



Celebrating the people and programs

@MAY

News from May Institute, a national nonprofit provider of behavioral health, education, and rehabilitative services

New Beginnings, New Leadership— 2013 kicks off new chapter in May Institute's history

As we welcomed in the new year, we also welcomed a new President and a new Chief Financial Officer, and launched a number of initiatives designed to move the organization forward.

Lauren C. Solotar, Ph.D., ABPP, who served as Chief Executive Officer during 2012, became both President and CEO in January. Solotar succeeded **Dr. Walter P. Christian** who retired after leading the Institute for more than three decades.

"Dr. Solotar is the ideal individual to provide the bold leadership May Institute needs at this time,"



(l-r) Drs. Lauren Solotar and Ralph Sperry with Debra Blair

said **Dr. Don Ricciato**, Chairman of the Institute's Board of Trustees, in making the announcement of her appointment. "She has the right combination of expertise, experience, enthusiasm, and business acumen that will ensure the organization continues to grow and thrive as we begin a new chapter of our remarkable history."

Another important change in May Institute's executive leadership team was the appointment of **Debra Blair, M.B.A., CMA, CPA**, as our new Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer. She replaces **Michael Milczarek**, who continues to play a vital role for the Institute by working on key financial and operational projects.

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BRAIN DISORDERS— Braving the Unknown

Famous American author Isaac Asimov once wrote that "the human brain is the most complicated organization of matter that we know." For parents Renee and Jake Thompson of Westborough, Mass., these words resonate on a profoundly personal level.



Zach embraces his sister Abby.

Eleven years ago, Renee gave birth to their beautiful son, Zachary. Like most mothers and fathers, their hearts were

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Q&A with our **PRESIDENT & CEO**

We sat down recently with Dr. Lauren Solotar, the new president and CEO of May Institute, to talk about her first months leading the organization, the impact of our work, and her vision for the future. We share some of her thoughts here.

Q: What message do you have for readers?

A: Thank you for being connected to May Institute—as a person or family that receives services, a donor, employee, educator, or other community member who cares about the quality of life of the individuals we serve. Each of you is important to us, and to our ability to successfully carry out our mission.

I am thoroughly committed to leading this tremendous organization forward, and to making a significant and lasting impact in the life of every person that comes through our doors for care.

Q: May has grown significantly over the years. What are your plans to sustain the momentum?

A: My vision is to grow the organization in a deliberate, integrated, and sustainable way while taking all its needs into account. We need to be flexible and responsive. We need to look at our core areas—service, training, and research—and determine how we can have an even greater impact. We are committed to investing in our staff, our infrastructure, and in technology so that we remain on the cutting edge.

And, as we grow, my goal is always to be thoughtful, focused, creative, fiscally prudent, and data-driven, and to stay true to our mission.

Q: What has most impressed you when you visit May program sites?

A: I'm often out in the field, and am always impressed and moved by the connections I see between our staff and the individuals and families we serve. The men and women who work here are so committed to these individuals and to improving their lives and day-to-day functioning. Our staff *truly* are the heart and soul of May Institute.

Q: How do you think about May Institute's future?

A: As we move the organization forward, there are some key questions that resonate for me. What are the populations most at risk, where are the greatest needs, and how do we meet those needs? How do we strengthen our collaborations to best serve the special needs community? Where can we lend our expertise? What must we do to ensure clinical and programmatic excellence across our continuum of services? These are questions and themes that are always at the forefront as we plan and think ahead.

Q: What is one thing that you never lose sight of each day?

A: The responsibilities that come with my role. It's my job to ensure that the individuals in our care—and our staff—are well cared for, that employees have the resources they need to do their jobs well, and that the operations of the organization are running effectively. Everything everyone does here is important and has a significant impact on the organization.

2012 Trustees' Fund Award Recipients Honored

In December of 1993, the May Institute Board of Trustees created the Trustees' Fund Award to recognize staff members who exemplify May Institute's ideals of service and professionalism. Each year, the Board receives many nominations of outstanding employees submitted by senior staff members from every program.

