



Orchard Village Viewpoint

A Residential and Vocational Training Community for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Record-Breaking Revenue at 20th Annual Blossom Gala!

What does it take to increase the revenue of the Blossom Gala by 42% in just one year? If you asked the Orchard Village Development department that question, they could answer it with confidence. They would tell you to start with strategically increasing attendance at the event. Then they would tell you to add to the auction one-of-a-kind experiences that people can't resist. Top it off with a new and luxurious venue and flawless execution, and you've got an event that raises \$345,000 for Orchard Village.

The 20th Annual Blossom Gala was an overwhelming success. The Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling provided an excellent location for the May 5 auction-dinner-dance. The Westin supplied beautiful accommodations and food that people couldn't stop raving about, including

a gnocchi action station where Westin culinary staff prepared the potato dumplings topped with marinara, parmesan, and parsley for each guest at his/her request. Guests were also wowed by the ahi tuna with a sesame seed flat bread served in martini glasses.

The Westin Chicago North Shore prepared Orchard Village's recipe for Bruschetta in order to promote the Salubris™ program. Salubris customers circulated the room sharing their knowledge about healthy eating and how food contributes to increased



Silent Auction Chairperson Kala Callahan keeps an eye on the bid sheets.



The excitement in the room was multiplied with the live auction, led by Norm Andrews.

social networks. Jewel provided flowers for the event, featuring pale orange roses, birds of paradise and bold white hydrangeas.

The breezy May evening launched exciting landmarks for Orchard Village. Not only was it a celebration of 20 years hosting the Blossom Gala, but it also kicked off the organization's 35th year of serving people with

developmental disabilities. Orchard Village decided to update its image in honor of its 35th year by revealing a new, more youthful logo. To top off the revelation of a new logo, an announcement was made that Orchard Village will open Orchard Academy this fall. The school will be dedicated to transitioning high school students in special education programs into life after school.

The evening held an energy that was almost palpable, and that energy was multiplied with a live auction bidding war. An unbelievable weekend getaway on a private jet to New York City for six people and accommodations at the Waldorf Astoria sold for an amazing \$13,000.

The luxurious transportation was donated to Orchard Village by Mudd Advertising, the company owned by



The Mudd family donated its private jet for the live auction, and Rob Mudd (far right) served as the Honorary Chairperson for the Gala.

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the family of the evening's Honorary Chairperson, Rob Mudd. Mudd Advertising also documented the shopping experiences of the Brummel and Henley Street homes, which were made possible because of donations from Walgreens and North Shore Community Bank to the Help Make A House A Home Appeal. The short documentary was shown during the evening's program and helped raise \$15,000. That brought the total for the Help Make a House a Home Appeal to \$73,000.

Long-time Orchard Village supporter and Golf Classic Chairperson, Bob Thrush, was honored with the



The gentlemen from the OV Henley Street home attended the event to thank donors for their new furniture.

Advocacy Leadership Award. After a touching acceptance speech about the true beneficiaries of the Blossom Gala – Orchard Village customers – Bob received a standing ovation.

The Blossom Gala is well on its way to becoming a half million dollar event. As Jim Vail expressed after the guests had gone home and the evening progressed into early morning, "This is truly an event that

has become second to none. Now people will look at us as an example of what they want their event to be. And of course, we are so proud that all our efforts are for the hundreds of people supported by Orchard Village."

Change Is In The Air

Contributed by Jim Vail, Executive Director

Spring is always an exciting time. Flowers and trees are blooming, and everything is changing...especially at Orchard Village. New programs are starting, buildings and houses are undergoing refurbishing, and there are wonderful additions to our staff.

Because Orchard Village is growing and taking on exciting new opportunities, we wondered if our marketing and image needed updating. We worked with a marketing design firm and asked their opinion. After talking to a number of people who know us, the marketers told us not to change our name or our tagline or motto (Where People Blossom). But they did suggest that we update our logo. After about a year of work, they created a new image that we thought captured all that is fresh, innovative and excit-

ing about Orchard Village. We hope you feel as we do; that the new logo is warm, inviting and captures the essence of personal growth that is such a part of OV.

