

# Melmark Messenger

Fall/Winter 2019–2020



Planting the Seeds for Tomorrow:  
Research, Mission and Success





*Christiana assists Brian with an educational task on the computer in a Melmark Pennsylvania classroom. Your support is helping us grow and enhance the delivery of our expert educational and clinical services at our service division in Berwyn, PA.*



*Liz leads Dominic on the computer in a Melmark New England Classroom. Donations help our highly skilled staff guide children and adults as they reach educational, daily living and vocational goals.*



*Tyler works on a writing exercise at Melmark Carolinas, as Brad collects data. When you give to Melmark, you're helping our highly skilled staff deliver clinically sophisticated, evidence-based programs to children in this region.*

## Melmark's Mission

Melmark is a multi-state human service provider with premier private special education schools, professional development, training and research centers. We are committed to enhancing the lives of individuals with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families by providing exceptional evidence-based and applied behavior analytic services to every individual, every day.

### About the Cover:

Federal laws are in place to ensure all children, regardless of their ability level, are provided equal access to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Since 1995, the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has identified a lack of the full continuum of services and access to FAPE as a challenge in the state of North Carolina. Based on data from a recent survey conducted by Disability Rights North Carolina and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI), many children who could be served in a specialized special education setting are being restricted to limited instruction in their family's home.



Melmark Carolinas is committed to assisting local education agencies to provide the full continuum of special education, as defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

***Melmark is Mission First.  
Every Individual, Every Day.***

**Your support, no matter how big or small, makes a significant impact on the lives of the individuals we serve.**

# A Message from the President and CEO

Dear Melmark Community,

Writing this letter to you in our quarterly magazine, the Melmark Messenger, is always a bright spot in my job as President and CEO. It gives me the opportunity to share with you the many positive results of our mission-first work at Melmark. This time is no exception, although the way we're implementing our mission is very much different amidst the current landscape. With the flurry of information related to COVID-19 coming at us daily, I find myself inspired more than ever by Melmark's highly-skilled staff. I hope this publication will leave you equally moved.



In the pages ahead, you will read about many of the ways Melmark is “planting the seeds for tomorrow”, the theme we selected for our 2020 Dream Maker's Ball to benefit our Pennsylvania service division. While we look forward to this biennial event on its newly scheduled date in October, we continue to see “seeds” pushing up and blooming throughout our communities in Pennsylvania, New England and the Carolinas. It is spiritually refreshing to see these moments emerge, much like flowers popping up, one by one, to mark the arrival of a new challenge met by our Melmark staff.

At Melmark New England, I continue to witness the unstoppable force of our leadership staff, who are leading our teams through the COVID-19 pandemic. They're working diligently to ensure quality service delivery and the best outcomes for the individuals who call Melmark home. They're taking in a great deal of information on an hourly basis and synthesizing details to inform best practices. Every member of the Melmark team in New England, Pennsylvania and the Carolinas, from senior leadership, health care, day and residential program staff to facilities and IT teams, are collaboratively working to continue putting **mission first** *for every individual, every day.*

While so much about how we deliver that mission has changed in our current environment, the mission itself has not. That's why, in the pages ahead, you will not read the term “COVID-19”. Instead, you will read about the seeds our team is planting, as they continue providing, what I believe, are the very best evidence-based services in our field. Thank you for being part of our growing community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rita M. Gardner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rita M. Gardner, M.P.H., LABA, BCBA  
President and CEO  
Melmark, Inc.

## Melmark's Core Commitments

Compassionate Care

Integrity in Everything We Do

Highly Skilled Workforce

Evidence-based Practices

Best Outcomes



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*Students, their families and staff gathered for an incredible production of The Lion King at Melmark New England's annual winter show. The performance included participation from every student and adult at MNE.*



*The Melmark Players wowed audiences with their productions of The King and I. This event was part of Melmark's annual holiday celebration and included music, treats and sales at the Meadows.*

# 2019 Board of Directors

## Melmark, Inc. Board of Directors, New Members Elected

At the fall of 2019 meeting, the Melmark, Inc. Board of Directors elected three new members, each with extensive professional experience to help advance the Melmark Model of Program Development and Clinical Treatment.

**Jescah Apamo-Gannon** is a Licensed Applied Behavior Analyst (LABA) and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) with more than twenty years experience in K-12 private, public, community and clinical settings.



**Dr. Kimberly Thurmond Bowdre** practices podiatric medicine and surgery and is a Certified Wound Specialist. Dr. Thurmond Bowdre works with all populations but especially enjoys treating adults as they age, as well as patients with special needs.