Our five awardees are pictured below with quotes from their nominating supervisors. Congratulations to these individuals who were selected to receive Trustees' Fund Awards for 2012! 🍷



Heather Giurlando

Regional Coordinator
Eastern Massachusetts Home-Based Services
Randolph, Mass.

"Heather always goes above and beyond her job responsibilities, without questions and without being asked."



Luis Rodriguez

Program Coordinator
May Center for Adult Services
West Springfield, Mass.

"Luis has focused his energy on honoring individuals' rights to make choices and express individuality."



Mary T. Seisay

Assistant Residential Teacher
May Center for Child Development
Randolph, Mass.

"Mary has made it clear that the boys who live in the house are the reason for her ever-present devotion!"



Loran Spence

Program Coordinator
May Center for Community Services
South Windsor, Conn.

"Loran is responsive, willing to take on new challenges, and has the ability to teach and mentor other staff."



Henrietta Tuitt

Program Coordinator
May Center for Adult Services
Waltham, Mass.

"Henrietta brings out the best in the individuals she serves. She focuses on their strengths, not their weaknesses."

May Institute Now Serving Families in Greater Burlington County, N.J.

New Jersey is now the tenth state where we serve military families and their dependents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The new May Center for ASD in Mt. Laurel, N.J., provides comprehensive autism services to the children of civilian and military families stationed at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and surrounding areas.



The number of children diagnosed with ASD has risen dramatically in the last decade. Today, one in every 88 children is on the autism spectrum, including more than 23,000 military dependents. Like all families, military families facing an autism diagnosis have many challenges, but theirs include frequent relocations and deployments.

"Finding high quality autism services is an additional challenge for military and civilian families," says **Ralph B. Sperry, Ph.D., ABPP**, Chief Operating Officer of May Institute. "Our goal is to help reduce the stressors related to autism for both populations by building capacity and providing access to effective treatment, resources, support, and care."

Heading up our services in New Jersey are Program Coordinators **James Kretzer, M.Ed., BCBA**, and **Stephanie Peters, M.Ed., BCBA**. Both have extensive experience delivering high quality applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy to families at other military installations. Our new Center will specialize in home-based therapy that enables children with ASD to learn and master critical skills in a familiar environment. 🍷

Fernandes Center Celebrates 15th Anniversary

For more than 3,000 families, the Fernandes Center for Children and Families (FCCF) at Saint Anne's Hospital in Fall River, Mass., is a one-stop care delivery resource. At FCCF, families can receive a continuum of high quality services including diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and consultation for the full spectrum of care they need.

This widely respected pediatric specialty center—a joint partnership between May Institute and Saint Anne's Hospital—recently celebrated its 15th Anniversary by hosting an Open House.

Joining in the festivities were many of the families who have received care at the Center. Alongside them were primary and specialty care physicians from St. Anne's Hospital, Tufts Medical Center

and Children's Hospital, and pediatricians, teachers, and staff from community agencies who have invested themselves professionally in the health and welfare of the children and families served.

"It's a great model of integrated care," explains **Jeanne Paccia**, Ph.D., Director of the FCCF. "We offer an array of medical, behavioral health, and pediatric rehabilitation services under one roof in the local community, eliminating the need of travelling to Boston or Providence."

"Some of the more sought-after services include specialized, interdisciplinary clinics to evaluate children with developmental disorders, feeding disorders, and growth and nutrition concerns," she adds. "There is also a lot of need for social skills development for children and adolescents, and behavior management training for parents." 🍷

Does Someone You Love Have Autism?

With autism rates that may be as high as one in 50 for U.S. school children, more and more families across the country *do* have a loved one with autism.



In Massachusetts, where more than 13,000 school-aged children have been diagnosed, May Institute launched a powerful public awareness campaign on the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) in April, to mark Autism Awareness Month.

This year's campaign asks the question, "Does someone you love have autism?" It included hundreds of eye-catching posters and car cards featuring the faces of six young people with autism, along with messages from their families and contact information for those seeking help. These posters and cards were displayed in subway stations and on subway cars, buses, and commuter trains across the MBTA system.

