

# Linwood News

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Quarterly Newsletter | February 2024 |

## Inside Linwood - Quarterly Newsletter

### A message from the Executive Director, Michelle Kilkenny:

I am so grateful to work with such an amazing Linwood Team. A team that includes our students, individuals, staff, and families. I am looking forward to all the opportunities we will create together for our children and adults.



Employment Services continues to search for job and volunteer options. We have explored senior living, hospitals, pet services (dog walking) food services, hospitality services, food services, big box stores, landscaping services and many more.



### Adult Day / SE Programs:

The Day Habilitation Program continues to provide wonderful and inclusive community activities. The team provides several options to our clients which include recreation centers, museums/art galleries, local parks, mini golf / bowling, amusement parks and many other exciting opportunities and partnerships.

We also started a "Spirit Week" celebration in December. This will continue in 2024 for February, Summer and Fall celebrations.



We welcome any recommendations and leads from our Linwood partners. The Employment Services team assists with resume development, job selection, interviewing techniques and travel training for



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those who wish to work.

Holiday Celebrations remain a pinnacle at Red Branch. We continue to make sure all of our clients enjoy these special times. In addition to decorations and music, each year Linwood supports each client with our Secret Santa program.

The Adult Services Day and Employment programs only succeed because of the DSPs who support every client at Red Branch. In September, we were able to conduct an appreciation event for several stellar DSPs. Red Branch is conducting monthly half-day in services for all of our DSPs to include team building, training, communication strategies and wellness sharing. These dedicated DSPs and Red Branch leadership are committed to the best life for each person we support.

## Residential Program:

Linwood Residential homes took a group trip to the pumpkin patch for the fall season. Everyone took a hayride to a huge pumpkin field where everyone was able to pick out a pumpkin of their own. The following day all homes met up in



Linwood School cafeteria to paint, carve, and decorate their pumpkin.

During the summer, Residential took a coach bus to six flags where everyone was able to enjoy rides, entertainment, food, and much more! This experience was an unforgettable one for both staff and individuals. This outing was great exposure for our residents, and they had an amazing time. We look forward to making this a yearly outing!!

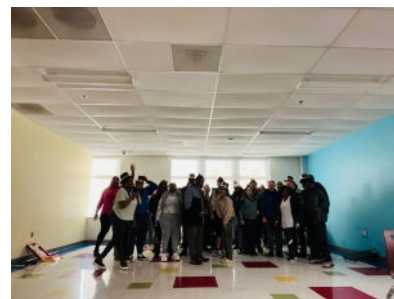


Howard County Sherriff Department provided our students in residential with an abundance of holiday gifts. One of the students took an appreciation gift over to the Sheriff Office on behalf of all the students.



HAPPY 'NOON' YEAR!! All residential homes gathered on New Years Eve for Lunch, Snacks, and our noon year ball drop. At 12pm on Christmas eve, we made a toast to the new year

with sparkling cider and screamed HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## School Program:

What fun we had this summer swimming on Tuesdays and Thursdays!



The school year started with a **WOW Day!**

The first half of the school year has been very busy for the school. The school started the year off with a WOW day. On August 30, 2023 Linwood School had their first annual WOW Day to start the year! Students enjoyed the morning completing arts and crafts projects, going to a carnival (at the playground), listening to stories, and playing games. In the afternoon Dr. Linda Bluth, internationally recognized special educator spoke with staff about her experiences and knowledge on IDEA. The school staff shared 'The Why we do what we do.' Please see the bubble chart

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below that summarizes Linwood.



## School Safety

On Friday, September 29, 2023 Carol Beatty, Maryland Secretary for the Department of Disabilities and Kate Bryan, Executive Director of the Maryland Center on School Safety, toured Linwood to learn about our safety procedures and safety challenges. Kate Bryan, awarded Linwood School a grant from the Maryland Center for School Safety to add safety features to our school. At our next parent forum we will be sharing Linwood School's Safety Plan.

## Linwood School's 10 year anniversary in our school building.

On Wednesday, September 13, 2023 Linwood Center commemorated the ten year anniversary of our school building. Prior to 2013 Linwood School was housed in the mansion. The



mansion was dedicated to Jeanne Simons who established the

Linwood Children's Center in Ellicott City in 1955. Jeanne Simons devoted her career as a social worker and educator to the study, treatment, and care of children with autism. On hand to celebrate this day was Dr. Sabine Oishi. Dr. Oishi and Jeanne Simons co-wrote the book *The Hidden Child: The Linwood Method for Reaching the Autistic Child* in 2007. Dr. Oishi has recently published the book *Behind the Mirror*, a biography on Jeanne Simons. Bill Moss was also honored with the administrative office building being dedicated to him. Bill Moss worked for Linwood Center for 40 years beginning first as a residential assistant and ultimately serving as Linwood Center's executive director for over 10 years. Mrs. Yumi Hogan, former first lady of Maryland was on hand to help celebrate the day.

## Bee Your Best

During the fall our students visited Irvine Nature Center to learn about bees. Bees are central to Linwood School's theme of **Bee Your Best**. Each month the



school focuses on a positive trait and selects a Bee of the Month. Some character traits the school

has focused on are determination, generosity, and kindness.

All students in grades K – 8 had their hearing and vision assessed in early December. We will be doing a follow up in April.



## Thank you to the Miller Family Foundation!

Linwood School will be expanding our Career Cluster Program to include an Agriculture Cluster with the addition of a green house. The Miller Foundation of Howard County has generously donated the funds to build a green house. This will enable our students to develop vocational skills and leisure skills within the field of agriculture year round. The green house will be located next to our garden. We will keep you updated on our progress. Thank you to the Miller Foundation!

