



## Home Again

Keirsten, a young woman with developmental disabilities, grew up as part of a warm, loving family. When Keirsten turned 21 years old, however, her mother Dianne Wagner faced a wrenching decision. Unable to lift and care for Keirsten like she once could, she was forced to find an alternative living arrangement for Keirsten. For decades, a group home in Stark County was Keirsten's best option. Last year, Keirsten once again found herself amongst family at a Hattie Larlham foster home.

Children with developmental disabilities often cannot be placed in foster homes because of their extensive medical needs. Hattie Larlham overcomes this by offering a comprehensive network of resources to support and empower foster families. Hattie Larlham foster parents have access to: Hattie Larlham Community Services staff 24-hours a day, expert care from Hattie Larlham registered nurses and licensed social workers who visit the home regularly and in-home help from Hattie Larlham's team of 75 specially trained personal care providers.

Sherry Murray, Keirsten's foster mom, has opened her heart and home to people with developmental disabilities for 22 years. The Lakemore resident has provided foster care for three young adults from Hattie Larlham. The first of those children, Christopher, passed away several years ago, but Murray's experience deepened her desire to care for other children with developmental disabilities. The second foster child from Hattie Larlham, Richie, is now Murray's adopted son and continues to thrive in her home. Murray's third foster child is Keirsten. The two formed an instant bond when they met.

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# Dear Friends,



This has been a year of milestones for Hattie Larlham. We celebrated the organization's 50th anniversary. We also marked the 5th anniversary of our social enterprise program. In 2011, we opened a new Hattie's Café & Gifts in Canal Place, bringing the total number of cafés to nine. We also launched Hattie's Garden in collaboration with Crown Point Ecology Center in Bath, Ohio. The social enterprise program began in 2006 with five employees with developmental disabilities. Today, Hattie Larlham social enterprises provide meaningful employment and vocational training to nearly 200 people with developmental disabilities.

The Bakery at Hattie's Café & Gifts celebrated one year on South Main Street by pouring 150 pounds of chocolate into Akron's biggest chocolate bar and sharing it with customers.

Growth continued in other parts of Hattie Larlham as well. In September, we broke ground on a new supported living home in Twinsburg for people with autism. The home should be move-in ready by February. In November, we opened the doors to a new Constant Companions in Middleburg Heights, signaling Hattie Larlham's greater presence in Cuyahoga County. Next up is a new Hattie's Doggie Day Care & Boarding to open in 2012 near Cleveland-Hopkins Airport.



As you can see, it has been a busy year. This growth would not have been possible without your support and encouragement. We hope to continue our momentum in 2012, and once again ask that during this season of giving, you think of Hattie Larlham. You will see in upcoming pages, that your gift to Hattie Larlham is at work each day, helping to transform the lives of more than 1,500 people with developmental disabilities. In this issue, you will find information on how to contribute to the Hattie Larlham annual fund. Also consider the many options for planned giving to Hattie Larlham, presented here through the story of longtime friend and supporter, Pat Telepak.

From everyone here at Hattie Larlham, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a plain white background.

Dennis Allen  
Hattie Larlham CEO



Hattie's Garden at Crown Point.



The bakery's 150-pound chocolate bar.



Twinsburg autism home groundbreaking.

# 2011, a Year of Giving

Take a deep breath. And now breathe out. People perform this simple task thousands of times a day without even thinking about it. Imagine if every breath you took was a struggle.

Forget the small things we take for granted like the smell of rain after a storm. When you have to make a conscious effort to breathe, it consumes you. It's all you think about because it's all you can think about.

Many children and adults living at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities know this struggle. They have weakened immune systems and underdeveloped muscles—conditions that can lead to respiratory complications.

Lungs and airways fill with fluids. Unable to fend off these fluids, breathing becomes nearly impossible. Luckily, there's medical equipment that solves this problem. They're called PD vests, and they painlessly clear the lungs of the children and adults living at Hattie Larlham through vibration. To say the vests are used often is an understatement.

Dozens of children and adults at the main campus use the vests two to three times a day under normal conditions, and if a resident is sick, they can be used up to seven times a day.

This constant use puts a strain on the PD vests, and it costs thousands of dollars to replace each one. But, one donor made it her mission to help people with disabilities in Hattie Larlham's care breathe a little easier.

The donor gave enough money to buy two new PD vests and a high-flow oxygen heated system, which acts as a breathing machine for people in severe respiratory distress.

Because of this donor's generosity, people with developmental disabilities



The school received 10 iPads that it will use for one of the first research studies of its kind. Using specialized communication apps, the goal of the study is to give the preschoolers with autism a new avenue of sharing their thoughts through interactive pictures and games.

at Hattie Larlham can paint portraits in Creative Arts and work on projects in Achieve. They don't have to spend every second battling to take a breath of air.