Nearly 1.3 million commuters had the opportunity each day to learn more about autism through the campaign's images and messages. 🍷



SHOWCASING TALENT

Cheers of support and rounds of applause filled the gym at the May Center school in Randolph, Mass., during its 2013 Winter Showcase.

Families and staff proudly looked on, sometimes swaying or clapping in accompaniment, as students performed. Hundreds of pieces of artwork created by our students were also on display.

*Ethan, pictured here, shines as he sings "Volcano" by Jimmy Buffet; he also played the kazoo. "What a great day!" says Music Teacher **Justina Strickland**, B.A. "The students did awesome, and everyone pulled together to make the day a huge success." 🍷*

Braving the Unknown...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

brimming with grand plans for their child's future. However, as Zachary began missing typical milestones in infancy and into toddlerhood, the worry set in that there could be something wrong with their son.

It would be a grueling five-year marathon of neuropsychiatric consultations and evaluations, brain scans, conflicting test results and changing medications, before Renee and Zach would be offered any definitive diagnosis that would explain Zach's behavior.

"When Zach was 8, we were told that he has partial agenesis of the corpus callosum, delayed myelination of subcortical areas, and cerebellar atrophy—a rare brain disorder,"

Renee remembers. All of these conditions affect the message-delivery center of the brain. Motor and sensory skills rely on how well the information is processed and whether it gets sent to the other parts of the brain.

In addition, subsequent and separate diagnoses of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Nonverbal Learning Disability were also confirmed. "I have a degree in early childhood education so even though the medical terms were scary and unfamiliar, I knew something about child development," Renee says.

Today, Zach is a vibrant, funny fifth-grade student at the May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation school in Brockton, Mass. But the journey that ultimately brought him to May Institute was a circuitous one. This is the story of one family's relentless pursuit to find people who understand Zach—and his needs—and how the right fit can make all the difference.



The Thompson's enjoy family time outdoors.

To read more about Zach's story, please visit the "May in the News" section of our website, www.mayinstitute.org.

The May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation, based in Brockton, Mass., is one of only a few pediatric programs in the U.S. that focuses on both education and rehabilitation of children and adolescents (ages 5-22) with brain injury or neurological disorders. 🍎

- **Robert Putnam, Ph.D., BCBA-D**, Senior Vice President of School Consultation Services, and **Hanna Rue, Ph.D., BCBA-D**, Executive Director of the National Autism Center, were featured in *District Administration's* magazine article, "Adapting K12 for Students with Autism: Academic and Behavioral Programs in Schools."
- The appointment of **Debra Blair, M.B.A., CMA, CPA**, to Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of May Institute was highlighted in the *Patriot Ledger*.
- In April, *Exceptional Parent* magazine published our article, "It All Starts at Home: Blended Family, Home-based Therapy Help Young Man with Autism Make his Way in the World." The article was authored by **Susan Lauermann, APR**, Director of Public Relations, in collaboration with **Robert Putnam, Ph.D., BCBA-D**.
- More than 300 national and regional media outlets carried May Institute's recent media advisory from the PR Newswire entitled, "Success Strategies to Help Your Family and Child with a Brain Injury or Disorder: Recognizing the Impact on Families During Brain Injury Awareness Month."
- Clinical Experts columns recently published in the *West Springfield Republican* include "Early Intervention Ensures Needed Support for Children," by **Nancy Lunden, LCSW**, and "Precautions Needed for Wanderers," by **Melanie Dubard, Ph.D., BCBA-D**.
- The *Canton Journal* highlighted the vocational program at the Randolph May Center for Child Development, in the article "Randolph Autism School Places Students Into Businesses." **Pamela Raymond, M.A., BCBA**, Executive Vice President of Educational Services, and **Scott Chausee, M.Ed.**, the Center's Director of Vocational Training, are quoted.

Looking for a Way to Support May Institute? Grab your bike and helmet!

