



Archive News – July 2011

TILL's Cultural Festival

TILL's April Madness 2011 was a huge success culminating with our Cultural Festival, a celebratory event attended by the residences, family and friends on Saturday, May 22nd at UMass Lowell's Cumnock Hall. The Festival's international pot luck luncheon was followed by a live performance featuring TILL's "Handle with Care" Band. Tammy Scott, Central Accounts Manager, impressed the audience with her rendition of James Taylor's hit "You've Got a Friend," John Stevens, Director of Special Projects, and Tim Foley, Manager of our Chelsea Day Program, inspired us with Ben E. King's soulful "Stand by Me." The newly formed "Handle with Care Chorus" comprised of talented individuals and staff from our group homes, ended the show with an inspiring premier performance of "With a Little Help from My Friends."



This year's theme was "With a Little Help from My Friends." Competition excelled with "top notch work" as 45 residences competed for the much coveted first place honor. Lilac Court of Acton earned the highest number of points, winning First Prize; Lynnfield and Peabody tied for second place. TILL judges faced an incredible challenge; all told there were 14 ties. Members of the audience were treated to some exciting and highly entertaining videos produced especially for April Madness. The crowd was "Wowed" as Alden Road, Andover presented them with their helicopter ride above Boston; 250A East Main Street, Westboro displayed innovation with "Adaptive Ice Skating"; and "Lilac Court Presents Michael Jackson" featured a professional impersonator the Acton home had befriended this year. Washington Street, Brookline created a video encompassing everything they had done for April Madness narrated by Kingsley Brown with a comedic performance, in full costume, as the one and only "Grandma Tillie." One can only wonder what lies ahead for April Madness 2012!



Finishing Touches Proceeding in Watertown

Martini Construction is under way putting the final details on TILL's newest Watertown Day Habilitation Center designed by Davis Square Architects. Lights are on, classroom walls freshly painted in eye-catching hues, signage in place, flooring complete, and the ramp is ready for action at TILL's newest 16,000 square foot facility. Accommodations specifically catered to our individuals and their programming needs include a day habilitation center, meeting rooms and a gallery to display and sell crafts created by the individuals.

Doors are set to open end of July.



Austin Street Residence Opens in August

TILL's newest, sun filled home on Austin Street, Hyde Park is in its final construction phase. Doors will open in August to this state of the art residence which offers accessible, spacious living with 24 hour care to five individuals who receive support to help them enjoy life their new community.



State House Honors TILL's "Dances with Wheels"



TILL's "Dances with Wheels," was honored at the State House April 11.th The dance troupe was nominated for the award by DDS Commissioner Elin Howe and Central Middlesex Area Director Mary Beth Coyne after touring our Billerica Day Habilitation Center where they learned of "Dances with Wheels" and their many achievements. The award recognized the program for bringing "joy, happiness, and inspiration for people who use wheelchairs and for those who enjoy the beauty of dance." In addition to their inspirational performances, the program also connects with the community by helping to raise funds for the Billerica Scholarship Foundation for a Billerica High School student with disabilities to attend college.

Feel free to check out a great article written by Sarah Favot at boston.com titled ["Dances with Wheels" lauded for contribution to community.](#)

For our current news, check out www.tillinc.org/news.html