The mission of Melmark is to serve children, adults and their families affected by a broad range of intellectual disabilities. We provide evidence-based educational, vocational, clinical, residential, healthcare, and rehabilitative services, personally designed for each individual in a safe environment of warmth, care and respect.

In this issue...

A Message from the President and CEO........................................3
Promises to Keep Campaign Update...........................................4-5
Board of Directors Profile - Larry Cancro.................................6
New England News.................................................................7
New England fore Recap.........................................................8
Pennsylvania Schoemaker Classic Recap.................................9
New England Student Success Story.......................................10
Pennsylvania Student Success Story.....................................11
NE/PA Volunteers in Action...................................................12
Sharing Experiences - Sibshops and Sibteens............................13
Melmark News...............................................................14-15
Upcoming Conferences and Workshops.........................16
Leading the Way in Research..............................................17
Donor Profile...........................................................................18
Ways to Give...........................................................................19

Connect with Melmark...

https://www.facebook.com/MelmarkNewEngland
https://www.facebook.com/MelmarkPA

www.youtube.com/user/MelmarkPA/

https://www.instagram.com/melmarknewengland/
https://www.instagram.com/melmarkpa/

www.pinterest.com/meadowsmelmark

https://twitter.com/MelmarkNE
https://twitter.com/MelmarkPA

www.linkedin.com
Search for Melmark New England or Melmark PA

ON THE COVER: Success story Abby with Musu, her staff, at Field Day in Berwyn this summer

Melmark Senior Leadership

- Rita M. Gardner, M.P.H., LABA, BCBA
  President and CEO
- Peter J. Troy, M.B.A.
  Vice President, Business Operations
- Joseph M. Zakrzewski, CPA
  Vice President and CFO
- Frank L. Bird, M. Ed., LABA, BCBA
  Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer
- Helena Maguire, M.S., LABA, BCBA
  Executive Director, New England
- Karen Parenti, M.S., Psy.D.
  Executive Director, Pennsylvania
- Ellen M. Kallman
  Director of Advancement, New England
- Michael J. Talarico, M.Ed.
  Director of Advancement, Pennsylvania

Contributors

- Rita M. Gardner
  President and CEO
- Erin Houlihan
  Advancement Officer, NE
- Ellen M. Kallman
  Director of Advancement, NE
- Trish Bradley Lockett
  Director of Marketing and Communications
- John J. Schlesinger
  Director of Individual Giving, PA
- Michael J. Talarico
  Director of Advancement, PA
- Adam Nebhut
  Graphic Designer and Photography

Messenger is published twice a year for the families and friends of Melmark.
Dear Families and Friends,

There has been a great deal of change in Melmark’s first 50 years, and there will no doubt be more change to come. We continue our commitment to being at the forefront of educational, clinical and adult program development and implementation. We are determined to frame the conversation about how children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities are cared for on a national scale, which is something we care about passionately.

As we come to the end of our 50th anniversary milestone year, we are excited to begin a strategic planning process to enhance program service delivery and expand the infrastructure on both campuses. These efforts will identify needed supports to help ensure a bright future for all of the individuals and families we serve at Melmark.

In this newly designed issue of Messenger, you will read about the physical improvements and service enhancements that have been made at our Massachusetts and Pennsylvania divisions, as we continue to set the standard for educational and clinical excellence.

At Melmark New England, we recently hosted a ceremonial ribbon cutting and dedication of The Clavin Center for Professional Development, a state-of-the-art lecture hall where staff trainings, graduate education programs and renowned Expert Speaker Series programs will be conducted. Across campus in Berwyn, it is evident that the physical landscape continues to improve with the completion of new streetscape lighting, curbing, sidewalks, the retention pond, and more.

Our successful golf tournaments were held this fall in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania; bringing families, friends and members of the life science and local business communities together to support Melmark’s mission and vision for the future.

In our last issue, we announced that Larry Cancro, SVP of the Boston Red Sox and Melmark New England parent, was named Chairman of the Melmark Boards. You will read more about Larry and his tremendous contributions to the autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities communities in the pages ahead. You will also learn about two dedicated Melmark PA donors, Fred and Vicki Modell, whose daughter, Lori, has been at Melmark for over 40 years. Like the Krentels, they were presented with a challenge in their personal lives and ultimately did something about it. Fred and Vicki lost their son, Jeffrey, many years ago at age fifteen from complications of Primary Immunodeficiency (PI) disorder. Their establishment of the Jeffrey Modell Foundation, which has generated millions of dollars toward PI research, intervention and treatment, has been a lifesaver for many families across the globe. Fred and Vicki look forward to focusing this same energy and enthusiasm to helping Melmark expand their outreach and recognition across the country as well. Their generous hearts are examples to us all.

We held meetings with families of our adult clients in Pennsylvania to begin to educate them about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Rule. We explained how this commitment and community inclusion will likely affect their loved ones, and shared our thoughts on how Melmark would respond to the implementation of the Rule. We are fortunate to have extensive leadership that has overseen adult community-based programming.