Join Team May on Saturday, September 28, as we bike a 25-, 50-, or 100-mile course in the Ride for Kids Cycling Event! This non-competitive cycling tour begins and ends in Foxboro, Mass.



Every dollar raised will directly benefit our programs in Massachusetts for children with autism, brain injury, and other special needs.

The Rodman Ride for Kids, a matching gift charity, will also match every donation you raise by 10 percent. Riders agree to raise a minimum of \$1,500. To receive a May Institute rider jersey, riders must register before July 1st.

To register, visit www.mayinstitute.org. If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact Karyn Vostok at 781-437-1247 or kvostok@mayinstitute.org.

We look forward to cheering you on! 🍕

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Inspiration comes from countless places. For the A.J. DeBlois Family Foundation, it is the faces of the women at a May Institute adult group residence in Bridgewater, Mass., and the many committed residential, vocational, and day hab staff members responsible for their care.

After several years of use, some of the furniture at the house showed signs of wear. The Foundation's gift, combined with other resources from May Institute, made it possible for the residents to take a trip to Bernie & Phyl's to pick out a brand new living room set.

"The dedicated staff on the frontlines makes our



Staff and residents of the home get comfortable on their new sofa.

decision to give an easy one," says **John DeBlois**, representative of the foundation, parent, and long-time donor.

"We have had the privilege of being part of the May Institute family for over 20 years. We know firsthand what private donations are able to do for the individuals served.

We also know the profound impact this group of people has made on the emotional and behavioral growth and development of so many, including our own daughter, who turns 31 this year." 🍕

Northeastern-U Students Support May Students

As part of a class project, students at Northeastern University in Massachusetts were asked to identify a cause and work as a team to raise money to support that cause.

It was an easy decision for senior Courtney Anderson, the team leader, who has family members on the autism spectrum. Other project team members included Erica White, Ryan Schacne, Jon Blanton, and Emily Ross.

"None of us really understood autism and we thought this would be a great way to learn more," Courtney said. "May

Institute was a natural choice as beneficiary of our fundraising campaign."

The team raised enough to purchase an iPad, and delivered it to the May Center for Child Development school in Randolph. **Hannah Trahan**, M.S., CCC -SLP, accepted the generous gift on behalf of the Institute.

"The iPad has become an increasingly significant educational tool for our students," Trahan said. "We are hugely grateful to these seniors for making more progress possible for our kids here at May Institute." 🍕

Siblings Teach Each Other About Life

Kyle didn't believe his sister when she kept telling him she worked in the same building where he goes to school.

At the time, Maggie was working as a community outreach intern at May Institute. It was her summer break from the University of Maine. One day, she showed up in Kyle's classroom.

It was Maggie's 21st birthday. Looking up from his work, Kyle saw Maggie standing only a few feet away. Confusion that said "I can't believe she's here!" crossed his face at first, followed by a smile that lit up the room.

It took no time for Kyle to close the short distance between him and his sister, greeting her with a huge bear hug.

"This is my sister. It's Maggie's birthday today," he announced several times to everyone while holding on to her hand tightly. Kyle quickly broke into the "Happy Birthday" song and gave Maggie a card he had made but was saving for that night when the family would be all together.

Over the past 17 years, Kyle has faced and overcome more challenges than many teenagers his age. In addition to being diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, Kyle also has a diagnosis of mosaic Down syndrome, and was successfully treated for leukemia and

congestive heart failure as a toddler.

"All those things are parts of Kyle's life—and my family's life experience—but they don't define Kyle as a person or us as a family," Maggie shared. "The changes and growth we have seen in Kyle over the past five years since he has been at May Institute have been really incredible. My family couldn't be happier with what his teachers have done to help him to blossom into the very active, funny, loving young person he is today."

"You don't really know Kyle until you meet him," Maggie shared. "Unfortunately, a lot of people will put individuals like Kyle in categories. As a result, they miss a lot about who the person really is."

Now a college senior, Maggie uses her experiences with her brother to educate her peers about how to be more respectful

and sensitive of others.

