

Clients give back

RHD Boston volunteers at local soup kitchen

Mike arrives early to RHD Boston by about an hour. He's taken the train to get there by himself, eager for the day to start. A client at RHD Boston, which provides residential, day and individual supports for men and women with developmental disabilities or a dual diagnosis of mental illness and/or physical

disabilities, Mike is there because he'll be working at a local soup kitchen, preparing and serving food for people experiencing homelessness in nearby Lynn, Mass.

Mike is one of the many clients with intellectual disabilities at RHD Boston who volunteer behind the counter and in the

See **BOSTON** / page 4



Kenneth Kauffman | photo

Now we're cooking: Clients and staff from RHD Boston work in the kitchen together to prepare lunch for people experiencing homelessness at My Brother's Table, a local soup kitchen.



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NONPROFIT RESOURCES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

WHO WE ARE: Resources for Human Development is a national human-services nonprofit with more than 160 programs in 14 states serving those with developmental delays, mental illness, homelessness, substance abuse and poverty issues. Established in Philadelphia in 1970, RHD is also a pioneer in the development of socially conscious, for-profit enterprises.

VISIT US AT: www.rhd.org



Play ball: Erik, a client at RHD Nashville, has made such strides that he's now able to play baseball again.

For Love of the Game

In Nashville, Erik returns to his childhood pastime — baseball

Erik's fingers tighten on the bat as he tracks the pitch and swings. He's a little off balance and his head is out of position and his hands are ahead of his body, but he swings with purpose and conviction and the barrel of the bat finds the center of the ball. He strokes a hard line drive into the gap in right-center; and the tingle that runs up his arms tells Erik he's hit the ball solid even before his head looks up to find it.

Erik drops the bat and starts running, digging hard for first. In that moment, he's a little kid again, racing the wind to first base. And all things are possible.

Erik is a client at RHD Nashville. He has autism and developmental disabilities with several challenging behaviors. Before coming to RHD, he was often prone to serious self-injury. But since arriving at his own home in a Nashville suburb specifically created for him by RHD's Environmental Design team, Erik's behavior has undergone a huge transformation. He eats dinners with his family and goes on trips in the community. Erik loves cars — his house features representations of racecars and Corvettes in most of the rooms

— and last year he got a chance to wave the starting flag at a local race.

Still one of the things he talked about was baseball. "Baseball was one of the things that he just loved to do," said Jordan Allen, former RHD Nashville director. He played in Little League when he was younger, and he missed it. And now he's connecting with a time in his life when things weren't so tumultuous. That's very comforting.

See **GAME** page 3

Making a Connection

RHD's targeted case management hailed as innovative national model

Robin held her thumb and forefinger about an inch apart as she tried to explain how hard it is for people experiencing homelessness to seek support.

"When you're in this situation you already feel this big," she said. "And you don't want to talk to somebody who makes you feel even less."

Then Robin threw her hands out wide and smiled as she explained the difference in the support she received at RHD's FaSST/Connections program, which provides evaluation, linkage, and coordination of services to families living in various shelters. Robin has been working with resource coordinator Donyea Williams, who has set up Robin and her family with mental health resources, housing opportunities and even got Robin reunited with her mother.

"Donyea has done so much for us in just a month," Robin said, who is in a local homeless shelter with her sons Dylan and Nathaniel. "I probably drive him nuts, because when something happens I don't even go to the people at the shelter anymore, I go to his office and he calms me down and talks to me. And I'm not a trusting person. I've been through a lot. But there's something about him; he's really kind and nonjudgmental."

"And now I feel like things are moving; I don't feel stuck, like there's no end in sight. Donyea is always encouraging, telling me we're going to try this, we're going to do

See **FaSST** / page 3



FaSST/Connections: Resource coordinator Donyea Williams (L) works with Robin and her sons.

