



# Inside Mount Aloysius

## Summer 2021

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[www.mountaloyisius.org](http://www.mountaloyisius.org)

### Mount Aloysius Appreciation Day

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, residents and staff enjoyed celebrating Mount Aloysius Appreciation Day (MAAD Day). A variety of activities was available throughout the day including plinko, ski ball, pyramid can toss, pop pong, bubbles, waters balloons, corn hole, football toss, yard Jenga, pie toss, and dunk tank. The favorite activity seemed to be the water balloons, and there may have been some water guns involved as well. Many people were walking around in some soaking wet clothes. We appreciate all the staff for being good sports about getting drenched. We also had some brave staff members volunteer to be in the dunk tank. Thank you for getting dunked (all in good fun of course) to help bring some smiles to the residents and staff. Staff in the dunk tank included Justin Gall, CEO, Shannon Jones, Administrator; Rita Ratliffe, Program Director; John Bess, Program Supervisor; and Erin Midkiff, Shift Supervisor. Dietary prepared a delicious lunch consisting of hamburgers, brats, macaroni salad, chips, fruit cup, and juice/pop. In the afternoon root beer floats were enjoyed by all.

A Special Thank You to all of staff for making this a successful event! We could not do it without you!



Jim Sheeter & Kayleigh Bobb



Tyler Bixler



Shannon Jones & Justin Gall

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## In Memory



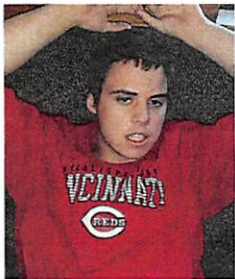
Jeff Liggett passed away on June 19, 2021 at Willow Haven Nursing Home in Zanesville, Ohio. Jeff was a resident of Mount Aloysius from October 2016 to May 2021. He is survived by his sisters Ruth Barnhart and Linda Wriglesworth, a brother Ronald Liggett, and several nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service was held for Rufus Ayers on May 5, 2021 outside the Activity Center. Rufus lived at Mount Aloysius from September 1987 to September 2018 when he moved to a group home in the New Lexington Area. Rufus passed away on February 8, 2021. Rufus' ashes were spread near the Activity Center. It was only appropriate that Rufus return to Mount Aloysius for his final resting place.



Rest in peace, Jeff & Rufus!

# WELCOME



Over the past quarter, Mount Aloysius has been pleased to welcome two new residents. Seth Ferguson was admitted on May 24<sup>th</sup> and resides in Apartment 3. He enjoys watching sports, cleaning, and spending time with his mom.

Dakota Leffman was admitted to Mount Aloysius on June 16<sup>th</sup> and lives in Apartment 5. This is the first time Dakota has lived outside his family home, and he has been adjusting to living at Mount Aloysius well. He is very social and has been enjoying getting to know residents and staff.



We are glad to have you with us, Seth and Dakota!

## Milestone Anniversaries



Leatha Ross, Direct Support Professional, celebrated her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Mount Aloysius on July 8, 2021. During Leatha's tenure at Mount Aloysius she has worked as a DSP and in housekeeping/laundry. She currently works first shift in Apartment 10 and loves making sure the men are well cared for.

Bill Shimp, Chairman of the Board, extends this heartfelt message to Leatha: On behalf of the Board of Directors and the families of Mount Aloysius, we thank you for your many years of service and dedication to the residents of Mount Aloysius. Our mission of enriching the lives of the developmentally and intellectually disabled community would not be achievable without you sharing your gift of compassion, patience, and respect to our residents for all these many years. We are so very grateful you have chosen to make Mount Aloysius a part of your life; it is your love and dedication to our residents that makes Mount Aloysius such a special family. Our best wishes for your continued fulfillment with your work in the years ahead.

## Welcome Michelle!



We are pleased to announce that Michelle Hammond started on April 26<sup>th</sup> as our new Human Resource Associate. Michelle first became aware of Mount Aloysius when her son played in a basketball tournament here two years ago. When she saw the opening at Mount Aloysius, she had to apply even though she had already accepted a position elsewhere. Michelle lives just outside of Lancaster with her husband and two sons. She enjoys spending her time watching her sons play sports! We are glad to have you with us, Michelle!