Kyle has taught Maggie that his journey is far from over. He continues to grow, mature, and shine his unique light on all those around him. For Maggie and her family, it's about being there for his next great moment.

To read the full story of Kyle and Maggie's special bond, visit the "Inside May" section at www.mayinstitute.org. 🍓



Kyle and Maggie share a sweet moment on the campus of the May Center school.



3 notable grants&gifts

We are truly grateful to the corporations, foundations, agencies, and organizations that support our vital services through their grants and donations. Recent supporters include:

1. **CVS Caremark Charitable Trust** awarded May Institute a \$50,000 grant to expand our military families' initiative and strengthen coordination of care for children on the autism spectrum. Thanks to the grant, communities at Naval Station Annapolis and Forts Meade, Belvoir, and Myers in the Washington, D.C., area will soon be able to access services. Overall, more than 23,000 military families are affected by autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

2. **Autism Speaks** recently awarded the National Autism Center a \$25,000 grant to expand its Pathways Parent Education Series. The training will target military families with children on the autism spectrum in underserved communities. Thanks to this new funding, 25 families stationed at bases in Kentucky, Virginia, and the Washington, D.C., area will benefit from this free training series. (See page 11)

3. **The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, Inc.** awarded May Institute a \$9,000 grant through the 2012 Allison Keller iPad Program. Our day habilitation programs will use the award to launch a new iPad initiative that will help enhance the functional communications skills of adults with ASD.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Military Families to Benefit from Aviation Day Fundraiser

Our May Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders in Clarksville, Tenn., will be the beneficiary of North Central Institute's (NCI) Aviation Day 2013 fundraiser in October.

NCI is a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved school that specializes in aviation maintenance training. Aviation Day is organized by the school's Student Government Association and held in conjunction with the Clarksville Airport.

The event will feature displays of airplanes, city and county emergency services, community sponsor booths, and a number of activities including live music in the evening.

"We are very grateful to be selected as the beneficiary of this fundraiser," said **Christina Bock Giuliano, M.S., BCBA**, Clinical/Program Director of the Center. "The financial support we receive will allow us to continue to provide exceptional care to the families we serve."

Since opening in 2010, the Clarksville Center has served nearly 70 children and families, and provided free trainings for nearly 500 parents, teachers, and practitioners. 🍕

CVS Grant Helps Autism Center Continue Opening Doors

With CVS Caremark Charitable Trust support, the May Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Jacksonville, N.C., expanded its "Open Doors" program for children with autism from military families.

Two eight-week social skills groups were conducted for children ages 3-6 and 8-12. One program feature included a "Goal for the Week," assigned either to the child or to the parents to help children practice skills learned outside of the group at home, school, or in the community.

"Open Doors promotes inclusion by helping children with ASD improve their social and communication skills, with the goal of enabling them to make new friends, and become integrated with their peers," explains **Anne Stull, M.A.**,



Peers (front l-r) David and Nathan, (rear l-r) Brayden, David, and Hari celebrated their last session of the program with a dance party.

LPA, BCBA, Clinical Director of the Center. As a result of this Jacksonville program, 83 percent of children showed gains in their communication skills.

The May Center for ASD is one of 10 centers across the country that provide autism-related services to civilian and military families. The CVS grant was part of \$4.3 million in grants

awarded to 98 nonprofit organizations in 2011.

"In today's challenging economy, it's more important than ever to support organizations that truly make a difference in the lives of children and families," said Eileen Howard Boone, Senior Vice President, CVS Caremark Charitable Trust. 🍕

COMMUNITY TIME IN TENNESSEE

The May Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders in Clarksville, Tenn., welcomed nearly 100 neighbors and friends to its successful Open House and Parents' Night Out.

First on the list of invitees were the local military and civilian families whose children receive autism services from the Center.

Alongside the families were local business people and community "stakeholders,"

including Fort Campbell's Exceptional Family Member Program staff and doctors, and Montgomery County teachers and administrators.

"It was wonderful to welcome community members and families to our new space," says **Christina Bock Giuliano, M.S., BCBA**, Clinical/Program Director of the Center. "As we continue to grow, it's important to foster relationships and raise awareness about

autism and the need for local services."

