

## Monthly

### March 2016

#### This month...

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## We Care...We Listen...We Help

### **Barry Haber**



**Director of Development** 

### A Word from our Director

One of the components of the Development Program at CFS is our Direct Mail Appeal. These letters are usually mailed in April, September and at year-end, so donors can get one more tax deduction. Where ever I have worked over the years, I have tried to get an individual who has benefited from the programs and services provided by each organization to write the letter, because no one can tell their story better than the person or parent who has directly been impacted. I would not even begin to attempt to write these letters because I have not walked in their shoes. I mostly ask parents to tell their story. And these parents have done an amazing job. You would think that it is not always easy for parents to very publically tell their children's story. But I have been amazed at what these parents express, covering all of the heartache, frustration, renewed optimism and most impressively, strength, all in one letter. These letters take you on a journey through a myriad of emotion. And I will tell you, when I get the first drafts of these letters, sometimes it is hard for me to get through them. But, no matter what these parents have written there is usually a light at the end of the tunnel (or letter in this case).

I thank all of the CFS parents who have answered my call to tell their story. The Direct Mail Program would not be as successful as it has been without them.

So the next time you receive a fundraising letter from CFS, please take the time to read it. And when you do, you will truly understand how this organization has touched the lives of so many.

Sincerely,

Barry

## **Meals on Wheels**

### **Volunteer Spreads Warmth and A Nutritious Meal**



### No Matter What the Weather

Despite bone chilling temperatures, Richard Nolte eagerly donned his coat to deliver hot meals to those in need. To Richard, who participates in the community-based day and residential programs offered at CFS, his work is vital to those he serves.

With a friendly smile and a quick step, he visits four to five homes, three times a week and serves up nutritious meals and companionship since 2007. (left) Rob Pullan, Meals on Wheels Coordinator, hands Richard Nolte, a volunteer from The Center for Family Support, the meals that he will deliver that day. Meals on Wheels, with the help of volunteers like Richard, delivers meals to over 100 people in need each day. The program is housed in the SAGE Eldercare facility in Summit, NJ.

At his side, is CFS Program Instructor, Patricia Addison, who has helped Richard for over ten years and she affirms he is a ready and willing volunteer for the Meals on Wheels Program, administered by SAGE Eldercare in Summit. He is a part of 600 volunteers annually who deliver more than 44,000 meals to 234 people in Union County. SAGE, like CFS, promotes independence and quality of life for older adults and has been doing so since 1954. Richard and Patricia were both honored by SAGE in 2010 as December Volunteers of the Month for their dedication to serving those in the community who are homebound and have limited socialization.

"Our partnership with SAGE gives Richard a meaningful volunteer experience and helps them help those in need in the community," explained Executive Director, Steven Vernikoff. "Diagnosed at a young age with mild cognitive impairments, Richard, now a senior citizen, has spent his life serving others. At CFS, we are constantly looking for ways to bring our Day Program participants out into the community so they can show others what they are capable of." he continued. The Center for Family Support is a non-profit human services agency that provides support and assistance to individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families in New Jersey and New York. Founded in 1954, CFS operates three Day Programs in NJ and 19 residential sites as well as 26 residential sites throughout the five Boroughs of New York City, and Long Island.

Patricia Addison (bottom right), an instructor for The Center for Family Support, helps Richard Nolte load meals into the van to take to those in need. Nolte has been volunteering for this program for over 10 years and enjoys delivering these nutritious meals to those who are less fortunate or homebound. We support over 1500 individuals in both the NYC Metropolitan area and New Jersey.

We support individuals to help them live the lives they want, respecting diversity, and individual choice.

We provide families with the support to help them stay together.

We strive to enable individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to become productive members of their community. For more information about The Center for Family Support services, visit their website at www.cfsny.org.



# **Every Dollar You Donate is Important!**

The importance of the contributions we receive cannot be overstated. Whether in good economic times or bad, individuals like you have time and time again stepped up and supported our work.

So many of the individuals and families we serve would thank you if they could.

On their behalf, I thank you for the many vital donations you have provided and express their sincere appreciation for all that you have done.

Your continued help is very much appreciated.

### **The Center for Family Support**



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