Lastly, I am so proud of the clinical and educational research that is conducted by our staff on both campuses. We are fortunate to count many shining stars among these leadership teams. They not only bring their experience, innovative projects and findings to our classrooms and care settings, but they share their talents with peers across the region and the nation through their presentations at conferences and other educational offerings.

We continue to be grateful for all you do to support the children and adults at Melmark. Thank you.

My warmest personal regards,

Rita M. Gardner, M.P.H., LABA, BCBA
President and CEO
The beautiful view of the pasture and Wayland Road is visible here once more.

Phase I construction in Berwyn is coming to a close, with the front basin conversion and the pasture graded and planted. Paving on Lodge Lane, Loop Road and in front of the School is also completed, and work on the sanitary extension down Lodge Lane continues.

A recreational playing field in the back of the Main House will be worked on next. “The field is going to be open space to start, and eventually be fenced in. It will be an area where the residents can play soccer and baseball,” says Jim Calvarese, Facilities Director. “It will also be a good area for The Melmark School students to explore with their teachers on nice days.”

Also on the facility update list for early 2017 is the expansion and renovation of the Physical Therapy Office.

In the last issue of Messenger, it was announced that Melmark had undergone a wage initiative to ensure that direct care staff were competitively compensated, offering a pay scale equal to or higher than other local providers. The hope had been to reduce employee turnover and to have better staffed programs. The result? Vacancy rates have dropped from 28 percent to just three percent for direct care staff since the initiative was implemented.

Rita Gardner, President and CEO, also announced a challenge grant of $500,000 over two years to help offset the increased pay expense. After the two-year period, we will be able to ask the state to operationalize these wages. Because of the support of families and major donors, the goal was surpassed, and we have raised $1.2 million to date. The initiative was also expanded to include compensation for nursing staff to help increase credentialing from mostly LPNs to RNs.

“The response was amazing when we kicked off the initiative in the spring,” says Lindsey Dunn, Senior Director of Human Resources. “We are so happy that we can now offer it to the healthcare staff.”

Melmark Receives a Grant from Wells Fargo

Melmark PA was among 200 non-profits from the Greater Philadelphia Area receiving grants of $1,000, presented at the Wells Fargo Community Connections Grant Program held at the Valley Forge Sheraton recently.

Shown with John Schlesinger, Director of Individual Giving, is Patrick McClendon, from the Broomall branch of Wells Fargo Bank.
The 70-acre land acquisition of the Franciscan property adjacent to Melmark New England was officially completed this summer. Peter Troy, Melmark’s Vice President of Business Operations, patiently shepherded this critical project for many years.

His tireless and thoughtful negotiation, coupled with his willingness to collaborate with many project partners, has truly ensured a bright future for the children and families served at Melmark New England.

Appreciation and gratitude is extended to the Franciscans and their counsel, as well as to the colleagues and counsel at Dalton & Finegold, Pulte Homes of New England, Bohler Engineering, the Town of Andover Planning Department and the Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS). Each played an integral role in the advancement of this project to this point.

The efforts of key leadership and staff personnel from the towns of Andover, Tewksbury and Lowell also helped make this project possible through their combined approval of an inter-municipal sewer agreement.

All of us at Melmark New England look forward to the ground breaking of four new children’s residences later this year and the Pulte senior living residences.

Almost There!

As we come to the conclusion of our campaign at the end of our 50th year, we wish to thank all of our donors to Promises to Keep... The Campaign for Melmark.

Your support enables Melmark to remain mission-based, keeping the children and adults we serve at the forefront of all we do.
Melmark's newest Chairman of the Board is no stranger to public service. For much of his adult life, Larry Cancro has devoted a significant portion of his time, both personal and professional, to raising public awareness and funds to support individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families. Growing up in Westchester County, N.Y., the son of Dr. Ralph Cancro, a highly regarded clinical psychologist and Marcella, a beloved and revered educator, Larry loved all things baseball, especially Fenway Park. His dorm room when he attended Boston University overlooked the park. Now, his Fenway Park office, where he has spent 31 years with the Red Sox (the last 13 as Senior VP for Fenway Affairs) overlooks his former dorm.

Larry is singularly responsible for major marketing efforts that span not only the Boston Red Sox and Fenway Park, but the entire Major League Baseball world. From his 1986 decision to pass out commemorative t-shirts to the team as they clinched the American League East Division (something that all MLB teams quickly adopted) to creating Wally the Green Monster, the block party atmosphere of Yawkey Way, attracting headlining musicians for concerts each summer at Fenway Park, the eighth inning crowd rendition of “Sweet Caroline” and more, Larry’s innovation knows no bounds.

Larry and his wife, Luise, eventually settled in Andover, Massachusetts, where they raised their daughters, Laura Marie and Lisa, who is autistic. While September 11, 2001, was a tragic day that will never be forgotten, it was also the day that Lisa joined the MNE family, and the Cancro family’s world was changed for the better. Today, Lisa is a happy and engaged member of MNE’s adult community.