Visitors were treated to tours of the new, bigger Center as well as snacks and fun activities for all ages.

Later in the evening, parents dropped off their kids for an evening of movies, arts and crafts, and a hot chocolate buffet. It was a terrific night for all! 🍕

OUR WORKFORCE AND THE CARING FORCE

We say this often, and it's true: our employees are the heart and soul of our organization. They are the reason we consistently provide the highest quality services across Massachusetts and throughout the country.

That is why May Institute is proud to support The Caring Force—a new grassroots human services advocacy movement in Massachusetts. Its goal is to bring people together for a common cause: to strengthen the human services sector in the state by advancing a legislative agenda that supports our workers.

We are fortunate to have so many strong, passionate legislators in Massachusetts who care about our issues, and the issues most important to individuals with special needs AND the human service workers who care for them. The Caring Force is focused on further

strengthening that support.

Recently, a group of 25 staff from our Adult Services division in Mashpee attended a Caring Force rally at the State House in Boston, joining more than 600 other human service employees.



They urged their state representatives and senators to provide adequate funding in the coming year, and to support the Salary

Reserve for direct care employees.

"It was very exciting for all of us to be part of this event," says **Joseph Realbuto**, M.H.S.A., M.Ed., Vice President of Adult Services at May Institute. "Only days later, we learned that \$9 million additional dollars were being budgeted for the Salary Reserve. There is no doubt that the rally and meeting with policymakers played a part in this decision."

To learn more, visit www.thecaringforce.org. 🍷

National Impact in the Field of PBIS

Robert F. Putnam, Ph.D., BCBA-D,



Senior Vice President of School Consultation at May Institute, has been elected to the Board of Directors of

the Association for Positive Behavior Support.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an application of evidence-based strategies and systems to assist schools to increase academic performance and safety, decrease problem

behavior, and establish positive school cultures.

This prestigious appointment is testament to Dr. Putnam's substantial influence in the field and the impact his expertise has on the national dialogue concerning what is becoming the methodology of choice within public school systems.

Just last year, Dr. Putnam was tapped by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to make a related presentation to the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, comprised of some of the top autism experts in the country. 🍷

names & FACES

MORE NAMED CIO



Congratulations to **Kevin M. More**, M.B.A., who has been promoted to Chief Information Officer. Kevin is also our designated Information Security Officer. His

responsibilities include developing and maintaining our technology and telecommunication infrastructure, and staffing and managing the IT department. Kevin has over 20 years of healthcare, information technology, and telecommunication management experience, and previously served as our Vice President of Information Systems.

BRENNAN APPOINTED TO SVP



Terese Brennan, M.S., is now the Senior Vice President of Quality Improvement; she oversees the development and implementation of organization-wide per-

formance improvement and quality management programs. Terese is also our Privacy Officer and Safety Officer, responsible for privacy and confidentiality as well as safety risk management. She has served May Institute in a variety of capacities for 20+ years, beginning as a Behavior Specialist at our first school in Chatham.

POLLACK TO LEAD DEVELOPMENT AND PR/COMMUNICATIONS



Eileen G. Pollack, M.A., has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Development, Communications, and PR. In her new position, she manages the organization's

development initiatives in addition to providing strategic direction for the Institute's integrated communications. The agency's communications team has won more than 30 prestigious industry awards. Eileen joined the Institute in 2003, and was instrumental in the strategic planning and launch of the National Autism Center.

LEOMINSTER LIBRARY AND MAY INSTITUTE HOST AUTISM SPEAKER SERIES

May Institute recently partnered with the Leominster Public Library to present, "Autism Spectrum Disorders Across the Lifespan."

The series was held as part of the official launch of the library's new, evidence-based resource collection entitled, "The Special Health Care Needs Collection."

