



# WALL RESIDENCES

## THE WRITING ON THE WALL

### Going Green! Wall Residences, LLC Moves Office to New Facility

*by Jack Wall and Kamala Bauers*

On September 30th, 2008, Wall Residences celebrated an important milestone – the first day for business in our new office building. Located in Floyd County, Virginia at 718 Franklin Pike, the building’s unique and beautiful architecture has been drawing attention since beginning construction in late fall of 2007. The building will be

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certified by the United States Green Building Council – a prestigious certification only achieved by a few buildings in Southwest Virginia. Green features include a very tight and energy efficient building with fresh air intakes through a heat exchange system to dramatically reduce energy lose, full use of energy efficient lighting (mostly CFL and LED lighting), 82 Photo voltaic solar panels to produce most of the energy needs for the building, two solar thermal panels to heat water, day lighting to naturally brighten interior spaces from 24 light tubes, 12 geothermal wells to heat and cool the building,



rainwater collection systems for non potable water uses and many uses of recycled and local materials that can be safely recycled back into the environment.

The Solar Tubes capture light through a dome on the roof and channel it down through an internal reflective channel. This reflective tubing is far more efficient than a traditional drywall skylight shaft, which can lose over half of the potential light. The tubing fits between rafters and requires no structural modification. At the ceiling level, a diffuser resembling a recessed light fixture spreads the light evenly throughout the interior of the room.

Geothermal technology uses the earth’s renewable energy, just below the surface, to heat or cool a building, and to help provide hot water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said they are, “the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean, and cost-effective space conditioning systems available today.” The system burns no fossil fuel to produce heat; it generates far less green-house gas emissions than a conventional furnace, and completely eliminates a potential source of poisonous carbon monoxide within our building.

All of the rainwater from the roof is collected into an 8000 gallon cistern under the building. This rainwater is used

to flush toilets, irrigate landscaping around the property, supply water for a water sculpture on the patio deck and to wash agency or staff vehicles. The rainwater collection system was engineered by Rainwater Management Solutions out of Salem, Virginia.

Many of the materials for the building are made of recycled content, or are made from materials created locally. For example, the kitchen counter top is made from recycled concrete and aggregate stones dredged from the nearby New River. Carpet and ceramic tiles are made from recycled materials. Local woods or other products from nearby are used wherever possible.

A recycling committee has already been formed, and the office staff is not only looking forward to this beautiful new working environment, but to doing their part to promote sustainability and recycling. The kitchen will be fully stocked with dishes, glasses, silverware, reusable storage containers and cloth napkins; no Styrofoam or other throwaway products will be used in the building. Even takeout food will be picked up with reusable containers through agreements with local restaurants whenever possible. Cleaning for the building will be provided by some of the clients of the Wall Residences agency. These individuals with intellectual disabilities are already working at the nearby Hotel Floyd and are glad to pick up some additional cleaning work in this new building.

The building houses nine offices, a conference room with a table hand-crafted in Floyd by Phoenix Hardwoods, reception, kitchen and storage areas. A separate room for organizing and storing recyclable products is in the basement. Bathrooms include a shower area for staff that bicycle or walk to work and want to shower after arriving. We included a bicycle rack at the front of the building for safe placement of worker bicycles. Behind the building is a landscaped courtyard area, with beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. In the future we have plans for improved bicycling and walking trails in the area to enhance the safety and convenience of bicycling and walking commuters.

All of the office staff for Wall Residences live in the Floyd area. We hire nearby people to support our local economy and to reduce the pattern of people driving long distances to get to work. In addition to saving fuel and pollution, a nearby workforce is more reliable and less stressed from driving long distances to get to work. We also have facilities at this office for teleconferencing and video conferencing to allow off site people to participate in meetings electronically. An open house for the public to learn more about this interesting building is scheduled for November 7th, 2008. All of our clients, providers and business associates are welcome to come by at any business hour to look around or get a tour of the building.

