



CHARITIES Committee

Tom Meade, Chairman



The RISAA Charities Committee exists to lend a helping hand to others in need, and is a way of giving back to our community.

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTION



West Bay Residential Services

Report by
RALPH ORLECK



West Bay Residential Services was founded 35 years ago to provide housing for individuals with disabilities. Starting with one home, West Bay has expanded over the years and by 1990 it was operating 13 homes, one semi-independent living apartment, and established a comprehensive Day Services program. Today the agency operates 27 homes, 7 semi-independent living apartments, and provides in-home supports in 4 locations. Its Day Services program has expanded to support 92 individuals in its group homes in addition to disabled individuals residing with family members or guardians.

The homes provide 24 hour supports to individuals with moderate to severe developmental disabilities and medical needs. The semi-independent living situations are for individuals with more advanced skills. The in-home supports provide services to assist families with the care of their loved ones at their own homes.

The comprehensive Day Services program engages the West Bay population in a variety of activities which align with their interests. Activities include volunteerism, part-time employment, self-employment, leisure and social opportunities, physical exercise, hobbies, and expanded opportunities to socialize with members of the community at large. West Bay utilizes community resources such as libraries, places of

worship, YMCA facilities, local grocery stores, and RIPTA bus services to fully integrate its population into the community.



Ralph Orleck presented the RISAA check to Gloria Quinn, Executive Director of West Bay Residential Services, Inc.

Integration into the community can involve the support of other agencies and organizations. West Bay has worked with Meals on Wheels to give back to the elderly in need. Individuals and staff have operated the North Kingstown Little League concession as Signal Rock Field in North Kingstown. West Bay employees assisted individuals with disabilities to form a volunteer group dubbed "Helping Hands". Helping Hands has collected and donated supplies to other charitable organizations such as Save the Children and UNICEF.

West Bay has a well trained and committed staff. Staff members are trained in all aspects of direct care. Expectations are clearly enunciated, and new staff members are supported as they develop relationships with those in their care. Much of their senior staff has been promoted from within in and has been with the agency for many years.

West Bay has been true to its mission to support people by providing access to opportunities and choice since its inception.

To learn more about West Bay Residential Services, to make a donation, or to investigate employment opportunities, please visit their website at www.westbayri.org.

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