. Jobs and responsibilities will specifically tailor to each individual's abilities and span from greeting customers to preparing food.

The café will employ eight workers with MR/DD, along with a traditional workforce, at its 164 N. Main St. location in downtown Hudson, Ohio.

Fair trade coffee, pastries and ice cream along with a variety of soups, salads and sandwiches will be served at the cafe. The shop will also feature a restored soda fountain from an old Hudson drug store that will be used for distributing sodas and making floats.



(Above) Employees at Hattie's Café, Fountain and Gifts

"We wanted to recreate the historical atmosphere that downtown Hudson is known for," said Larry Cassidy, Hattie Larlham director of vocational services. "Some of the café's cabinetry is more than 95 years old and the soda fountain is from the 1940s."

A section of the café will include pottery, jewelry and crafts for sale. Some products will be made from countries around the world and people with disabilities will make other items.

"Hattie's Café will serve as an excellent vocational setting for people with disabilities," Allen said. "It's a great way for them to gain valuable knowledge and skills that can be applied to other aspects of their lives."



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## Hope At Work at Hattie Larlham



Dear Friends,

As we head into the new year, our sights are firmly set on continuing *Hope at Work: The Campaign for Hattie Larlham*. It's been a busy few months with the groundbreaking that recently happened in September and the Center for Excellence construction that is now underway.

Funding thus far has come from the private phase with donations made by individuals, foundations, businesses, organizations and fundraising events. I am pleased to report that we have raised \$9.4 million of our \$14 million goal.

As we continue on our journey to raise \$14 million, we are now turning our attention to the public, parents, guardians and relatives of the 1,400 individuals our organization serves.

We have a long journey ahead of us, but it is one worth taking. Once the expansion and renovations are complete in 2008, our new Center for Excellence will provide state-of-the-art care to children and young adults with disabilities throughout Ohio.

I look forward to providing progress updates as we move ahead, but in the meantime, I encourage everyone to visit our Web site [www.hattielarlham.org](http://www.hattielarlham.org) to see the latest construction happenings.

Sincerely,

Dennis Allen  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hattie Larlham

### Issue 5 smoking ban changes policy

As of Dec. 7, 2006, the Smoke Free Workplace Act prohibits smoking in public places and places of employment. Hattie Larlham has had a no-smoking policy inside all its facilities, agency cars and the homes for a number of years; however, with this new law, it has to go one step further for compliance.

The act prohibits employers from allowing smoking in any enclosed place of employment and the areas immediately adjacent to places of employment. Listed below is how the law applies to Hattie Larlham:

#### Main Campus

The smoking hut outside the cafeteria at the main campus was dismantled. A new designated smoking area is located by the lower parking area across from the pole barn. It is fenced off and marked as the designated smoking area with smoking receptacles.

There will no longer be any smoking permitted in the patio area or in any other areas. Tobacco smoke may not enter enclosed areas through doors, windows, ventilation systems or other means where smoking is prohibited.

#### Group/Supported Living Homes

Program directors and home managers will hold meetings at the homes to discuss the designated smoking area at the homes. There will no longer be any smoking permitted in the garages or in an area adjacent to the homes where smoke can enter the homes. All ashtrays and other smoking receptacles must be removed from any entrance to the homes.

If you have any questions or if you would like to review the entire chapter of the Ohio Revised Code 3794 of the indoor smoking ban, contact Michelle Anderson at 800.233.8611, ext. 3086.

## ACHIEVE aces My Voice, My Choice

ACHIEVE, the day habilitation program offered at the Hattie Larlham Center for Excellence, recently scored an "A" in all five categories of the My Voice, My Choice survey.

"We are very proud of the survey results," said Jim Bobek, Hattie Larlham vocational specialist. "Our staff is very creative and work very hard to provide interesting and diverse activities for our individuals to participate in. They are always exploring new and different ways to help everyone reach their fullest potential."

My Voice, My Choice is a report card for Ohio organizations and day programs that provide services to people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities (MR/DD).

All major aspects of an organization or day program are surveyed once a year. The posted results on [www.thearcink.org](http://www.thearcink.org) are broken down by county.

The survey marked the first time ACHIEVE was rated. The day program was formed in 2005 for the children and young adults at the Center for Excellence. Each day, participants work on various projects—many of which involve giving back to the community.

"I have always been impressed by the dedication of the ACHIEVE staff," Larry Cassidy, Hattie Larlham director of vocational services, said. "Their commitment is reflected in the success of the program and the positive scores on the My Voice, My Choice survey."

## Families celebrate at fall holiday party

More than 20 families gathered at the the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities (HLCCD) for the annual holiday party, November 11, 2006.

This year's family holiday party, held in early November, included a fun BBQ menu and beautiful fall decorations. The musical stylings of the Western Reserve Community Band provided entertainment at the event.

A special thank you to everyone who helped make the annual holiday party such a success!



(Above) Families and individuals share a meal in the HLCCD activity court.

## A Dove and Beyond recognition

The next time you see an employee of Hattie Larlham do something special, slap a sticker on them—an A Dove and Beyond sticker. The A Dove and Beyond recognition program provides employees, volunteers and families the opportunity to recognize others for services that go above and beyond the scope of their daily activities.

You can recognize employees by filling out an A Dove and Beyond card, available at various locations throughout Hattie Larlham. These cards feature a sticker that can be presented to and worn by the recipient.

When you recognize someone, remove the sticker, fill out the card and send it to human resources. The card should include an explanation of why a person earned the A Dove and Beyond recognition.

Look in future issues of "family FOCUS" for more ideas on how you can recognize someone with an A Dove and Beyond award.