Larry continues to wholeheartedly throw himself into the advocacy and fundraising worlds. His fundraising efforts have resulted in major support of MNE from the Yawkey Foundation and many other corporate and foundation partners in Massachusetts and beyond.

Here are a few highlights of the indelible footprint that Larry Cancro has left in Massachusetts and in the autism community:

- **2001** – Co-founded the Boston chapter of the National Alliance of Autism Research. The organization merged with several others and in 2005 became Autism Speaks. Larry continues to serve as Chairman of Autism Speaks, New England. Became active on Melmark New England’s board this year
- **2004** – Named “Man of the Year” by the Greater Boston ARC; created a partnership between Autism Speaks and the Boston University men’s ice hockey team that remains today as Autism Speaks’ Official Team Charity
- **2005** – Worked with the Massachusetts Senate on the Division of Autism Bill, the first autism-specific bill in U.S. history
- **2006** – Honored with the “Spirit of Compassion” award by the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
- **2010** – Played a significant role in advocating for the signing of House Bill 4935, “An Act Relative to Insurance Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder,” which was signed at Fenway Park; the legislation also established an Autism Commission in Massachusetts
- **2014** – Helped to create Major League Baseball’s Autism Awareness Day, held in parks across the country each season; participated in a ceremonial signing of H4047, “An Act Relative to Assisting Individuals with Autism and other Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities”
- **2015** – Honored by the Autism Insurance Resource Center with its Champion award which exemplifies leadership in helping the autism community
- **2016** - Received the Horace Mann Educational Associates Corporate Partner Award; Recognized by Autism Speaks at a major fundraising event at Fenway Park

Melmark is proud and honored to count Larry Cancro as one of its greatest volunteer advocates and fundraising ambassadors.
The Clavin Center Opens in New England

The basement ballroom of Melmark New England (MNE) was buzzing with activity over the summer months as a demolition crew began tearing out ceiling tiles, reconfiguring the HVAC system, and gutting the space in preparation for the creation and construction of a state-of-the-art learning environment. With the removal of a center, load-bearing steel beam and the installation of new steel beams across the ceiling expanse, The Clavin Center for Professional Development was beginning to take shape. Construction and technology crews from BWK Construction and Hi-TECH SOUND worked through the summer to build the stadium-style auditorium, complete with the latest audio/visual technology and equipment.

MNE hosted the first Expert Speaker Series program of the season in the new Center in October, and featured Melmark New England’s Executive Director, Helena Maguire. We are truly grateful for the dedication and commitment of Melmark parents, John and Mary Gene Clavin, their family, friends, and other generous Melmark friends and donors who have made this amazing facility possible. Professional development lectures and programs, graduate education classes and hundreds of staff education offerings will now be delivered in an environment conducive to learning.

The Clavin Center for Professional Development at Melmark New England was officially dedicated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 3. The fundraising for this campaign initiative was spearheaded by MNE parents John and Mary Gene Clavin, in honor of their daughter, Mary Caroline. With a guest list topping 80, the lecture hall was full of Clavin family members, friends and donors. Guests heard from Melmark President and CEO, Rita Gardner, Melmark Board Chair, Larry Cancro, and John and Mary Caroline Clavin.

Their remarks emphasized the significance of having a spectacular learning environment to conduct staff trainings, graduate programs and educational outreach to parents, clinicians and the general public. Helena Maguire, Executive Director, narrated a “Day in the Life of a MNE Student” slideshow and Senator Barbara L’Italien offered a Citation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Guests enjoyed a lively reception following the ribbon cutting.
A great day of golf and giving

The 11th Annual fore Melmark New England Golf Tournament was held Monday, September 12, at the Andover Country Club. The shift to a September date this year resulted in beautiful weather, and despite a dry summer, the course was lush and colorful, providing a great backdrop to a fabulous day of golf, food and fun. We are pleased to announce that revenue after expenses netted more than $100,000 for MNE programs and services.

We would like to extend our appreciation and special thanks to the event committee including Board member and MNE parent Jamie Stahle, Jim Alex, John Reilly of Fred C. Church Insurance, and Andrew Santos of Enterprise Bank. Thanks in part to their participation, we welcomed new sponsors and dinner guests to the Melmark family.

New this year, we offered golfers an Adidas and TaylorMade shopping excursion and a chance to experience (and benefit from) three-time Long Drive Finalist, Mike Watson, who entertained players with his crushing Long Drive on the 10th hole. In support of our MNE Partner live auction sponsor effort, Barmakian Jewelers donated a gorgeous bracelet as an incentive to prospective donors – it worked as we raised more money than last year! Our third annual Martini, Mani and More ladies afternoon, also held at the Club, was enjoyed by Melmark moms and friends once again. Mini-manicures, makeovers, foot reflexology and moisturizing hand treatments were offered along with refreshments and a raffle. Many guests then joined the fun for the Awards Dinner.

