Baby boom at the Center

It’s play time for the babies at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities. Cameron grips his favorite blanket. D’Mari reaches for an orange ball. Javonte sees a blue ball and reaches to pick it up. Everyone cheers for the boys.

Weekly play dates help the children learn from each other through observation, imitation and trial and error. Besides being fun for the babies, social interaction and learning through play helps develop their cognitive and motor skills.

At this young age, observation and intervention are important to help the babies in our care grow and develop. Whether they are long-term or short-term residents, our babies receive around-the-clock care from an expert medical team. Continuous monitoring, in addition to observing social activities like play time, creates opportunities for staff to develop an appropriate treatment plan for each baby.

Two years ago, Hattie Larlham began offering pediatric ventilator services. Analise was one of the first babies in the pediatric ventilator program.

Before coming to the Center for Children with Disabilities, Analise lived in a local hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit. At the Center, Analise received the treatment she needed to thrive, interacted with other babies in our care, and spent time with her family.

In September 2016, after living with us for 10 months, Analise was able to return home.

“I was nervous about bringing her home, but ready to get my family back together,” said Analise’s mother Kim. “I have watched Ana blossom at Hattie Larlham. The changes I see in her give me hope.”

Providing care for this especially young and fragile population is why our organization was founded 56 years ago. As we grow and expand as an organization, we look for new ways to fulfill our mission. Transitional services like the pediatric ventilator program embody Hattie Larlham’s vision.

Every day, our babies grow and change and new needs arise. If you would like to help those who we care for at Hattie Larlham, please contact Chief Development Officer Catherine Schwartz at 330-840-6840.
This year, Hattie Larlham is putting the spotlight on ability and encouraging others to see people with disabilities as valued members of their communities. With the help of our supporters, volunteers and hard-working staff, we’re exploring more ways for the people we serve to be part of their communities.

As part of determining how we do that, we’ll be embarking on a strategic planning process this year. The strategic plan will enable us to plan the best possible future for Hattie Larlham and the people we serve. I will keep you posted on the strategic plan’s outcomes as they develop.

If you haven’t visited one of our programs, I encourage you to do so. Join us for an event this year. Like and share our posts on social media. Make a donation. Volunteer your time at one of our many locations throughout Northeast and Central Ohio. Your support and involvement make it possible for us to transform “you can’t do this” into “I am able” for people with disabilities.

Thank you for your continued support of Hattie Larlham and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Wendy Pardee, Ph.D.
Hattie Larlham CEO

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**Exploring new ways to make art**

Art is a great way to express and explore creativity. For the artists in Hattie’s Creative Arts, time in the studio is an opportunity to create something that tells their story.

Providing our artists a variety of media with which to work creates opportunities to explore new ways to make their masterpieces. In the studio at the Center, we recently introduced our residents to screen printing. Artists create a design or image on a screen then squeegee water-based ink through the screen to create a print on paper, plastic, wood or fabric.

Many of our residents are excited to try screen printing. In the coming months, we will continue to explore this option with our artists and encourage them to try this new media for making art.

Hattie Larlham resident Gail and Art Tracker Rita Love show the progress of her first screen print project. Next, they will add an outline of Gail’s favorite character: Bubbles from the Powerpuff Girls.
31st annual Sugar Bush Golf Classic

It’s tee time. Registration is open for the 31st annual Sugar Bush Golf Classic. Held at the Sugar Bush Golf Club in Garettsville, Ohio, the event features morning and afternoon rounds with an awards ceremony and lunch or dinner to follow. Proceeds from the Sugar Bush Golf Classic benefit residents at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities. Since 1986, the event has raised more than $825,000. Register your foursome at www.hattielarlham.org. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For information, contact Events Manager Wendy Voelker at 330-840-6845 or wendy.voelker@hattielarlham.org.

**Morning Round Schedule**
- 6:45 a.m. — Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. — Call to Carts
- 7:45 a.m. — Shotgun Start
- 1 p.m. — Awards Luncheon

**Afternoon Round Schedule**
- 12:30 p.m. — Registration and Boxed Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. — Call to Carts
- 1:30 p.m. — Shotgun Start
- 6:30 p.m. — Awards Dinner

2017 Friendship Luncheon

Join us for our third annual Friendship Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Fri., June 16, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Twinsburg, Ohio.