**Dennis “Denny” Willson** is a longtime supporter of Melmark’s mission, having volunteered in several roles, including chair of the Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Golf Classic. While Willson continues his work with this event, we are thrilled to have him join the Melmark, Inc. Board of Directors.



Please join us in welcoming our newest members of the Melmark Inc. Board of Directors, each of whom holds skills uniquely suited to support Melmark’s **mission first** work, today and in the years to come.



**Rita M. Gardner, M.P.H., LABA, BCBA**  
*President and CEO*  
Melmark Services, Melmark, Inc.,  
Melmark New England, Inc.



**Lawrence C. Cancro**  
*Senior Vice President, Boston Red Sox*  
Chairman, Melmark Services, Melmark, Inc.,  
Melmark New England, Inc.



**Maureen McMahon, M.D.**  
*Physician, Nemours Pediatrics*  
Vice Chairwoman, Melmark Services,  
Melmark, Inc., Melmark New England, Inc.



**Joseph Duffey**  
*Founder, Compass Management Partners*  
Finance Chair, Melmark Services, Melmark, Inc.



**James Stahle**  
*Group Managing Director CCA Group, LLC*  
Treasurer, Melmark New England, Inc.,  
Member, Melmark Services, Melmark, Inc.



**Mary Maurer**  
*Nurse*  
Secretary, Melmark Services, Melmark, Inc.,  
Member, Melmark New England, Inc.



**Mary Gene Clavin**  
*Consultant, Advancement Advisors*  
Clerk, Melmark New England, Inc.,  
Member, Melmark Services, Melmark, Inc.



**James Alex**  
*Business Entrepreneur*  
Member, Melmark, Inc., Melmark New England, Inc.



**Jescah Apamo-Gannon, MS.Ed., LABA, BCBA**  
*Behavior Analyst*  
Member, Melmark, Inc.



**Garrett Kirk**  
*Investment Banker*  
Member, Melmark Services, Melmark, Inc.



**Clive Mendelow**  
*Retired Real Estate Consultant*  
Member, Melmark, Inc., Melmark New England, Inc.



**Greg Strakosch**  
*Executive Chairman, Co-Founder, TechTarget Inc.*  
Member, Melmark Services, Melmark, Inc.



**Kimberly Thurmond Bowdre, DPM**  
*Podiatrist*  
Member, Melmark, Inc.



**Peter Troy, M.B.A.**  
*Retired VP of Business Operations, Melmark*  
Member, Melmark New England, Inc.



**Lesley Russell, MBChB, MRCP**  
*Physician, Life Sciences Consultant*  
Member, Melmark, Inc.



**Dennis Willson**  
*Life Sciences Consultant*  
Member, Melmark, Inc.



**H. Robert Marcus**  
*Retired, Investment Manager*  
Member Emeritus, Melmark, Inc.



# Board Member Spotlight

## Maureen McMahon, M.D.



Dr. Maureen McMahon brings a unique background to her role on Melmark's Board of Directors. As a mother, Dr. McMahon is acutely aware of the multiple aspects of education and care involved with the population we serve. Her daughter Caroline has been at Melmark since 1999 and is currently supported in Melmark Pennsylvania's Adult Day and Residential Programs. In addition to being Caroline's mom, Dr. McMahon also leads a primary care practice in Villanova, Pennsylvania, treating several patients with disabilities. It is this parallel between her personal and professional life that gives her such a deep respect for Melmark's mission and the ability to serve as a forward-thinking leader for the organization.

*"Melmark has evolved as a service provider and leader in its field, and to be part of that evolution is not only invigorating, it's also reassuring as a parent,"* said Dr. McMahon, who serves as Vice Chair for Melmark Services, Melmark, Inc. and Melmark New England, Inc. *"As the parent of an adult with medical fragility, I am particularly impressed with Melmark's highly skilled health care and direct support staff, who have worked diligently to ensure safe, engaging environments for Melmark's aging population,"* added Dr. McMahon. *"The past five years have been a time of unprecedented change and development for Melmark Pennsylvania. With the new school project underway, it's an exciting time, especially when we consider the importance of the children's program to the full continuum of care at Melmark."*

Melmark's robust children's program in Pennsylvania helps ensure services for adults, as funding and reimbursement for adult services in the state are not financially adequate. Having a well-balanced distribution of services helps ensure Melmark Pennsylvania's programmatic success today, and in the future.

