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Resident Donna Monique Johnson visits with volunteer Catrenia D'Imperio and her dog MerSaydeez.

Inglis' Treasures: A Salute to Volunteers

Volunteers come to Inglis from all walks of life and perform a multitude of services for Inglis House residents. In the past year they have given 19,456 hours of service. Honored at this year's recognition luncheon on April 18, 2007:

Volunteer of the Year — **Jill Stone** personally encourages resident artists to pursue and develop their abilities through weekly one-on-one visits and assistance with materials and supplies. She and a friend coordinated a resident art exhibit for the last two years at an area art center. She is a docent at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and is always on hand to lead any Inglis resident groups visiting the Museum. She and husband Allen served on the organizing committee for the 2006 Inglis Fall Fundraiser, *The Wide World of Inglis*.



*Jill Stone, Inglis
Volunteer of the Year*

Al Hirshburger Award for Outstanding Support of the Volunteers — Inglis Learning Therapist **Susan DiBona** from the Therapeutic Education Department is also resident trip coordinator and works side by side with volunteers from the Points to Ponder Program and the monthly Saturday Prayer Breakfast.

John Allen Award for Dedicated Family Support — recognizes the work of family members who also volunteer. **Terry Schrenk**, wife of long-time resident George Schrenk, has been a volunteer since 1997. She comes in three days a week, leading the S.P.I.C.E. Program, doing laundry for several residents and being a friend to many.

Sara and Claire Levin Nook Award — recognizes volunteer service in the resident convenience store, The Nook. **Kathleen Rodden** came to Inglis in 1992 after raising a large family – it was her first

2.

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Inglis provides institutional and community-based services for people with physical disabilities via five corporations: Inglis Foundation (parent corporation), Inglis House (nursing facility), Inglis Housing Corporation (accessible housing), Inglis Durable Medical Equipment Company, Inc., and Inglis At Home Services, LLC (personal assistance).

“job” after being a stay-at-home mom – and has served the Nook faithfully ever since.

Outstanding Support from a School/University, Church or Business — **St. Joseph’s University**, through Campus Ministry and Service Learning Programs directed by Beth Ford and Mimi Limbach. St. Joe’s students do everything from



Members of the St. Joseph’s University “Italian Club” collected \$250 for a resident Pizza Party.

organizing residents’ closets to assisting with activity programs and visiting residents in their rooms. Many recruit other students from campus and often continue their own service after graduation.

Henrietta Peterson Award for Resident Volunteer of the Year — given posthumously to **John Bolden**. For years John ran errands for the Volunteer Department and welcomed other volunteers with friendship and humor. He was also volunteer caretaker of the outdoor garden boxes during the summer.

Margaret Russell Outstanding Group Leader Award — **Ann Curcio** leads a weekly group in the Inglis Adult Day Program and also assists with special events like holiday programs. At Inglis House she assists with the weekly scrabble game, helps with events and goes on resident day trips.

Gold Coin Presented to Volunteer Irv Sharf

Volunteer Irv Sharf received an Annie Inglis Gold Coin for his commitment to Inglis House residents. The Gold Coin, Inglis' highest honor, commemorates the founder of Inglis House.



Irv Sharf (center) with (left) Volunteer Recognition Luncheon keynote speaker Lisa Thomas-Laury (6 ABC News) and Inglis House Board Member Kimberly White.

A volunteer since 1998, Irv Sharf was honored for his dedication to Inglis House residents through his photography skills. Sharf adds greatly to residents' self-esteem through his individual portraits and chronicling of events. Resident Lucia Quinn said, "Irv has captured the many special moments of our lives so that they last forever."

Besides photos, Irv helps with the resident cooking class, pinochle games, attends the monthly birthday luncheons and resident council meetings and works the north reception desk during lunchtime.

Inglis House Board Member Kimberly White, presenting the award on behalf of the Inglis Foundation Board, summed it up, "Irv's commitment to Inglis House has improved the lives of all the residents, staff and friends of Inglis that he has touched."

German Volunteer Learns About Disabilities at Inglis

While Inglis House has always been blessed with a large and dedicated group of volunteers, the long distance prize for volunteering must go to 18-year-old Mario Vollmer – a native of Oberschopfheim, Germany, near the French border.

Mario wanted to immerse himself in American culture and chose to perform his mandatory year of civil service (German teens may also choose military service) in the US before attending university. He spends two days a week at Inglis House and also serves as an *au pair* for his host family.

He chose volunteer work at Inglis House because he had never been around people with physical disabilities. “I thought it was important that I gain an understanding of them. The residents are great,” Mario said. “I’ve learned more about myself now that I have had a chance to really get to know them; they are just like everyone else.”

Mario makes up medical record cards for the nursing department, transports residents to activities and visits residents one-on-one in their rooms. Upon his return to Germany in June 2007 he will report on his volunteer work to the Catholic Foreign Office. “People in Germany will know all about Inglis House,” Mario said. “I will say the best things; I couldn’t have found a better volunteer opportunity anywhere else.”



