

Top of the Line is going online & social.

In an effort to be timely and efficient in communicating the important work and events of Penn-Mar, all future newsletters will be coming to your email.

Provide us with your updated e-mail address to ensure you stay connected.

Like us on facebook 
facebook.com/penn-mar
to see how we transform life into living everyday!



OUR MISSION

The mission of Penn-Mar Human Services is to transform life into living for individuals with disabilities, families, our staff, and volunteers.



EVERYONE *Can Make* CHOICES

Everyone deserves the opportunity to make their own choices, regardless of their disabilities. Corrina Elliot, Program Instructor at Penn-Mar's Discovery Program in Maryland, helps those individuals who need a voice to express themselves and to choose what they want to do and how they want to live. This is the most important part of what I do," she says.

Corrina concentrates on helping the men and women we support master basic knowledge and skills to make vocational training more effective. She also focuses on establishing good communications to achieve a better evaluation of the choices available to them. According to Corrina, "Sometimes we have some challenges in establishing this kind of understanding, but it's always worth the extra effort. It makes all the difference between just surviving and thriving."

As a recipient of the Penn-Mar P.R.I.D.E. Award, Corrina's colleagues have seen how her commitment and passion helps individuals in the Discovery Program succeed. It's this kind of

enthusiasm that led her to take a major role in training new Day Program staff to work in the Discovery Program.

"Helping individuals with intellectual disabilities will help them make better choices throughout their lives and help them grow," says Corrina. "Each day I come to work, there is the potential for establishing or improving this kind of contact with another person. This is why I consider all I do at Penn-Mar much more than a job. It didn't take long for me to know I had found my calling and career."



Corrina Elliot – Penn-Mar P.R.I.D.E. Award recipient

Renovation Project Provides Greater Sense of Well-being for Penn-Mar Men and Women

A major renovation of our Maryland Line bathroom facilities was recently completed to help us perform safer transfers and monitor the health of the adults we serve thanks to a grant from the France-Merrick Foundation.

The facilities were no longer adequate to meet the needs of a changing and aging population of men and women, especially to accommodate larger, self-propelled wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices. The new facilities accommodate this equipment and provide a greater degree of privacy and convenience to the adults Penn-Mar supports.



This project presented some real challenges. "Undertaking a major renovation project in the middle of the Day Program at Maryland Line required creative scheduling and logistics," according to Will Cambley, Director of Facilities. "We knew we had to conduct our work with minimal disruption to the essential program activity taking place in this location every day."

"Day Program staff worked together to manage the needs of all the men and women we support and anticipate elements of the project that might be the cause of anxiety," according to Sarah Willey, Manager of the Maryland Day Program.

Our staff worked closely with the contractors to keep noise levels to a minimum whenever possible. They were accommodating and sympathetic to our needs and worked on weekends and after hours.

We can't thank the France-Merrick Foundation enough for helping us achieve improvements to our physical environment and a greater sense of individual well-being.

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**A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT:
NEW PROGRAM TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION
TO OUR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS**

At Penn-Mar Human Services we are embarking on a very exciting initiative we are calling our Career Ladders Program. This initiative will require a significant investment in assuring our Direct Support Professionals (DSP) have the opportunity to advance their careers, and ultimately promote the highest quality of life for the individuals they have been called to support.

For many DSPs, career advancement has only been attainable with promotions. While advancement can be positive, it usually involves staff becoming more removed from the individuals we serve, which can also involve a series of skills that are quite different from the hands on experiences that have allowed staff to thrive in the first place. To put it another way, there are many people who are skilled and gifted to work directly with the individuals we support at Penn-Mar, and we believe there is a way for them to stay in the role of direct support without having to give up on career advancement.

A way for this to happen is through our Career Ladders Program. Penn-Mar has partnered with the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals to administer this program, which provides three levels of certification. The training is nationally certified and will focus on 15 core competencies in the provision of direct support.

The career ladders process will allow many of our staff to increase their earning potential as they grow professionally and meet our mission of Transforming Life into Living. We are very excited about this innovative opportunity and are also very thankful for those donors who have invested in a different way, through their financial resources. This has allowed us to secure more than \$150,000 to make the first year of this program a reality.

We will begin with an inaugural class of 26 employees who will complete the first level of certification by engaging in at least 100 hours of advanced training and completing a portfolio whereby the new skills they have developed have been put into practice at Penn-Mar. All participants will have a mentor committed to helping them succeed and when they have completed the process, each staff member will carry a national certification. We believe this is an investment that will achieve remarkable and worthwhile results. After all, what is more important than investing in a preferred future and a transformed life?

Thanks

Gregory T. Miller

Gregory T. Miller



Upcoming Events



SYCBA Fit for a Cause

**Saturday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m.
at Summit Grove Camp,
140 South Front Street, New Freedom, PA**

Walk/Run/Ride your bike on the York County Heritage Rail Trail. This event raises money for nonprofits in southern York County.

There is a timed 5K run, walk or 10 mile bike ride for all ages. Please visit www.penn-mar.org/sycba/ for more details and to register for the event. Early bird registrants receive a free t-shirt and race day goodie bag. Please contact Casey Herrmann cherrmann@penn-mar.org or 410-343-1069 x292 with any questions.



**25th Annual
Black Tie Gala**

**Saturday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m.
at the Hunt Valley Inn,
A Wyndham Grand Resort**

Enjoy an evening of fine dining, music, dancing and 90+ rated wines from around the world.



Future Focus

**Monday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m.
at Penn-Mar, 310 Old Freeland Road,
Freeland, MD.**

What does the future hold for your child with special needs? Spend an evening with other parents and experts and create a vision for your child and begin the plan to achieve it.



Save The Date!

25TH ANNUAL PENN-MAR
BLACK TIE GALA
2017

Saturday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m.
at the Hunt Valley Inn, A Wyndham Grand Resort