

Rainbow Report

www.OTRAssn.org

QUITE THE CELEBRATION!



20th Anniversary Show considered "Best Yet!"

For You Dad!



Nancy and Robert Gustafson

"If you missed the twentieth Celebration concert, you really missed a stellar show", said Celebration veterans and newcomers alike. Ms. Gustafson truly out did herself this year — producing an emotionally-driven entertaining event.

The world class cast was phenomenal, bringing together the talents of vocal professionals Dominic Armstrong, Jonathan Beyer, Nancy Gustafson, Julia Elise Hardin, Paul LaRosa, Richard Leech, Sylvia McNair and Samuel Ramey — all singing their hearts out for Over The Rainbow Association and its mission.

Don and Sue Gustafson agreed to be this year's benefit co-chairs but with Don's passing late this summer, the emotional stage was set and the Rainbow family rallied to ensure the concert was a success. As this year's theme was "the power of family" as stated by Sue

Gustafson, the benefit chairman, the Rainbow family did not let her down.

Despite its extended length this year, concert goers remarked that the show just flew by. Wow, what a show!

Look inside to re-live the evening or see what you missed.

INSIDE

Concert Photos & Stories	2, 3, 4
Giving Opportunities	5
Property News	6
Staff News	6
Business Center News	7



OVER THE RAINBOW ASSOCIATION

PROVIDING HOUSING OPTIONS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
SINCE 1982 FOR ADULTS WITH SEVERE PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

20th Anniversary
Celebration!
*The Holiday Concert to Benefit
 Over The Rainbow Association*



The leadership of co-chairs Don and Sue Gustafson made for a most memorable and awe inspiring evening.



(L-R) Sylvia McNair, Richard Leech, Nancy Gustafson, Paul LaRosa, Matthew Worth, Dominic Armstrong, Julia Elise Hardin, Samuel Ramey, Jonathan Beyer



Leo Kirwan
 Chairman of the Board



Anticipation builds as the crowds gather.

Thank  *You!!!*

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to our generous sponsors!!!






Sharon King, Helen Hicks, Jean Alexander



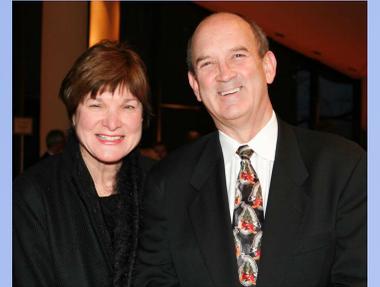
Julia Hardin, Dominic Armstrong, Nancy Gustafson, Matthew Worth



Cookie Rubin, Neil and Rachel Stern



Jeff and Felicia Greenbaum



Tina and Michael Settecase



Mary Ann King, Sue Gustafson, Alex Rose



Nancy & Robert Gustafson,
Julia Hardin, Sylvia McNair, Dominic Armstrong, Jonathan Beyer



Mary Ann King, Linda Simos



Pat and Christopher O' Donnell



Sandy and Walter Herbst



Laura and Jeff Brown



Joe and Freddie Jacob



Peg Thomson & Matt Howard



Dan Laughlin & Colleen Catalano



Anne and Kurt Mueller



Paul LaRosa, Richard Leech, Dominic Armstrong



Sylvia McNair, Richard Leech



Samuel Ramey





(L-R) Richard Leech, Dominic Armstrong, Nancy Gustafson, Julia Elise Hardin, Jonathan Beyer



Roseanne Grundman & Rebecca Davis



(L-R) Matthew Worth, Jonathan Beyer, Paul LaRosa, Dominic Armstrong

What It All Means

By Leo Kirwan

I've often been asked to describe how I came to Over The Rainbow. Well, in 1995, my life was changed in an instant. I was driving down a country road, swerved to miss a deer, and ended up lying upside down in a car with a broken neck & back. I was paralyzed from the chest down. Because my financial condition became worse everyday as my medical expenses mounted, I realized that I would soon face confinement in a state-run nursing home, so I started looking for options.

Over the Rainbow answered my prayers. Over the Rainbow Association is a non-profit that was started by a group of parents in 1974 whose children were physically disabled. Some had cerebral palsy, others had M.S. or were born with spinal cord injuries. All of these kids needed a wheelchair for mobility and/or required some level of assistance to dress and feed themselves. These parents, who were not wealthy, wanted their children to be able to live independently once they grew into adults.

Over the Rainbow's mission, therefore, is to build barrier-free apartments for low income, physically disabled individuals. These apartments are very special. Not only are they all wheelchair accessible, but they provide the economies of scale our tenants require, so they can work together to keep their costs down.

Speaking of costs, do you realize that Over The Rainbow Association's seven apartment communities save the taxpayers of Illinois approximately \$11 million dollars per year? To house a person in a nursing home with all of its ancillary services costs in excess of \$120,000 dollars per person, while housing a person in an Over The Rainbow community costs approximately \$30,000 dollars per person a year. Plus, where would YOU want to live if you were in my wheelchair – your own apartment or an institution?