## ***Technology: It isn't for the [Angry] Birds***

One of the most common ways a person on the autism spectrum communicates with loved ones is by pointing to letters written or typed on a piece of paper, eventually spelling out words and in some cases constructing sentences. It's a frustratingly cumbersome process to say the least.

But because of one donor's contributions, children enrolled in the Hattie Larlham Autism Preschool will soon get a new tool to help them communicate.

The iPads will be incorporated into one-on-one therapy sessions, group sessions and classroom activities involving all the students. With the help of this new type of therapy, preschoolers with autism will have a new, easier way to tell their loved ones just how much they mean to them.

## ***On the horizon***

It's because of contributions like these the people with developmental disabilities in Hattie Larlham's care thrive. One person can make a difference. Call our development department today at 800.233.8611 to see how you can help the 1,500 people with disabilities using Hattie Larlham services.



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“This is the most rewarding thing I’ve ever done in my life,” Murray said. “I watch them each day and see that they’re doing new things, and it’s so amazing.”

Murray’s home in Lakemore is much closer to the Summit County home of Keirsten’s birth mother, who visits Keirsten often. Murray and Wagner have developed a strong friendship and often get together to do things for Keirsten, like shop for new clothes or celebrate special occasions.

“Although Keirsten can’t speak, I know she’s happy. She smiles and laughs with Sherry. I just could not be happier about the way things have turned out,” said Wagner. “Being part of the Hattie Larlham foster care program truly gives parents peace of mind and reaffirms that you didn’t give up your child, you’re just sharing.”

Hattie Larlham’s foster care network currently has more than 20 foster homes throughout Ohio. All of the homes go through a rigorous Hattie Larlham review process and are certified by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Hattie Larlham is always looking for new families to join the program. As Murray put it, “Give it a chance and you’ll see how it changes your life.”



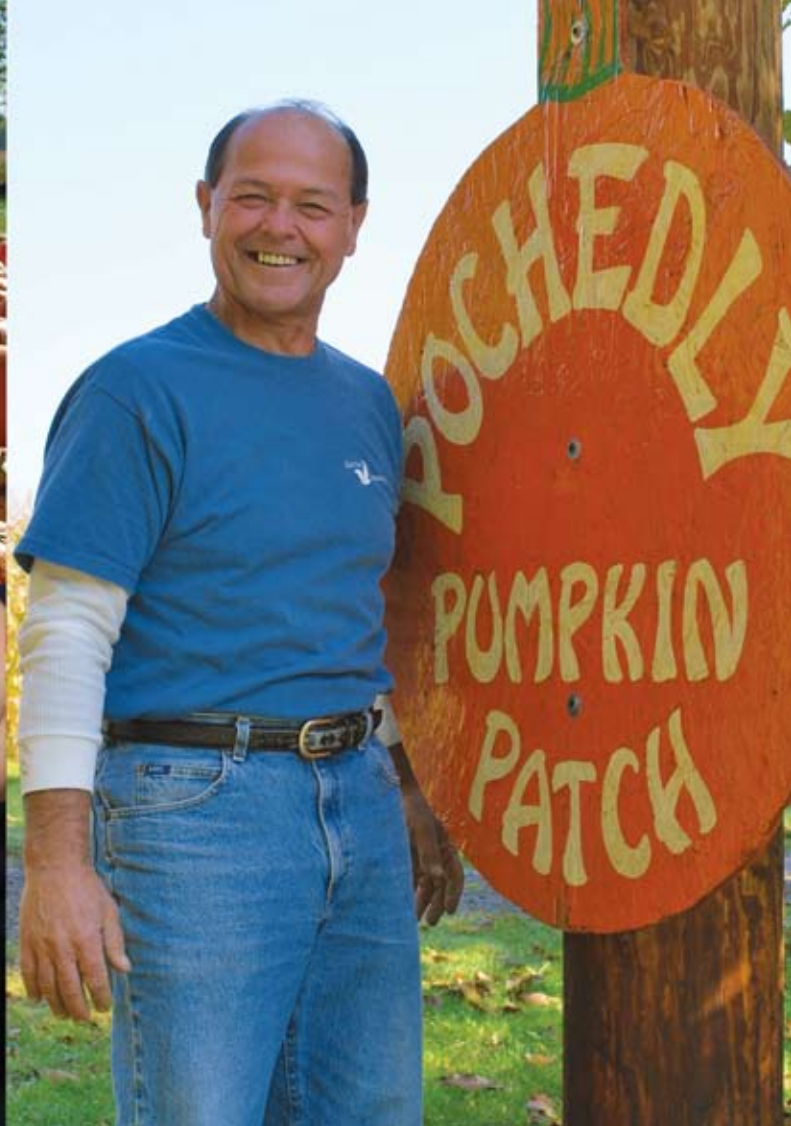
For foster and respite/private-duty services, contact Karen Jacobs, program director at 330.899.0980.