Since inception, fore Melmark New England has raised more than $2 million. These donations have enabled us to increase the quality and breadth of the programs and services we provide to the hundreds of children, adolescents and adults who are part of the Melmark New England family.

THANK YOU again to all of the MNE parents, family members, friends and staff members who made donations, participated in the event or volunteered to help!
Amazing show of support

It was a beautiful day in early October when the life sciences and business communities came out to the links at Waynesborough Country Club and Gulph Mills Golf Club to participate in the 11th Annual Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Classic, benefitting Melmark. It was a wonderful showing of support for Melmark, which resulted in raising over $265,000 for the Berwyn campus. The day at the two courses was followed by a cocktail reception, silent auction and dinner, with a live auction, all at Waynesborough. The Joybells had the opportunity to perform for the dinner guests, too.

With the completion of this year’s Classic, the funds raised for Melmark’s programs have topped the $4 million mark, over the 11-year period. The Schoemaker Classic Advisory Board is led by Co-Chairs Jim Eaton, Senior Vice President of NAI Geis Realty Group Inc., Brad Michel, Managing Director-Global Life Sciences, Accenture, and Dr. Lesley Russell, Chief Medical Officer, Innocoll. The dedicated Board members work very hard to connect donors and contributors in the life sciences and business communities to this annual event. We are deeply appreciative of their work and commitment and would also like to extend our appreciation to our title sponsor, Accenture, and presenting sponsor, SAP.

The Schoemaker Classic was founded in 2006 by Lee Ahrensdorf, President of Ahrensdorf and Associates, in memory of the late Hubert J.P. Schoemaker, a leader and advocate in the region’s life sciences community and founder of Centocor. Schoemaker, whose eldest daughter lived at Melmark for 28 years, was well known for giving back to the community, especially to children and adults with special needs.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and attendees who made this day so special.
Joseph’s success story

When Joseph, or JoJo as he is affectionately known, enrolled at Melmark New England in 2012, he communicated primarily using single words or short phrases. Socially, he was working on consistently responding to greetings from others and gaining their attention before requesting things. Playing games with peers evoked many challenging behaviors.

Physically, Joseph was challenged due to a long history of toe walking. He demonstrated several formidable behaviors when transitioning throughout the school and wearing his prescribed leg braces. He also had a very restricted diet, eating only one or two specific foods. He worked on tolerating having a novel food on his plate, with no expectation for him to taste or eat the new food.

Joseph is 12 years old now and has made tremendous gains in his functional independence. He initiates conversations and communicates using a wide range of comments, questions and requests. He has expanded his interest in toys and games, and is able to engage independently in functional leisure activities. Joseph enjoys his peers and has even initiated inviting peers to play games.

He has also made significant progress with his physical endurance, following corrective lower extremity surgery. He wears his leg braces consistently all day and transitions readily throughout the school. Joseph enthusiastically attends a group exercise class and recently joined Melmark's After School Program, and he is thriving within this supported social setting.

Joseph has also tried a number of new foods and discovered some different options for his school lunch. He has a promising future ahead as he continues to increase his academic skills and independence, while working to develop appropriate peer interactions, stronger social skills, and maintain progress with functional mobility and physical endurance. “Joseph used to be a kid who sat on the bench and watched everything happen around him, Krista, his Educational Coordinator, says. “Now he is actively involved and engaged with people.”

“Before Melmark, our family was in a difficult situation. Joseph was home without services after challenging times at another Autism program and we were deeply concerned about his future. After joining the Melmark family we could see and feel the commitment to creating a collaborative team for Joseph,” says Jennifer, Joseph’s mom. “This collaboration has proven to be a critical piece of the puzzle in creating a path for Joseph's success. The result of everyone’s hard work is tremendous progress in Joseph’s behavior, social skills and academics. We want to thank the Melmark team for all they have done for Joseph and our family.”
Abby’s success story

Abby came to Melmark PA five years ago after concerns with daily aggression with her family and peers in the classroom. She would also wander outside and to other unsafe locations, or to a hot stove. Her unpredictable and unsafe behavior in the car had caused an accident due to her aggression.

During Abby’s stay in the Residential Treatment Facility (RTF), staff not only focused on her challenging behaviors with them and others on campus, but they focused on how she could be successful with her family and while in the community.

Abby learned a lot of adaptive skills from RTF, which attributed to the reduction in her challenging behaviors. She was taught to wait for things she wanted and progressed from aggressing immediately when asked to wait, to waiting for four minutes before her request was honored. In addition, she became more tolerant at accepting an alternative when told she couldn’t have something she wanted.

Her greatest achievement, however, is that she is able to ride in a car successfully, and go to any community outings that are offered at Melmark, as well as go on community trips with her parents on a weekly basis. “Abby only had two trips where she displayed challenging behavior during the residential hours during her entire stay with us,” says Liz Dayton, Abby’s Clinical Case Manager. “During those two times she only engaged in low levels of aggression that didn’t require any intervention. She was typically safe and compliant.”