*Face masks and visitor screening is still required when visiting at Mount Aloysius.*

## Travel Reminders



Please remember to communicate travel plans to Ben Brannon, Social Services Coordinator, or Kasey Penrod, Social Services Assistant, at least one week in advance, but more notice is appreciated, if we will need to transport a resident in any way, i.e. airport, bus station, meeting place, etc. This will enable us to arrange staffing, prepare doctor letters, medication, and any other items needed. We need at least a 3 to 5 day notice in order for Nursing to make sure they have enough medication on hand.

We also need at least one business day notice if you plan to visit your loved one at the facility so necessary arrangements can be made.

All travel arrangements and visits to GLOW House should also be arranged with Ben or Kasey. It is important to remember that there are only two staff working at GLOW House. We will need to have advance notice if we will need to transport the resident in any way.

## Options Unlimited Update Submitted by Stacey Bell

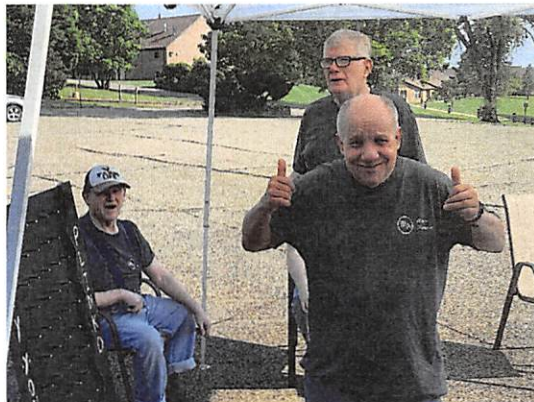
Options will be opening back up to full capacity on June 28<sup>th</sup>. We have been busy making sure we have plenty of activities to do with the men as they return.

We welcomed a new Options team member, Gaige Taylor. He recently became certified to be a lifeguard to help at the Pool building when needed. We also welcomed a new lifeguard, Amanda Eppley.

Options recently held Summer Games for the men, and they participated in a variety of events including bowling, can ball toss, 22 meter swim, water races, cycle race, 10 meter walk, and wheelchair races.

We are excited to announce that we will be having an outdoor Fall Craft Bazaar in October in the Activity Center parking lot with vendors set up outside. We will work closely with the Health Department to hold this event in the safest manner possible. There is a chance that the event could be canceled due to the pandemic. We will keep you posted if this were to happen.

Have a safe and healthy Summer!



## 50th Anniversary Celebrations

We have had several residents celebrate their 50th Anniversary of living at Mount Aloysius. We have asked families to share their stories of their loved ones. In this edition, Don Amrine and Bob Hotze will be highlighted.

Don Amrine (Submitted by Mary Amrine)



My earliest memory of realizing the differences in my big brothers' schools was in 1959; I was 3 years old. My mother and I went to each brother's school to pick them up for a doctor's appointment. At Don's school we were led to the top floor of the school in a dark hallway of steps by a woman with a flashlight. She explained they did not turn on the lights because they were afraid of an electrical fire. The teacher was laying across her desk (drunk), and there was no control in the classroom with 1 guy running around the room. This was a very scary place. During this time, I found out later; that the 'Mentally Retarded' schools were only supported by the funds raised by the MRDD Counsel. This counsel was made up mainly of the parents of the Developmentally Disabled Children. They had to settle for poorly trained teachers, often unsafe schools, and limited supplies due to no support from the state or city.

In the mid 60's Don started school at the Day Program at Saint Martins in downtown Columbus only a few blocks from Grant Hospital. It was started by the Brothers' of the Good Shepherd. Classes were structured and included music. Don became happier and enjoyed going to school. He was treated with respect for the first time. Due to safety the Bishop of the Dioceses of Columbus wanted the school to be moved out of the inner city of Columbus. The brothers bought Saint Aloysius with a drive for money that the parents and community committed to. They changed the name to Mount Aloysius. It was a safer, quieter, and more spacious environment. I remember Don brought a suitcase to my parents, so they knew he wanted to move with them in November of 1969. After the move, Don and the other guys were much calmer, happier and more communicative. They had more freedom with supervision. In the 1960s and 1970s it was recognized that little was done to advance the rights of developmentally disabled children. Legislation occurred which ensured that these children had educational opportunities as well as recognizing the need for special education.