In addition, we adapted the mission statement of Orchard Village. More and more, this agency is devoted to designing unique programs that help the people we support connect and contribute (in ways they feel appropriate) to the communities of which they and all of us are a part. We think this new motto does a phenomenal job of exemplifying what we do best.

Thank you to those of you who helped us with this process and with the final results. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jim Vail at jim_vail@orchardvillage.org.

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.

Spreading Knowledge And Saving Money With Salubris™

We are pleased that BMI rates continue to decline for customers, even 18 months after Salubris™ was introduced into dinner and snack menus. Additionally, our customers are happy and motivated that with successive reductions in their BMI, the chances of developing diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and early death are lessening. They hold a growing enthusiasm for sharing their stories of success and the strategies they are using to achieve their goals.

Even more exciting perhaps, are our recent findings that disprove a common assumption – eating more nutritious foods costs more than an unhealthy diet previously followed. The per-person food costs have decreased from \$4.78 per day before Salubris™ implementation to \$4.58 per day while participating in the Salubris™ program. We have simultaneously reduced BMIs, improved nutrition and lowered food costs by:

- Eliminating waste, so food in the proper amount is prepared.
- Substituting high-cost and calorie-laden protein and starch with fruits and vegetables that have fiber and a lot of volume for just a small number of calories.
- Replacing highly-processed and costly snacks with more nutritious offerings.
- Focusing on nutritious, filling and inexpensive vegetables if customers want seconds.

Orchard Village customers realized that they should not be the only ones to benefit from their newly-acquired talent for healthy cooking, so they decided to take the Salubris™ program to a new level. It was time to share it with the world...or at least with Morton Grove.



Joyce Wright serves Pineapple-Jicama Salsa to guests at the Taste of Morton Grove.

On March 1, Nancy Hirsch, Karen Paulsen, Joyce Wright and Nadine Stone shared their Pineapple-Jicama Salsa with over 400 people who attended the Taste of Morton Grove. Nancy, Karen and Joyce won 2nd place for their salsa at the Bloomingdale's Charity Culinary Challenge in 2006. This was the first time they presented their salsa publicly since its award-winning debut.

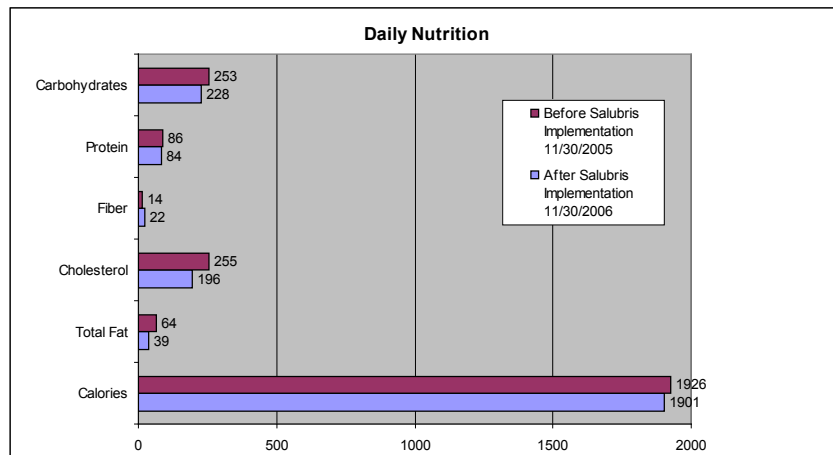
Orchard Village considered participation in the Taste of Morton Grove the perfect opportunity to begin spreading the word about the Salubris™ success

with those outside of our organization and supporters. Orchard Village Executive Director Jim Vail said, "It is time that we begin expanding our knowledge and methodologies so that other people with disabilities can benefit from improved health and longer life expectancies the way our customers are."

