

New Program to Launch at ROI

The Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research (GLC) Intensive Residential Treatment Program is designed to help adolescents whose challenging behavior prevents them from being safe in the home and community. While in the program, adolescents take part in intensive behavioral treatment, but how the treatment is continued when the individual graduates from the program is just as important as the treatment itself. The individual's success is based on the caregiver's extensive training on their treatment plan, clinical oversight by outpatient Behavior Analysts, and close coordination with the educational system. For some individuals, this level of support is not available, or other barriers exist that prevent them from returning home. To meet those needs the **Elaine Avenue Program** was created.

When an individual graduates from the GLC Intensive Residential Treatment Program and if returning home is not an immediate option, the **Elaine Avenue Program** offers a transition. This step-down program can serve up to six individuals who have successfully met their treatment plan goals during their stay at GLC. The **Elaine Avenue Program** allows an individual to experience an environment that resembles a typical family home setting, and allows them to build upon their existing skills.

The Elaine Avenue Program provides:

- A community based home for teenagers with developmental disabilities
- Increased opportunities to gain valuable life skills
- Individualized treatment plans
- Professional staff to guide and support an individual's success
- Expanded opportunities for caregiver training
- A supportive environment that partners with individuals and families affected by autism, to improve their quality-of-life through effective and efficient diagnosis, assessment, and behaviorally-based treatments.

And what's more, the **Elaine Avenue Program** is hiring! If you think this sounds like the perfect fit for you or someone you know, apply online today at <http://www.residentialopportunities.org/join-our-team>.

The position description for entry level staff is listed below:

Skill Building Technician

Full and part-time positions to provide support services to adolescents and young adults with autism. Duties include: implementing behavioral interventions; providing personal and/or medical assistance as needed; and teaching and role modeling appropriate behaviors and daily living skills. Evening, overnight, and weekend shifts available.



Join us on Saturday, October 20 from 1-3 pm at 9616 Portage Road for the 6th annual Trunk or Treat for children with autism and developmental disabilities. In addition to treats, there will be animals from AACORN Farm, face painting, balloon twisting, appearances by local mascots, and prizes for Best Costume and Most Creative Trunk. Volunteers are needed to help set-up and assist with the event, decorate trunks and hand out treats. For more information, call the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research at 269.250.8200 or Darci Stevens at 269.250.8292.

2018

CEO NOTES

I Have Lost Another Friend and Mentor



Board of Directors

Jim Rodbard
President

Mike Raphelson
Vice-President

Dawnanne Hinman
Treasurer

Kahler Schuemann
Secretary

Sue Valentine
Past President

Members

Jonathan Baker

George Bridges

Robin Ipema

Grace Lubwama

Tammy Mills

Terry Morrow

Jennifer Nemecek

Price Pullins

Dave Schnelker

Dawn Sylvester

I came to know Jud Knapper when he was recruited to serve on the ROI Board of Directors. Having grown up elsewhere, I didn't know about his clothing stores or his involvement with Bronson Hospital or the Kalamazoo Kiwanis Club or The Fountains at Bronson Place or the United Way or Community Advocates or... the list is really long.

It seemed that everyone knew Jud and he knew everyone. That's what happens when you spend your life in one place, and when everyone buys their clothes at your store. He had customers from the time they were small children until they were well into adulthood. And he knew them all by name, based upon the stories I've heard.

Jud was a doer, and he had a passion for helping others who needed assistance, especially children - but really everyone. That passion at one point led him to ROI, so that is what I can talk about with some clarity. He became President of our Board, recruited others who were also impactful to be on our Board, and eventually even recruited his son to join the ROI Board. His contacts in the community and the State were always helpful. He was a great fundraiser and an even better friend raiser.

When I met Jud, he was a realtor and he worked across the market. He helped families buy their first small home, where they could start their family, and he helped families of means buy their more significant dream house. Again, his passion was to help people, instead of to make a buck and that allowed him to work with everyone. As a realtor, Jud led ROI into the development of affordable housing. Collectively, we saw people with disabilities unable to afford the rent of even the most basic housing. Working with Jud, we were able to attain grants to buy houses and start to create some of that housing for those with very few resources.

Of course, Jud was always well dressed and typically wore one of his numerous ties that was hand-painted, and had children represented on it. When I went to his funeral, each of his grandchildren wore one of those ties. For some reason, that spoke more clearly about his life than anything anyone said at the funeral.

Not only did I lose a friend and mentor, our community lost a friend and mentor.

Scott Schrum
Chief Executive Officer

ROI holiday cards available soon!

Looking for a great way to support ROI and spread a little holiday cheer? You'll soon be able to purchase your 2018 ROI holiday greeting cards. Hand-designed by individuals served by ROI, the cards will feature designs that are sure to brighten anyone's day during the upcoming holiday season. For more information, contact us at 269.343.3731.



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Residential Opportunities, Inc.

