

# DDS the Independent Star

transforming lives through greater independence

## 2011-2012 DDS Ambassador

# Julie

During pregnancy everyone hopes and prays for a healthy child. Our prayers were answered when Julie was born.

Julie is the first grandchild for both families, so there was no shortage of love and attention.



Ten weeks later, Julie was fighting for her life from traumatic brain injury. We weren't given much hope for her survival, but Julie wouldn't give up.

Julie was left with severe brain damage. She has no muscle control. She can't communicate and she needs a ventilator to breath. She needs 24 hour care.

We started physical, occupational and speech therapy through DDS, five years ago. Therapists worked with Julie in her home. Julie continues to receive physical therapy at the DDS-Alley Learning Center and at home. Julie has been going to the DDS preschool for two years. We like her having play-time with kids her own age. Preschool Coordinator, Laura Davis, said "it is amazing to see how the children (in the classroom) show compassion with Julie by stroking her hair and arm."

Like many families, dealing with the stress of caring for a disabled child has changed our lives forever. Julie lives with her maternal grandmother and her paternal grandmother visits and contributes to her care daily. Julie's biological parents are unable to care for her, so both grandmas' have assumed the responsibility of providing for Julie's care. While our future remains uncertain and we continue to live one day at a time, I am grateful to those organizations and individuals who provide us the support we need to care for Julie.

*Beci, Julie's Grandmother*

## A Dog's Best Friend



This is Madison, or Maddie. Maddie lives with Julie and helps to take care of her. Every day:

- Maddie lets Julie's grandma know when Julie needs help
- Maddie supervises Julie's nurses
- Maddie exercises with Julie and helps her with her therapy
- Maddie goes for walks with Julie and licks her toes
- Most of all Maddie is there for us when we need her.

**Maddie is going "Cold for a Cause" and taking the plunge** to support DDS, Julie and the hundreds of individuals who benefit from DDS services each year. If you would like to show your support for Julie and Maddie, visit the DDS web site and make a donation: [www.ddslebanon.org](http://www.ddslebanon.org).

DDS is a not-for profit charitable organization. Its mission is to empower children with developmental delays and persons with disabilities to lead more productive, satisfying and/or independent lives.

Since 1961, DDS has provided training, educational and therapeutic services to hundreds of persons with disabilities living in Lebanon County. DDS remains committed to helping individuals achieve greater independence for a happier healthier life.

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#### DDS Programs

- Physical, Speech, Occupational & Developmental Therapies
- Community Based Early Intervention (children birth - 3)
- Alley Learning Center Preschool (children 3-5)
- Community Based Job-Coaching (adults)
- The Elks Home Service Nurse (children and adults)
- Accessible Communities Today
  - Brave Art Studio (adults)
- Summer Stars Day Camp (school age children)
- Special Needs Scout Troop (boys 11 years and older)
- Special Needs Cub Scout Pack (boys in grades 1-5)
- Recreational Programs (children and adults)

## Season Made a Little Brighter for DDS Participants



**Thank You!!**

## Employees of The Medicine Shoppe

Employees, Cindy Mangano and Linda Savant West of The Medicine Shoppe visited DDS this holiday season baring a donation in honor of their employer and owner of The Medicine Shoppe, David and Dori Wilcox.

**Thank You!!**

## Hershey Company

The Hershey Company donated 37 pounds of chocolate candy for DDS to spread a little Christmas cheer. DDS employees enjoy handing out the treats to DDS clients and families, along with their Season's Greetings.



**Thank You!!**

## Employees of Horst Insurance



Employees from Horst Insurance Group once again sponsored and hosted the annual adult Christmas Social. There were over 60 guests who attended the party, with the group providing gifts for participants in the DDS - Job Coaching and Brave Art Studio Programs. Pictured are Jen, Cheryl, Charlie and Barb. Thank you so much for sharing the holidays with DDS!

**Thank You Mr. & Mrs. Clause!!**

James and Carol Ruffner volunteered as Mr. & Mrs. Clause for the adult Christmas Social, and led the Dance Train into the night.