(L-R) Sonny Nardulli, Donald & Sharon Novelle, Jean Nardulli, Bill & Dale Lewis, Henry & Ellen Criz



Keith Harris, Jane & Harry "Topp" Peterson, Cristy Harris (Seated) Paula & Tony Stephens, Joel Harris, Jeff Elowe



(L-R) Scott & Dawn Harding, Ann Marie & Jim Streibich



George and Beth Elder



John and Lori Twombly



John Schoser & Chris Akins



Bob and Chris Shamberg



Amy and Brian Hand



Joel and Jessie Soloman

Special Thank You to Celebration 20 Benefit Committee Members

Our 20th anniversary Celebration concert, affectionately known as C20, will be remembered in large part because of the hard work of the committee members: **Christine Akins, Nicholas Anaclerio, George Alan, Scott Harding, Keith Harris, Matthew Howard, Kiera Kelly Madden, Mary Ann King, Leo Kirwan, Sonny Nardulli, David Neithercut, Valerie Nora, John Powell, Tina Settecase, and William Sharp.**

We cannot thank these individuals enough for their incredible fundraising efforts that lasted into the final days and hours before the concert. We very much hope that each will consider joining the C21 benefit committee, and that they have inspired others to do the same!

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Be An Opportunity Grant Sponsor!

In addition to affordable, barrier-free housing, OTR wants to continue offering employment and other opportunities to its residents. This aspect of OTR's mission is critical to its overall independent living solution. The Arboretum Business Center, in addition to being a job resource center, offers basic computer skill classes and an in-house work program.

The In-House Work Program, now called the Workforce Development Program, offers paid positions to OTR residents. These positions require the performance of basic office duties such as greeting visitors, answering the phones, assisting with mailings to supporters, and soliciting gift cards by way of letter and phone calls. These in-house job opportunities provide residents with real work experience, confidence in their ability to communicate effectively in a business setting, income, and the overall satisfaction of a job well done.

OTR would like to continue its Workforce Development Program in 2010, but can only do so if it is funded. You can help by being an Opportunity Grant Sponsor. Your donation will be applied to an Opportunity Grant Pool for residents to intern with the Arboretum Business Center's Workforce Development Program. For more information, please contact Tara Moran by email, tmoran@OTRAssn.org, or at (847) 424-5604.

Donate Unused Gift Cards To Our Discounted Gift Card Program

OTR is very proud to announce that just recently the Arboretum Business Center embarked on creating its own revenue stream through the sale of donated gift cards. The revenue generated by these sales subsidizes the business center and its Workforce Development Program, which is discussed above.

Last year over \$87 billion in gift cards were sold in the US, an estimated \$8 billion of which goes unused. OTR wants to take advantage of these unused gift cards, and asks that you consider donating them. We now sell gift cards at a discount on our website and apply the proceeds to the Arboretum Business Center and its Workforce Development Program. To donate, simply visit www.OTRAssn.org and follow the red gift card icons, or contact Tara Moran at (847) 424-5604.

OTR Benefits From Ungaretti & Harris' Casual For A Cause Day

Nicholas Anaclerio, a member of OTR's board of directors and Senior Partner at Ungaretti & Harris, nominated OTR to be the beneficiary of his law firm's community outreach program for the first quarter of 2010. The innovative event for this quarter is Casual for a Cause, which means that if an employee wants to wear jeans to work on one of the three designated days, he or she only needs to contribute to the chosen charity. In January and February, OTR received \$1,175 in contributions from Ungaretti & Harris' employees! We are so grateful and very excited to see what March brings. Thank you, Nick and Ungaretti & Harris, for this generous gift.

Join OTR's Visionary Circle

As part of OTR's 2010 Giving Campaign, we have created a Visionary Circle, consisting of those who have generously committed to a monthly pledge. We ask that you join the Visionary Circle by committing to a donation each month. No amount is too small and would be so welcomed, especially during these incredibly difficult economic times. If you are interested or have any questions, please email Tara Moran at tmoran@OTRAssn.org, or call her at (847) 424-5604.

Join OTR's Legacy Circle

If you are considering any charitable contributions in your estate planning, we would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you or your financial advisors may have about OTR and its needs for the future. Please contact Eric Huffman, our Executive Director, by email, ehuffman@OTRAssn.org or at (847) 328-8140.

Property News

As of January 2010, Over The Rainbow completed its fifth new project, bringing a total of seven apartment communities under management. These apartments offer barrier-free independence for the residents and save the taxpayers of Illinois no less than \$10,800,000 per year compared to institutional alternatives. The apartments are a mix of one and two-bedrooms with open floor plans that far exceed ADA guidelines. Design features include full kitchens and spacious baths with roll-in showers. Living rooms and bedrooms are carpeted. All buildings offer close proximity to a full range of amenities, including shops, restaurants, banks, places of worship, and medical services.



Freeport Senior Housing Opens.

This photo taken in September shows the final phase of construction of the 23-unit barrier-free eldercare building.



Harvard Supportive Housing to Open in February

Northern Point Apartments was named for the northernmost Metra stop, which is just five blocks from the front door. Northern Point's 16 units represent a projected cost savings to taxpayers of \$1.2 million per year. Marketing has begun for this property and our goal is to be fully occupied by April of this year.

