



Communique

this year in review -

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

Got out of my room more, hung out with everybody more. *Robynn*

Going to school. *Caitlin*

I ate chicken and not pasta. *Kathryn*

I earned the CasaFit award! *Jenny*

Doing well at work, for two months in a row I was Employee of the Month! *Melinda*

Getting and holding a job! *Jon*

WHAT WAS THE HAPPIEST MOMENT FOR YOU?

Being accepted into Casa de Amma. *Jon*

I made a bunch of new friends. *Kathryn*

Working out with Hillary. *Steve*

WHAT IS ONE GOAL YOU HAVE FOR NEXT YEAR?

Continue to learn as much as I can and spend my money wisely. *Steve*

Getting off the caffeine. *Robynn*

To make money selling my photos. *Ben*

WHAT MADE YOU SMILE THIS YEAR?

The warmth and openness of the Casa community. *Jon*

Working with the little kids at my job. *Caitlin*

When my parents came to visit. *Kathryn*

Kind, friendly people. *Nathan*

Tommy, my favorite Chihuahua at work. *Melinda*

WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE? DID YOU OVERCOME IT?

Dealing with a very rude train conductor. I wrote a letter to them.

I still ride the train and will not be afraid to ride the train. *Caitlin*

I was afraid to try new foods. I tried them and liked them! *Kathryn*

Going through my back surgery and the physical therapy. *Jenny*

A difficult situation came up at work. I had to make changes in myself and ask for help. *Melinda*

IF YOU HAD ONE WISH FOR THE NEXT YEAR WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I wish to be more patient. *Steve*

please help us build the casa lounge!

Plans are in motion to convert our existing library into a 'Casa Lounge'.

This redesigned space will facilitate academic support, enrichment groups, technology training, and serve as a cool place to hang out and socialize!

We are looking for donations of items such as; (2) new PC computers, (1) new iMac computer, color printer, interactive and educational computer games, flat screen TV, DVD player, large

table or desk for the computers, iPod

doc player, bean bag chairs and large

picture frames to display resident

artwork. You may also make a

general donation to help us with

this exciting new project!



ROBYNN



NATHAN



CAITLIN



JON



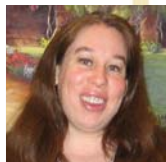
KATHRYN



STEVE



JENNY



BEN



MELINDA



favorite holiday memories

"Christmas when I was little. I liked seeing my relatives and spending time with them. We had our own traditions that were special!" Lauren

"Christmas last year. I didn't go anywhere. I put up the tree with my family, it was fun!" Tatiana

"Christmas is my favorite Holiday. I go to my family Christmas party." Sabrina

"Last year I spent Christmas with my nieces who live in Boston. I enjoy being with them." Saphoura

"Thanksgiving Day is my favorite because I like turkey. I like white meat and mash potatoes." Will

"Last year my cousin Clara was born around the Holidays. And my grandpa's birthday is in December." Krista

"When I was a kid it was Halloween. Rachel, my best friend, would dress up. We would go trick or treating and get huge bags of candy. When we got back we would sort them out and then hide them from our parents!" Meghan T.

beauty is found in unique differences

This is a story about a camera and a photo.

The camera isn't a professional one, it is a simple point and shoot – nothing fancy. The types of pictures you get are a bit unpredictable. Sometimes they are good, sometimes they aren't. The photo (below) was taken by one of our residents at Casa de Amma, Ben.

From the moment I saw this photo it captivated me. I thought for sure it was taken with a professional camera and then digitally enhanced to get the colors and contrast you see. But I was wrong. When I asked Ben how it was taken the answer surprised me. This is what he said, "It was a malfunction. A glitch within the camera created this. Amazing isn't it!" I agreed! It is an amazing photo. I began to reflect - Beauty is found in unique differences! It was the differences in the camera that created its unique beauty.

I started thinking about the correlation between the camera and Casa de Amma. How often have our residents been made to think they aren't as capable of accomplishing something significant as others are? How often has it been suggested to them, even subtly, that their ability to create something meaningful isn't as great as others? Well that just isn't true - beauty is found in unique differences!



when they can't live alone but want a life of their own

Casa de Amma is a unique apartment community, fostering growth and independence in adults with special needs.

We provide a broad spectrum of vocational, residential and educational opportunities in a responsive and caring environment.

Our programs are designed to meet the needs of each resident and provide a fulfilling experience for the entire family — because we understand families are happier when their member with special needs is living the best life possible.

We host programs for parents, siblings and others whose lives are touched by a person with special needs and encourage families to remain supportive and involved.

Our staff includes highly skilled professionals who provide responsive and effective support services to our very special population.

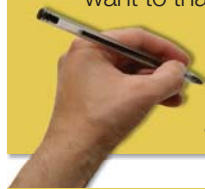
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a message from our Director . . .

The magic at Casa de Amma is that 'something special' that happens when our residents, staff and volunteers combine their efforts to foster independent living. We are not able to create this on our own. It takes place as the result of contributions from generous supporters who have over the years, helped us grow from good to great! Without our fundraising efforts we would be forced to cut programs and groups our residents rely on. I understand that this year has been difficult and I want to thank you for your continued support of our unique mission. Please help us continue our success. Your tax deductible gift will be greatly appreciated in this upcoming year.



through the doors

by jessica anderson

I once heard it said that life is a journey, not a destination. When I stop to ponder this pearl of wisdom I can't help but parallel it to the number of experiences I have had here at Casa de Amma on a regular basis. Each day I arrive at work and stroll through the front doors I marvel at the mystery of what's in store. Although I have a mental checklist of what needs to be accomplished, this is not why I spring out of bed in the morning. What I look forward to the most is the reciprocity between the staff and residents. In our efforts to aid the residents to live more independently, they in turn teach us an overabundance of things along the way, whether it is through Nathan's generosity, Kathryn's sweetness, Katie's quick wit, Sabrina's humor, Saphoura's thoughtfulness, or Steve's resourcefulness. One interaction in particular that struck a deep cord with me was while interviewing Meghan for the "How Well Do You Know Your Neighbor" game for the October BBQ. When asked the question, Where would you go on a dream vacation, Meghan's response was, "I know this is kind of a different answer but I would go to Gotham City where I could meet Bruce Wayne and all the other Batman characters." At the creativity of this answer I was speechless and at the glimmer in her eye I was encouraged. At that moment I truly learned what it means to take pride and joy in the little things. All in all I can say beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is an immense blessing to be part of this community at Casa de Amma and it is truly an honor to know each person here!



new year new site!

We are pleased to announce the launch of our redesigned website! Our new look offers streamlined site navigation, expanded information, upcoming events, video's, interviews, slide shows, donation forms, and so much more. Log on to www.casadeamma.org and let us know what you think. Your feedback is always appreciated!