The ladies did an

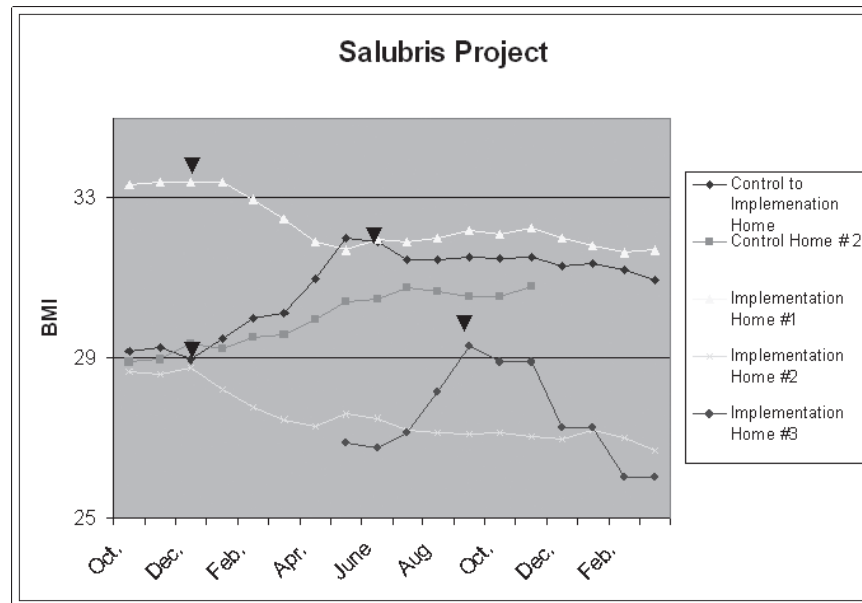
impressive job of enticing visitors to try out their salsa, and then took that opportunity to tell them more about what the Salubris™ program means to them and to Orchard Village. They also loved that they were able to try so many other delicious dishes from restaurants around the community. Nadine Stone capitalized on her booth's strategic location right next to the Fire Department and its famous chili. While she made friends with the firemen, she struggled because "that chili was too spicy for me, but it's so good that I couldn't stop eating it!"

Preparation for serving 400 people was no small task. Charles Loiseau, alongside customers, staff and volunteers, spent an entire afternoon chopping and combining 40 pounds of jicama, 50 limes, 20 pounds of red onions, 100 jalapeños, 5 bunches of cilantro and 20 pounds of diced pineapple. Julie Hagwood, Orchard Village Auxiliary member, received the unfortunate job of chopping



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onions. “Whoever said putting onions in the refrigerator makes them hurt your eyes less is crazy! It certainly didn’t help these onions!” In total, more than 80 pounds of salsa were prepared for the Taste of Morton Grove. The next day, Salubris™ implementation homes learned how to make delicious taco salads, thanks to the leftovers!



Orchard Village To Open A Transition High School

It is no secret that Orchard Village prides itself on providing the most innovative services available to the men, women, and children it supports. Our latest project is no exception. In August, Orchard Village will open Orchard Academy, an Illinois State Board of Education-approved high school that will teach the skills needed to transition successfully from high school to the “real world” through an intensive curriculum of independent living, vocational, and social skills.

All high school graduates face a challenging time of transition when they leave the classroom and must learn how to master tasks like taking the bus, filling out job applications, or caring for their first home. Students with disabilities are no exception, but they often lack the resources that their peers have to learn these life skills. Students in special education who have completed four to five years of high school, but are still eligible for educational services until age 21, will now have the opportunity to learn the necessary skills to obtain and to keep a job, care for their own home, and live a fulfilling life.

Orchard Academy will be located on Orchard Village’s campus in the Saltzberg Building for its first year of operation. Future plans for the school include increasing the class size to as large as 50 and relocating off campus so that students will have better access to community resources such as public transportation.

Orchard Academy will open the doors to a new generation of children with a wide variety of disabilities in need of support. The school will be supervised by Vocational Director and Orchard Academy Director Timothy Bobrowski. For more information, contact Tim at (847) 967-1800, ext. 130, or at timothy_bobrowski@orchardvillage.org.



The Bernie Saltzberg Center on the Orchard Village campus will house Orchard Academy until the program expands.

Customers Dominate At Special Olympics!

While Chicago was fighting to win the 2016 Summer Olympics, 14 Orchard Village customers were competing for their own medals at the 2007 Area 5 Special Olympics. From the softball throw to the wheelchair race, these athletes know how to win!

