Banchero Disability Partners empowers adults with developmental disabilities so that they may realize their potential, achieve their goals, and be active and contributing members in their communities.

Together we promote equitable rights.



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www.banchero.org Winter 2020





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## Calendar

Annual Meeting & Holiday Party (Regretfully Canceled)

#### **Board Meetings**

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 5:00p Via Google Meet

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 5:00p Via Google Meet

## Early Warning!

Heart & Soul Auction 50th Anniversary Celebration September 2021 (Pending Gathering Protocols)



## A Day In the Life of Rama and Martha

Since April, long time staff member Rama Mboob has been working a four-day-in-a-row shift each week, followed by three days off. At 96 hours, this is the equivalent of 2.4 full-time jobs! Rama has taken on this challenging schedule, as have several of her colleagues, because it minimizes the number of people our clients encounter each week, thereby reducing their chances of getting COVID-19. This schedule also provides some protection for staff and their loved ones at home. The less people we encounter- even second hand- the safer we all are right now.

Rama is able to cat nap during the night because none of the clients in her three-person cluster need overnight observation. She is on hand and checking in when they need her. We are grateful to all of the staff who have kept the commitment to this difficult schedule, as well as to our donors for helping to make it possible by providing extra funds this year.

# A Day In the Life of Rama and Martha (Continued) Bright and Early:

In the morning, Rama's first check-in is with Martha. Rama is a truly positive and encouraging spirit who spreads sunshine no matter where she goes and in spite of any adversity. Rama's early nudge and indomitable spirit helps Martha have some extra time and a leg up to greet the day. Once Rama and Martha have said their good mornings, Rama heads across the Autumn Ridge apartment complex to greet Lyle and help him to get his breakfast and plan his day. Once Lyle is all set, Rama heads next door to bring some sunshine and breakfast assistance to James Ryan.

Back at Martha's, Rama is both cheerleader and coach while Martha takes her shower, washes her face, fixes a diabetic appropriate breakfast (with some help from Rama) and completes her morning blood sugar checks and medication protocols. Once this routine is accomplished, Rama and Martha head for a walk across the campus to the mailbox, rain or shine. Martha has chronic ankle problems, so she often uses her walker. Whatever the mode of transportation, this long walk is an important part of Martha's diabetic care.

## Later In the Day:

Once the mail is categorized or read, Rama and Martha can have some fun. If there is a ball game to watch, Martha has it on, complete with local team paraphernalia and matching ensemble. If not a



new game, they might rewatch classic ones on YouTube, or even better they might put on some Blues and have a dance in the living room (which is a fun way to get daily steps logged!). This time of year, you might also find them playing and singing along to Christmas tunes.

Martha is an accomplished artist and paints as well as writes poetry. She often paints birds, and currently she is trying to sell her paintings to raise money to bring her other staff back, who she misses terribly (we are helping Martha understand that the staff will be back as soon as we conquer COVID-19!).

Last Sunday was Martha's birthday. As a highly social creature, Martha sorely missed her big party. Instead of the usual celebration, she and Rama baked a (sugar-free) cake and some snacks and dropped them at her friends' front doors (who live in her complex).

### Winding Down:

Come evening time, after Rama has helped with dinner and chores and fun with her other clients, she assists Martha to complete her day. They might straighten up art supplies, make some dinner, make calls to friends and watch a favorite show on TV. Eventually it's time to tuck in and dream sweet dreams of future fun times with friends and loved ones. Rama goes online to chart the happenings of the day in clients' records before getting a few minutes of rest for the next - not so adventurous but at least safe - day.

#### Meanwhile, Back at Rama's Place:

Rama has two lovely girls, one of whom is grown and on her own, while Amy who is 16 is "a very responsible person who tells me everything - communication is key." On Rama's three days off, she and Amy cook meals together to put in the freezer for the coming four days while Rama is away. They make sure to do all of the laundry, and spiff up the house. They call each other often to touch base while Rama is at work, and Amy spends a lot of time online for school and homework since she is college bound.