Dr. McMahon sees great things happening for Melmark beyond its service division in Pennsylvania. *"Under the leadership of Melmark President and CEO Rita Gardner, the organization as a whole has become a national model in the delivery of clinically sophisticated, evidence-based services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism, medical fragility and other diagnoses,"* said McMahon. *"While leading the evolution of services and elevating Melmark's brand, Rita has also made sure those who deliver services remain at the top of the priority list. She has worked tirelessly to ensure Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and other members of Melmark's highly skilled staff receive competitive pay and benefits, as well as career growth opportunities."*



Maureen's daughter Caroline with her Workshop Instructor and longtime staff, Helena Johnson

*"I am honored to have the leadership and guidance of Dr. McMahon as we plant the seeds that will not only grow our founders' original vision of bringing services closer to home, but also extend Melmark's Model of Program Development and Clinical Treatment to the children and adults who need and deserve our high quality, clinically-sophisticated programs."*

*-Rita M. Gardner, M.P.H., LABA, BCBA  
Melmark President and CEO*

Melmark continues to advocate for its staff in a number of ways, including the launch of an internal wage initiative for DSPs, leadership in state and national efforts to raise DSP funding, and a commitment to robust benefits including tuition and college/university loan reimbursement. It's all part of Melmark's mission to not only hire the very best in the fields of Applied Behavior Analysis, healthcare and human services, but also keep highly skilled, dedicated staff by providing them opportunities to grow in their careers at Melmark.

Dr. McMahone says one of the most eye-opening endeavors she has witnessed in her role as a board member is the opening of Melmark Carolinas. *"Learning about the scarcity of educational services for children with challenging behaviors in North and South Carolina has made me keenly aware of the sophisticated level of service and programming we have in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts,"* said McMahone. *"As a member of the board, as a physician, and as a parent, I am so proud to be a part of this organization. Melmark has a life-changing impact on the children, adults and families it serves. As we continue to evolve and grow, the opportunities for who we can impact, not only at our service divisions, but throughout the U.S., are endless."*



*Caroline doing arts and crafts*



*Caroline with Villanova's basketball mascot, Will D. Cat at the 2019 Family and Friends Walk and Roll*

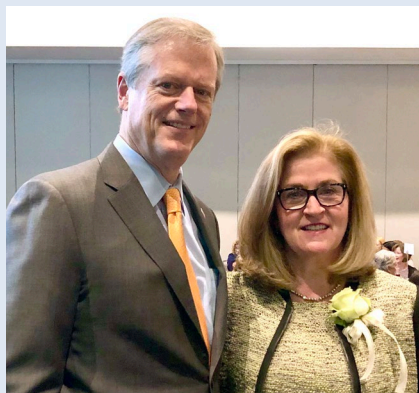


*Dr. McMahone receiving the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award with Rita M. Gardner, Melmark President and CEO*



# Awards and Publicity

## Top 100 Women-Led Businesses



## Top 100 WOMEN-LED BUSINESSES



The Boston Globe

*Rita M. Gardner with MA Governor Charlie Baker at the Boston Globe's Top 100 Event*

For the second consecutive year, Melmark New England (MNE) has been named among the Commonwealth Institute and Boston Globe's List of Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts. MNE and Melmark President and CEO Rita M. Gardner were ranked #37 among companies from across the Commonwealth during the business breakfast, held in November 2019.

The annual rankings honor outstanding women and the businesses they lead. This is a huge honor for Melmark and one that establishes significant focus on the organization's commitment to employing a diverse, highly skilled workforce.

*"I am honored for Melmark to be named on the list for the second consecutive year, which is a direct result of our leadership times and our daily work, as well as the research, evidence-based practices, special education and compassionate care being carried out by Melmark's diverse staff,"* said Melmark President and CEO, Rita M. Gardner. *"I am extremely proud to lead Melmark's team, comprised of women and men who work daily to ensure integrity in everything we do."*

Numerous media outlets publicized news of the award, including online publications in some of the country's top media markets such as Boston, Philadelphia and Charlotte, where Melmark is bringing high-quality services closer to home.

## Honoring Melmark's Highly-Skilled Direct Support Professionals

Congratulations, Sammy Hundeyin and Hemmett Freeman. Managers and colleagues nominated Sammy and Hemmett for Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability (PAR) Direct Support Professional Awards. Sammy works in the adult day program, and Hemmett in the Melmark School. Both of these staff put **mission first for every individual, every day.**

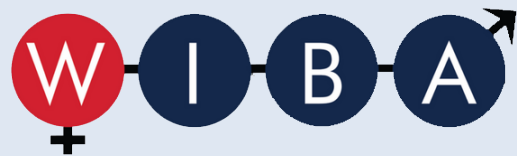


*Sammy Hundeyin and Hemmett Freeman with Melmark Pennsylvania Executive Director Karen Parenti, Psy.D.*



# Sharing Knowledge and Expertise

## Gardner Selected as Keynote



Women in Behavior Analysis (WIBA) has selected Melmark President and CEO Rita Gardner as its 2020 Conference Keynote Speaker. WIBA has the mission to empower, celebrate and mentor female behavior analysts.