The event recognizes our partners, volunteers and supporters for the impact they make on the children and adults we serve.

The luncheon’s Trailblazer Awards celebrate the achievements of Hattie Larlham employees with disabilities who transitioned from our work-training program to independent, community-based jobs.

The Trailblazer Award also honors businesses that partner with Hattie Larlham to make this possible. Visit www.hattielarlham.org to purchase tickets. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For information, contact Events Manager Wendy Voelker at 330-840-6845 or wendy.voelker@hattielarlham.org.

- Patron Table of Eight - $350
  Includes sponsor listing in program book and online.

- Friends Table of Eight - $275

- Patron Ticket (1 Registrant) - $45

- Friend Ticket (1 Registrant) - $35
Constant Companions gets out and gives back

On Feb. 13, the day before Valentine’s Day, Bedford Heights Constant Companions participants made a surprise visit to Our Community Hunger Center (OCHC) in Twinsburg. OCHC provides food for 200 income-qualifying families each month. Constant Companions delivered Valentine’s Day brownies, each with a special message, and fleece-tie blankets the participants made as a team.

Constant Companions has become repeat volunteers at several organizations throughout Northeast Ohio. Trips to OCHC, and community organizations like it, give our participants opportunities to experience first-hand how they can help others. As they regularly volunteer and support these organizations, Constant Companions participants become active and valued members of their community.

“They bring great value to our organization,” said OCHC Operations Director Terry Piteo. “It’s heartwarming to see the joy on the participants faces each time they drop off the donations they collected. We really couldn’t do what we do without community support and that includes what Constant Companions does for us.”

The Bedford Heights Constant Companions participants help OCHC as much as they can. Participants often host canned food drives and collect other items to donate to the families served by the organization. During the holidays, they make treats and include special messages of love and encouragement.

After more than a year of helping OCHC, the participants of Bedford Heights Constant Companions have developed a special relationship with the staff. On a recent visit, Billy, a participant, said hello to Terry and greeted her by name.

“Billy’s growing familiarity with Terry and the staff at OCHC is a great example of how our participants gain confidence and achieve a level of comfort the more they engage in community activities,” said Constant Companions Program Director Stacy Timm.

Exploring ways for participants to become more active in the community builds relationships with people and businesses that need our help. Whether it is visiting the local senior center, helping at the humane society or collecting canned food for the hungry, our participants proudly help their fellow community members.

With eight Constant Companions locations and more coming this year, staff diligently works to find opportunities for our participants to get out, meet new people and give back.

Each month, Hattie Larlham shares a photo album of Constant Companions activities on our Facebook page. Like our page to receive updates about what’s going on at Hattie Larlham and learn how you can support our mission.

Constant Companions seeks local businesses and organizations that could use our help. If you’re aware of a volunteer activity or group in your area, please contact Stacy Timm at 330-899-9067 or stacy.timm@hattielarlham.org.
Thanks to the many donors who supported our recent flash funds. Your gifts made it possible to enhance the quality of life for our Center residents.

Flash funds are 48-hour social media campaigns that raise money for needed items. For two days, we ask donors, friends and volunteers to give. Generous donors, pledge to provide dollar-for-dollar matching gifts and create incentives for others to donate.

Lullaby, our most recent flash fund held in February, raised money for pediatric medical cribs for babies at the Center. After 48 hours, we exceeded our fundraising goal.

Our first flash fund in March 2016 funded new equipment and toys for our hydrotherapy pool. Since they receive so much use, these items wear out quickly and need to be replaced. In Fall 2016, a flash fund raised money for heated humidifiers. During the 2016 holiday season, 12 Days of Giving raised money for specific items including art supplies, adaptive switches and household appliances for Hattie Larlham community homes.

If you are interested in learning more about the flash funds and the needs of the people we serve, or are interested in becoming a flash fund matching gift donor, please contact Chief Development Officer Catherine Schwartz at 330-840-6840.