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## Danville Northstar

Crisis / Respite Care Service  
Place for socialization/ meetings/ activity center

*by Kamala Bauers*

About two and a half years ago, Wall Residences purchased an historic home in Danville to create a space to provide respite/crisis services. Historic renovation is a slow and painstaking process, but the home is now complete and the results are beautiful. The two-story building has a three-bedroom, two-bath fully-furnished apartment upstairs, with large meeting rooms and a functional kitchen/bath downstairs. The apartment will be used for the respite/crisis service and the downstairs will be used to provide meeting space for functions.

The respite/crisis services will be made available to our providers throughout the state, but would likely be mostly used by Danville/Lynchburg providers when the people they support experience a behavioral crisis or they just want to schedule some break time. Our intention is to prevent unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations for people who can be redirected with a change of support staff and scenery. We have some work to do with locating and training staff, but it is hoped that this service will be licensed and operational soon.

Some of the uses for the space downstairs are regional provider meetings, drop in/activities for groups of individuals we support with similar interests, and special events. We will be developing a self advocate support group for individuals with disabilities in the Danville region who will be provided office space in this location at no charge.

# WRLLC Friends in Winchester Enjoy Craft Club

by Lana Hurt

Every other week, a small group of friends receiving services in Winchester get together to enjoy creating crafts and to socialize.

Kristine Turner (Hurt hourly staff) and Robert Hurt are co-owners of Plan Bee & Beads and the facilitators of this group. Plan Bee and Beads is a local bead shop and children's party service.



The Club started in June of this year and has been meeting regularly ever since. Some of the projects participants have enjoyed working on include tie-died pillow cases, mosaic art, painting on canvasses, and creating beaded bracelets. Participants were shy together at first, but now interact with one another actively and well. It's a fun group that everyone enjoys.

The most popular participant in the Club is Kristine's rescued dachshund, Minnie. One person in particular begins every session with Minnie on his lap. The group would not be the same without Minnie!

In the future, participants look forward to sponsoring their own art show including Christmas gifts.

# Paving the Way for a Brighter Tomorrow

by Kelly Connoley-Phillips

Romeo C. lives in Staunton with several friends and his support provider, Vickie Smith. Romeo has developed a new interest and special talent – he is making glass and tile garden pavers. Originally introduced by purchasing a kit, Romeo had such success and enjoyment from creating the pavers that Vickie decided to help him expand the business by purchasing mortar and tile from local hardware/tile stores. Romeo was assisted to use the money he made from the first few sales to purchase supplies, including additional molds. The business is in approximately its 6th month, and going strong.

Each paver features a custom cut glass and tile design. Romeo is assisted to use a tile cutter and mix the mortar to assemble his pavers. At only \$10.00 per paver, the price is more than fair. Vickie proudly displays several of Romeo's creations in the beautiful gardens at their home. So far, Romeo has sold around 15 pavers. Romeo uses the extra money after paying for supplies to purchase items that he wants. The pavers have been seen in Vickie's gardens by several people, prompting orders and subsequent sales. If you would like to purchase one of these beautiful works of garden art, please contact Wall Residences at [editor@wallresidences.com](mailto:editor@wallresidences.com); for more information.



# Wall Residences Congratulates College of Direct Support Graduates!

The following individuals are graduates from the College of Direct Support; Special congratulations to Amanda McKenzie, a Back-Up Worker for Rita Childress, who is the winner of the \$100.00 prize!