Abby progressed with her family members, too, and in turn, her family members made great progress with her. They are currently able to take her home on the weekends for the day and overnight, and she has been quite successful and wanders to unsafe locations much less often.

Her mom says that she still may get frustrated, but she is now able to communicate in ways that are more socially acceptable and much less dangerous. She rarely displays aggression toward others and is able to sustain attention to a task, or a TV show, for example, for a much longer period of time.

“We still have work to do and we anticipate other challenges as Abby enters into adolescence, but we are very grateful for the skills the RTF staff has given Abby and that the team has given us as parents. We feel more confident now that when new behaviors emerge we will be in a better place to manage them,” says Vanessa, Abby’s mom. “Most of all, we feel as if we have a team of caring experts to consult with who know Abby well and who appreciate her vibrant personality. Not feeling alone in caring for Abby is a tremendous gift.”

Recently, Abby has transitioned from Gate House to Dixon House, and is thriving in Classroom 14. “We are so happy to have Abby back in classroom 14! Since transitioning back from the RTF, she has better tolerated denied access, schedule changes, and is able to transition safely from place to place within the school and community,” says Rebecca Latchford, Abby’s teacher. “I think the most impressive thing has been how well she tolerates going to the nurse’s station! We have also noticed that she has become more specific when requesting for things she wants/needs. We are so excited to see what the future holds for her!”
National Grid workers at the MNE Family BBQ

Essent Guaranty generously donated to the Melmark Charitable Foundation and helped in Berwyn's Meadows Garden

SAP volunteers provided fun Halloween activities, hayrides, treats and helped out in the Meadows Garden in Berwyn

Students from Lansdale Catholic High School at the Annual Pumpkin Carving, a Melmark PA tradition since 1998

Students from nearby Episcopal Academy spent some time socializing and helping at The Meadows in Berwyn

Shire Pharmaceuticals painted and made repairs to residences as part of its Global Day of Service. Shire also received the Corporate Partner of the Year Award from Melmark PA.
From September to June, children bound into Melmark’s Multi-Purpose Center on the third Wednesday evening of every month, ready for fun and games, but also serious discussion. They come on campus for Sibshop, an evening for children, ages eight to 12, who have siblings with special needs. Sibshop is hosted by Melmark’s Director of Admissions and Family Services, Suzanne Muench, and teen helpers, some of whom have been a part of Sibshops themselves.

It is their evening, with no parents and no siblings, a chance to talk to others who may be experiencing the same feelings and situations that they may be—good and bad—and a chance to validate what they have going on with their siblings. Open to siblings of Melmark students, as well as children in the community, it’s been a successful program for the past four years. Although the games are fun, the focus of Sibshop and Sibteen, the new program for teens, ages 13 to 16, is to provide a forum where they can make connections with their peers and know that they aren’t alone in their journey with their siblings.

“Kids meet other sibs, have fun, laugh, talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with special needs,” says Suzanne Muench. “We play some great games, learn something about the services their brothers and sisters receive, discuss the joys and fears they may feel, and then we have some more fun.”

Sibshops were started by the Sibling Support Project, founded in 1990. It’s the first national program dedicated to siblings of people with special needs. Suzanne trained with Don Meyer, the director of the Sibling Support Project and creator of Sibshops.

The October session of Sibshop started off with Halloween-themed games—building a giant spider web, finding creepy crawlies in guts (spaghetti), catching plastic eyeballs in a cup—but then the serious discussion began. Suzanne gathered the participants around in a circle and asked them to talk about what was scary about having a sibling with special needs, and what was surprising. The answers varied from how happy their sibling always seems to be to their wish that their parents could spend more time with their non-special needs child.

Not only do the children see a difference in how they are able to cope with siblings with special needs, the parents notice a difference, too. “This has been so amazing to see. He’s like a new person – much happier and less sullen,” says a Sibshop participant’s mom. “He still gets in his funks, but his confidence has risen, and he is also more compassionate toward his brother.”
The Joybells

Catie Parker, former Music Therapist at Melmark, is a singer/songwriter in her own right, as a member of Little Hill Trio. She also served as the Co-Director of the Joybells, Melmark’s bell choir.

Before Catie resigned her position and moved out of state, she wrote a song for the Joybells. Before she knew it, the first time they heard the song, members began to perform skits to go along with the lyrics. Catie had the idea of creating a music video, starring members of the Joybells. “My plan was to create a video to raise awareness of the group, as well as the abilities of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, like Down syndrome,” says Catie.

Summer CMS Meetings

This summer, Melmark PA held community meetings for family members and guardians to learn more about the new federal regulations for Adult Services set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and how these regulations would affect their loved ones. The CMS Rules apply to 10 Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid programs in Pennsylvania, including Melmark. The Adult Autism Waiver, Consolidated Waiver, and Person/Family Directed Supports Waiver will affect our adult clients in the future. There were great turnouts and informative discussions during the meetings. We will continue to keep families apprised of any further developments as the CMS Rules and plans evolve.