Board of Directors

Bertram Wolfson, Esq., *President*
Sheldon Steinberg, V.M.D., *Vice President*
Anthony J. Parrotto, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Cody Anderson
Fred Bonaparte
Avrene L. Brandt, Ph.D.
Jo Ann E. Connelly, M.S.W., L.S.W.
Caryn Reichlin Johnson, M.S., OTR/L, FAOTA
Virginia Kricun
Barbara Shoulson-Kuhn
Samantha Jones-Thomas, B.S.N.
Marvin Weisbord
Tanya Stewart

All directors are volunteers and, once elected, serve for an indefinite duration.

Contact Us

Phone: 215.951.0300
Email: info@rhd.org
Web: www.rhd.org
Mail: 4700 Wissahickon Ave., Suite 126
Philadelphia PA 19144-4248

MyRHD is published quarterly, mailed to supporters, donors and government officials. It is meant to inform about RHD's activities, innovations and successes in the more than 160 human-services programs it operates throughout the country. If you wish to unsubscribe to MyRHD, please email info@rhd.org or write us at the address above.

How you can help

More than 27,000 people each year gain the support and encouragement they need to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities through RHD's many human-services programs. Their milestones and successes, large and small, are made possible through the generosity of people like you.

Whether it's a child in need of a winter coat, a single mother trying to escape a life of abuse, or a man with autism whose life is about to change when he is given that first paintbrush, your contribution will help create a brighter future for these men, women, and children who just need a chance to develop their full potential.

Make this winter season a special one for those who are working toward better lives.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send a check or visit us at www.rhd.org to donate online.

Change lives, families and communities for the better. Help Resources for Human Development help people in need help themselves.



RHD's Equal Dollars Community Currency helps Philadelphia families put food on the table by transforming vacant lots into thriving urban farms

On a warm night in July, members of RHD's Equal Dollars community gathered for a celebratory barbecue on what was once a vacant, abandoned lot in North Philadelphia that has now been transformed into a vibrant, cultivated urban farm that provides produce for area families.

It's truly a weeds to riches tale. "Food is such a basic human need; it's our existence," said Benson Ansell, one of the farm's managers. "In April this was just a vacant lot full of weeds. You were not going to have a community gathering here four months ago. In four months it has turned into a space people can rally around, a positive haven. To see all these people inside here enjoying themselves, it's jaw dropping. It's a great thing."

Equal Dollars Community Currency, a non-interest bearing local currency that promotes the exchange of goods, services and labor through a membership network, is the driving force behind this piece of urban renewal. One of the ways Equal Dollars promotes economic activity is through its weekly food market, which offers fresh fruits, vegetables and groceries in exchange for the community currency. Equal Dollars Director Deneene Brockington said the idea to create an urban farm emerged when she realized that the market needed to become self-sufficient by having another source of food other than the donations it currently receives.

"If we had no donations, our food market would close," said Brockington. "We needed to focus on how Equal Dollars could expand by growing its own produce. The whole idea is getting in at the beginning of the supply chain."

An RHD employee had access to a 14,000 square foot vacant lot in the city. It had been abandoned for more than 20 years and belonged to a church.

"In the very beginning the whole place was just wild plants," said Tim McCullough, one of the farm's three managers, smiling over a plate of farm-grown vegetables.

With the help of the community, the lot was fully weeded, mowed, and tilled, using manual tools. Wheelbarrows were used to transport more than 70 tons of soil to create 40 raised beds for effective planting.

"If we didn't have raised beds, we'd have to deal with a lot more weeding," farm manager Dusty Hinz said. "We placed black tarp under the beds to prevent weeds from growing."

Volunteers were offered Equal Dollars gratuities, to be used at the Equal Dollars food market to purchase fresh produce or a number of other services available on the Equal Dollars online trading database.



Tilling: Benson Ansell, a farm manager, prepares for planting.

Now, looking at the farm, nobody ever could have guessed that this location was once home to an overgrown, vacant lot. There are neatly organized beds, growing produce such as squash, zucchini, beans, melons, cantaloupe, collared greens, and okra.

"The food that comes from the farm is only available for Equal Dollars only," said Brockington. "We don't want U.S. dollars for this produce."

"People have found new ways of seeing value in Equal Dollars," said Ben Kincaid, an Equal Dollars employee, "It's really about reaching out to individual members, getting them engaged."