Mount Aloysius may be considered an Intermediate Care Facility by the state agencies but in my mind, it is a home filled with love and dignity for the guys. Every staff member consistently shows compassion, protectiveness and love all the time to not only the residents but to their families. Their focus is to keep the guys happy, and all their needs met. All therapies (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy), Social Worker on site, DSPs, supervisors, dietician and dietary support, care givers and maintenance staff are readily available. They provide different events, outings, and fun all the time even if it is on the grounds. They help these special men stay in contact with their families during this crazy pandemic by FaceTime, doing videos and calls which has helped with the separation I and others have felt during this unique aspect of our lives.

The Nursing Staff are truly the best. They recognize needs quickly and communicate them to the medical staff as well as the family. Since my brother has had a decline in his health, they are always willing to take my suggestions as well as alleviate my fears. I have been a Registered Nurse for 41 years and can be critical especially since I am my brother's voice as well as his little sister. I truly feel we are blessed to have each of them working and caring for all the guys at Mount Aloysius.

Don has grown into a much happier man who feels the love by all the staff and guys. He has available to him programs specific to his needs. He is always anxious to get back. I have found out that he often enjoys things at the Mount that he will not at our home. (Pizza parties for example). Don is very aware of his rights at the Mount even though he has the I.Q. of about a 3- to 5-year-old. All his angels of care make sure he is aware of them and have reminded me when I say "In our family no one has rights". He will burst out laughing. Every day I thank God for providing my brother with such a wonderful place as Mount Aloysius and the entire staff who treat the guys like family.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our story—Mary E Amrine; Don's little sister and guardian

**Bob Hotze (submitted by Linda Williams, sister & guardian)**



My little brother, Bobby was born when I was 6 years old. The grown-ups were very worried. They said he was pre-mature. Our mother came home from the hospital without him. She went back to the hospital every day to feed him. I couldn't go with her to see him. Our family was sad.

When Bobby came home, he cried all the time. He must have been hurting. Time passed before I could hold him. He stayed a baby for a very long time. He should have grown into a toddler by now. Gleelessly frolicking about the house. Sometimes our mother let me play with him in his room. I sang along to his record player, and read stories to him. I played his toy piano. He just stared. Later, the doctor said he was having seizures, and placed him on medication.

Bobby wasn't ready for kindergarten by the age of 5. Or 6. There were very few schools for DD children in those days, so our mother started one. By this time, I was 12, and helped care for my brother, Bobby. He needed someone to bathe him, and help him eat his food. He went to speech therapy, and I tried to help him learn to talk. We worked puzzles, played games, and read stories together. I walked him to the park, and played ball with him.

Bobby was 12 when I left home to get married. As he grew larger, and became increasingly mobile, our parents had difficulty keeping up with him. My husband and I offered to welcome him into our home. Bobby had a good heart, and a gentle spirit. But his behavior required "eyes on" 24/7. Our parents declined this offer.

Our parents looked for a placement where Bobby would receive kind, loving treatment and care. Our family worked with Bobby every day. We tried to teach him as much as he could possibly learn. We wanted him to continue to receive the daily attention he received at home. The Brothers at Mount Aloysius offered this loving care to us.

As years went by, our parents volunteered at Mount Aloysius, and donated funds. They did everything possible to help Mount Aloysius become the modern facility it is today. They are gone, now. As their daughter, I thank you on their behalf. I know Bobby is thankful. I can see the sparkle in his eyes. He loves camping, fishing, swimming, and working at PERCO. Mount Aloysius has provided Bobby with "a life worth living". I thank God for all of you!