Melmark PA Offers Crisis Training to First Responders

Melmark PA contacted over 40 area police departments recently, offering expertise to police officers and other first responders on how to handle possible crisis situations involving individuals with autism or other intellectual disabilities and their caregivers.

Karen Parenti, Executive Director, Melmark PA, and Dave Dragone, Director of Adult Community Residential Programs, have facilitated the 90-minute training sessions with the officers, using real-life examples and discussions about:

- How to identify a person with a disability;
- How to de-escalate a crisis situation; and
- Techniques to keep the individual, his or her caregiver, and the police officer safe.

“I know the officers attending and the Aston Police Department as a whole have benefited from the knowledge gained on how to handle situations involving persons with disabilities,” says Sergeant Chad Osborn, Aston Township Police Department.

Training sessions have been held in Chester and Delaware Counties, with a scheduled training in Montgomery County in 2017. Karen and Dave hope to train other leadership team members to expand the trainings offered.
NE Car and Craft Show

Despite the inclement weather, which kept many classic cars under cover, there were still a few “Best of Show” sightings at Melmark New England’s second annual Classic Car show. Thank you to MNE grandfather, Bill Pappas, for planning this year’s event once again and for getting the Boston Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America to come out and support MNE!

Thank you to Melmark parent, Cyndy McKinley, for organizing our first-ever Craft Fair held in conjunction with the show. There was some great holiday shopping to be done at the various craft and baked goods tables. From Camilla’s apple pies to hand-pressed cards and gift bags, there was something for everyone.

Quilted and handmade items galore included decorative bottles and trays and many items created by the adults at Melmark’s Riverwalk program and MNE students participating in the Green Thumbs program at Konjoian Greenhouses.

Visitors also got to check out East Boston Savings Bank’s Mobile Bank, the first in Massachusetts and enjoy a delicious donut and coffee, compliments of Heavn’ly Donuts and the Saragas family.

Moving Up at Melmark PA

Melmark PA is pleased to announce the promotion of three key leaders in Adult Services. Maggie Haag, LSW, has been appointed Senior Director of Adult Services, Ashley Benedetto has been promoted to Director of Adult Day Services, and Mary Odira has been promoted to Director of Quality Improvement.

Maggie oversees all adult day and vocational programs, as well as the adult campus and community residential programs, which include intermediate care facilities that serve individuals with intense medical challenges. She came to Melmark PA in 2015, after spending her career at another provider agency that provides supports to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Maggie also serves as a SuperArtist Ambassador for the Lulu & Leo Fund, which helps children and families foster creativity and build resilience through programs that provide meaningful engagement with art and other creative endeavors.

Ashley is responsible for Adult Day Services, which serves over 200 individuals. She oversees day-to-day operations, program development, staff procurement, hiring, and training and implementation. She also helps support adults in volunteer and community engagement opportunities during the day, and oversees Melmark PA’s creative programs – The Melmark Players and The Joybells.

In her new position, Mary provides consultation on compliance, quality management and accreditation activities. Mary began her career in June 2009, as a direct care staff where she was promoted to a lead staff position and then to Adult Services Manager. Since then she has assumed multiple supervisory roles in several homes across campus and Aston in the community. For the past two years she served as the Program Manager Float, focusing on homes needing intense leadership presence.
Sharing Research

Pennsylvania Expert Speaker Series

February 2, 2017
Chris Schaub, BCBA
Presenting TBD

March 9, 2017
Sean Casey, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Topics in Feeding

April 20, 2017
Terry Page, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Topics in Ethics

Time: 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Center, Melmark PA

Complimentary Admission
For each event, earn Type II BCBA credits.
$30 for BCBA Credits ($10 per credit)

For more information,
contact Mary Jane Weiss, Ph.D., BCBA-D,
Senior Director of Research,
at maryjaneweiss@melmark.org.

New England Expert Speaker Series

February 23, 2017
Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D.
Evidence-Based Intervention and Support with Adolescents and Adults with ASD: Challenges, Risks, and Quality of Life

March 16, 2017
Judah B. Axe, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Incorporating the Analysis of Verbal Behavior into Intensive Behavioral Intervention Programs

April 27, 2017
Barbara Cannon, Ph.D., BCBA and Jessica Everett, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Adapting “The Incredible Years” Parent Training Program for Families of Children with Autism—A Pilot Study

May 11, 2017
Mary Jane Weiss, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Ways to Ensure Adherence to the Code: Individual and Organizational

Time: 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Location: The Clavin Center, Melmark NE

3 Credits-BCBA Type II CEU

For more information, contact either:
Jill Harper, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Director of Professional Development, Clinical Training and Research, at jharper@melmarkne.org, or at 978-654-4356, or Danielle Greeley, Executive Assistant, at dgreeley@melmarkne.org, or at 978-654-4396.
Melmark presents at BABAT 2016

Melmark takes pride in providing the most effective evidence-based interventions to improve the lives of the individuals and families for whom we provide services. We are also very proud to be active members of the research community that evaluates the most effective educational and clinical practices. It is our responsibility to disseminate the work that is done at Melmark so that others may benefit. We accomplish this goal by publishing in professional journals, and presenting at local and national professional conferences. Below are the workshops and presentations that Melmark presented at the Annual Conference of the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy (BABAT) in October.

