



# Orchard Village Viewpoint

A Residential and Vocational Training Community for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

## ORCHARD VILLAGE HITS THE RUNWAY

There was nothing but glitz and glamour on Saturday, September 8, at the Orchard Village Auxiliary's Fall Fantasy Luncheon and Fashion Show. The enchanting event was held at Monastero's in Chicago. Formal fashions were provided by Robin Elliott in Morton Grove, and elegant furs were provided by Hana K of Lake Forest.

Over 150 guests attended the luncheon and fashion show, which featured raffles for prizes ranging from spa gifts to airline tickets from long-time supporter American Airlines. The fashion show impressed guests with chic gowns and an astounding lynx coat by Hana K valued at \$60,000.

The Auxiliary honored two worthy recipients during an awards presentation. Tim Bobrowski, Orchard Village's Director of Vocational Services and Orchard Academy, was honored with the Jeannie Johnson Hirsch Award for his leadership, vision and contribution to children with

disabilities. Bobrowski initiated the launch of Orchard Academy, the second school of its kind in Illinois for high school students in special education after the initial four years. The school provides an array of services focusing on life development, post-secondary educational opportunities, and vocational training that lead to successful competitive employment and provide a smooth transition from high school to adult life.

The Corporate Community Advocacy Award was presented to Borders Books and Music of Wilmette in honor of their continued support of Orchard Village. Borders invites the Auxiliary members to gift wrap books on holidays and special occasions so they can spread the word about Orchard Village.

The Fall Fantasy raised nearly \$13,000 for the individuals supported by Orchard Village.



*Kelli Beckel and Ryan Pisha model wedding fashions from Robin Elliott, Morton Grove.*



*Auxiliary member Marcia Wineberg models a show-stopping fur from Hana K that is valued at \$60,000!*

# Golf Classic is Above Par

The weeks of rain finally stopped long enough to prepare the beautiful Ivanhoe Club for Orchard Village's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, August 27. Nearly 200 golfers representing leadership in 120 local corporations golfed to support the individuals with disabilities served by Orchard Village. The event sold out and raised a total of nearly \$80,000 that will be used to purchase new furnishings for the living areas of three Orchard Village group homes located in Glenview, Des Plaines, and Skokie.

This was the Ivanhoe Club's second consecutive year hosting the Orchard Village Golf Classic. Golfers began their morning with a golf clinic and Titleist demonstrations sponsored by Manpower and Right Management Consultants, Inc. During the buffet lunch, Tom Shaer of Tom Shaer Media and Bill Wennington, formerly of the Chicago Bulls, entertained the group with sports commentary.

After a challenging 18 holes, golfers enjoyed a cocktail hour with food stations for Mexican, American, Italian and Asian hors d'oeuvres. Amazing live auction items included a golf experience at the prestigious

Chicago Club and an unforgettable Wrigley Field Bat Kid for a Day package. The dinner program featured a video produced by Mudd Advertising that detailed the shopping experience of seven men that reside in an Orchard Village group home in Glenview. Thanks to a generous donation by Walgreens, the men were able to pick out and purchase new furniture from Walter E. Smithe for their living and dining rooms. The video introduced the *Help Make a House a Home Appeal*. In addition to donations from golfers, Bank Financial pledged \$15,000 toward the appeal. The Illinois Association of Home Staging Professionals pledged a remarkable \$30,000 of time and materials to make over the dining and living areas of Orchard Village's Eastman Street home. The makeover was later featured on Fox News Chicago.



*Todd Kostelnik, Steve Green, Tom Shaer, Mike Crowe and Brandon Norder, all of Chicago, tried for a hole in one to win this black Corvette donated by Resnick Automotive Group.*

The Orchard Village Golf Classic has become branded as a corporate event where business leaders go to broker relationships. Presidents and CEOs flew in from as far as Pennsylvania to court potential clients while playing the links. The event will continue to tailor to the corporate population in the coming years.

## **Mission Statement:**

*Orchard Village facilitates mutually beneficial and valued relationships between people with disabilities and their communities by supporting personal outcomes through innovative services.*



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Orchard Village is a not-for-profit organization providing residential, vocational, respite and educational/activity services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Orchard Village is a United Way agency, a member of the Skokie and Morton Grove Chambers of Commerce, and the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities. We are accredited by the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) for people with developmental disabilities – three years with distinction.

# Former President of Ameritech Illinois Joins Leadership at Orchard Village

Attorney and former President of Ameritech Illinois, Ms. Joset B. Wright, joined Orchard Village in September as Senior Director of Institutional Advancement. Wright is responsible for development functions including brand marketing, internal and external communications, board development, and initiatives in government, corporate, and customer programs.