WIBA's annual conference will highlight Gardner's work in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), along with that of other renowned leaders. During the conference, Gardner will share her extensive knowledge, gained during her 35 years working in non-profit management and community-based services for children and adults.

The three-day event will also feature workshops led by women in ABA and will address the importance of gender equality and diversity within human services. The event will take place later this year in Nashville, Tennessee.

## Cross-Division Speaker Series



*Dr. Tim Vollmer presenting on obstacles to effective behavioral treatment at Melmark New England*

Melmark hosts leaders in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis during its annual Expert Speaker Series. These educational opportunities focus on a wide range of topics in ABA and are open to staff, families and the public. Events are hosted between service divisions and live-streamed to audiences at each location. To view Melmark's calendar of speakers, visit [www.melmark.org](http://www.melmark.org).

## Sharing Knowledge

Melmark's highly skilled clinicians share what they learn at conferences, in classes and through research with their peers. These colloquiums promote best outcomes and raise the level of services for the individuals at Melmark and beyond.



*Marvell Campbell presenting at a Melmark Pennsylvania colloquium*

## Advancing the Field Globally



*Helena Maguire*



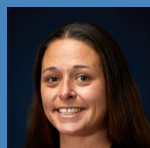
*Barbara Cannon*



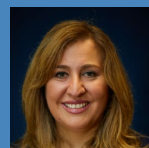
*Kim Duhanyan*



*Jessica Everett*



*Jill Harper*



*Silva Orchanian*



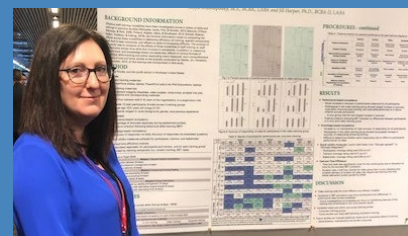
When you make a donation to Melmark, you aren't only supporting the children and adults

at our service divisions in Pennsylvania, New England and the Carolinas, you are also supporting the research our clinicians are conducting and sharing in order to expand and raise the quality of service delivery systems, at Melmark, nationally and even globally.

In October, members of Melmark's highly-skilled clinical team presented at the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Conference in Stockholm,

Sweden. Topics ranged from using performance, metrics to improve organizational performance to implementing ABA interventions for students not diagnosed with autism in a public school setting. While not all of the researchers made the trip to Stockholm, those who did, received accolades for their work, specifically for their focus on organizational behavior management.

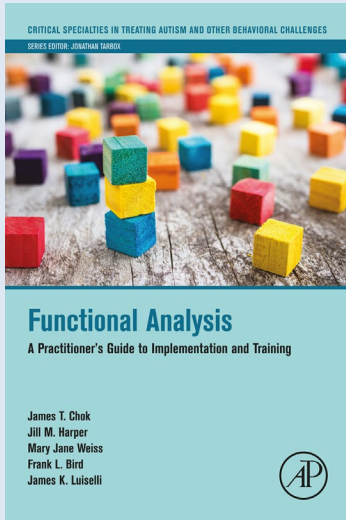
These presentations are one of the many ways Melmark is disseminating and replicating the Melmark Model of Program Development and Clinical Treatment, a main focus of the organization's strategic plan.



*Juliya Krasnopolsky, MS, LABA, BCBA presenting her research poster at ABAI Stockholm*

# Rooted in Research

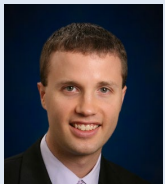
## Melmark Clinicians Author Practitioner Guide



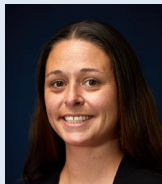
*The guide and forthcoming planned practitioner manual series addresses critical topics in ABA to clinicians working with individuals diagnosed with autism and other behavioral challenges.*

When you combine the research and expertise of Melmark's highly skilled staff with your support of the organization's mission, a perfect combination for success is created, not only for the children and adults Melmark serves, but for the larger autism and intellectual/developmental disability community as well. One example of this success can be found in classrooms and clinical offices across the country, in the pages of *Functional Analysis: A Practitioner's Guide to Implementation and Training*. The textbook is available in e-book or hard copy format and is written by Melmark clinicians and researchers who are among the top of the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and evidence-based program development.

