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\*Relative has autism

Dear Friends of Bittersweet,

2011 is a year of progress and collaboration. Read below for more about our exciting year.

- The Art of Autism: A one day forum on advancing awareness of adults with autism, will be offered on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. It is sponsored by Bittersweet, Inc., The University of Toledo Center for Excellence in Autism and the Junior League of Toledo. Registration is required.
- Academy: The three-day Bittersweet Academy continues to attract professionals from all over the world. In September guests came from Italy, California, Connecticut, Michigan and Ohio (see picture below).
- Pesto Project: Bittersweet is a proud partner with the Junior League of Toledo and the Northwest Ohio Cooperative Kitchen (NOCK) in producing a pesto product for sale in the community. The basil is grown right here on the farm in Whitehouse with day program participants planting, weeding, nurturing, and harvesting the basil. Bittersweet staff and participants, along with members of the Junior League, meet at NOCK and process the basil into pesto. Watch for this pesto product in stores in 2012.
- House renovation: The co-op, one of the original buildings at Bittersweet Farms, was updated and renovated including the kitchen, dining room, laundry room, and rest room. A handicap accessible entrance was added, also. Bittersweet worked with Lucas County Commissioners who supported the project.
- Recreational program: We started a community recreational program at Bittersweet Pemberville through funding from The Toledo Community Foundation.
- Van: A new modified minivan will be added to Bittersweet's fleet of vehicles thanks to the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments and ODOT's Office of Transit. The van will be used to transport residents and day participants to doctor appointments, for vocational opportunities and to community events.
- Technology: We worked with a technology expert who specializes in non profits to develop a plan on how to update our technology to better carry out Bittersweet's mission.
- Day habilitation: We started an adult habilitation program at Bittersweet Pemberville and at Betty's Farm in Lima. These day programs run Monday through Friday.
- Art sales: Sauder Village in Archbold and Carruth Studios in Waterville both sell art pieces created by Bittersweet artists.

The annual fund campaign is in progress so you should be receiving a letter shortly. Please know that your gift makes a lasting impact on the Bittersweet community. Your donation stays within Bittersweet, meeting the needs of adolescents and adults with autism. Please be generous. With your help, the staff and board will continue to work to improve the lives of those we serve.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. I look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to email me at vobee@bittersweetfarms.org.

Sincerely,

Vicki



Vicki welcomes Paolo, our guest from Italy.

The mission of Bittersweet, Inc. is to positively impact the lives of individuals with autism and those whose lives they touch.



Bittersweet, Inc.  
12660 Archbold-Whitehouse Road  
Whitehouse, OH 43571  
419-875-6986  
www.bittersweetfarms.org



Patra Smilo works on glass pieces with Matt Paskiet of Firenation Glass Studio and Gallery. Matt came to Bittersweet for two weeks as part of the Ohio Art Council's Artist in Residence program.



Glass pieces made by Bittersweet artists.



## Calendar of Events

- November 12 - The Art of Autism, Toledo-Lucas County Library, 9 am - 2 pm. Registration Required.
- November 12 - Annual Doug McCabe Memorial Benefit Dance, 7 pm, American Legion Post #232, Proceeds to benefit Sons of the American Legion Post #232 functions and local charities
- November 17 - Bittersweet Autism Foundation Board Meeting
- November 19 - Family Update Meeting, 10 am - 12 noon.
- November 24 - 25 Day Program closed for Thanksgiving break
- December 1 - Bittersweet, Inc. Board Meeting
- December 1-22 - Holiday Sale, Mon-Fri, from 10 am - 4:30 pm, administration office. Shop at Bittersweet Farms for the holidays. One-of-a-kind items for sale from the art studio, wood shop, horticulture therapy and fresh cookies from the Bittersweet bakery.
- December 2 - Consulting Tour. Registration Required.
- December 2-4 - Bittersweet artists will be participating in Heralding the Holidays at The Toledo Botanical Gardens. Artwork for sale includes ceramics, wood crafts, paintings, fiber art, sculpture and more.
- December 23 - January 2, 2012 - Day Program closed for holiday break
- January 26, 2012 - Bittersweet, Inc. Board Meeting
- February 9, 2012 - Bittersweet Autism Foundation Board Meeting
- February 23, 2012 - Bittersweet, Inc. Board Meeting
- March 22, 2012 - Bittersweet, Inc. Annual Meeting



Beth Meyer with her ski instructor.



Thank you Lucas County!



Holiday sale is coming up!



Volunteers from Kennametal help to install fencing around the pasture.



Larry enjoys summer camp.

### Join us November 12th for The Art of Autism Conference

The Art of Autism is a one day conference on advancing awareness of adults with autism. The conference is being held on Saturday, November 12th from 9 am until 2 pm at the Toledo-Lucas County Library, McMaster Center. Attendees will discover how the use of multimedia art enhances communication. The conference is sponsored by Bittersweet, Inc., The University of Toledo Center for Excellence in Autism and Junior League of Toledo. Please visit the Upcoming Events section on the website (www.bittersweetfarms.org) for more information, a copy of the conference pamphlet and to register online.