Wright, a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, is trained in the legal profession. She served as an attorney for a variety of public and private organizations, most notably as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Marion County Prosecutor's Office in Indianapolis and General Counsel of Ameritech Indiana. Wright rapidly ascended the ranks of the telecommunications industry, beginning at Indiana Bell, a subsidiary of Ameritech Corporation and a former Bell Operating Company. She began her tenure there as an attorney, rose to Vice President of Procurement and Property Services, and culminated as President of Ameritech Illinois following its merger with SBC Communications. She most recently served as Vice President and Managing Director at The Hollins Group, a minority-owned executive-retained search firm headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

Wright places a high value on giving back to the community and is involved in a number of service activities. She is currently an advisory board member of the McGaw YMCA in Evanston, Illinois, and was a board member for more than ten years with the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois. She previously served on the boards of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the Indianapolis Children's Museum. In addition to her career and volunteer activities, Wright is busy raising two sons: Evan, 21 and Joseph, 18. She is passionate about reading, cooking, and music.

When asked why she decided to redirect her career path and join Orchard Village, Wright has one answer: "Billy Harvey." Billy lived next to Wright's grandpar-

ents when she was a child. She and her siblings would play games with Billy on a regular basis. Billy's favorite was Chinese Checkers. Wright and her siblings saw Billy only as a friend, not as a friend with severe cerebral palsy. Wright was sad as a teenager when she found out that Billy had been institutionalized. His parents did not have the knowledge nor methods that would allow them to keep Billy at home. There were no other options available to them besides placing him in an institution, which has since been closed. Wright now takes comfort in knowing she is helping provide a community where people like Billy can grow and thrive in a nurturing environment.

Wright's addition to Orchard Village coincides with the organization's strategic plan to develop innovative ideas while continuing to build on the organization's strong foundation of enabling people with disabilities to become contributing members of their communities and to live as independently as possible. Wright's plans for advancing the organization and its mission include identifying new growth opportunities, ensuring that Orchard Village continues to be an asset to the community, producing a broader array of vocational opportunities that will help fill the employment gap for unskilled workers and, most importantly, increasing revenue for the agency in order to maximize the quality of its services. Wright emphasizes that, "There must be awareness that a lack of resources for people with disabilities exists, and that it affects the whole community.

"I am here to help people understand that our clients are deserving of respect, attention, and increased support. We must understand that developmental disabilities are not going away; they are becoming more prevalent. People living with these disabilities cannot be marginalized or ignored. If someone has to make life better for people with disabilities, why not me?"



*Joset B. Wright*

# State Leaders Speak at Orchard Academy Ribbon Cutting

Illinois state legislators and local community members gathered for a ribbon cutting and open house on Sunday, October 28, 2007, from 2-4 p.m. at Orchard Academy, located at 7669 Marmora Avenue in Skokie. Guest Speakers included State Representative Elizabeth Coulson, State Representative Lou Lang, and Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Jack Lavin. Coulson, Lang and Lavin played integral roles in the progression of legislation and initiatives that enabled the creation of Orchard Academy.

Representative Coulson, Representative Lang, and Mr. Lavin all shared personal stories about how and why they are battling the crisis in Illinois regarding the lack of resources available for students transitioning from high school special education into adulthood.

Jack Lavin praised Orchard Academy for “planting a seed so that services can begin to grow, both in Illinois and around the country, that will help our children in special education fulfill the dreams we have for them and the dreams they are building for themselves.” Lavin’s daughter Emily surprised the audience with her own speech of thanks for their efforts to help her and other special education students succeed.



*Pictured at the ribbon cutting are (front row, l. to r.): Orchard Village Executive Director Jim Vail and Orchard Academy Program Director & School Administrator Ken Kozin. (Second row, l. to r.): State Representative Lou Lang, Morton Grove Mayor Richard Krier, State Representative Elizabeth Coulson, and Orchard Village Board member Kathy Knight. (Back row, l. to r.): Orchard Village Board members Bradley Sears and Karl Meehan, Notre Dame High School Principal Father John Smyth and Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Jack Lavin.*

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## Orchard Village Benefits 2<sup>nd</sup> Year from Motorola Global Day of Service

Orchard Village was fortunate to once again participate in the second annual Motorola Corporation’s Global Day of Service. For the second consecutive year, the Motorola Corporation mobilized over 9,000 members of its work force globally to conduct community service projects. On October 18, over 11,000 Motorola employees in 48 counties participated in 308 projects worldwide. Orchard Village was the second largest work site in the

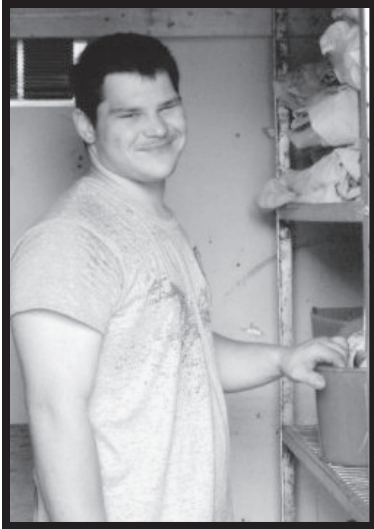
Chicago area with 237 people participating on campus and generating approximately 636 hours of volunteer service that day.