"I miss my colleagues so much!" says Rama, "Everybody feels like home, we all get along and help each other so much. We had a family thing." Now she waves and chats with coworkers from afar as she crosses their paths at the complex, and they take turns using the office for paperwork. "We all get along and just roll with it!" Thank you to Rama (and Martha) for their positive inspiration that are definitely helping the rest of us to "roll with it".

## **Events & Fundraising**

## **Make Our Season Bright!**

Please consider making an end of year gift in the enclosed envelope or online at www.banchero.org. Our winter campaign is our final fundraiser of the year. Not only does this campaign fund our support services, but additional amounts for "stockings" can be included so that we can purchase gifts and holiday meals for our clients who do not have family support. Thank you in advance for your support of this campaign and for all that you have done for us this year!



Lyle shows off his Christmas tree

# CEDAR GROVE

# Cedar Grove Kept Us Whole with Their Online "Tournament"

Even though we could not play in person, Cedar Grove kindly sponsored an online fundraising week from October 5-9.

Cedar Grove matched all donations up to \$32,000. A much needed total of \$56,000 was raised to support our programs and COVID-19 response efforts!

A *huge thank you* to Cedar Grove for being there for us as always, especially now that we need you the most! And thanks to all of you who gave generously, including the prize donors below:

Each day a random **donor of the day** received a Farm Box of fresh produce from Sound Sustainable Farms (**www.soundsfarms.com**)





**Highest donor** won a gourmet dinner for four at El Gaucho (www.elgaucho.com).

# **Last donation received of any amount** won a pampered overnight stay and

won a pampered overnight stay and \$100 credit for golf or dining at the luxurious Semiahmoo Resort (www.semiahmoo.com).



Thank you to our top 3 corporate donors:







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## **Board & Organizational News**

#### We Are Almost 50!!!

Which not surprisingly makes us want to throw a big old golden anniversary party. We are cautiously optimistic that we might be able to have an indoor/outdoor event in September of 2021. Stay tuned for details, and keep your fingers crossed!



BDP started off as a group home

## A Vaccine Civil Rights Story

40 years ago, the average lifespan for people with developmental disabilities was 35 years of age. They were not given the level of care that others were given, and many died of preventable disease or



from a lack of screening. Routine medications that the rest of the population were given were not afforded to people who had disabilities. People were not even given routine checkups.

About 20 years ago things started to change, and medical care of people with disabilities was added to some medical school curriculum. This change was a result of hard won advocacy and milestone legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. Soon people with disabilities were visible in society, and as neighbors and friends and schoolmates they were seen, heard and valued.

This year we have experienced a global pandemic, with the invention of a vaccine our only hope of getting it under control. The disproportionate COVID-19 death rate of the elderly and people with disabilities in long term care has been taken so seriously that these groups have been prioritized for the first available dosages of the COVID-19 vaccine. People who have disabilities, and the often forgotten people who support them are top priority in 2020. At BDP, we are preparing for the vaccine administration any day now. We are juggling uncertainties, eagerness, fears and logistics. But thankfully, and thanks to civil rights pioneers, our people are no longer being forgotten and their lives are valued.

## **Welcome to New Board Member Lola Taylor!**



We have a truly wonderful board of directors who have guided and supported us through this very tough year. We are thrilled to welcome our newest member Lola Taylor, referred to us by longtime supporter and parent of our client Stephanie, Kathie Davis.

Lola is a behavior support specialist for the

Edmonds School District where she helps the school to deliver a great education to her students that have developmental disabilities and need environmental support. Lola has an outgoing personality which she has parlayed into a long history of event coordinating success. From soccer team fundraisers to professional association luncheons, Lola has made great events happen smoothly. She will be the fundraising chair on our board and we look forward to putting her talents to good use when we can event once again. Welcome Lola!