



# The Rainbow Village Voice

*Providing Neighborhood Homes for People with Developmental Disabilities*

July 2009

## Our 48<sup>th</sup> Home and Counting

Life just got better for three men who moved into their new Rainbow Village home. The four bedroom ranch in Hazelwood was a big improvement from the home they were renting. The men previously lived in a poorly maintained rented house where the landlord was unwilling to make adaptations for accessibility.

When St Louis Arc, who provides support services for the three men, approached Rainbow Village to purchase a home the men could rent from us and the search began.

Rainbow Village found a house in a beautiful neighborhood with lots of shade trees. After purchasing the house, several renovations were made prior to the men moving in including painting the interior and exterior of the house, upgrading electrical service, replacing floors, adding a laundry room and installing a new concrete driveway. The new Rainbow home is in a neighborhood close to where the men work and near their favorite social activities.



Tim Bradbury, VP of Comprehensive Services for St Louis Arc said "It is such an incredible step up for the guys moving into a Rainbow Village house, it looks fantastic and we know Rainbow Village will continue to take care of the home and make any necessary adaptations needed in the future. St Louis Arc is proud to be in partnership with Rainbow Village."

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## Rainbow Village welcomes two new partners – Resources for Human Development and Willows Way

**We are proud to announce new partnerships with two additional support service agencies.** From our initial startup in 1974 until 1993, we partnered with only one support service agency. Today we partner with seven support service agencies and provide homes to over 200 clients. We continue to grow with our newest partners in providing homes for people with developmental disabilities.

**Resources for Human Development** (RHD-Missouri) has been providing support services to people with developmental disabilities in the St Louis Metropolitan area since May 2008. The residential program specializes in a shared home/shared life live-in companion approach. RHD currently has three homes with Rainbow Village.

**Willows Way** provides personalized support to individuals with challenges, promoting dignity while fostering independence, growth and life choices within the community. They currently have one home with us.

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## “And the Survey Says...”

Every year Rainbow Village sends out a satisfaction survey to parents, guardians and staff members of our partner agencies. We want feedback on how well we maintain our homes and yards. By participating in the survey, you provide us with ideas for improvements and comments on jobs well done. We appreciate your input and learn so much.

This year 93% of you stated that our maintenance team respond to and complete repairs in a timely fashion. Our maintenance team also scored outstanding results in professionalism, prior notification of home visits and clean-up when jobs are completed. Rainbow Village received multiple compliments on the condition and use of outdoor decks, yard maintenance and exterior updates to our homes.

## Max and Rosalia Rosenbaum Staff Leadership Award Honorees

Barbara and Nelson Rosenbaum established the Staff Leadership Award in 2004 in memory of Nelson's parents. This year Martha Dixon, an employee of Cooperative Home Care & All Staff Nursing, and Clarity Sayre, who works for St Louis Arc received this special award at Rainbow Village's annual fundraiser "Somewhere Over the Rainbow".

Martha and Clarity were chosen from several nominees as outstanding employees and deserving honorees for all they do for the people they support.



Barbara Rosenbaum, Martha Dixon, Clarity Sayre,  
Nelson Rosenbaum

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## Home Improvements Keep Staff Busy

Rainbow Village spent the first six months of 2009 making several major home improvements while also keeping up with the day to day maintenance that we provide. Our maintenance staff is very productive. We are proactive with projects that improve both the safety and comfort of our residents.

Major projects included new kitchen cabinets and counters in one of our homes and interior painting and carpeting in another. To allow wheelchair accessibility in another home we widened interior doorways, installed handicapped ramps and new flooring.

New HVAC units were installed on the roof of the Sunnen Center building, our campus recreational center and site of day programs for developmentally disabled adults.

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## Meet Paul Bales



Paul joined Rainbow Village as Occupancy Specialist in 2003 and became our first Certified Assisted Housing Manager. He came to Rainbow with a long history of working with HUD assisted properties and disabled individuals who received HUD subsidies.

Paul made an immediate impact at Rainbow Village by reviewing all files and reorganizing systems. "Paul has made an invaluable contribution to the agency", said Lydia Rasis, Director of Operations for Rainbow Village. "He maintains the highest standards in managing the leases for our residents and their partner agencies."

He shares his home in south St Louis with his life partner of 19+ years and two miniature poodles, Suki and Yaki. He serves as Team Captain for Operation Brightside for the City of St. Louis, enjoys bowling and gourmet cooking. He held the rank of HT3 in the US Navy and served on the USS Cushing for two and half years.

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Visit our new website at [www.rbvstl.org](http://www.rbvstl.org)

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Mike Rea, Director of Development and Community Relations for Rainbow Village, at [mrea@rbvstl.org](mailto:mrea@rbvstl.org) or 314-567-1522 ext. 207.