Human Sexuality and Relationship Training for Students with Autism in Applied Settings—Cory Whelan, Silva Orchanian

Improving Staff Performance and Data Collection Methods—Helena Maguire, Mary Jane Weiss

Increasing and Monitoring Correct Application of Adaptive Equipment on an Individual: Effects of Staff Training plus Feedback—Emily Chin, Amanda Brooks, Silva Orchanian

Increasing Integrity When Collecting Inter-Observer Agreement Amongst Classroom Staff by Using Behavioral Skills Training—Renee Hartz, Kaitlin Gould

Comparing Accuracy Between Two Data Input Methods—Timothy Nipe

Using the Research Skills You Learned in Graduate School: the Scientist Practitioner Model—Jill Harper

The Scientist Practitioner Model and Research Productivity—Jill Harper

The Current State of the Scientist Practitioner Model in Applied Behavior Analysis—Jill Harper

Decrease Spitting Through Matched Reinforcement—Anna Linnehan, Krista Myers, Jill Harper

Procedural Integrity of Clinical Programming in Applied Settings—Helena Maguire, Silva Orchanian

Increasing Compliance with the Wearing of Multiple Prescription Prosthetics—Timothy Nipe

Increasing Variety of Food Presented and Consumed—Samantha Russo, Jennifer Croner, Samantha Smith, Meaghan Chirinos

Implementing Behavior Analytic Interventions in the Community—Mary Jane Weiss

Systematic Evaluation and Programmed Generalization of Reinforcement Schedules in the Community—Lauren Palmieri, Jennifer Quigley

A Comparison of Treatment Options to Decrease Challenging Behavior in the Community—Samantha Russo, Krystina Cassidy, Jarrett Cutsler

Response Interruption and Redirection with Stimulus Control to Decrease Stereotypy in a Student with Autism—Kaitlin Gould, Jill Harper

Response Interruption and Redirection: Procedural Extensions and Comparative Analyses—Jill Harper

Comparing Treatment Options for Decreasing Inappropriate Vocal Behavior—Jennifer Croner, Meghan Kane

Behavioral Change Through Collaboration—James Chok, Frank Bird

Communication Skills Increased When Using an Interdisciplinary Approach—Elizabeth Dayton, Tracy Chin

Incorporating Parents as Therapists within Functional and Treatment Analyses—Jennifer Quigley, Elizabeth Dayton


Reducing Profanity with Differential Reinforcement of Low Rates in the Community—Kellie Northham, Tanya Mouzakes

Increasing Social Interaction in Students with Autism in Public Schools using a Peer Mentoring Curriculum—Juliya Krasnopolosky, Heidi Gomez

Medication Compliance Training: Direct and Indirect Effects—Jillian Bishop, Katherine Sacco, John Demanche
It was 41 years ago that Vicki and Fred Modell first met Miggy and Paul Krentel at Melmark. They spoke at length about their daughter, Lori, who was 18 months old. At that time, she was unable to sit up, walk or talk.

Fred and Vicki remember the Krentels as the most cheerful, positive and energetic people they had ever met. Miggy and Paul told them that if Melmark could help Lori reach for the best she could be, Melmark would accept her. Six months after her admission, Lori sat up, was walking, and never stopped talking, according to her parents. For the Modells, “this was the miracle of Melmark, and we visited Lori as frequently as we could, being New Yorkers.”

Lori’s older brother, Jeffrey, had his own challenges as well, suffering from a Primary Immunodeficiency disorder, one of 300 chronic disorders in which part of the body’s immune system is missing or functions improperly. He would often implore his parents to “do something” in hopes of a cure. Sadly, in 1986, Jeffrey succumbed to the condition and passed away at age 15.

Miggy and Paul, who had been through their own personal tragedy as parents, and with their exuberance and enthusiasm, convinced the Modells to start a non-profit foundation, not just in memory of Jeffrey, but in celebration of his life. In other words, they did something.

A year later, Fred and Vicki started the Jeffrey Modell Foundation dedicated to basic and clinical research, physician education, patient support, public awareness, and advocacy for Primary Immunodeficiency disorders, working closely with the Krentel family, most especially Steve Krentel.

Over the past almost 30 years, the Jeffrey Modell Foundation has established a global network with 602 expert physicians at 253 research and diagnostic centers, in 206 cities and 84 countries spanning six continents. Today more than 160,000 patients are served by the Jeffrey Modell Centers Network.

“When we expanded the Jeffrey Modell Foundation, we could feel secure and sleep well at night, knowing Lori was in capable hands in a warm and loving environment,” say Fred and Vicki.

