

# PALM BEACH HABILITATION CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

2020

Turning Disabilities into Possibilities
Since 1959



# A message from our Board Chair



It is with great pleasure that I share this report of our accomplishments for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The work of the Palm Beach Habilitation Center is possible because of our generous donors, community partners, staff, and volunteers working together.

The pandemic impacted all of our lives midway through this past fiscal year and brought challenges that none of us expected. The Center remained steadfast and stayed open. Staff rallied together to offer safe, high-quality services. This was done through a hybrid of in-person and virtual services. Staff brought activities to our three group homes while they were quarantined, delivered meals to those who could not come to the Center, and so much more.

From work training to art classes, to residential services, there is truly something for everyone. Whatever someone's ability, a person can find the support and tools needed to fulfill their potential and have the best possible environment in which to learn, work, and live.

Together, we are turning disabilities into possibilities!

Anthony M. Lofaso

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## **Our Mission**

To ensure that individuals with disabilities in Palm Beach County have the best environment in which to learn, work, and live.

# Impacting lives, one person at a time



**Sylvia** has such an outgoing personality and great sense of humor that you might not notice her physical disability or know that she has mental health issues. When she first walked through the doors of the Palm Beach Habilitation Center in December 2019, no one could have imagined that within months our employment services staff would have helped her prepare for a job interview, dress for success, and get a full-time job that she enjoys. Our job specialist discovered she loves to clean and do housekeeping and, in May 2020 Sylvia began her new job – cleaning and sanitizing at a local business. We celebrate Sylvia's success!



Hardworking, Punctual, Helpful – three words that describe **Bruce**. Confident, Capable, Friendly – three words that describe **Theresa**. Bruce and Theresa both were presented with RESPECT of Florida outstanding employee awards. Bruce is a hard-working individual who has overcome several obstacles in his life, learning to navigate his community on his own and earning an income to live independently. Theresa made vast improvements in her job skills and is now able to be mostly independent on job sites. She is a joy to work with, strives for excellence, and enjoys learning new skills.

# Note of gratitude from a family member:

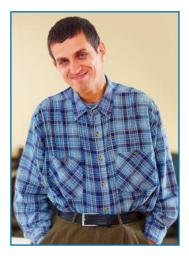
I want to thank you and the staff of the Palm Beach Habilitation Center for the significant **impact you have had on my brother, JG**. For the last 37 plus years, The Hab Center has given my brother value and purpose by working and being a part of a team. It has given him a reason to rise early each morning. Now he says he is "retired" and enjoying the company of his friends in STARS (Seniors in Transition and Retirement Services). His conversations and letters now include where the STARS



staff have taken him, how well he scored in bowling, and the other activities in which he participates. He is thoroughly disappointed when doctor's appointments or other reasons keep him from attending. Thank you for leading such a great asset for the community and for people like my brother, who seek value and purpose in their lives while living with their challenges. – Mack G



# Responding to Needs in a Time of Crisis



The Palm Beach Habilitation Center team continued providing critical services with excellence and innovation, even with diminished resources and all the challenges the pandemic brought. Staff and volunteers pulled together to serve our clients in creative ways. We did this through virtual classes, bringing activities to our three group homes while they were quarantined, delivering meals to homes, and much more!

"Tom" is legally blind and developmentally disabled. He lived with his elderly mother until she passed away. He now lives alone with supported living services provided by the Palm Beach Habilitation Center. Before this COVID-19 crisis, Tom's weekdays were filled with activities that enriched his life and gave him the joy of spending time with friends in our on campus Day Program. Because

the COVID-19 crisis forced the temporary closing of our Day Program, Tom's days would have been spent alone in isolation. But, we found a creative solution to help Tom. He temporarily moved into one of our group residences where, while our on campus Day Programs were closed, the Day Program staff brought meaningful activities to Tom and the other residents who would have normally been at the Center or engaged in community outings.

Poem written by one of our program participants decorates a building wall on campus.

"I look in the mirror and what do I see? I am Pretty.

I see the me no one else can be.

I am precious because I am smart.

I am glad to be me.

My hair - my face - my personality - my size - my shape

How I look the color of my skin make up me outside and in.

I am glad to be me."

# **Business Connections**



# TJ's Café Catering

TJ's Café launched a catering enterprise with amazing menu options for businesses and individuals. Each purchase helps the Center to sustain food service training programs for adults with disabilities, preparing them for employment in our community.



# Custom Production Solutions and Fun Sweets Cotton Candy

Our Custom Production Solutions team of men and women with disabilities learn work skills while providing needed services to our business partners. One of our most valued business customers is Fun Sweets Cotton Candy. We assemble displays,

package pre-made cotton candy, box up, and prepare for shipping. Based in Florida, Fun Sweets Cotton Candy has been locally owned and operated since 1994. Neighborhood stores served as an early proving ground for the company, but many of the country's leading retailers soon followed. Fun Sweets now humbly wears the crown of America's Favorite Cotton Candy; delivering freshness, memories, laughs and lots of smiles. Our business partnership with Fun Sweets helps us achieve our mission!





