

THE AFTER GATEWAY ADVOCATE

A Newsletter Published by After Gateway Inc.

November, 2011

It's been a busy and exciting year for After Gateway. Here are highlights of events and activities of 2011.

More Participants!

AGI continues to attract more participants to their quality program for adults with cognitive and/or developmental disabilities. Currently, the daily attendance is 27-32 individuals. The participants are served in five groups that provide activities based on the needs of the individuals in each group. This has created challenges for physical space! The floor space needed for all the wheelchairs, walkers, standers, changing tables, therapy and sensory equipment is just incredible. Not to mention space required to store nutrition, sanitation, healthcare, clothing, recreation and paperwork supplies. It's getting crowded! Space needed!

Good News!

The AGI website (www.aftergateway.org) is active and updated regularly. Check it out for the latest enrollment information, photos, participant activities, event news, employment/volunteer opportunities and family and technology resources. You can also learn how to take a tour of AGI and donation information.

Facebook

Yep, AGI has a Facebook page. Just "search" for After Gateway and then PLEASE click "Like". You'll receive postings and news from AGI.

Arts & Crafts Shower

AGI recently was "showered" with materials for participants' art activities. These materials are expensive and each item received was a welcome addition. Thanks to everyone who gave generously with money and supplies!

Council of Catholic Women

Another donation for the AGI Van fund came from the Greensboro Council of Catholic Women. The \$1000.00 donation was presented to AGI representative Scott Logan and AGI participant Cory Fields at a luncheon in May. Thank you, Catholic Women.

Human Race

The Human Race was at a new location at the coliseum parking lot and the weather was not really cooperative, but AGI still had a small group of brave walkers and wheelchair pushers. The free food and entertainment was located in the Coliseum Pavilion – YAY - so everyone could get out of the rain and cold and enjoy the fellowship INSIDE. AGI raised \$5158.22 which went towards the van fund. Thank you to everyone who walked and especially those who made monetary contributions. Next year's Race will be March 31. Please join us in walking and raising money for the program.

Belk Charity Day

AGI participated in Belk Charity Day held on April 16, 2011. Participants, staff, parents and board members sold \$5.00 tickets to friends, family and neighbors. Participants also sold tickets at Belk at Four Seasons Town Center. The proceeds totaled \$854.43 which went to the Van Fund.

Under the Sea Prom

On August 17, a Prom was held for the AGI participants. Hosted by Girl Scout Troop 1076 of St Pius Catholic School, streamers, bubbles, blue water and colorful tropical fish transformed the Fellowship Hall into an underwater paradise. DeeJay Scott Logan provided party music for three hours for the enjoyment of staff, participants and guests.

Spaghetti Feast

AGI's annual Spaghetti Feast was October 21, where supporters came for lunch or dinner. The three-course meal of salad, pasta and dessert was served all day for the low price of \$8 per meal. In addition, a FIFTY-FIFTY RAFFLE was held. The winner, Michael Bowen, donated his winnings back to the AGI program. Profits from the Spaghetti Feast totaled more than \$2,000.

Excited About Second Van

Some of the best news this year was the acquisition of the much-needed second transportation van for the AGI participants. It is so BIG! It holds five wheelchairs and has eight additional seats for staff

and ambulatory participants. The van purchase came after two years of hard work which included several fundraisers, grant requests and private donations. Those small donations made a big difference, too – even pennies add up. So watch for AGI traveling around the triad to community events and attractions. AGI is very happy to be out and about in the community. THANK YOU!

Van Grants

The van purchase could not have been accomplished without significant contributions from several supporting foundations. AGI extends heartfelt gratitude to these organizations.

Weaver Foundation
Bank of America Foundation
Evergreens Foundation

M'Coul's

The latest AGI fundraiser event was held at M'Coul's Pub on November 1. M'Coul's donated 10 percent of all food sales that day to After Gateway, and then MATCHED their donation!!

Will You Help?

As we celebrate the end of another great year at After Gateway, it's important to remember how your support and contributions make such a difference to our program. You may think that you don't have an impact – trust us when we say you do! Private contributions make such a difference to our participants. That money helped us buy adaptive equipment, music instruments, games, toys, and more this year.

All contributions to After Gateway are tax-deductible – and now's the perfect time to give. You can visit our website, aftergateway.org, to donate or send a check to After Gateway, 501 S. Mendenhall St., Greensboro, NC 27403. If you have any questions, please call us at (336) 379-7670.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Please help support our efforts to provide meaningful and fulfilling activities for our participants. Checks should be made payable to After Gateway. This is a tax-deductible contribution.

- Yes! I'd like to help. I have enclosed a check for \$_____.
- Yes! I'd like to help. Please contact me about volunteering.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Please send my newsletter via email.

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its charitable solicitation license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-807-2214. The license is not an endorsement by the state.

Many friends and supporters joined AGI staff, and board members for fun and fellowship. Thanks to M'Coul's!

Financial and Program Cuts

Another challenge for AGI and similar programs is the continued slashing of funds from both federal and state allocations. Our reimbursement rate has been cut almost three percent. Along with financial cuts, the state has reduced the hours of habilitative services that AGI can provide for persons with developmental disabilities. This mandate forced AGI to reduce program hours by two hours per day. This has had a negative impact on finances, but it also impacts AGI staffing and individual participant service plans. Most of all, this causes hardship to participants' families who rely on AGI being available so they can work. There are other changes coming as we await the full impact of mental health reform in North Carolina. It is likely that several programs will have to close their doors due to the current and upcoming changes.