Melvin Hollenback



Harry Tye



Don Brown



Teylar Alfman & Bill Hayes

## Mount Aloysius Board of Director's & CEO Update Submitted by Justin Gall, CEO

Spring came and went with a blink of the eye and before we knew it we were welcoming the heat of the summer. Mount Aloysius has been in full swing enjoying the pool, picnicking outside and enjoying our annual summer games and employee appreciation shenanigans.

My update typically highlights strides the Mount has made over the last three months, however this go around, I am going to highlight the most important assets we have at Mount Aloysius – OUR STAFF.

Did you know Mount Aloysius employs approximately 150 of the most dedicated and compassionate people in our area? Our staff are essential to the operation of Mount Aloysius and dedicate an enormous amount of time supporting the men who call the Mount home. During the height of the public health emergency, they risked their own health and sacrificed their own family to ensure they were here for those who depend on them. Still today, our staff remain on the frontline taking great strides to help our residents with life's essential activities. To some our staff are just caregivers to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, however our staff are much more; our staff provide support to our residents. Providing support is different than caregiving. A caregiver will do things for someone. In contrast, our staff will work with someone to enable them to do things independently. Our staff wear many hats including, friend, teacher, mentor, and coach, tirelessly helping people know how to do things for themselves and how to live independently. Our staff are the backbone to the success of Mount Aloysius, all because of their compassion and wanting to ensure "their family" is taken care of. We have been blessed beyond belief with the care and compassion our staff give. The next time you visit, please be sure to drop a thank you to any member of our staff for their selfless support to others.

### Developmental Disability Awareness Month Celebration

Developmental Disability Awareness Month was celebrated in March. Staff and residents of Mount Aloysius participated in a variety of activities to spread awareness regarding developmental disabilities. Donuts were delivered to the Sheriff's Department, Police Department, hair salons, and the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities. We provided pizza to the New Lex Fire Department. Random gift card giveaways were completed at Kroger. We also made a donation to the Perry County Animal Shelter. Many staff and residents also participated in Rock Your Socks in celebration of individuals with Down Syndrome.