Debra Alverson	Larry Hatcher	Debbie Melton
Amanda Anders	Jeanette Hayes	Mary Moats
Lanny Bean	Dennis Henderson	Laonna Moretz
Laureen Blakemore	Robin Hilderbrand	Donald Nester
Michael Blakemore	Jennifer Hitchcock	Bruce Norconk
Kathy Blatt	Victoria Hitchcock	Rhonda Norconk
Ashley Bryant	Annabelle Horton	Fay Ordell
Tammie Bryant	Charles Johnson	Ananda Perdue
Yolanda Chandler	Cristina Johnson	Lisa Perry
Lillie Childress	Russell Johnson	Sarah Perry
Rita Childress	Sandra Johnson	Scott Perry
LaGathial Clark	Patricia Jones	Jamie Reygle
Tim Clarke	Brandy Kerr	James Smith
Deborah Cooper	Rebecca Kerr	Vickie Smith
Patricia Cumbie	Rhonda Kestner	Teresa Snider
Evelyn Distelhurst	Kevin Kishpaugh	Kathy Spangler
William Distelhurst	Sheila Kishpaugh	Karen Sprouse
Phoebe Dodds	Sandra Koeppl	Stella Trudel
Anita Drinkard	Naomi Kohen	LaQuanta Tunstall
Marie Elkins	Larra Koiner	Michael VanDerVeer
Sandra Eure	Jeffery Lester	Gary Waggy
Catherine Fendley	Mary Lester	Martha Waggy
Eric Fendley	Carl Manuel	Susan Waggy
Brandi Fix	Joyce Manuel	Michael Ware
Ann Garrett	Ladetra Martin	Pat Ware
Amanda Goad	Sandra Maybush	Christina White
Laura Gunter	Nancy Mayo	Penny Whitesell
Lisa Guy	Mary McCormick	Shirley Wilbers
Patricia Guy	Pauline Jane McDaniel	Nathan Wilkins
Terri Guy	Scott McDorman	
Vera Hailey	Amanda McKenzie	
Barbara Hatcher	Deborah Meador	

**Orientation Session - Richmond**  
**November 22, 2008**  
**10:00 am to 3:00 pm**  
**Location to be Determined**

Do you have experience working with adults with support needs? Do you have a home that could be shared with a person having long term mental illness, developmental or physical disabilities? We are always on the lookout for new potential providers to join our growing family.

Please contact Stacy Bishop at 540.745.4216, ext 4006 to register.

Additional details can be found at our website under the Orientation Sessions tab.



[www.wallresidences.com](http://www.wallresidences.com)

540.745.4216

540.745.5367 (fax)

## Letter from the Director

by Jack Wall

Kamala and I have been attending several state meetings this past month. Some of this is to market our services and some to learn about the latest activity in the state. Referrals to our services have been slower than expected this year. We are not the only ones frustrated by this situation. Much money has been appropriated by the government to support new services but due to bottlenecks within the system, the money is not getting allocated to start these services. The good thing is that communication on the problem is now occurring and improved action is likely. We apologize to those of our providers who have been waiting a long time for the right referral. We hope to have better news soon.

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We saw that another agency is claiming to have the best professional staff. This is not true. Wall Residences has the best program management, office staff and family providers anywhere in Virginia. Not only are these people the best from an individual qualification perspective but when you take into account the teamwork capability of our personnel then they shine even brighter. We now have 17 program managers allowing us to keep case loads very low. We recently had a two day training retreat with our program managers to build skills and coordination of services. With the size and strength of our personnel, we are now able to specialize some of the functions to better serve our family providers. For example, Alex Jackson has now been promoted to a Program Manager Coordinator position to assist Gail Dutchess in this important leadership role. In addition to his other roles, Alex will be taking more responsibility to facilitate referrals being placed across service regions. Congratulations to Alex and our other professional staff and providers for a job well done.



We live in a time of instability for our financial markets and potentially for our whole economy. Whatever calamity may be before us, one thing is certain: energy, food and material costs are going up. With a billion new people to be added to our planet in the next 12 years and global warming an increasing threat to our planet, we must be prepared to be more economical in our use of all natural resources.