Under the direction of Orchard Village staff, Motorola volunteers planted over 1,000 bulbs, planted grass seed, and painted and conducted other landscaping activities to beautify the campus and make it more inviting to current and potential customers and donors.



*Motorola volunteers gathered around more than 50 bags of yard debris that they compiled while beautifying Orchard Village.*

# Making Food and Friends at Orchard Academy!



*Tony discovered he has a green thumb. He now spends part of each day working for Orchard Village to improve the landscape and overall appearance of the campus.*

When you ask Tony if he is learning a lot at Orchard Academy, he'll tell you, "I'm learning the things I wanted to, and some I didn't expect – like cooking and doing dishes! Now I can cook using a recipe. I really like to make pasta and stir fry."

Tony is a part of the inaugural class at Orchard Academy, which opened its doors in August. He knew he had a lot to learn before he graduated from high school. After discovering the intensive training in vocational,

independent living and social skills that Orchard Academy offers, he decided it was the place for him to complete his last years of school.

In addition to learning how to cook, Tony has taken an interest in helping the Orchard Village maintenance staff keep the campus in good condition. He especially likes landscaping the campus, having learned the necessary mowing, planting and edging skills from his uncle when Tony was young.

Tony keeps busy during the school day. He learns life skills like cleaning and cooking. He practices job searching on the Internet, participates in Job Club at Orchard Village and volunteers at Petco. His vocational specialist Emily is helping him achieve his career goals. "She teaches me how to be professional. You have to look nice, be polite, and greet people around the workplace." Tony is also learning by example from the Orchard Village Vocational Director and Orchard Academy creator Tim Bobrowski. "Tim treats me with respect, like an adult. He answers all my questions about my job and other stuff without losing patience. Tim's a really nice guy."

Tony has high hopes for life after Orchard Academy. He would like to live on his own some day and support himself with a full-time job – but only if his mom won't miss him too much!

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## Mark your calendars!

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cocktails for a Cause  
Saturday, February 23, 2008  
Manor, Chicago

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Blossom Gala  
Saturday, April 26, 2008  
Westin Chicago North Shore, Wheeling

# Donors

**Thank you to the following organizations and individuals that served as hole sponsors and auction donors for Orchard Village's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic:**

## **Anixter**

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The Westin Chicago North Shore  
The Westin La Cantera Resort,  
*special thanks to Ron Tarson*  
Windy City Field House  
XSport Fitness

**Thank you to the following organizations and individuals that supported the Orchard Village's Ladies Auxiliary Fall Luncheon and Fashion Show:**

American Airlines  
Apple Tree Theatre  
Ms. Kelli Beckel  
Ms. Marjorie Bias  
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Kohl's Children's Museum  
Ms. June Levy  
Light Opera Works  
Lulu's Restaurant  
Mario Tricoci  
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The Westin Downers Grove  
The Westin O'Hare  
Marilyn Williams  
Ms. Marcia Wineberg

**Thank you to the following corporations, foundations and organizations that supported Orchard Village from July 1, 2007 to date:**

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International Association of Home Staging Professionals  
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Washington Square Health Foundation  
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*Thank  
you!*



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**Need Groceries?**

Please don't forget an easy way to contribute to Orchard Village is to simply purchase groceries. The Orchard Village Auxiliary sells Grocery Dollars for Jewel, Dominicks and Whole Foods.

It's an even exchange! If you want to spend \$100 on groceries simply write Orchard Village a check for \$100, and we'll give you the same value in gift certificates for any of the above participating stores. The Auxiliary will receive a 5 percent profit from all certificates sold.

Money for Grocery Dollars is collected monthly at the Auxiliary Committee meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Your certificate will be available within 10 to 14 days after the meeting. Please make your check payable to Orchard Village Auxiliary and send it along with your order form to: Orchard Village Auxiliary, 7670 Marmora Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60077. Grocery Dollars may be picked up at Orchard Village as well.

**Grocery Dollars Order Form**

Yes, I would like to help Orchard Village by simply purchasing groceries. Enclosed is my check to Orchard Village Auxiliary for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

- \_\_\_\_ Jewel Grocery Dollars
- \_\_\_\_ Dominicks Grocery Dollars
- \_\_\_\_ Whole Foods Grocery Dollars

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Committee members  
needed for  
the following  
Orchard Village  
committees:

- Auxiliary
- Blossom Gala
- Cocktails for a Cause
- Golf Classic
- Marketing
- Safety
- Salubris™
- Human Rights
- Consultants for Change

If interested, please contact  
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(847) 967-1800, ext. 133.