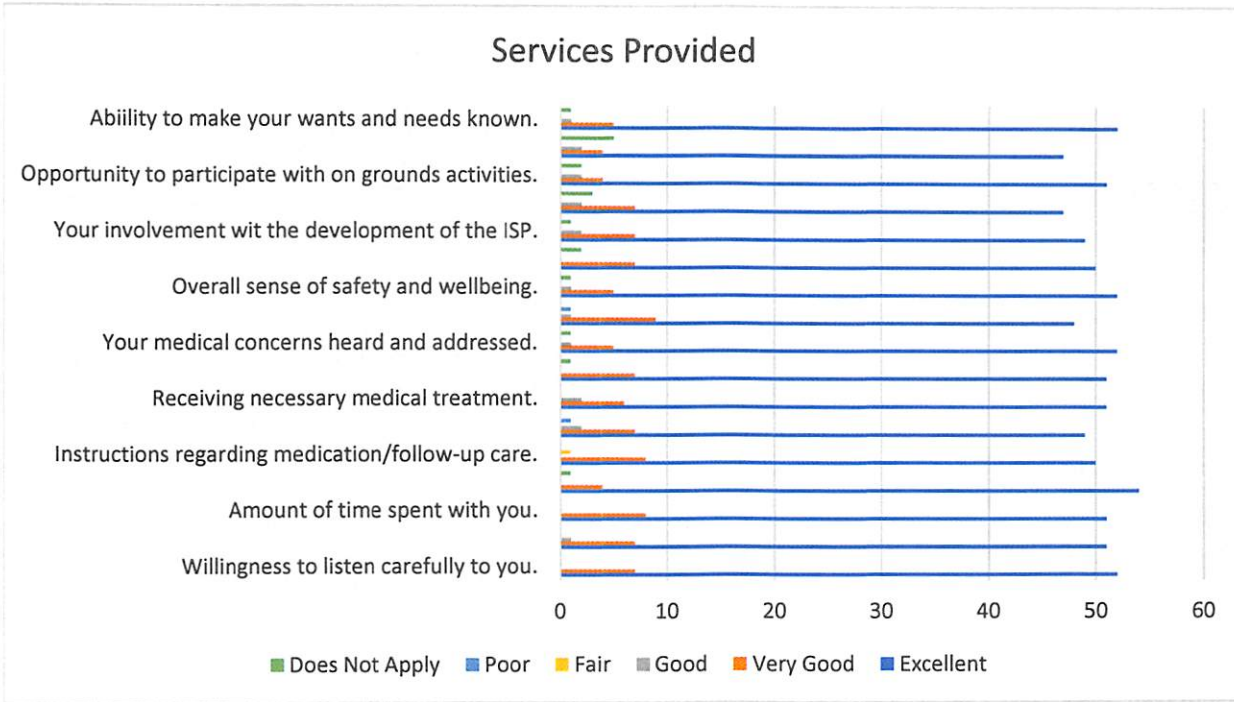


## Family Satisfaction Survey Results

Beginning this year, we started sending out Family Satisfaction Survey Results to Guardians to complete when the Annual Consent packets are renewed. Listed below are the results of the satisfaction survey:



## Family Satisfaction Survey Results Continued





## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Congratulations to the following employees who recently celebrated employment anniversaries:

### 30 Years

Leatha Ross, DSP

### 5 Years

Michele Everetts, DSP  
Jenny Doyle, ADON

### 1 Year

Jackson Hennessy, DSP  
Natalie Walker, DSP  
Quentin Webb, Lifeguard

## Happy Birthday to our Residents!

### June

5 - David Estep  
13 - Bill Kavanaugh  
Michael Kinney  
Robert Robbe  
26 - Dakota Leffman  
28 - Carl Jones

### August

2 - Joseph Baggs  
Harry Tye  
11 - Bill Hayes  
24 - Shane Blankenship  
30 - Bob Hotze

### July

7 - Don Brown  
17 - Austin Denver  
Jeff Penson  
19 - Jerry Taylor  
24 - Justin Galloway  
Ethan Peacock  
26 - John Purcell  
30 - Tyler Bixler  
Tony Scott



## WELCOME NOTE

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new staff:

Stephanie Burgess, DSP  
Abbigail Canter, DSP  
Leilah Castro, DSP  
Breanna Dowling, DSP  
Amanda Eppley, Lifeguard  
Luke Fox, DSP  
Katelyn Gall, DSP  
Kyle Garey, DSP  
Dylan Glispie, DSP  
Michelle Hammond, Human Resources  
Alleah Hobson, DSP  
Shauna Littleton, DSP  
Journey McCord, DSP  
Erin Midkiff, Shift Supervisor  
Lilyanna Montell, DSP  
Selina Moore, DSP  
Jadyn Preece, DSP  
Misty Poling, DSP  
Melissa Poston, DSP  
Deseray Rinehart, DSP  
Brook Scott, DSP  
Chloe Siemer, Dietary Aide  
Melissa Sole, DSP  
Chloe Sowards, DSP  
Sondia Wood, DSP

We are glad to have you with us!

## UPCOMING Events

### July

19-24 - Perry County Fair

### September

6 - Labor Day  
No Options or PerCo  
12 - Family Day  
24 - Last Blast of Summer

*The dates are subject to change and events may be canceled as a result of the pandemic or current orders by the Governor. If we decide it is safe to hold an event, please know that we will do so in the safest manner possible.*

*We are happy to report that Church Services resumed at Mount Aloysius in June. Services are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.*

We are excited to announce that our website has received a facelift. Please be sure to check out our updated website at [www.mountaloyisus.org](http://www.mountaloyisus.org)

Mount Aloysius Corp.  
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## INSIDE MOUNT ALOYSIUS NEWSLETTER



We hope you enjoyed this edition of *Inside Mount Aloysius*. Please direct any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter to Mount Aloysius, c/o Kim Flood, P.O. Box 598, New Lexington, Ohio 43764. Telephone #: (740) 342-3343. E-mail: [kim.flood@mountalloysius.org](mailto:kim.flood@mountalloysius.org)

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*“Mount Aloysius is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”*