Three ways to make your giving to Hattie Larlham easy:

1. Applications like Bstow and ChangeBowl track your purchases and round up to the nearest dollar. The change from each purchase is donated to a charity of your choice each month.

2. Do something you enjoy while giving back with programs like Amazon Smile. When you select Hattie Larlham as your charity, Amazon Smile donates 0.5% to our organization. Log in to smile.amazon.com using your Amazon account information. Once logged in, search for Hattie Larlham and select our organization as your charity. Then, start shopping.

3. Skip the store and give to Hattie Larlham in someone's name. Tribute gifts in honor of a birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special event are meaningful and support our mission. You can also donate in memory of a loved one.

No matter how you give, your donation creates opportunities for the people we serve.
A special thank you to Steve and Natasha Schwartz, owners of Honey Baked Ham located at 9438 State Rt. 14 in Streetsboro. Their support of our organization began in 2007 with the Hats off to Hattie fundraiser, which raised $15,000 during three years. Steve also supported the annual Sugar Bush Golf Classic and provided boxed lunches for our golfers. To learn more about corporate partnerships, please contact Corporate Relations and Major Gifts Officer Tonnie Alliance at 330-840-6842 or tonnie.alliance@hattielarlham.org.
Clocking in

Hattie Larlham seeks local businesses to open doors for people with disabilities

Across Northeast Ohio, people with disabilities are clocking in. From small businesses to big-box retailers, Hattie Larlham is helping companies change their mindsets and hiring practices. Last year, we matched more than 100 adults with disabilities to jobs in the community. Our program helps businesses see our job candidates as hard-working, skilled and able people who add value to their companies.

Hattie Larlham partners with local businesses to provide career exploration options for people with disabilities. Companies can choose to hire someone with disabilities or open their doors as a work assessment site.

At partner companies, our participants receive training to prepare for a job at a local business or organization. These partnerships create opportunities for men and women with disabilities to develop on-the-job skills while employed in a real work environment.

Our Summer Youth Program offers high school students with disabilities a week of classroom training and four weeks at a job site. Students work alongside a job coach and learn how to do the task at hand, workplace ethics and teamwork. The Summer Youth Program prepares students to work independently and matches their strengths to an appropriate job.

As more businesses and organizations open their doors for job candidates with disabilities, more people we serve can get into the community and explore their interests. By clocking in and earning their own way, people with disabilities feel like a valued, contributing members of society and the community sees them that way as well.

Hattie Larlham seeks local businesses and organizations interested in hiring job candidates with disabilities. More than 150 adults with disabilities work at Hattie’s Food Hub, Hattie’s Café and Gifts and Hattie’s Doggie Day Care and Boarding. Here they receive the technical and social training needed to find and maintain community employment. Their training makes them able. Their experience makes them ready.

Let’s discuss how we can change the general workforce and increase the presence of employees with disabilities in our community. We welcome your questions. For more information, please contact Jackie Schuckert at 234-706-3712 or jackie.shuckert@hattielarlham.org.
Thank You

Thank you for supporting Hattie Larlham’s mission to create opportunities for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. From October to December 2016, the following donors gave up to $249. Although these donors do not appear in the annual report, Hattie Larlham would like to recognize their important contribution.
The following donors have given gifts to Hattie Larlham in tribute or in memory of friends and family members. These gifts commemorate a milestone, or the birth or passing of a loved one. Thank you for your support.
In Memory Of

Abby
Karen Weiss

Liz Armenti
Jeanne M. Guller

Leah Grace Arnold
Allison Harris

Shade Bailey
Lottie Bailey

Ronda Lynn Bailey
Lottie Bailey

Justin Berarducci
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ABOUT THE COVER: Each week, the therapy team at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities leads a play group for our youngest residents. The babies in our care are in an important developmental stage. This social interaction with other babies creates opportunities for them to learn through observation and by doing various activities on their own such as lifting a toy, placing blocks into a bin or flipping through the pages of a book.

ABOUT THE AGENCY: Hattie Larlham is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities, advancing the community and influencing change for 1,800 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your contributions allow Hattie Larlham to provide medical, recreational, work training and residential services to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

The Focus newsletter is produced by Hattie Larlham. Photographs provided by Hattie Larlham.