As you will see from articles in the rest of this “Going Green” newsletter, Wall Residences has been preparing for years to provide more energy efficient services. The two buildings we just opened in Floyd and Danville are well insulated and have modern, energy efficient heating, cooling and lighting systems. The cars we use for employees are selected for fuel efficiency and since our program managers work from home, we save substantial amounts of fuel every year. The 75 acres of property we own behind our new Floyd office building is being developed as a sustainable residential agricultural community called Floyd Eco Village. In addition, our work with Malawi Mission is dedicated to helping their country to develop a sustainable economy.

Floyd Eco Village is going to be an intentional community with the goal to be a net zero user of non renewable energy and to have a zero carbon footprint. To accomplish this we will focus on energy efficiency and the use a variety of renewable energy sources. Solar, wind, geothermal and biofuels are all in the plans. 50 acres of the site are set aside for organic gardens, green houses, forests and for the production of biofuels. Community owned buildings will provide for commercial kitchen and dining spaces, childcare, central laundry, recreational facilities, workshop space and a garage for community-owned electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles to be charged by solar panels at the site. More information about our plans will be available at the Wall Residences office building open house in November.

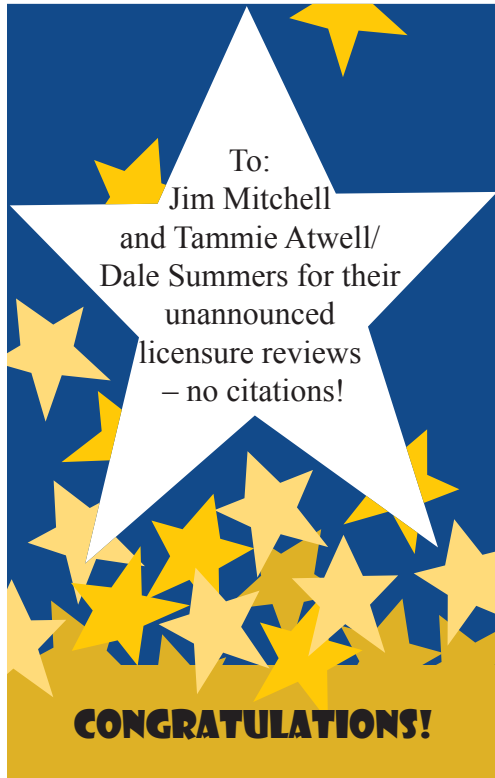
Malawi Mission is a charitable, multid denominational, church led organization in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi, Africa. This new and expanding organization is moving beyond charity to a strategy of investment in their country to create jobs and opportunity. On one of the two organizational trip to Malawi this year we had an architect and a professor from Virginia Tech along to explore multiple development opportunities for the people of this country. Many exciting projects are in the discussion phase. More information about these ideas will come later. Please consider joining us on one of our guided trips to Malawi next year. The cost is about \$3500 per person which covers all expenses for a two week trip.



Be aware that the severe downturn in the economy has resulted in a \$3 Billion state government deficit. This is a challenge more difficult than has been experienced during recent recessions and could result in temporary rate cuts to our services. We all need to be aware of the gravity of the situation and be prepared. It is also a good time to pay extra attention to the many blessings we have each day and work to reach out to help others who are more severely hurt by these difficult times.

## Search for providers in Harrisonburg

As Wall Residences continues to expand throughout the state of Virginia, we are now exploring the Harrisonburg area in search of providers who would be able to offer quality residential support services in their homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or mental illness. If you or someone you know has experience working with these individuals and are interested in learning more, please contact Annie Tanverdi at 540-451-1171.



On September 22nd and 23rd, Wall Residences held our annual Program Manager retreat. After several productive meetings, the group was given a tour of the new office building and we were lucky enough to get a photo of everyone together!

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Save a tree! To receive this newsletter online, please send a note to the editor at [editor@wallresidences.com](mailto:editor@wallresidences.com)

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### **YOU ARE INVITED:**

Open House For  
Wall Residences, LLC  
New Office Building  
November 7th, 2008  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
718 Franklin Pike  
Floyd, VA