On Saturdays, children come to the farm to learn about farming and play educational games. Community members volunteer to help maintain the farm. Some members of the neighborhood have even been assigned to specific growing beds that they cultivate on their own, feeling a sense of pride in their work.

Farm managers and volunteers harvest on Mondays and Thursdays. On Thursdays all harvested produce stays at the lot and is sold from a stand there.

"It is just another way to add value to the system, and shows what can be done when you discover the ways we can use community currency," said Brockington.

In Philadelphia, which McCullough described as a "food desert" encapsulated by fast food chains, urban farming provides healthy produce in an area where it is typically difficult to secure.

Said Ansell, beaming over a plate laden with ribs, hot dogs, fruit, and vegetables: "I just want to say how thankful I am to have the opportunity to do this, to have the resources of RHD and all the great people we have, thankful for all the food and the fortune we've had so far."



Clearing the way: Equal Dollars volunteer Julicia helps clear the vacant lot.

GAME

from front page

"What he wants, and what he's achieving, is to regain a sense of a productive life. Erik remembers his childhood, where he lived at home and had dinner with his family and played baseball. And that's juxtaposed in his head with how it is now. That's hard, sometimes, because he struggles to gain the skills he needs to recapture some parts of life before the onset of his issues. So we do everything we can to support him so that he feels like he's back in control of his life again."

RHD project manager Ifeanyi McClain found a league that is available specifically for athletes with physical, mental or behavioral challenges.

Practicing in the yard behind Erik's house, the staff was confident that he could physically handle playing. He's strong and fast, and he can run, catch and throw.

"We knew there would be some challenges," McClain said. "Erik, when he first came to us, would occasionally exhibit self-injurious behavior. And we were talking about putting a bat in his hands. But he wanted it so much that, as a staff, all we talked about was how we could make it work."

A key element of Erik's progression was his ability to alert his staff and describe how he was feeling — good or bad.

"When Erik gained the awareness and the ability to tell us when he was beginning to de-compensate, when he was starting to feel aggressive, that opened up a lot for him," Allen said.

For Erik's first game, several RHD staffers arrived to support him, with safety equipment in tow. But they found that the sheer joy of playing, of regaining that piece of his life, so buoyed Erik that most of it was unnecessary.

"He puts that uniform on and he just lights up," McClain said. "He tracks on the calendar when the games are, and he really looks forward to game day. He's so happy that he gets to play. One of the things we worried about is that Erik doesn't always like to wait his turn; he kind of wants things when he wants them. And baseball involves a lot of waiting; you're waiting for your spot in the order, you're waiting for your team's turn to hit. And he's great — he knows when he's due up, and he just waits for his spot while other people hit. He knows the game."

Erik arrives early to the game, wearing as always his White Sox cap ("I like the White Sox!" he said). He's playing for the Mt. Juliet Challengers, and wears number 16.

"I like being on the field," Erik says, beaming. "I like playing; I can do it. I like to hit."

Asked if he hits for power or average, Erik says: "Power!" McClain, who works closest with Erik and attends many of the games, adds that Erik likes it best when he hits the ball and sees it go a long way, and Erik smiles and says: "Yeeeeeeeah!"

"Erik feels like he's had a lot of things stripped away from him because of his illness, and one of them was playing baseball, which he loved," said Erik's father, Russ. "RHD was a big part of him being able to play again, and it makes him happy. He's doing something that makes him feel good, and confident, and he feels like it's given him back a big part of his life."

"For his mom, Sara, and me, the highlight of our week is



In the swing of things: Erik, a power hitter at heart, takes his cuts at the plate. Erik plays third base and second base in the field, and bats cleanup.

seeing Erik play again, and doing something that makes him feel accepted and happy. For us, that's it."

Erik's line drive finds the gap and keeps rolling. He's running hard now, head down, rounding second — and then his head pops up, a big smile on his face as he approaches third. The third base coach is waving him in, but it's not clear if Erik even sees him; he cuts the bag hard with his left foot and heads for home.