### Bittersweet Spectrum E-Newsletter

In 2012 we will be starting an email newsletter. Those who subscribe by December 31st will receive a free magnet made by Bittersweet artists. Please visit our website, click on Contact and click on the link to subscribe.



Staff and participants enjoy dinner together during Friday Night Fun at Pemberville. Friday Night Fun evenings are made possible in part by a grant from The Toledo Community Foundation.



Tom Weigel keeps a watchful eye on the campfire during Friday Night Fun at Pemberville.

### Bittersweet DSP's attend event

The second annual Ohio Direct Support Professionals recognition event, *Sing! Shout! Get the Word Out!* coordinated by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) was held Sept. 15, at the Xenos complex in Columbus. This event was planned in coordination with National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, first declared by the U.S. Senate in 2008. This celebration recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities, and in supporting the needs that may reach beyond the capabilities of families.

Stacey Krohn, a member of the OADSP & Kate Graber accompanied a group of DSP's that included Rose Barkhimer, Alanna Sindlinger, Dane Glassford, Abby Cowan and Ieasha Duffy. Special guest speaker Joe Macbeth, executive director of the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, acknowledged the hard work and dedication it takes to provide support and personally thanked everyone. We would like to shout out a big "Thank You!!" to all of our Direct Support Professionals who not only continue to support and accomplish Bittersweet's mission, but most importantly positively impact the lives of those we serve.



Pictured front row: Dane Glassford, Alanna Sindlinger, Kate Graber, Rose Barkhimer. Back row: Stacey Krohn, Abby Cowan, "Elvis Presley", Ieasha Duffy.

## Horticulture Project

This year we offered the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program to the public and sold 40 shares. Bittersweet participants packed boxes of fresh produce weekly, April through early November. Based on member feedback people have been pleased with the freshness, quantity and variety of the produce and seem to enjoy the overall experience. The plan is to run it again next year. Look in the News section of the Bittersweet website for more information about purchasing a CSA share for the 2012 season. The CSA program allows many of our participants to see the meaning in the work they do here at Bittersweet and to contribute positively to the community.



Basil growing in the hoop house.



## Pesto Project

Bittersweet Farms and the Junior League of Toledo are proud partners on a pesto product, made with basil grown in the hoop houses at Bittersweet Farms. Shown here are JLT members, Lynn Guitteau and Allison Deckelman, who are assisting Bittersweet staff and residents in preparing

the pesto. The photograph is taken at the Northwest Ohio Cooperative Kitchen, a non-profit commercial kitchen designed to assist entrepreneurial efforts.

## Annual Fund

The annual fund benefits the programs and services of Bittersweet Farms, Bittersweet Pemberville, and Betty's Farm in Lima. Contributions to the annual fund support the expenses of the specialized programming that Bittersweet provides. Please know how much Bittersweet counts on your donation. Expect to see your annual fund letter in the mail soon! Thank you for your support. If you have questions, please contact us at 419 875 6986, ext. 1241 or email [annualfund@bittersweetfarms.org](mailto:annualfund@bittersweetfarms.org).

## Donations and Memorials

Bittersweet, Inc. recognizes the following individuals who generously donated between August 1, 2010 and July 31, 2011. On behalf of the individuals Bittersweet serves, we thank you for your support.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Abbey  
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Estate of Rita M. Hepfinger

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Combined Federal Campaign of NW Ohio  
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Jamie Cummins serving pizza to residents and staff compliments of John J. Barone II from Rosie's Restaurant.



Daniel Everett with one of his favorite friends.



Playing cards at Betty's Farm in Lima during the evening program.

## Bittersweet Advocates for Autism

B.A.A., the corporate partners of Bittersweet, Inc., play a vital role in the programs offered to residents and day participants. Contributions from B.A.A. members purchase farming and horticulture supplies, art materials, sports equipment, games, and help to support special outings. If you are interested in becoming a member of B.A.A., please use the enrollment form on this page, or join online by going to [www.bittersweetfarms.org](http://www.bittersweetfarms.org), click on *Ways to Give* then *Corporate Sponsors*. For more information, contact Julie Horns at 419 -875-6986 ext. 1236 or [mtilkins@bittersweetfarms.org](mailto:mtilkins@bittersweetfarms.org). Current BAA members are listed inside.

### Platinum (\$3,000 or more)

- Recognition in the newsletter, the annual report, the annual meeting program book and the website.
- Invitations to special events
- Framed certificate designating your organization as a Platinum Sponsor
- Free tour, lunch and program for 4 individuals
- Gift of a handmade art piece

### Gold (\$1,000 - \$2,999)

- Recognition in the newsletter, the annual report, the annual meeting program book and the website.
- Invitations to special events
- Framed certificate designating your company as a Gold Sponsor

### Silver (\$250 - \$999)

- Recognition in the newsletter, the annual report, the annual meeting program book and the website.
- Invitations to special events
- Framed certificate designating your company as a Silver Sponsor

### Enrollment Form

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: \_\_\_\_\_ Check made out to Bittersweet, Inc.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bill my \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_