# **Community Engagement**

#### 29th Annual Hab-a-Hearts Luncheon



Approximately 500 guests attended the February 17, 2020 event where the Center's clients performed for guests and an auction featured an array of high-end items and trips. Event Chair Deborah **Event Chair**Deborah Stroscheim

**Queen of Hearts** Charlotte Deleu

Honorary Chair Ann Jaggie

Stroscheim, Queen of Hearts Charlotte Deleu, and Honorary Chair Ann Jaggie helped organize this incredible event. Funds raised went to supporting the critical services we provide.

# Palm Beach Atlantic Students Bring New Ideas & Innovation

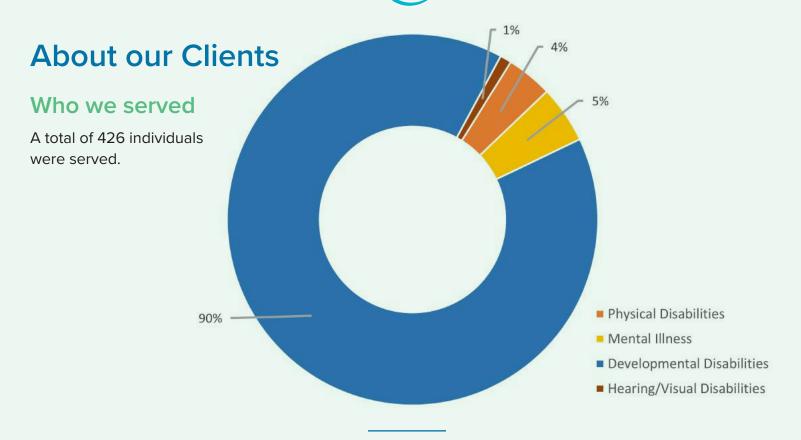
Palm Beach Atlantic University graduate students with global experience in innovation put their skills to work locally, developing new success strategies for the Palm Beach Habilitation Center.

The Global Development students in a case study seminar proposed social media plans, grant applications and revenue streams to help us continue and expand our work. Eleven students and their professor volunteered an estimated 200 hours. First, students visited the center – prior to COVID-19 – and simply observed how it operates. The Center's board and senior leadership invited the students to interview key staff, learn about every aspect of programming and look at the budget. A few of the ways the students helped was through creating and designing an e-commerce storefront concept, preparing grant proposal templates, and creating marketing guidelines.

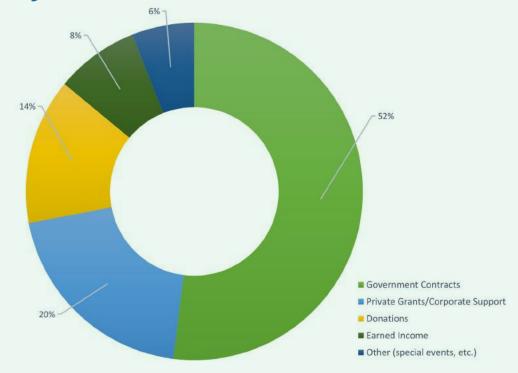
## Volunteer of the Year



Marty Houchins received the Center's volunteer of the year award. Marty volunteered at the PB Hab Thrift store for five years. After retirement she wanted to use her experience in retail by volunteering in the community. She searched for an organization to volunteer with and having two autistic grandchildren, she immediately felt a connection while shopping at the PB Hab Thrift Store. The Mission and the feeling of being in a boutique store inspired her to inquire if she could join the team by volunteering. Marty soon discovered that she had a bigger purpose than just sorting merchandise. Her caring interactions and conversations with the clients and the thrift store customers proved that she could make a difference in their lives. Marty said that volunteering at the Thrift Store isn't work but feels like visiting with family. Marty encourages others to make the first step to volunteer their time.



# Palm Beach Habilitation Center Financial Results Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020





# Thank you to the friends of Palm Beach Habilitation Center

To the following friends who made a donation to The Palm Beach Habilitation Center, we genuinely thank you for your contributions and helping us continue our mission. July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

#### \$100,000+

Town of Palm Beach United Way

#### \$50,000-\$99,999

The Jim Moran Foundation
United Way of Palm Beach County

Walter and Lillian Cantor Foundation

#### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Anthony Lofaso

J.M. Rubin Foundation

Mary Alice Fortin Foundation, Inc.

#### \$15,000 - \$24,999

Lou Ann Marciano

Marcia Billhartz

The Taft Foundation

#### \$10,000 - \$14,999

Albert E. & Birdie W. Einstein

Foundation

Frank J. Lewis Foundation

Holyfield & Thomas, LLC.

Karlo J. Forsberg Charitable

Lisa Smith

The Sidney, Milton and Leoma

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#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Mr. & Mrs. Brandon

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Quantum Foundation

Robert Ross

Aaron Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Stroscheim

Ms. Tozzi

John Westine

Mr. & Mrs. Worley

Wycliffe Charities Foundation, Inc.

Please note that we strive to recognize each individual and organization accurately, if we have made an error or omission, please email us at info@pbhab.com.



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Follow us on social media for updates about the Palm Beach Habilitation Center and how you can help us support the individuals with disabilities we serve.