When they learned of the ambitious “Promises to Keep” Capital Campaign, they wanted to show their deep, heartfelt appreciation and respect for Melmark’s great accomplishments. Their pledge to Melmark was $1 million. “We wanted to inspire families, friends, and related organizations that Melmark is truly unique and there is nothing quite like it in this world,” says Fred. “Our commitment hopefully helped energize others to participate.”

A few weeks ago, Fred and Vicki were on campus visiting with Lori, and they had the opportunity to meet with Rita Gardner, Melmark’s President and CEO. “She is a brilliant and gifted leader that will build Melmark to even greater heights well into the future,” says Vicki.

They both look forward to partnering with her to help expand a global network for Melmark similar to the Modell Foundation model, which will allow Melmark to remain “the home that love built” and to open its doors to welcome families, like they did for the Modells. They hope their gift will enable Melmark to continue to “do something” as it forges ahead with its commitment to advancing evidence-based best practices for a long time to come.
There are a number of convenient gift opportunities available to support Melmark's mission. Gifts received may be unrestricted or designated for restricted purposes. The Melmark Charitable Foundation serves as the not-for-profit entity for Melmark's charitable giving efforts. Donations can be made by cash or check, or made securely online through Melmark's website.

**Annual Giving**
Annual support allows Melmark to maintain a center of excellence and provide specialized services and programs to individuals with special needs. We rely on the generosity and spirit of our friends and families to enhance our ability to attract and retain a team of gifted staff, provide innovative programs and sustain our facilities.

**Gifts of Stock**
One of the most advantageous ways to contribute to Melmark is through a gift of stock. Making a gift of securities is simple and offers a number of valuable financial benefits:

- You can donate appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds.
- Total value of the stock upon transfer is tax-deductible.
- No obligation to pay any capital gains taxes on the appreciation.

**Matching Gifts**
One way to double the impact of your gift to Melmark is to participate in your company’s matching gift program, which may match a percentage or your entire gift. Each company will have different requirements and procedures; your human resources department should be able to answer your questions.

**Tributes and Memorial Gifts**
Honoring or remembering a loved one through a charitable gift is an especially meaningful way of paying tribute. Gifts may commemorate a special event, such as a birthday, anniversary, wedding or retirement, or may be made in lieu of flowers at one’s passing.

**Planned Giving/Krentel Legacy Society**
The generosity of planned giving donors strengthens opportunities for the children and adults we serve, along with their families. The planned giving office is here to help you determine the best vehicles to meet your financial needs and make a lasting impact at Melmark. All future gifts can be counted in Promises To Keep... The Campaign for Melmark and can be designated to Melmark PA or Melmark NE.

**The Paul and Mildred Krentel Legacy Society**, founded in 2010, includes individuals who have named the Melmark Charitable Foundation as the ultimate beneficiary of their estate plan. Such gifts can include a bequest or beneficiary designation in a retirement plan and/or charitable income gifts, such as:

- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Unitrusts
- Gifts of Life Insurance

**In-Kind Gifts**
A Gift-In-Kind is a contribution of goods or services that can be used to advance Melmark’s mission, or can be readily converted to cash and may qualify as a charitable deduction.

**Pennsylvania United Way**
A number of Melmark’s donors prefer to make their contributions through the United Way payroll deduction program. Melmark is a participating donor choice agency in the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania; the code number is 1012.

**Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)**
The Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (PA EITC) program allows businesses in the Commonwealth to earn a tax credit of up to 90% for certain Pennsylvania taxes when they make a donation to a “scholarship organization” or an “educational improvement organization,” a special category under the state tax code. Melmark has been approved as an Educational Improvement Organization (EIO). Funds received under these programs provide funding for technology to enhance our students’ experiences.

**Corporate, Foundation and Organization Giving**
Melmark has been very fortunate to have the support of local corporations, foundations and organizations. Over the past five years, these benefactors have extended their valued time and financial resources in support of our mission. Many prominent organizations regularly include Melmark in their contributions budget.

**New England Legacy Brick Walkway**
Located just outside the front doors of Melmark NE, our legacy walkway features engraved bricks with custom messages. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute or honor special people in your life or to recognize special memories and milestones. Each brick can be customized with a personal message, tribute, important dates, names of family members, thank yous or corporate logos.

**Special Events**
Special events provide Melmark with a number of opportunities to promote Melmark’s mission to the community at large, to encourage a social rapport among our families and friends, and to raise significant financial support for our highly specialized programs and services.

For more information on giving to Melmark, please contact:

New England Advancement Office at 978-654-4300
Donate online at www.melmarkne.org/supporting-melmark

Pennsylvania Advancement Office at 610-325-4996
Donate online at www.supportmelmark.org
Melmark by the numbers...

Did you know that Melmark PA...

- serves children and adults from age 8 to 79?
- provides residential, educational, vocational and therapeutic services for 105 children and 210 adults?

Did you know that Melmark NE...

- serves children and adults from age 6 to 30?
- provides residential, educational, vocational and therapeutic services for 120 children and 14 adults?