"With this collection, we hope to make it easier for families to find information that is based in science and proven to be the most effective in treating autism, other developmental disabilities, and various mental disorders," says **Deirdre L. Donaldson, Ph.D.**, Chief Clinical Officer for May Institute. 🍎

DR. HANNA RUE FEATURED SPEAKER AT AUTISM EXPO

Hanna Rue, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Executive Director of the National Autism Center (NAC), addressed a packed room at the Autism Awareness Expo in Columbus, Ga., recently. The topic of her talk was "Evidence-based Practice and Autism."

Hosted by the Fort Benning Exceptional Family Member Program and the Family Advocacy Program, the Expo was held to educate families who have children with autism.

Based on the findings of the NAC's National Standards Project, Dr. Rue's presentation included a discussion of treatments identified as established, emerging, and unestablished. She also reviewed how practitioners can effectively use these treatments. 🍎

New Beginnings...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Our new executive trio, which includes Chief Operating Officer **Dr. Ralph B. Sperry**, started the New Year by launching a Diversity and Inclusion initiative—one of seven priorities they have outlined—and holding the first of a series of scheduled employee forums.

"With the solid foundation of the Institute and its Board to support me, and a talented team of over 2,000 employees beside me, I am excited to begin this important work," said Dr. Solotar.

About our new President

Dr. Solotar began her career at May Institute in 1996 as Chief Psychologist and Vice President of Clinical Services. In 2001, she was promoted to Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health Services and was responsible for the operation and clinical service delivery of ambulatory behavioral health and rehabilitation services. In 2010, Dr. Solotar became Chief Clinical Officer. In that role, she provided clinical oversight for all of May Institute's programs and centers and oversaw the organization's clinical leadership, in addition to a number of other responsibilities.

She has been May Institute's Chief Executive Officer for the past year, working with Dr. Christian, the Institute's senior executives, and its Board of Trustees to effect a smooth and seamless transition of leadership.

A lasting legacy

Walter P. Christian, Ph.D., ABBP, ABPP, was at the helm of May Institute for 35 years—from 1978 until his retirement in December of 2012.

During that time, the Institute earned an international reputation for providing outstanding services to individuals with special needs.



When Dr. Christian joined the Institute in 1978, the organization consisted of one small school for 39 children with autism in Chatham, Mass. He went about systematically building an organizational and programmatic infrastructure that, in time, would be replicated first across Massachusetts, and then across the United States.

An ardent defender of the rights of individuals with disabilities, Dr. Christian played a crucial role in deinstitutionalization in Massachusetts and throughout the country.



He is the author of nine books and over 60 articles and chapters on human service management, organizational development, client rights, and service programming. He was named a Fellow of the Association for Behavior Analysis International in 2007, joining an elite group of individuals who are recognized as the most outstanding contributors to the field of behavioral analysis. In 2008, he received the *Boston Business Journal's* "Champions in Health Care" Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Christian has dedicated his professional life to improving the quality of care for and promoting the rights of people with disabilities. His leadership exemplifies inspiration, integrity, and a life-long commitment to the empowerment of these individuals. He leaves a tremendous legacy, and we honor him in his retirement. 🍎

In Memoriam — Catherine Coburn

Catherine Crone Coburn, a long-time member of the May Institute Board of Trustees, died on February 18 while visiting relatives in Colorado.

“Catherine was a true friend and steadfast supporter of May Institute, and she passionately believed in our mission of serving children and adults with autism and other special needs,” said Lauren C. Solotar, Ph.D., ABPP, the Institute’s President and CEO. “Our organization benefited from her considerable talent and wisdom for the more than 10 years she served on our Board of Trustees.”

An ardent proponent for improved health services for poor and vulnerable people throughout the world, Mrs. Coburn

worked for the nonprofit Management Sciences for Health for more than 20 years, and several other service organizations before that. In addition, she taught at schools of public health at Boston University, Columbia University, and Harvard University.

“Catherine was a very dynamic, energetic, and caring woman who was determined to make a difference in the world,” said Don Ricciato, Ph.D., Chairman of May Institute’s Board of Trustees. “It was a privilege to serve with her on the Board and to benefit from her knowledge and experience.”