Staff News



Candace Huber—Senior Property Manager

Candi joined us this fall as our Senior Property Manager. Candi brings to OTR 20 years of experience in affordable housing for the homeless. She spent time with Lakefront Supportive Housing, and more recently, Mercy Housing Lakefront. Candi has extensive experience in asset management and compliance, and knows property management functions within multiple affordable housing programs. Candi is a Certified Occupancy Specialist, a Certified Financial Manager of Affordable Housing, a Housing Credit Certified Professional, and has certificates in non-profit management and non-profit financial management from North Park University. Candi is also a graduate of the University of Oregon and has a bachelor of arts in psychology.



Mary T. Dorn—Regional Property Manager

Teri joined us last year and is now the Regional Property Manager. With Candi's guidance, Teri handles the management of our communities in Rockford, Freeport, and soon-to-be-opened Harvard. Teri is a Certified Occupancy Specialist as well, and has an extensive nursing background. Before joining OTR, Teri spent several years as a nurse administrative assistant in a medical office.



Mayra Martinez—Property Administrator

Mayra has been with OTR for four years and is now the Property Administrator. Mayra became a Certified Occupancy Specialist during her time at OTR, and works closely with Candi by assisting in the management of our communities in Evanston, Waukegan, and Chicago. Before assuming her role in property management, Mayra was the Supervisor of the Arboretum Business Center.

Hill Arboretum Resident— Now A Published Author

Hill Arboretum Apartment's own Chris Viau is now a published author! *How I Speak to You* is a collection of over 45 poems written by Chris. Throughout his poetry, Chris expresses how he looks at the world through the eyes of someone who has cerebral palsy (CP). Chris also shares with the reader his two-year experience of having to live in a state-run nursing home before finding Over The Rainbow Association.

If you are interested in purchasing *How I Speak to You*, please contact Tara Moran at (847) 424-5604. Chris is now working on his second book.

In addition to being a published author, Chris is a graduate of the Arboretum Business Center's Computer Skills class. Chris attends Oakton Community College and is working toward a degree in computer science. Chris is also very involved in the community. He participates in the United Cerebral Palsy Recreation Club, volunteers at Anixter Center by helping to design the newsletter, and is an active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston. In the spring of 2009, Chris brought Trinity Lutheran Church and OTR together to host a successful fundraiser, An Eastlake Afternoon. Chris did a wonderful job on this event, and we've discovered many new supporters as a result.

Board News

As 2009 came to a close, three of our board members retired from many, many years of dedicated service. Brad Busscher, Ian McPherson, and John Cammelot have contributed countless hours to OTR and its mission. We thank them for their service, and look forward to their continued support, especially on the bike trails of the North Shore's 2010 Rainbow Challenge Tour!

In 2008 and 2009, we welcomed seven new board members. They are Nicholas Anaclerio, Senior Partner with Ungaretti & Harris, LLP's labor and employment and litigation groups; Alasdair Cripps, Senior Managing Director of Mesirow Financial; Daniel Laughlin, former Senior Vice President—Merchandising Officer of Sears Holding Corporation; Roberto Mustacchi, CFO of Travelon; Sonny Nardulli, former President and COO of Black Dot Group; Tina Settecase, Vice President of Marketing for Masco Cabinetry; and Neil Stern, Senior Partner with McMillan Doolittle LLP.

We are so grateful for the addition of these special individuals, all of whom have already contributed tremendously to OTR.

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Robert Sykes
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Systems Support

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James Engelman
Receptionist
Robert Gustafson
Fundraising Associate
Valerie Nora
Fundraising Associate / Receptionist

Candi Huber
Senior Property Manager
Teri Dorn
Regional Property Manager
Mayra Martinez
Property Administrator
Katie Miglore
Social Services Coordinator

Al Dorn
Facility & Maintenance Manager
Jesus Haros
Caretaker
Rick Gordon
Caretaker

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, September 12, 2010



Save the date: Sunday, September 12, 2010 is OTR's 3rd Annual Rainbow Challenge Tour. Clear your schedule and start spreading the word. Riders can choose a 25, 50, 62, or 100 mile course. It's great fun for families too, as the residents host a BBQ and the kids participate in field games behind the Hill Arboretum Apartments.



Our Programs News

Business Center News – Discounted Gift Card Program a Success!



In early December, the Arboretum Business Center introduced its Discounted Gift Card Program and it was a smashing success. Our entire inventory of gift cards was sold out in the first day. A second batch of 16 gift cards was offered the next day and sold out before noon. What's really impressive is that these gift cards were obtained from national retailers and restaurants by our very own residents in the Workforce Development Program. Our residents worked hard to collect the gift cards, which were then offered for sale to the public through our website at a discount of their face value. The program is a "win-win" in that the solicitation of cards provides jobs for our tenants and the buyers of the gift cards are able to save money – up to 20% whenever and wherever they shop or dine. If you are

interested in purchasing these gift cards, simply go to www.OTRAssn.org and follow the red gift card icons. Should you want to donate unused gift cards, please contact Tara Moran by email, tmoran@OTRAssn.org, or (847) 424-5604.



Over The Rainbow Association

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