Volunteer Mario Vollmer enjoys helping resident Eliot Spindel with computer work. Eliot uses voice-activated technology to operate his computer, but says, “I can’t use it to install software or make upgrades so Mario helps me.”

Accessibility From the Ground Up

6.

Inglis Housing Corporation will open more than 50 one-, two-, and three-bedroom affordable, accessible apartments in the Philadelphia area by late October.

Inglis Gardens at Germantown, which features 10 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom units, is a US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) project. HUD provides funding to nonprofit organizations like Inglis Housing Corporation to develop rental housing with supportive services available for very low-income adults with disabilities, and provides built-in rent subsidies for the projects to help make them affordable.

Inglis Apartments at Elmwood features 31 one-bedroom and nine three-bedroom apartments. It is funded through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency which makes construction funding available to builders of affordable rental housing. Inglis Housing Corporation was approved for funding specifically for low income people with physical disabilities. The project was also approved for project-based rental subsidy vouchers by the Philadelphia Housing Authority so that qualified tenants pay only 30 percent of their gross monthly income for rent and utilities.



The 14 affordable, wheelchair accessible apartments at Inglis Gardens at Germantown will open in late summer 2007.

A-May-Zing Committee Hosts A Night in Philadelphia for Residents

Nearly 100 Inglis House residents enjoyed casino games, entertainment and fun with friends at this year's annual A-May-Zing Party – "A Night in Philadelphia." The volunteer group has raised funds for Inglis House resident programs and activities for more than 25 years. Besides hosting the annual party, A-May-Zing Committee members have paid for many improvements in the Inglis House Resident Computer Lab and Recreational Therapy Department with proceeds of the annual Inglis Five Run.



Charlotte Biddle shares a game with resident William Robinson.



Representing The A-May-Zing Committee at the 2007 Party (left to right front row) Paula Szabo, Jud Laverell, Patsy Walls, Judith Cheston. (Second row) Bunny Borkowski, Debbie Laverell, Bill Keffer. (third row) Frank Szabo, Dick Borkowski, Bourne Ruthrauf, Carolyn Wyeth, S. Brooke Cheston, Hope Groesbeck, Charlotte Biddle, John Gregg.

Inglis Residents Tell Their Stories

8.

Everyone has a story to tell – but sometimes we need help telling it. That is why the Inglis House residents Vital Stories Project was created. It pairs Inglis House residents with staff members to write about life experiences – disability, family, former professions and hobbies. The benefits are greater self-esteem for the resident and greater understanding by caregivers and staff members. Here are excerpts from resident Joan McLean's story. She (along with two other residents) have lived at Inglis House more than 50 years!

The Little Big Sister

I am seventy-six years old and I have been at Inglis House since 1950. It is my home and I have many



Joan McLean

friends and activities that I enjoy very much. I also have a family outside of Inglis House whom I love and feel very close to. I want to share the life I have with both of my families—my birth family and my Inglis House family. I cannot speak so my method of communication is by yes and no signals, gestures and illustrations.

My mother and dad have both passed away; but, I have great memories. They would visit me every other week on Sundays and I would go home for visits. These times will never be forgotten as I was always treated so special. Mother would write me notes very often, sometimes, twice a week to keep me posted on the family happenings. I looked forward to my letters from her and this is where my Inglis House family helped me a great deal. I am not able to read words so I needed someone to read the letters to me and I was never let down by friends and staff. These letters kept me going so many days and mother had a

Continues on next page

way of writing that made me feel as though she was right there with me.

I have a brother, Terry, and a sister, Maryellen who visit me often. One of my hobbies is collecting photos of my family and friends. They both keep me well stocked with family pictures. I have many photo albums which I enjoy looking at daily. Even though I cannot visit, people come alive when I see their pictures. Through the years, I have watched my family grow via snapshots. My dad's sister, Aunt Doris, is a special relative. It has become [her] tradition to send me color coordinated outfits including matching sneakers. The sneakers are good topics of conversation for everyone. I get a kick out of people's reaction to them.

My interests at Inglis House are many. In the past, I really enjoyed horseback riding and I am still hoping that I can do this again someday. My schedule involves Bible study, field trips to the shore and shopping malls, school, including working with the computer, bowling, gardening, music with our choir and my favorite card game, Poker. I used to mouthpaint with oils. In the past, I gave some of my paintings to special friends, but I have not painted in years because I wanted to try some other interests. I have many friends at Inglis, both other residents and staff and they are all very caring.

As I was getting older, I was faced with the challenge of learning how to drive a motorized wheelchair. This was more fun than I imagined. I love driving my chair and I am able to go places I would never have dreamed of going in my old manual chair. For many years, I used to propel myself with my feet. Those days are gone and they are part of my past. As I look back on my life, I am thankful for all of the love that has come to me from my family and friends. I have had a very full life. Inglis House has been my home for many years and I will continue to enjoy my life here.

Job Club Focuses On Job-Readiness

Americans with disabilities are at a critical disadvantage compared to other Americans in 10 key areas of life – from employment to healthcare to transportation to satisfaction with life – according to the 2004 National Organization on Disability/Harris Survey of Americans with Disabilities. Employment is much more than just earning money – it affects many areas of life, including self esteem. According to the 2004 findings:

Only 35% of people with disabilities reported being employed full or part time, compared to 78% of those who do not have disabilities. The study also showed that life satisfaction for people with disabilities also trails, with only 34% saying they are very satisfied compared to 61% of those without disabilities.