“Just a few weeks before she fell ill, Catherine called me to offer her support and



expertise to our new leadership team,” added Dr. Solotar. “She was energized and excited about this new chapter for May Institute, and we were very much looking forward to collaborating even more closely with her on new fundraising initiatives. She will be deeply missed.”

Mrs. Coburn leaves her husband Jeff, daughter Julia, and son Alex. 🍷



National Autism Center

NAC Awarded \$25,000 Grant from Autism Speaks

The National Autism Center (NAC) was recently honored by Autism Speaks Greater Boston for its new grant initiative—reaching out to educate military families with children on the autism spectrum. Accepting the \$25,000 national grant award that is funding this effort was NAC Executive Director **Hanna Rue**, Ph.D., BCBA-D.

The evening was a celebration of the fundraising accomplishments of Greater Boston volunteers and of the success of the 2012 Walk Now for Autism Speaks.

NAC’s new “Pathways Parent Education Series for Military Families” is a training designed to educate families about evidence-based interventions and how to address challenging behaviors.

Dr. Rue, one of the keynote speakers at the event, thanked the volunteers and Autism Speaks for the award noting, “We are so very fortunate to have been granted \$25,000 from Autism Speaks to provide this training to military families at five different military installations.”

The challenges of raising a child on the autism spectrum are monumental for military families. These can include multiple deployments, lack of proximity to family and support networks, frequent relocations, long waiting lists for services, and more. Receiving parent education and finding high quality services for their child is critical to a military family’s long-term health and well-being.

In an effort to address this need, NAC is working with the May Institute’s consultation services division, which

provides home-based services to military families.

As part of the new Pathways series, military parents will take part in a two-night training, a web-based Q&A session at three and six months, and receive a copy of NAC’s *Parent’s Guide to Autism*. NAC will also create a parent education video based on the series that will be available on the Autism Speaks website. This video will serve as a “refresher” for military parents who attended the training and as a resource for military parents nationwide. 🍷

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UPCOMING @MAY

➔ WORKSHOPS & FORUMS

PBIS: Research to Practice

The 9th Annual Forum on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) will be held on Friday, November 15, 2013, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Four Points Sheraton, Norwood, Mass.

Learn about advances in school-wide PBIS, academic interventions, successful interventions with students with challenging behaviors, and effective data-based decision making.

Dr. Tim Lewis will serve as the keynote speaker. Dr. Lewis is Professor of Special Education at the University of Missouri, and directs the University Center for School-wide Positive Behavior Support. He is Co-Director of the national OSEP Center for PBIS and the IES Center for Adolescent Research in Schools.

The forum is sponsored by May Institute, partner of the National Technical Assistance Center on PBIS.

Cost is \$175 per person. The student rate is \$90 per person.

To register or learn more, visit www.mayinstitute.org.

➔ FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Get Your Cards by Kids

May Institute is offering "Cards By Kids," a special collection of beautiful blank note cards featuring delightful, whimsical artwork by children we serve. These cards are perfect as greeting cards, thank-you notes, and party invitations.

Choose from the "Nature" series, the "Creatures" series, or the "Abstract Art" series—or buy them all!

Each box of 12 cards contains three different designs. Cards are 5"x 7" and printed on high quality card stock. Blank white envelopes included. Boxes are \$15 each.

100% of the funds raised go to May Institute's programs and services.

To place an order online, visit www.mayinstitute.org/give/cards.html. Or, contact Tyson Smith-Ray at 781-437-1269 or cards@mayinstitute.org.



"Nature" series



"Creatures" series



"Abstract Art" series

ABOUT MAY INSTITUTE

Founded in 1955, May Institute has its roots in a family's vision of enabling children with disabilities to lead the fullest lives possible.

Today, May Institute provides educational, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, and behavioral health needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public school systems.

Our programs touch the lives of thousands of individuals and their families each year at nearly 200 service locations across the country.

Together with the National Autism Center^{asm}, May Institute's Center for the Promotion of Evidence-based Practice, we are committed to identifying and applying universal standards for the treatment of autism and to providing care and hope to families throughout the country.

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

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