## RESPITE/PRIVATE-DUTY HOME CARE

Three days a week, Lucy spends quality time with Richie at his home. She administers his medications, gets him ready for school, goes through his range of motion exercises and works in some fun too, like sitting outside or watching sports on television.

As one of the 75 specially trained personal care providers in Hattie Larlham’s private duty home care program, Lucy allows Richie’s family to take a break, knowing that Richie is in good hands.





# Pumpkin Fest

A donation of 250 pumpkins by Hattie Larlham maintenance employee, Dennie Pochedly, helped everyone get into the Halloween spirit at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities. Although this is the third consecutive year that Dennie has made a generous donation from his farm, this year's harvest was the biggest yet, allowing for pumpkins and gourds to be distributed to the Hattie Larlham Autism Preschool, Hattie Larlham group homes, Hattie Larlham supported living and Constant Companions locations as well.

Dennie first started growing pumpkins in 1960, when his father set aside land on the family farm in Mantua, Ohio, to help raise money for the Freedom Elementary School's first little league team. When harvest time came, Dennie and

his little league teammates put on their uniforms, loaded up a wagon and spent the weekend selling the pumpkins. Since then, growing pumpkins for a good cause has been a tradition for the Pochedly family.

"I donate pumpkins to Hattie Larlham because the kids love decorating them and I love to see the pumpkins being put to good use. Seeing the kids happy makes all the hard work worthwhile," said Pochedly.

The Hattie Larlham pumpkins were planted on Memorial Day over four acres on the farm that has been in the Pochedly family since 1936. Hattie Larlham business office employee, Barb Klouda's sons, Anthony and Tyler, helped Dennie keep the pumpkins healthy throughout the summer.

Dennie and the Hattie Larlham recreation department delivered the pumpkins on Friday, October 7. Children and young adults at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities decorated the pumpkins for their rooms.

# New Constant Companions Opens in Cuyahoga County

On Monday, December 5, Hattie Larlham celebrated the grand opening of its newest Constant Companions in Middleburg Heights. The program at 6909 Engle Road is the largest Constant Companions facility. It joins locations in Twinsburg, Green and Evendale, Ohio; allowing Hattie Larlham to serve 120 people with developmental disabilities through the program.

Constant Companions is a unique alternative to traditional day or work programs for people with developmental disabilities. It focuses on the mutually beneficial

interaction between people with disabilities and various domestic animals such as cats, rabbits, birds and fish. The lives of Constant Companions participants are enriched through pet care experience, day trips, skill-building activities and lasting friendships.

“We are extremely grateful to the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities for their longstanding support and encouragement of Hattie Larlham. They saw the need and invited us to expand our award-winning pet-based programs into the region. The board was instrumental in

helping us choose the best possible location for the new Constant Companions and the Hattie’s Doggie Day Care & Boarding to open near Cleveland Hopkins Airport in the first quarter of 2012. We look forward to growing this partnership,” said Dennis Allen, chief executive officer of Hattie Larlham.

According to Terrence M. Ryan, superintendent of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, “Hattie Larlham is a strong partner in our efforts to increase the number and variety of opportunities available for individuals with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play in our community. We are excited about helping to bring this new venture to Cuyahoga County.”

## Planned Giving

Pat Telepak’s journey with Hattie Larlham officially began in June 1987 when her four-year-old granddaughter, Kerry, went to live at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities. During her frequent visits to the Center, Pat was thrilled to see the many programs and opportunities available to Kerry.

“We are so thankful for Hattie Larlham,” said Pat. “I love that it’s such a clean, nurturing place. Dr. Grossberg and the nursing staff are wonderful. I know that Kerry finds great joy in being part of the Creative Arts program.”

All of these reasons and more have compelled Pat to give to Hattie Larlham regularly over the past 24 years. Two years ago, she decided to take it one step further and filled out

an estate intention form, letting Hattie Larlham know that she had plans to include the organization in her will. For Pat, a bequest to Hattie Larlham was a logical choice.

“I have been close to the organization for decades now. I know where my money is going and I know it won’t be wasted,” explained Pat.

While, a portion of Pat’s bequest will be unrestricted funds that can be applied to the area of greatest need within the organization, Pat has requested that the other portion go toward the upkeep and improvement of Hattie Larlham’s outdoor playground.

“I love that I can take Kerry outside when I visit. The playground is a wonderful area and I want my gift to help make sure it’s always there for families to enjoy.”



To learn more about making a bequest to Hattie Larlham or other ways to participate in Hattie Larlham planned giving, including annuities, trusts, securities, endowments or other donations, contact Pat Savage at 330.274.2272, ext. 3084.