Samantha Bell-Reed	1st Place	Softball Throw
Veronica Cuculich	1st Place	100M Walk
	2nd Place	Tennis Ball Throw
Cathy Curley	1st Place	Tennis Ball Throw
	2nd Place	100M Walk
Steve Freeman	1st Place	100M Walk
	1st Place	Softball Throw
Tom Hunt	1st Place	Tennis Ball Throw
	3rd Place	25M Wheelchair Race
Leonard Koshiol	1st Place	25M Assisted Walk
	1st Place	Softball Throw
Richard Kroeger	1st Place	100M Walk
	3rd Place	Softball Throw
Tuwuan Mitchell	1st Place	100M Run
	1st Place	Softball Throw
Fred Morgan	2nd Place	Softball Throw
Lewis Newson	2nd Place	Softball Throw
Annette Owens	1st Place	25M Wheelchair Race
	1st Place	Tennis Ball Throw
Joe Rayner	1st Place	100M Walk
	1st Place	Tennis Ball Throw
Richard Rosentreter	1st Place	Tennis Ball Throw
	3rd Place	100M Walk
Paul Ruback	1st Place	Softball Throw
	2nd Place	100M Walk
Barry Saltzberg	2nd Place	Softball Throw
Scott Shinsky	1st Place	Softball Throw
	2nd Place	100M Walk
Marcus Simpson	2nd Place	Tennis Ball Throw
Polly Snide	1st Place	Tennis Ball Throw
Celia Wilk	3rd Place	100M Walk
Tom Williams	3rd Place	Softball Throw
Jean Williams	1st Place	Tennis Ball Throw



The athletes representing Orchard Village used the Special Olympics as one method of achieving important personal outcomes, including the realization of personal goals and interaction with other members of the community.



Medals all around!

Donors

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals that supported Orchard Village's 3rd Annual Cocktails for a Cause:

Advanced Resources, LLC

Louis Glunz, Inc.

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Thank you to the following organizations and individuals that supported the Orchard Village 20th Annual Blossom Gala:

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Apollo Theatre
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Friends of Orchard Village, with special thanks to Carol Fritz
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North Shore Gallery
Northlight Theatre
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Outback Steakhouse
Pacific Cigars
PapaSpiro's
Mr. Juan Carlos Perez
Philly G's Restaurant
Gary & Donna Pleason
Poor Phil's
Prairie Bread Kitchen
Pretty Good Stuff
Quartino Restaurant & Wine Bar
R.C. Danon Gallery
Ram Restaurant & Brewery
Raven & Dove Antiques and Gifts
Sana Vita Studio
Ravinia
Redhead Piano Bar
Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, with special thanks to Linda Lydon

Retro Bistro
Reuven Gitter Jewelers
Rob Mudd and Mudd Advertising, with special thanks to the Mudd family
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Mr. Saul Rosen
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Mr. John Rynes & Ms. Mary Lou Johns
Schaefer's Wines, Foods & Spirits
Sedona
Shell Vacation Clubs, with special thanks to Paul Adreani and Walt Adreani
Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, with special thanks to Ron Tarson
Mr. Joseph Shirley
Six Flags Great America
Ellie Snell
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Sona Med Spa
Spa Martinique
Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies
Storybook Mom
Ms. Dawn Subatich
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Steppenwolf Theatre Company
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Teddie Kossof Salon & Spa
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Sam & Susan Weiser
Wente Vineyards
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Westin Kierland Resort, with special thanks to Ron Tarson
Westin La Cantera Resort, with special thanks to Ron Tarson
Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, with special thanks to Ron Tarson
Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa, with special thanks to Ron Tarson
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Yanni's Restaurant
Yellow Bird Stationary, Invitations & Gifts
Zanies Comedy Nite Club

Thank you to the following organizations that supported Orchard Village over the past year:

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Morton Grove Foundation
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Parents and Friends of Orchard Village
Proud Photography, Inc.
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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 Erika Vavrik at Erika_Vavrik@orchardvillage.org (847) 967-1800, ext. 133.