This book is the first in Melmark's plan to publish a series of practitioner guides designed to raise the quality of evidence-based service delivery systems in the field of treatment of autism and behavior interventions. Authors, James T. Chok, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Jill M. Harper, Ph.D., LABA, BCBA-D, Mary Jane Weiss, Ph.D., LABA, BCBA-D, Frank L. Bird, M.Ed., LABA, BCBA and James K. Luiselli, Ed.D., ABPP, BCBA-D share their robust expertise in this textbook, which includes overviews of training procedures, presentation graphics to reinforce learning, forms such as data recording sheets, graph interpretation guides, rating scales, quizzes and other supporting materials. The curriculum emphasizes both knowledge and performance competencies related to Functional Analysis and ABA.



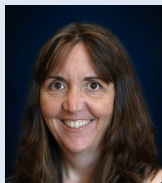
Jim Chok,  
Ph.D., BCBA-D



Jill Harper,  
Ph.D., BCBA-D



James Luiselli,  
Ed.D., ABPP,  
BCBA-D



Mary Jane Weiss,  
Ph.D., BCBA-D



Frank L. Bird,  
M.Ed., LABA,  
BCBA

*"This publication is an important accomplishment in Melmark's strategic plan. Our leadership team has the vision to continue to advance our clinical systems, becoming a national and international resource center."*

*-Frank L. Bird, M.Ed., LABA, BCBA  
Melmark Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer*

*"This practitioner guide is one of many ways Melmark is generating and disseminating the knowledge and expertise of our highly-skilled workforce to raise the level of treatment and care across the field of data-driven services,"* said Melmark President and CEO, Rita M. Gardner, M.P.H., LABA, BCBA. *"This practitioner guide and those that follow are making Melmark's model available to all providers and clinical teams."*

Each book in the series will be designed to help overcome challenges practitioners face by taking the very best in practical knowledge from the authors and translating that knowledge into a readily available, consumable and practical format.



# Advancing the Field

## Research, Mission and Success

Whether authoring textbooks and speaking at events to mentor those growing in their profession, coordinating workshops for staff, external professionals and families, or presenting nationally and internationally, Melmark's highly skilled workforce is advancing the field of ABA services. Research at Melmark improves the skill set of our direct support professionals, positively impacts the health of those we serve and influences best outcomes for individuals who attend our programs. Below is a snapshot of Melmark's research and publications over the past year.



Clinicians from Melmark's service divisions in New England, Pennsylvania and the Carolinas contributed to these publications, which ensures that more children and adults have access to clinically sophisticated services like those at Melmark.

The research being carried out and disseminated by Melmark's clinical team also expands our founding family's original mission: to bring high-quality services closer to home. After all, where someone lives should not dictate the integrity of programs available to their loved one. That's exactly how Paul and Mildred Krentel felt when they founded Melmark in the 1960s - a time when children, including their own daughter, had to move far from home and their family to attend exemplary programs specifically designed for their individual needs. Cultivating and growing Melmark's Model of Program Development and Clinical Treatment remains at the heart of Melmark's mission and vision.

### Peer-Reviewed Journals

22 Melmark Authors  
11 Research Articles  
7 Journals

### Newsletters

14 Melmark Authors  
8 Articles  
3 Publications

### Textbook

5 Melmark Authors



Rita M. Gardner with Tyler, a student at Melmark Carolinas

*“Melmark’s programs for children and adults diagnosed with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities will always be high quality, evidence-based best practices, designed and validated by recognized leaders in the field.”*

*-Rita M. Gardner, M.P.H., LABA, BCBA  
Melmark President and CEO*

# Growing Programs in the Carolinas

## Reshaping the Landscape of Services



*Melmark Carolinas Director of Program Administration and Clinical Services, Brad Stevenson with NC Senator Natasha Marcus and Melmark President and CEO Rita M. Gardner*

Melmark's highly skilled staff in the Carolinas are gaining quite a bit of positive support, as services in this region grow. Families who have experienced obstacles to their child's Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), due to a variety of reasons, are working with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams to learn more about Melmark's evidence-based services in Charlotte.

The school held its first open house in January, with nearly fifty attendees! The audience included parents, advocates and school district representatives. We've also hosted visits for a number of lawmakers from both North and South Carolina, all interested in learning more about Melmark and its students. Melmark Carolinas was even featured in a news segment on WSOC Television, one of the top-rated broadcast media outlets in the Carolinas.\*



*Piero in the classroom with staff*

Our new classrooms, currently located inside the Pineville Church of the Nazarene, are now serving six children. Each student presents with varying behavioral challenges and academic needs, and each is working hard as they learn to better communicate, appropriately interact with peers, and successfully reach individual education and daily living goals. Melmark's leadership team continues to work closely with the school districts in this region to ensure all students in the Carolinas have the same access to Melmark programs.