His last stride reaches out and stomps the plate hard. He's hit a home run. Erik keeps running toward the dugout, easing up, and he approaches McClain. Erik reaches up and cracks McClain's hand with a joyous high five. As he reaches the dugout Erik comes to stop and puts his hands on his hips. He smiles, and exhales.



Kenneth Kauffman | photo

Heading for home: Erik runs the bases for the Mt. Juliet Challengers on his local field in Nashville.

FaSST

from front page

that. I'm glad I met him." FaST/Connections is a behavioral health care unit that engages individuals with histories of mental health problems and/or substance abuse, providing linkages to various services such as mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, housing referrals and legal services, as well as counseling and consultation with FaST/Connections and shelter staff. Resources coordinators work to provide advocacy, ongoing support, and empowerment to people working to break the cycle of homelessness.

This year representatives from FaST/Connections were invited to present its innovative approach to targeted case management at the National Case Management Conference in California.

"Our population is very specific," said Owen Camuso, FaST/Connections program specialist. "We're kind of the entry level into the mental health case management system. We do a lot of engagement and trust building; when someone is coming off the streets, trust is a huge thing."

"We go out and physically talk to somebody to say: We're going to be right beside you. We use a lot of non-traditional approaches to case management and work with more of a harm reduction approach."

FaST/Connections began in 2003 in three shelters, working with 30 consumers and today serves upwards of 500 individuals in six single shelters and seven family shelters.

"We're embedded in the shelter system, but not part of the shelter system," said Ann Ryan, FaST/Connections director. "That's important, because sometimes people just need a friendly voice."

"A really unique part of our service is continuity of care, where we follow someone outside of shelter and help them integrate into the community, find and establish natural resources for them, re-connect them with family, teach them to use public transportation. We tell our staff — work yourself gradually out of a job. We want to get people to the point where they don't need us."

Resource coordinator Alpha Burke said the program's reputation often precedes her when she introduces herself to potential clients.

"Our credibility is very important to us," Burke said. "I go places and hear people say: Oh, you're FaSST, OK. They trust what we're saying is true."

Earl took advantage of FaST/Connections to go back to school and find his own housing.

"It is a good program," Earl said. "If I come here, and I need anything done, they'll actually help do it for me or they give me the resources so that I can do it myself. I benefit from them by listening to them and doing what they ask me to do. I benefit from them a lot."

"Today I can say that I'm living independently on my own, from taking suggestions from them instead of doing things on my own. When I was doing things on my own, I was slipping and messing up and it really wasn't working. They really helped me a lot. I've graduated from school, thanks to them. I'm glad they were here and I'm glad I gave them a chance, and trusted them."

from front page

kitchen to serve others at My Brother's Table.

"The days are different when RHD is here," said Sue Ellen Woodcock, the manager at the soup kitchen. "The people we serve pick up on the fact that people with intellectual disabilities are serving them lunch, and it really has an impact. They see there are other people who struggle, too, and they can see the smiles on their faces and they see the way they're working. I think it's made people feel differently about their own challenges."

All RHD programs place a premium on community interaction. Clients don't just participate in services in the community, they are active members of the community. But with this unique volunteer opportunity, RHD Boston's individuals have the experience of giving back, empowering them as community members.

"The first time I went, it made me so sad I wanted to cry," Mike said. "The people there are homeless, and they're hungry. But then I felt so good because I could help them. It made me feel good to help people who are in need."

Once a month, Marina Gans, a manager of three group homes at RHD Boston, gathers everyone who wants to go and volunteers at the lunch shift at My Brother's Table — and everybody wants to go. It began as Gans' project in RHD's Leadership Development Program, which provides continuing education for career advancement and prepares employees to be better leaders.

"I always really wanted a project where our folks were recognized for the abilities and not their disabilities," Gans said. "I wanted a project where they could give back. I knew it would be challenging, but I knew they could do it and I thought they'd get a lot out of it. We bring a lot of different people with different challenges, and they participate in the program in any way they can. People with disabilities are told all the time: 'You can't.' Well, no — you can. We believe that people can."