# 2011-2012 Art Collection

## The Sixth Annual Heritage Dinner and Art Auction



The 2012 Art Collection takes root in the show's featured selection, *Tomorrow's Garden*, a collaborative piece that illustrates the imprints we leave on the lives of others as we nurture individuals with disabilities throughout their lives. Developmental & Disability Services (DDS) of Lebanon Valley provides training and education services to individuals and their families, often working with individuals throughout their lives.

Each original work of art was created by an individual receiving DDS services and illustrates how DDS programs and services have a positive impact on the lives of individuals, not only for today, but for tomorrow as well. To learn more about DDS programs and services, we encourage you to visit our website, [www.ddslebanon.org](http://www.ddslebanon.org).

You too can help us cultivate *Tomorrow's Garden* by attending the Heritage Dinner on March 5, 2012 at Trattoria Fratelli. The evening begins with Wine Reception at 6 p.m., followed by a Gourmet Dinner, after which, the 2012 Art Collection will be auctioned with the proceeds to benefit the DDS Foundation. Anyone is welcome to attend this event by purchasing a ticket for \$100; \$50 of each ticket will go to the DDS Foundation. Request your ticket by calling 717-274-3493.

**Fulton Bank is listening**  
*Exclusive Sponsor for the  
Heritage Dinner & Art Auction*

## Beaujolais Nouveau



Gloria Shatto & Lonnie Long

For the past four years, DDS has tipped-off the Holiday Season with the Beaujolais Nouveau. For many, this event has come to be known as the beginning of the Season. While this is a fun and entertaining evening with superb wine and fine food, guests unite in the season of giving to support children and adults with disabilities. This year the wine event generated over \$17,000. DDS has many people to thank for the success of this event, including:

Event host and hostess –

*Angie Stewart and Ron Sell*

Wine Presenter –

*Lonnie Long of Niko's*

Chef and Caterer –

*Joe Edwards of The Porch*

Desserts by – *Vicki Hoover of*

*Country Fare Restaurant*

Event Sponsor – Keystone Weaving Company and W.L. Deutsh

Wine Flight Sponsors:

Flight 1: Strickler Insurance

Flight 2: Fava & Maria

Flight 3: Mae Mae's Salon

Flight 4: APR Supply Company

Flight 5: Gary & Cindy Matthew

Silver Sponsors:

Dr. Albert Alley

Shalters Insurance

Brenda Miller

In addition, DDS is indebted to the many volunteers who served on the event committee and worked diligently throughout the night to ensure that all of our guests had an enjoyable evening: Rebecca Caplan, Gloria Shatto, Cindy Matthew, Brenda Miller, Angie Stewart, Jared and Erica Smith, Harry and Emily Booker, Terry and Julie Feeman, Heather Hartman and Kaiti Pates.



Developmental & Disability Services of Lebanon Valley  
 1126 Walnut St., Lebanon, PA 17042  
 717-274-3493 www.ddslebanon.org

The *Independent Star* is a seasonal publication. To have your name added or removed from the mailing list, call 274-3493. Please address comments to the Editor, Jessica A. Penchard.

DDS is proud to be a member of



United Way  
 of Lebanon County



*Ensure that DDS services will be available for future generations, remember the DDS Foundation, Inc. in your will!*

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The Good Ship Grace Puppeteers presented a holiday musical to benefit DDS. Director, Karen Mann, said that she wanted to do something special in honor of DDS and its 50th Anniversary, so she thought what better way than to present a benefit performance by the Good Ship Grace Puppeteers, a group she founded six years ago. This charming puppet show entitled, "Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior," entertained children while sharing the Christmas story. The Puppet Team includes Bill Neuman, Mary Neuman, Mike Steffy, Sherri Steffy, Jen Steffy, Scott Uhrich and Donald Mann. The team rehearsed for months to present this show in honor of DDS and its 50th Anniversary.

Gates open 9 a.m.  
 for tailgating and  
 Pre-Plunge Party  
 W/ Dave Kaley

Plunge at 12 Noon

Spectators Welcome



Come out and see Maddie!  
 Pledges In Honor of Julie and Maddie  
 may be submitted through our website  
[www.ddslebanon.org](http://www.ddslebanon.org)

Event Sponsored by:



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