\*Watch WSOC's Report at: [www.melmark.org/carolinas-on-wsoc](http://www.melmark.org/carolinas-on-wsoc)



*Paul and Mildred Krentel at Melmark's original site in PA*

## Expanding Our Founders' Vision

When Paul and Mildred Krentel founded Melmark in Berwyn, Pennsylvania in the mid-1960s, their vision was to bring services closer to home for their daughter, Melissa, and her peers. More than five decades later, Melmark is a multi-state human service provider with premier private special education schools, professional development, training and research centers. With the same vision as the Krentels, Melmark is now bringing its clinically sophisticated, evidence-based services closer to home for children, adults and families in New England, Pennsylvania and the Carolinas.

### Melmark Today

*Pennsylvania: 91 Children, 212 Adults*

*New England: 141 Children, 31 Adults*

*The Carolinas: 6 Children*

*Melmark impacts countless more lives through research and consultation.*

1965



*Melmark founded in Berwyn, PA*

1998



*MNE, now located in Andover, founded in Woburn, MA*

2018



*Melmark Carolinas founded in Charlotte, NC*



# Letting the Past Inform Our Future

## Words from Our Founders Ring True Today

*“Melmark is a growing community...alert, alive, and aware of the nutrients that encourage and support growth.”*

*-Mildred “Miggy” Krentel, Co-founder  
From 1960s Appeal, “People Who Need People”*

Melmark’s new school project not only encourages growth within our Pennsylvania school program, but also helps ensure a thriving future for all individuals served at Melmark. That’s because we rely on operational efficiencies from the children’s programs to develop clinical training and programmatic infrastructure extending to adult services. This training infrastructure is critical, so that we may continue to support individuals with increased medical fragility and our aging population.

Just as Paul and Mildred Krentel led the evolution of Melmark’s programs and physical landscape through the organization’s earliest years, leadership today is carefully planning a thriving future for all individuals who rely on Melmark’s clinically sophisticated evidence-based services.



Issues of this very magazine from the summer of 1971 showed an architect’s rendition of the “Cottage Wing”, which included space for forty-five additional

residents as well as other classroom space. With the headline, “Faith sees what is not but yet will be,” we are reminded that it is our job to ensure Paul and Mildred’s original mission of providing high-quality, life-impacting services to children and adults with disabilities not only continues, but grows.

As we let the past inform our organization’s future, we thank each of you for your support and generosity.



Artist rendering of new Melmark PA School Facility

## Double the Impact of Your Gift to The New Melmark School

An anonymous Melmark family has pledged to match all gifts made to the new school dollar for dollar, up to \$500,000. Gifts at every level help us reach our goal. Make a donation now, and Melmark will receive two dollars for every one dollar you donate.

To support the new school project, visit [www.melmark.org/donate](http://www.melmark.org/donate). Select “New School Facility”.

*“The development which the Melmark community is undergoing will impact our environment in a manner which will serve to broaden the horizons of Melmark’s citizens tomorrow.”*

*-From 1989 Melmark Messenger  
Miggy Krentel, Editor in Chief*

# Measuring Success

## Adrian's Story



Adrian upon admission at age eight

Adrian was eight years old when he first came to Melmark New England in June of 2015. At that time, he required 1:1 services across the school day due to high rates of challenging behaviors. Adrian engaged in aggression and self-injury when denied access to preferred items or when given an instruction to work. Staff regularly redirected him from climbing on shelves and windowsills. Also upon arrival to Melmark, Adrian typically made one-word requests and only asked for a few of his favorite items, like the computer or juice.

Adrian is now twelve years old and has reduced his 1:1 services. He now works successfully in a group setting for part of the school day and has significantly reduced his challenging behaviors, going two weeks or more without any instances of aggression or self-injury. He has learned alternative strategies to replace challenging behaviors and will verbalize these strategies with those around him.

Adrian is working on writing narrative and informative paragraphs, reading stories, answering comprehension questions, rounding numbers to the nearest hundreds and identifying characteristics of different types of clouds. His language development has been particularly impressive. Now, in addition to using sentences to express requests for many different items, Adrian is adept in communicating his feelings. He will say that he is nervous before getting his haircut, and that he is happy with how handsome he looks when the haircut is finished. Adrian has been working on talking to his classmates too!