Each day more than 100 hungry people come through the doors at My Brother's Table and lunch has to be ready. The staff at the kitchen does not accommodate the RHD group just to be nice; they have an often-hectic day to get through and volunteers there have to pull their weight. The individuals who volunteer are always on time, they work to clean and prepare the dining room, they make sure everyone gets fed, they finish every task on schedule to the satisfaction of Bud, the chef. Woodcock looks on at the bustling activity and says: "If you volunteer here, you have to be able to do the job. And I'll tell you what, I've never had any complaints about this group. Not one. They're really good."

Individuals who stay with the project, volunteering at least three times, get T-shirts created at RHD Boston's Outside the Lines art studio. They can customize the shirts to say anything they like, and wear their shirts with pride.

"It's not just that they're going to do this and have fun — although they do, and that's important," Gans said. "They're helping feed people who are hungry. They get so much out of it because they're the ones helping others and that's an empowering position to be in. It's hard work, but they just light up when they do it. They rise above and beyond for this kitchen. Every time we're leaving I always feel pretty beat, but they're always smiling. The first time we did it, everyone asked me: 'When can I go again?'"

The first time Gans took clients to the soup kitchen, only a handful agreed to go. Now she averages 12-15 clients and staff who prepare and serve a variety of meals. They've become more accomplished in the kitchen as each client finds tasks they enjoy and works to get better at them.

"We started making peanut butter and jelly," Gans said. "Now we're up to pot roast."

With 30 minutes before the doors open, the kitchen is buzzing. Robert and Michael playfully chide group home manager Fabiola Louis-Disla about her inability to keep up with them, Mike cautions his group to be careful opening up bags of rice ("Let's not have an accident here!") and site manager Sam Scribner carries a tray through all the people in the kitchen and shouts: "Hot soup! Coming through!"

James — who has worked in a kitchen before and eagerly lent his experience — expertly chops vegetables and slices turkey. Nancy is finishing a tray of sandwiches as someone asks her how she's doing and she flashes a thumbs up and says: "Hundred percent!"

Gans gets the cafeteria line in order and hands out the assignments: "You're on sandwiches; you're on soup; you're on coffee..." Everyone assembles as the doors open. Denise is in a wheelchair and she moves to the head of the cafeteria line. She's the greeter, counting each diner to help keep track of how much food they'll need through the day. The people moving through the line thank her on their way out, and she says: "Have a great day!"

"Everyone is so nice," Denise says.

Someone observes that people usually are nice when you're helping them, and Denise says: "I like that I can be the one who's helping other people."

After lunch, the crew cleans up and wraps the leftovers. Robert and Michael bus the tables and stack the chairs. Mike approaches Sue, a little tentative, but there's something he wants to ask. He overheard the diners talking about the holidays. He asks if he can come back, on his own, and volunteer on Thanksgiving.



"I felt so good because I could help them. It made me feel good to help people in need."

Mike, an RHD client



Serving others: RHD Boston clients and staff volunteering at My Brother's Table (clockwise, from bottom left): Robert and RHD cluster manager Marina Gans make sandwiches, James chops vegetables, Denise greets every diner in line, Mike and Nancy unload donated food for the soup kitchen, Robert hands a diner a cup of soup, Mike washes silverware, RHD clients and staff work the lunch line. At bottom, RHD volunteers, from left: Michael, site manager Sam Scribner, Robert, cluster manager Marina Gans, Robert, Denise, James, Nancy, caregiver Nirva Faleise, administrative assistant Jen Sateriale, cluster manager Fabiola Louis-Disla and Mike.



Kenneth Kauffman | photos

Remembering our past, but looking forward

Longtime friend and RHD board member Dr. Edward Robinson left lessons and examples for us to follow



Bob Fishman, founder and CEO of Resources for Human Development

Resources for Human Development lost Dr. Edward W. Robinson, one of our longtime board members and great friends, this summer. I was honored to speak at his funeral. I told the story of speaking with Dr. Robinson at his bedside; he was very ill then and we feared the worst. As I sat with him, he said to me: "Remember our history. Never forget it. It's what makes us what we are."