## HATTIE LARLHAM WINS FIRSTMERIT LEGACY AWARD

The Cascade Capital Growth Awards recently presented Hattie Larlham with the FirstMerit Legacy Award, the highest honor of the awards program. The Cascade Capital Business Growth Awards pay tribute to organizations in the Akron area that have experienced significant sales or employment growth. The FirstMerit Legacy Award specifically recognizes “the company that has had the greatest impact on the Greater Akron region.”

This honor marks the fourth time in five years that Hattie Larlham has been recognized by the Cascade Capital Business Growth Awards.

Hattie Larlham received this year’s top award in recognition

of the remarkable growth of the organization’s social enterprise programs, including Hattie’s Café & Gifts, Hattie’s Doggie Day Care & Boarding, Hattie’s Vending Co. and Hattie’s Garden, that employ people with developmental disabilities.

CEO Dennis Allen accepted the FirstMerit Legacy Award on behalf of the organization on October 6, in front of an audience of 470 community leaders at John S. Knight Center in Akron.

In recognition of this accomplishment by Hattie Larlham, the October Akron/Canton edition of Smart Business magazine featured Dennis Allen on the cover.



## *Kathe's Gift*

On September 19, Cambium Learning Technologies presented Hattie Larlham with more than \$6,000 in assistive learning software in memory of Kathe Shelby, the director of the Ohio state Office for Exceptional Children, who recently passed away. The software will be used at the Hattie Larlham Autism Preschool to help students build better reading, math and communications skills.

According to Thomas Lather, acting director for the Ohio state Office for Exceptional Children, “I couldn’t begin to quantify the number of lives Kathe touched during her career. For her, it was always about the children and ensuring that they were provided the best opportunity to learn, thrive

and grow. Her legacy drives us to fulfill her mission of providing extraordinary services to students with disabilities.”

Michele Gaski, director of school improvement at the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County added, “Professionals within the educational field as well as personal friends of Kathe knew of her relentless, passion for improving the lives of children with disabilities. Kathe spent every waking moment devoted to making a difference in the lives of these children. Her family trusted that the contributions made to the Hattie Larlham Foundation would provide the best possible medical, educational, recreational and vocation services to all those within their care, thus making Kathe’s dream a reality.”



To make a tribute gift in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact Rosanne Drake at 330.274.2272, ext. 3878.

# Circle of Caring Celebrates 50 Years of Hattie Larlham

On Saturday, Oct. 22, at The InterContinental Hotel Cleveland, 233 guests joined Hattie Larlham for the 11th annual Rudolph H. Garfield Circle of Caring. Each year, this gala honors people who go above and beyond to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

The 2011 Circle of Caring was presented by The Alpha Group Agency. WKYC Meteorologist Betsy Kling hosted the fundraiser, which raised \$183,000 for Hattie Larlham, including \$42,000 for Hattie Larlham autism programs. The organization's autism services include the Hattie Larlham Autism Preschool, Hattie's Garden and a new supported living home that will open in early 2012.

Technology factored prominently into the 2011 Circle of Caring. Guests had the option to enter their pledge via text message during the Fund-a-need portion of the evening. A live feed allowed guests at the Circle of Caring gala to interact with volunteers and residents at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities. The event was also streamed live to the public through Hattie Larlham's website.

Speed painter Tim Decker entertained the crowd by painting portraits of John Lennon, John F. Kennedy and Albert Einstein live on stage. As a special gift, Decker also created a portrait of Hattie and Richard Larlham that was unveiled on stage by the Larlham family.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 9-10	Join the Pitch in Arizona
April 20	Preschool Spaghetti Dinner
June (TBA)	Hustle for Hattie
July 16	Family & Friends Golf Outing
July 29	Motorcycle Ride
Oct. 13	Circle of Caring

### ABOUT THE COVER

Sherry Murray and her foster daughter Keirsten spend time together at their home in Summit County. The Hattie Larlham foster program pairs caring and dedicated people with children and adults with developmental disabilities.

### ABOUT THE AGENCY

Hattie Larlham is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for and improving the lives of more than 1,500 children and adults with developmental disabilities. Your contributions allow Hattie Larlham to provide medical, recreational, vocational and educational services to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

### MISSION

Because we believe that life is sacred, Hattie Larlham enhances the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families through our commitment to comfort, joy and achievement.

The Focus newsletter is produced by the Hattie Larlham corporate communications department. Photography is provided by Hattie Larlham and Smart BusinessNetwork Inc.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Follow Hattie Larlham on Twitter, be our friend on Facebook and watch us on YouTube. We want to hear from you.



Hattie Larlham  
7996 Darrow Road, Suite 10  
Twinsburg, OH 44087  
T: 330.274.2272  
T: 800.233.8611  
[www.hattielarlham.org](http://www.hattielarlham.org)