Adrian working on a project in his MNE Classroom



Adrian enjoying the school day

Adrian's future goals include continuing to fade and eventually eliminate 1:1 services, continue increasing social skills with peers, more frequently participating in group instruction, continue decreasing challenging behaviors and generalizing alternative strategies for challenging behaviors at home.

We are extremely proud of Adrian's success at Melmark New England so far. We know the best is yet to come.

*"Since attending Melmark, Adrian has been very friendly to people and has become more confident in asking for help. He has become very sensitive about other people's feelings. He is happier than ever since attending Melmark!"*

*-Melany Brito  
Adrian's mom*



# Volunteerism, Loyalty and Legacy

## New England Hosts Donor and Volunteer Reception

The patio and dining hall at Melmark New England were transformed with fall-themed décor on September 19, 2019 when MNE hosted its inaugural reception for volunteers, Krentel Legacy Society and Loyalty Society members. Chef Eric Brunette and his team provided a delicious, farmhouse-style dinner and service for more than forty guests.

Melmark's President and CEO, Rita M. Gardner, presented Melmark New England's first-ever Volunteer of the Year Awards to three MNE families, in recognition of their establishment of Comedy Night at The Claddagh. We honored Tara and Joe Beaulieu, Brian Farrell and Jill and Jim Fitzpatrick for their generosity and commitment to raising funds for MNE. This fun annual event celebrated its 10th anniversary on October 25. Since inception, Comedy Night at The Claddagh has raised more than \$185,000 to benefit programs at Melmark New England.

We were honored to induct four new members into the Krentel Legacy Society. Recognized for their forward-thinking support were Mary Ellen Royer, Angela Scott, and Howard and Mara Mayer. Members of the Society have made a provision for MNE in their estate plans, such as a bequest, life insurance beneficiary designation, distribution from an IRA or establishment of a charitable trust.



*Melmark New England President and CEO Rita M. Gardner with MNE's Inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award recipients, Jill Fitzpatrick, Tara Beaulieu and Joe Beaulieu. Jim Fitzpatrick and Brian Farrell were also honored.*



*Melmark President and CEO Rita M. Gardner presents MNE parent and volunteer, Mary Ellen Royer, the Krentel Legacy Society Certificate. Mary Ellen shared her reasoning for making a planned gift, with appreciation for the 19 years her daughter has been at MNE.*



*Melmark Board Members Peter Troy and Denny Willson with Claudia Willson at the event*

The Paul and Mildred Krentel Legacy Society recognizes individuals who have made a provision in their estate plan for a future gift in support of Melmark, thus creating their own legacy that will ensure the organization's ongoing success. We are grateful to those who have identified their plans to ensure a legacy at Melmark.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving, or have made a provision and would like to join the Krentel Legacy Society, please contact:

**Ellen Kallman**  
Melmark New England  
Director of Advancement  
ekallman@melmarkne.org  
978-654-4371

**Elizabeth Tawadros**  
Melmark Pennsylvania  
Director of Philanthropic Initiatives  
etawadros@melmark.org  
610-325-4792

# fore Melmark New England



The 14<sup>th</sup> annual *fore* Melmark New England golf tournament was held September 9 under sunny skies at the Andover Country Club. Once again, the event was a great success, netting more than \$115,000 to benefit day and residential programs for children and adults. We extend our appreciation and special thanks to the event committee including Melmark Board member and MNE parent Jamie Stahle, Board member Jim Alex, MNE parents Harold 'Skip' Short and Kari Newman, John Reilly of Fred C. Church Insurance and Andrew Santos of Enterprise Bank.

Golfers enjoyed choosing their own premium gifts from the Pro Shop's pop-up shop, watching four-time Long Drive Championship Finalist, Mike "Moose" Watson, hit his crushing Long Drive on the 10th hole (and hit one themselves for a chance at prizes). Ira Lexus of Danvers sponsored a Hole in One contest, offering players the opportunity to win a lease on a new Lexus. Melmark moms, family members and friends enjoyed an afternoon of pampering at our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Martini, Mani and More.

Thank you to Jen Traverso/Salon Forza, Carol Mouradian/Mary Kay Cosmetics, Amy Fitzgibbon/One Hope Wines, Uli Kapp Foot Reflexologist, Loren Lush Fashion Stylist and Jaime Sloan-McCarthy/Dani Kaye boutique. We were delighted to have Kendra Petrone, Executive Producer and co-host of Morning Magic, MAGIC 106.7 join us again this year as emcee along with auctioneer, Paul Gilligan, a nationally known comedian who has supported MNE for years. Together, they entertained a captive audience to help raise funds through the live and Melmark partner Fund-a-Need auctions.