Dr. Robinson always fought to remind people of our history; it was a large part of his life's work. But he used that not to cling to the past, but to inform us as we made our way into an often-uncertain future. For a man who did so much work on history, Dr. Robinson was one of the most forward-thinking and forward-looking persons it was our pleasure to know.

Dr. Edward W. Robinson Jr. was an attorney, historian, author and professor. He headed the Philadelphia School District Committee on African and African-American studies and coauthored *The World of Africans and Afro-Americans* and *Journey of the Songhai People*, which are still part of the curriculum of several schools.

In all his work, Dr. Robinson tried to effect a positive change of attitude toward the ancestral value of people of African descent by showcasing the beauty, grandeur and sophistication of ancient Egypt and the Songhai Empire.

We're honored that he believed in our work at RHD and wanted to be a part of it. We were fortunate to be able to work with him as long as we did.

In memory of Dr. Robinson, we're doing a number of things at RHD. Among them is naming one of our conference rooms for him. The Dr. Edward Robinson room will reside right next to the Dr. Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King room. As our own Richelle Gunter, RHD corporate associate director, put it: "The RHD neighborhood is getting gentrified."

Also in keeping with Dr. Robinson's legacy, we've made the decision as a corporation not to celebrate Columbus Day next year, but to mark the day as "Indigenous People's Day."

The corporation is taking this position not to oppose Columbus, the Queen of Spain, the Catholic Church, or Italian-Americans who enjoy celebrating the holiday, but rather because we stand against the abuse of power. We are not rejecting these institutions; we are celebrating a different kind of human behavior. We are celebrating our basic humanity.

We know that most people have the capacity to value, honor and nourish those who are different from them. At RHD, that's our celebration. We don't want to focus on the negative behaviors in human beings, we want to focus on the capacity of human beings to care for each other, to celebrate the positive elements in our communities, our children, our parents and ourselves. We celebrate the values that guide us.

These are just some of the projects we're starting and actions we're taking in memory of Dr. Robinson. If you'd like to make a donation in Dr. Robinson's name to help us in our mission, you can use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or donate on our website.

While we lament the loss of Dr. Robinson, what sustains is that across the country, every day, we are doing work for people of all abilities that always made him proud.



Valued: Dr. Edward Robinson at RHD's Values Day in 2008, sitting with CEO Bob Fishman (L) and enjoying a skit performed by RHD clients on stage, with Fishman and RHD board president Bertram Wolfson.



RHD's New Jersey programs, staff and clients fight to recover



Hurricane Sandy didn't dampen spirits or services

To donate to RHD's Hurricane Sandy Relief and Recovery Fund, please visit www.rhd.org or use the enclosed envelope, or scan this QR code

Mary Anderson, a life skills specialist at RHD's Ocean County Residential Intensive Support Team, was nearly flooded out of her house by Hurricane Sandy. In tears she related to coworkers what awaited her at home, when she'd try to bail out her basement and save what she could, with the bay creeping up her driveway. But the first thing she did the day she returned to work was to purchase a space heater for one of her clients who'd regained electricity but didn't have heat.

"Her neighborhood was in ruins, she'd lost so much that couldn't be replaced – and she's thinking about a space heater because it was going to be cold that night," said Stacy Olsen, RHD Ocean County RIST director. "Her clients were still her first priority."

RHD's New Jersey programs were devastated by Hurricane Sandy. But in the face of disaster, RHD staff worked through difficult and sometimes perilous conditions to make sure their clients were cared for and received services with no interruption – even as their own homes and possessions were washed away.

"People really stepped up – and stepped up to a level I didn't know existed," Olsen said. "I always knew I had great staff, but they really went above and beyond."

"It was unbelievable. Nobody said: I can't."

RHD works to make sure programs have detailed disaster preparedness plans. And the staff in New Jersey was as prepared as possible as Hurricane Sandy bore down on the East Coast in late October. When the superstorm hit on October 29, they were ready.