Inglis Community Employment Specialist Michael Gillam (right) leads a Job Club career development seminar.

Job discrimination still exists, but the numbers are improving. In the 2004 study, 22% of employed people with disabilities reported encountering job discrimination, compared to 36% in 2000. While companies still need to become more welcoming to workers with disabilities, job applicants with disabilities also need to prepare themselves for successful interviews.

The Inglis Job Club was created because many Inglis residents and clients need the basic skills and confidence to get a job. The group is led by Michael Gillam, Inglis' community employment specialist. "My main goal is for participants to gain the independence to search, apply and interview for and be equipped to maintain a rewarding career," said Gillam.

The Job Club teaches employment-specific social skills, time management, search and interview skills. The group meets weekly to hear guest speakers and attend jobs fairs and pre-career workshops. Once a member finds employment, the club will provide job coaching to ensure success.



Michael Citro

Resident Michael Citro is a Job Club member. He came to Inglis House in 2002 after graduating from The Widener Memorial School in Philadelphia. He studied Spanish at Widener and would like to use those skills as an English/Spanish translator. Michael, who also hopes to move to his own apartment later this year, said, "I've built my resume already. Now I'm ready for an interview."

Inglis Adult Day Participants Are Soldiers' Angels

12.

Soldiers' Angels began in 2003 when a caring mother heard from her son that many fellow soldiers in Iraq never received any letters or support from home. With the help of a few friends, Soldiers' Angels has now grown to thousands of supporters. Each Angel writes at least twice monthly letters to an adopted service person and sends several care packages each month.

Inglis Adult Day Program participants became angels to Army Staff Sergeant Craig Smith, serving his second tour of duty in Iraq in the Third Battalion Fourth Air Artillery. He is a South Carolina resident, husband and father of three. Smith also served in Saudi Arabia during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.



Adult day participants show off the recognition certificate they received from Sergeant Smith.

They have written and emailed him and sent care packages filled with snacks and personal care items. Adult Day Program participant Christine Graves said, "It's important to me to help our soldiers overseas feel closer to home. It's the least I can do." Participant Donald Buchanan said, "These soldiers are defending our country. We all have to play our part in the war effort."

For more information about Soldiers' Angels, visit their website at www.soldiersangels.com.

Inglis Five Is 25

This year marked the 25th running of the Inglis Five organized by the volunteers of the A-May-Zing Committee. With Lincoln Mortgage Company providing lead sponsorship, turn-out was the largest in recent years – with 296 registered runners, walkers and wheelchair participants. Eleven teams also added fun and spirit to the morning as Inglis House residents cheered everyone on.

Inglis thanks other race sponsors American Health Medical Transport; The



Nearly 300 runners and walkers left the starting line at the 25th Annual Inglis Five.

Pennsylvania Trust Company; Bennett, Bricklin & Saltzburg, LLP; Fidelity National Title Insurance Company; Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP; Powerhouse Gym; SKIN Radio 1340AM and The Rabbit Club. Thanks

also to Standard Medical Supply, Inc. for providing water ice and snacks for the runners.

“The enthusiasm and spirit shown by this year’s participants was heartwarming,” said A-May-Zing Committee member Bill Keffer. “Together we grossed the most ever for Inglis House resident programs and activities.”

Watch for this logo around Philadelphia this fall as *Independence Starts Here!* – a month-long, city-wide celebration of contemporary art influenced or inspired by the experience of disability – gets underway. Nearly 50 organizations, including Inglis House, are sponsors or venues for the many Festival activities. The Festival will kick-off on October 19, 2007, with the unveiling of a building mural on disabilities.



Great Weather = Great Golf



Frank Wilson, Standard Medical Supply, awaits the starting signal.

The 2007 Inglis Golf Outing and Auction on May 21 combined a picture perfect day, a beautifully groomed golf course at Waynesborough Country Club, Paoli, PA, fine food and great fellowship.

The result was the most successful Golf Outing to date - netting nearly \$100,000 to benefit Inglis programs and services.

14.

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We also thank the donors of auction items, ads and gifts, and especially our Golf Committee, chaired by Robert C. Lodge and Brad L. White:

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After golfing, reception guests enjoyed bidding on a variety of silent and live auction items.



Duffy White Construction won the 2007 Inglis Golf Outing trophy. Shown here (left) is John Spitz, along with co-chairs Rob Lodge and Brad White.



Mark Your Calendar

2008 Inglis Golf Outing: June 9, 2008

Image



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**Inglis Awards for Continuing Excellence -
Presentation Ceremony**
Founders' Hall
- June 27, 2007
Inglis Patrons' Reception
Founders' Hall
- September 7, 2007
Inglis Resident Art Reception Opening
Bryn Mawr Trust (lobby), Bryn Mawr, PA
- October 19 – November 21, 2007
Disability Arts Festival - Philadelphia
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