

THE NAVIGATOR

The Official Journeys In Community Living Newsletter

A NOTE FROM FRANCES



Exciting news!

This month TennCare and the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities announced plans to invest up to \$400 million of federal COVID-19 relief funds to increase services for individuals with disabilities throughout Tennessee. The funding for the increase will come through the American Rescue Plan and will be used to enhance existing Medicaid programs that offer home and community based service for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Gov. Bill Lee stated that *"Through this historic investment, Tennesseans with disabilities will have greater opportunities to live independently, participate in the workforce and reach their fullest potential,"* *"It's my hope that this enhanced support will shine a light on the important services that caregivers provide and change the lives of Tennesseans across our state."* Half of the funds are expected to be used to expand the Employment and Community First Choices (ECF) program where there is currently 3,500 individuals waiting for services. In addition to expanding services offered through ECF, monies will be used to strengthen the frontline workforce providing the services and create incentives for more to join this workforce.

Frances Cook
Interim Executive Director



TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Trip to the Capital
- Vaccine Booster
- Halloween

Punky's Ride

Gatlin was invited to join Larry Baldwin, President of Baldwin Cremation and Mortuary Services, in Larry's goal of riding to every state capitol in the contiguous United States. Larry has saved his home state of Tennessee for last and made Gatlin an honorary member of his motorcycle club. Gatlin was invited to join Larry and his motorcycle club on October 17th at 11:00am. Support staff assisted Gatlin to arrive in Nashville and join the motorcycle club in taking pictures on the state capitol grounds. Larry appreciated staff assisting Gatlin to this event and Gatlin smiled with joy!



Keeping People Safe and Informed

On November 12, 2021 Journeys will host a Moderna Covid-19 booster vaccine clinic for persons supported and staff. Journeys has held several previous clinics over the past year. A booster will offer added protection against the virus to persons receiving their last vaccine six months ago, or longer. Thank you to our Agency Case Managers for preparing paperwork, consents and coordinating this event.



TRICK-OR-TREAT

Halloween looked a little different at Journeys this year. Due to COVID, our annual Halloween party was once again cancelled. In order to keep everyone's "spirit" up, we decided to do a reverse trick-or-treat for the supported persons who reside in our residential homes. Management staff divided into 3 groups and delivered Halloween goodie bags and Papa John's pizza to all 18 of our residential homes on the evening of 10/28/2021. Both individuals and their staff participated in the Halloween celebration by dressing in their Halloween attire. Out of the 3 groups, there were 3 supported persons picked as winners of the BEST COSTUME and those winners received a Halloween blanket. The winners were: Connie Bain, Shawn Brewer and Jason Marlin. The event was enjoyed by all!