"We had to evacuate some consumers, and we were able to move everybody," Olsen said. "We were prepared with a week's worth of food, meds, batteries, everything. We did last-minute rounds to make sure everybody was OK. It was the days following, when we were without power for weeks, when it got really challenging."

Even as some of the staff lost their homes, everyone reported to work, coming through in emergency shifts. Because the schools were closed, staff brought their children to work – and RIST set up the conference room as a sort of day care center. Working without power, computers or email, staff communicated by cell phone when they could or simply left post-it notes for each other. Staffers who lived far enough away to reach perishable groceries like milk or produce – unavailable on the coast for long stretches after the storm – purchased groceries where they could and drove them in.

When the gas shortage threatened to cripple the staff's ability to travel around the county to care for their clients, Peer Specialist Zakit Levine (who lost everything in the flood) and

Administrative Assistant Tammi Burton took the initiative to meet at the office at 11 pm and drive RHD cars to the gas stations because they knew the lines were shorter late at night.

"We created a distribution site for our consumers, staff moved in with each other, we just figured it out as we went," Olsen said. "We'd just gotten power back a week after the hurricane when we got seven inches of snow and everybody lost power again. We were about down to our last matchstick. I just thought: OK, well, locusts are next, I suppose..."

Still staff made sure that every one of RHD's clients had a coat and winter clothes, got their medications, were safe at all times, and always had power and heat.

"The resilience of our consumers in the face of this was remarkable," Olsen said. "We had one client who had candles and one who had matches, and they were just going: 'We're good.' Everybody really worked together to get through it."

RHD has set up a Hurricane Sandy Relief and Recovery fund to aid clients, programs and staff affected by the storm. You can donate on our website at www.rhd.org



Under water: This photo shows the view from RHD's Ocean County RIST offices, looking back toward the street. Despite difficult circumstances, staff worked to make sure clients were safe and their care was uninterrupted.

RHD MAKING HEADLINES

For these stories and more news about RHD's innovative programs around the country serving people of all abilities, please visit the media center at www.rhd.org.

Dorothy Harrell, chair of RHD's Family Practice & Counseling Network advisory committee, honored with 2012 Community Ambassador Award

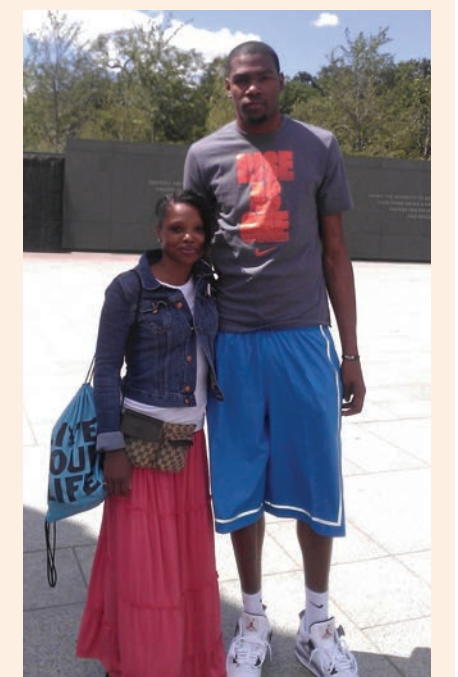
Dorothy Harrell, the chair of RHD's Family Practice and Counseling Network advisory committee and a key player in bringing the nurse-managed health center to her community, won the 2012 APEX Community Ambassador Award. Presented by the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, the Community Ambassador Award honors an individual who champions the community health center mission through a steadfast commitment to build relationships, enact change, and promote awareness and bring positive attention to their health center.

"I call Dorothy the godmother of the health center," said Donna Torrisi, who founded FPCN in 1992 and remains the network's executive director.

RHD's One Step Away, Philly's street newspaper, cosponsors first homeless film festival

"Homeless Has a Name," the first film festival spotlighting the international plight of homelessness, was October 16 at the Painted Bride Art Center in Philadelphia. Followed by a speakers panel of experts, the festival worked to dispel stereotypes and bring attention to the stories of people experiencing homelessness.