Supporting individuals with disabilities since 1978

Since 1978, Residential Opportunities, Incorporated (ROI) has provided residential and support services in southwest Michigan for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We offer a unique person and family-centered philosophy that creates a strong connection with the community for the individuals we serve. An accredited health and human services non-profit organization, ROI employs more than 400 staff and serves more than 400 adults and children with disabilities through the operation of residential group homes, supported living, affordable rental housing, payee services and autism treatment.



Specialized Residential

Services offered have expanded over the years, but our original service is still at the core of what we do: providing group homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our licensed group homes are designed to help adults with developmental, intellectual and/or physical disabilities live in beautiful home settings, in safe neighborhoods, where they can enjoy the community, receive assistance with day-to-day needs, and build relationships with their peers. Whether we are coordinating medical appointments, teaching an individual new skills, or providing transportation to a sporting event, we are here to serve. The typical individual we serve is someone who needs 24-hour staffing support, and benefits from the structure and personal support that a licensed setting provides.



Supported Living Alternatives

In ROI's Supported Living Alternatives (SLA) program, individuals with intellectual and development disabilities live more independently within the community and in the homes they choose to own or rent. Trained, qualified ROI staff provide assistance where needed to ensure the greatest degree of independence possible. Whether providing medication, assisting with a bath, arranging a doctor's appointment, or helping with simple housework, ROI's staff are there to help. ROI's SLA program is well-known for its level of quality, safety, and compassion. ROI staff are more than just people who 'stop by,' we are well-trained, direct support professionals.



Affordable Rental Housing

Finding safe, affordable housing can be a daunting task for low-income households and individuals with disabilities. Our rental housing consists primarily of apartment communities throughout Kalamazoo County, located in clean, safe, quiet residential neighborhoods with easy access to public transportation. Individuals and families with modest incomes may be eligible for our rental housing. Some of our apartments are reserved for individuals with disabilities or families with very low income as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We strive for inclusive communities that welcome people from all backgrounds.



Representative Payee

For most people, paying bills and maintaining a budget is a necessary inconvenience. For some, especially people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, addictions or mental illness, it may be a huge barrier to the necessities and comforts of life. Representative Payees help overcome this barrier. Representative Payees help individuals create a budget that works with the money they receive each month and helps ensure they are compliant with government regulations. Our Representative Payee services are audited by an independent CPA and the Social Security Administration. ROI's Representative Payees manage the finances of over 200 people, helping individuals and their families every day. Responsible budgeting and timely payments means fewer worries and more peace of mind.



Independence Fund

To fulfill our vision of being recognized as the regional provider of choice for people with disabilities and a model of excellence for improving quality-of-life outcomes, ROI created the Independence Fund. The Independence Fund offers financial assistance for items individuals may not be able to afford that will enrich their quality of life, such as medical co-pays, prescription assistance, dental care, eyeglasses, YMCA memberships, athletic and concert tickets, community activities (dining out, movies, bowling), furniture, clothing, personal care items, and much more. The Independence Fund is made possible through community donations and has allowed hundreds of individuals to meet their dreams, goals and desires.



Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research

Established in 2012, the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research (GLC) provides intensive and outpatient services for children with autism and other neuro-developmental disabilities. GLC collaborates closely with WMU's Department of Psychology and uses evidence-based Applied Behavior Analysis treatments to help children from the age of diagnosis to age 21 reach their full potential. Children receiving treatment through the intensive residential treatment program live at GLC in Portage, MI and typically stay for 8 to 24 months to reduce challenging behaviors, learn appropriate social behaviors, and improve communication skills. Outpatient services, including Applied Behavior Analysis therapy and assessment are provided to children at our Autism Centers. Children attend for 10-40 hours a week and focus on developing skills needed to be successful in school, at home, and in the community. The Heersma Outpatient Clinic is also located at our Portage location. In 2015, we opened the Joanne and John Lawrence Autism Center (LAC) in Galesburg, MI. LAC is an expansion of our outpatient services so we can continue our mission to partner with individuals and families affected by autism to improve their quality of life through effective and efficient diagnosis, and behaviorally-based treatment.



Three Rivers Autism Program

The Three Rivers Autism Program (TRAC) is located inside the Barrows Education Center at 416 Washington Street in Three Rivers, MI. TRAC serves children from earliest diagnosis to young adulthood. Comprehensive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services are individualized, and include 1-on-1 sessions, group activities, and mastering of daily routines.

WISH LIST

- Kid-sized clothes
 - Boys- 10-18- M-XL
- Adult sized clothes
 - Boys- XS-M
 - Girls- L-XL tops, L-XL bottoms, 8-12 jeans/pants
- Art supplies
 - Paint and brushes
 - Colored paper
 - Markers
 - Child size Scissors
 - Glue sticks
 - Pre-academic books
 - Foam stickers
 - Popsicle sticks
 - Paint smocks
 - Stringing beads and thick string
 - Pipe Cleaners
 - Tissue Paper
 - Coloring books
- Farm, zoo, jungle animal sets
- Squishy non-fabric toys
- Outdoor play equipment - kick balls, cones, Frisbee
- Action figures/dolls/Barbie's
- Puzzles (wooden inset puzzles and large piece puzzles)
- Musical toys and pop-up toys
- Light ball - <https://amzn.to/2Npq1KO>
- Play Tunnel
- Mardi Gras Beads
- Children's Books
- Board games
- Play-Doh
- Jumbo blocks
- Sparkly bouncy balls
- Light up wand
- Fidget toys
- Hula hoops
- Hot Wheel cars
- Hot Wheel race tracks
- Early Learner cause and effect toys
- A-Frame Swing

Please drop-off items to Darci Stevens at 9616 Portage Road or call 269.250.8200 for more information.