**THANK YOU** again to all of the MNE parents, family members, friends and staff who made donations, participated in the event or volunteered. We look forward to celebrating *fore* Melmark's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year and have some exciting new features in the works.



*Melmark moms, family members and friends got to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Martini, Mani and More at the fore MNE Golf Event*



*Golfers participating in a putting contest*



*Students, volunteers and staff cheering the golfers as they set off for the course*

For golf sponsorship, participation opportunities or general information about the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *fore* Melmark New England Golf Event, contact: Ellen Kallman, *Director of Advancement* at: [ekallman@melmarkne.org](mailto:ekallman@melmarkne.org) or 978-654-4371.



# Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Classic



The 14th Annual Hubert J.P. Schoemaker Classic took place on October 2019 at Philadelphia Country Club and Gulph Mills Golf Club. Established in memory of Hubert Schoemaker, a pioneer in the life sciences industry, and to honor the organization who served his daughter Maureen for 28 years, the Classic raises critical ongoing mission support dollars that continue to fuel Melmark's exceptional programs and clinical services. With over 225 golfers and supporters in attendance, the Classic surpassed the previous year's fundraising results, totaling over \$265,000 in net proceeds. Since its inception, the Classic has raised over \$6.4M to support the children and adults served at Melmark Pennsylvania and their families.

The continued success of the Schoemaker Classic is nothing short of remarkable, and Melmark is so grateful to the many companies and individuals that propel this outing year after year. The enthusiastic energy and unwavering commitment of the advisory board

enables this outing to truly make an impact on the individuals served by Melmark. We thank these volunteers and all those who participated in this event either through golf, the auction, or the raffle. Your support of the Classic makes a difference, and is vital to Melmark's successful service delivery.



*Members of the Schoemaker Classic Advisory Board with Anne Schoemaker. From Left to right: Rita Gardner, Anne Faulkner Schoemaker, Denny Willson, Brad Michel, Shawn O'Brien, Rich Decker and James E. Eaton, Jr.*



*Sean Gamber from Oracle, Matt Johnson and Eileen Leonard from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Michael Mcgloughlin from Oracle*



*Attendees making a donation at the Schoemaker Golf Classic*

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For sponsorship and participation opportunities for next year's event, please contact Michelle McHugh, Melmark Senior Director of Communications, Advocacy and Advancement at: [michellemchugh@Melmark.org](mailto:michellemchugh@Melmark.org).

# MNE Family BBQ – September 18

More than 400 MNE students, staff, family members and friends gathered on the front lawn of the school for the annual Fall Family BBQ. Besides the delicious luncheon, everyone enjoyed bounce houses, face painting and games, petting the miniature horses from Lifting Spirits, and dancing to the music of Francoix Simard and company. We can't wait for our next Family BBQ!



*Helena Maguire, MNE Executive Director, speaking to family members*

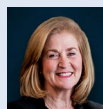


*Ava with her mom at the BBQ*

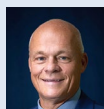


*Students enjoying the miniature horses*

## Senior Leadership



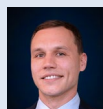
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*President and CEO*



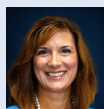
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*Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer*



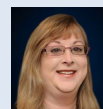
**Bill Ahearn, M.B.A., CPA**  
*Vice President, Business Operations, Melmark Inc., and Finance Director, Melmark New England*



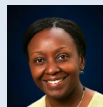
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**Helena Maguire, LABA, BCBA**  
*Executive Director, Melmark New England*



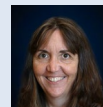
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*Executive Director, Melmark Pennsylvania*



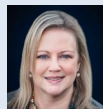
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*Senior Director of Human Resources, Melmark New England*



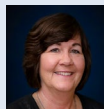
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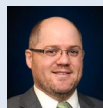
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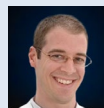
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*Director of Advancement, Melmark New England*



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*Senior Director of Clinical Services and Professional Development*



**Brad Stevenson, Ph.D., BCBA**  
*Director of Program Administration and Clinical Services, Melmark Carolinas*

*"All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today."*

*-Chinese Proverb*





# Ways to Give

## Your Support Makes a Difference

There are a number of convenient ways for you to support Melmark's mission. Gifts received may be unrestricted or designated for restricted purposes. Donations can be made securely online through Melmark's website, by check, cash or stock. For more details about all the ways you can give, visit [www.melmark.org](http://www.melmark.org).



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