"At One Step Away, we strive to put a face on the issue of homelessness, and show that there are no 'homeless people' – there are just people who are struggling to survive this national crisis, and they are our sons and daughters, our parents, our friends, our fellow citizens," said One Step Away Editor Kevin Roberts. "This festival accomplishes that in a unique way, and we're honored to be a part of it."



Tall order: RHD's Aging Out Youth program was on a field trip to the Martin Luther King Memorial in Washington D.C. when they bumped into NBA superstar Kevin Durant. Durant spoke with the clients, offering words of encouragement, and posed for pictures.

Dr. Robinson remembered as author, historian and mentor

Author, historian, filmmaker and longtime RHD board member Dr. Edward W. Robinson, Jr. passed away June 13. He was 94.

Born in 1918 and raised in Philadelphia, he received degrees from Virginia State College for Negroes in Petersburg, Va., and Temple University Law School. After serving honorably in World War II in the U.S. Army, he went on to become the first African American to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Dr. Robinson also served as Pennsylvania's executive secretary, executive director of the city's Minority Business Council, and became co-owner of the Provident Home Industrial Mutual Life Insurance Company.

At the time of his death, Dr. Robinson was working on a movie titled *Whispers of the Medallion*. It would have been the latest in a long line of books and films produced by Dr. Robinson, including *Journey of the Songhai People*, *The World of Africans and Afro-Americans*, and the historical album *Black Rhapsody*. Dr. Robinson and his wife, Harriette, coauthored the book *'Twas the*

Night Before Kwanzaa.

Much of Dr. Robinson's life's work was dedicated to correcting misperceptions of, and raising the consciousness of, the African American community through a thorough re-telling of its history and ancestral value.

He was featured on the premiere edition DVD of *The 21st Century Underground Railroad*, created by Dr. Jackie Mayfield and produced by Bob Lott. He produced four motion picture scripts, all of which are dramatic stories based in the ancient Songhai Empire.

In 2004 worked with the Philadelphia Public School District to introduce an emphasis on African studies into the curriculum.

In a ceremony at RHD in which CEO Bob Fishman announced plans to dedicate a "Dr. Edward Robinson" room, Dr. Robinson was remembered for his leadership, spirit and dedication to the community.

"Dr. Robinson was a great teacher, mentor and friend," Fishman said. "He will not be replaced, but the example he set will continue to be followed."

Award-winning speech

Danny, a client at RHD's Crossroads Community Services in Stroudsburg, Pa., brought the crowd at Values Day to its feet with a rousing speech after he received the 2012 Barbara Foust Award. The Foust Award is given annually to an RHD client who demonstrates exceptional courage, creativity and spirit. Danny, a peer specialist at Crossroads Community Services, is in his second battle with cancer and is known for his heart, sense of humor and positive outlook. Quoting the old saying "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink," Danny told the crowd to take responsibility for recovery, ending with the exhortation: "Drink your water!"



Kenneth Kauffman | photo



4700 Wissahickon Ave., Suite 126
Philadelphia PA 19144

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 299
PRINCETON, NJ

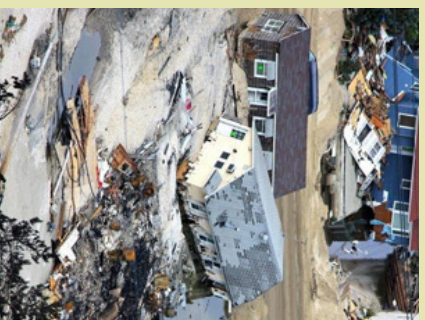
In this edition ...



1 RHD Boston clients give back to the community by volunteering

About Resources for Human Development

A national human services nonprofit founded in 1970, Resources for Human Development serves tens of thousands of people of all abilities every year with caring, effective and innovative programs addressing intellectual and developmental disabilities, behavioral health, homelessness, addiction recovery and more. In partnership with local governments and those we serve, RHD builds better lives, families and communities.



7 In New Jersey, RHD recovers from Sandy



2 Equal Dollars urban farming a weeds to riches tale

Plus more ...

1 Erik's love of baseball gets him back in the game, with an assist from RHD Nashville