2018 YOUTH HOCKEY FIGHTS FOR KIDS WITH AUTISM

We are happy to announce that \$11,051 was raised during the 6th annual Youth Hockey fights for Kids with Autism event. These funds will be used to purchase program supplies for children served by Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research (GLC) and to assist families who demonstrate a financial need for autism services.

Special thanks go out to the event sponsors including Wings Stadium Management, Southwest Michigan High School Hockey League, Kalamazoo Optimist Hockey Association, DTE Energy, Consumers Energy, Miller Johnson, Taplin Group, Horizon Bank, and all the team challenge sponsors. Additionally, Burdick's provided a pizza party for the high school that raised the most funds during the game. Our thanks go out to Burdick's for their generous ongoing partnership!



Scott Schrum (Chief Executive Officer at ROI), Frank Noonan (SWMHSHL Commissioner), Dennis McKee (Consumers Energy), Jeana Koerber (Clinical Director, GLC), Darci Stevens (Director of Business Development, GLC), Stephanie Dukesherer (KOHA Director of Marketing and Communications), Dianne Shaffer (KOHA President) and Jim Rodbard (ROI Board President) reveal the "big check" at the celebration at Arcadia Brewing Company at the close of the campaign.



STAFF PROFILE

The Opportunity to Make a Difference

Travis and Ben Padget at the Portage Road group home.

By Ben Padget, Program Coordinator, Portage Road

In my early twenties, I was in a band that played out-of-town shows and I needed a job that would accommodate my touring schedule. Since ROI operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, I figured I could work there around the band's schedule. I had several friends who were already employed at ROI, and they recommended it as a 'good gig' for someone like me. So, I applied and was hired! As time went by, I realized a future career in music was not in the cards for me. However, my work at ROI was satisfying and rewarding, and I was promoted to Program Coordinator at Portage Road group home six years after being hired, a position I still hold today.

I had little experience working with people with disabilities when I started at ROI, but that changed as I built relationships with the individuals we serve. The determination, perseverance, and sense of humor I've seen in the individuals we serve shines through in daily interactions. Each day, I become more impressed by the people we serve at ROI. I now have the honor of knowing individuals with disabilities who have become wonderful role models to me. For example, one individual at Portage Road has cerebral palsy, but despite his many challenges, he is happy and laughs easily. Despite his illnesses, his ability to brush off what comes his way and put it all aside in favor of a joke or a laugh is truly inspiring!

The physical nature of the house has changed over the years. When I came to Portage Road, some of the people we serve had to share bedrooms, and there wasn't much living room space. This resulted in some difficult times for the adults who lived there. But, through advocacy efforts and the help of ROI's Directors team, we found a way to renovate the house affordably. We changed the floor plan and created more living space, which allowed each individual to have their own bedroom. That created an immediate impact on quality-of-life outcomes!

More recently, Portage Road welcomed a few new residents. These individuals (both of them graduates of the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research), brought with them their own unique personalities and challenges. Yet, the staff at Portage Road did a wonderful job helping them adjust to their new home and assisting them in their transition.

Portage Road serves as home for individuals whose family members participate regularly in their lives. It also serves as a place of safety and security for a few individuals who have had guardianship replaced by the court system. No matter a person's background, history, or relationships, we provide a welcoming, caring, and respectful environment for those who come through our door. At Portage Road, ROI's Core Values are our guiding principles, and we do our best to live by them.

Prior to my first day at ROI, I never imagined the job I applied for (because of the flexible hours) would ultimately become a calling for me. And now, 21 years later, that's exactly what it became. When I think about all the challenges and triumphs I've experienced at ROI, the best thing about working here is the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.





Residential Opportunities, Inc.
1100 S. Rose St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KALAMAZOO, MI
PERMIT # 313

Mission

ROI partners with children and adults with disabilities and their families so they may live more meaningful, healthy, and independent lives in their homes and communities.

Vision

ROI will be recognized as the regional provider of choice for people with disabilities and a model of excellence for improving quality-of-life outcomes.

p: 269.343.3731 | f: 269.343.2940

www.residentialopportunities.org
www.autismtreatmentresearch.org



MAKE AN IMPACT with Planned Giving

Through planned giving, you can create a lasting impact on your community and make a difference for future generations to come. Contact Dana DeLuca at 269.250.8234 for more information.

Donate online at www.residentialopportunities.org/how-help