#### 2024 SPRING/ SUMMER

# Helping change Lives Heart by Heart

## A Smooth(ie) Journey

At Bello Machre, we help create meaningful days tailored to the unique needs and preferences of the people we support, just like Sean!

One of the highlights of Sean's journey has been his participation in our Employment Services. Working alongside Employment Specialist Peggy, Sean has explored job opportunities that align with his interests — in April, Peggy helped Sean land an exciting new opportunity shadowing with our friends at Tropical Smoothie Cafe in Westminster!

Peggy shared their excitement for this experience: "Tropical Smoothie Cafe has been an outstanding shadowing opportunity! Sean provides endless smoothies while also cleaning blenders, stocking chips, learning the cash register system, smiling happily, and being eager to assist — his enthusiasm has been infectious."

Sean's journey didn't end after shadowing, however. Through hard work and passion, he soon earned himself an official internship every Thursday at Tropical Smoothie Café. Sean couldn't wait to jump into this exciting new challenge! "He is so happy there," Peggy exclaimed, adding, "During one session, he even received his very first tip! We couldn't be more proud of his achievements!"

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Sean making smoothies!

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## MISSION

To provide a lifetime commitment of *loving care, opportunity, and guidance* for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland.

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### As I looked at the crowd of smiling faces at Every Step Counts, I couldn't help but feel an immense sense of pride.

This recent Every Step Counts marks the 33rd anniversary of our signature summer fundraiser. Over the years, I've had the privilege of watching Every Step Counts grow. Each year we welcome more friends, larger festivities, and livelier celebrations.

As we continue to grow, the one piece that remains the same is our why.

Why do we come together to celebrate?

The answer is simple. It's the same reason **why** Bello Machre was founded, and **why** our essential Direct Support Professionals get out of bed each morning.

It's because people with developmental and intellectual disabilities **deserve** a lifetime of loving care and opportunities. It's our commitment at Bello Machre to make this a reality.

This commitment — *a lifetime commitment* — is something that doesn't happen overnight.

It's the result of daily acts of compassion: a staff member helping someone start their day, an employment specialist coaching someone for their dream job interview, a volunteer reading to residents of our community group homes, or an art studio constructed by our team for residents like Ed, whose passion for art enriches his life and fills it with purpose.

It's this commitment that's the foundation of who we are at Bello Machre, and it's a commitment that we only plan on growing.

As you'll read in this newsletter, we've recently expanded our Hertha and Jesse Adams Ray of Hope Program. This program provides direct assistance to individuals and families with developmental disabilities who need financial support. The money provided will help individuals cover expenses for resources ranging from adaptive equipment and sensory toys, to residential support and specialized summer camps, embodying our belief in being a "Ray of Hope" for those in need.

As we look for new ways to expand our impact in the community, we can't do so without making sure our foundation is strong. **This means** appreciating and taking care of the team members who make our mission possible.



We're proud to provide 100% company-paid health insurance for all full-time staff, with recent enhancements offering lower costs and broader coverage.

Equally important, we've been able to provide our frontline staff with a 12% increase in their paycheck.

The reason that we can change lives at Bello Machre is because of **you.** Every dollar given, item donated, event attended, and support provided has brought us to where we are today. It's **you** and your contributions that allow us to make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

I cannot express how grateful I am to have your support as we continue on this journey together. Thank you for being a part of the Bello Machre family. Together we will continue to make great things happen in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Rit J. Jull

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. *Share your connection.* 

Visit www. BelloMachre.org



Learn how you can help.

### **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**



#### Bello Machre means home of my heart in Gaelic.

This meaning is reflected in our mission: a lifetime commitment of loving care, opportunities, and guidance for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland. For over 50 years, we have provided residential and community-based services that help those we support live rich, fulfilling lives. Each person served by Bello Machre will always enjoy a meaningful day based on their needs and desires. Learn more about our programs and services below.

The Jesse and Hertha Adams Ray of Hope Program — We provide financial assistance to help meet the needs of individuals and families. From specialized summer camp to physical therapy and adoptive equipment expenses, Bello Machre will help families no matter the challenges they face.

**Personal Supports Services** — We offer people with developmental disabilities the opportunity to achieve their personal goals in a meaningful way that allows them to live as independent a lifestyle as possible. Direct Support Professionals work with individuals in a 1:1 setting to support them in accessing community-based social, educational, and leisure activities. Although Personal Supports Services focus on providing supports in the community, day-to-day living supports are provided as needed.

Respite Care is an add-on service to Personal Supports that provides planned or emergency relief for primary caregivers. We can arrange for community-based or in-home care for an extended period of time, up to 21 days.

With Personal Supports, your loved one will grow and thrive in the community.

**Meaningful Day Services** — We provide community-based adult day services, including Community Development Services and Supported Employment Services, for people with developmental disabilities ages 21 and above.

Community Development Services include social, recreational, and volunteer opportunities in a 1:4 (staff to individuals) setting so that the people we serve can be active members of the community.

Employment Services focus on helping your loved one find competitive employment opportunities in the community. Employment specialists assist the people we support to explore career options and provide job development, training, and coaching services.

No matter what, our focus is to enrich the lives of those we support through activities within the community that promote your loved one's personal and/or professional growth.

**Residential Services** — We care for people in Bello Machre-owned homes where they feel safe and loved. A Family Living Director (house manager) and other Direct Support Professionals guide and help those we serve so they can grow, develop, and live life to the fullest.

**Share Your Life** — Contact us today to find out how you can develop a meaningful connection and have a direct impact on the people we serve.

Bello Machre, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered with the Maryland Secretary of State. It serves children and adults with developmental disabilities without regard to race, religion, gender, or national origin.

## Ed: Our Resident



### Finding one's calling in life isn't always easy but that's not the case for Ed.

Ed is a long-time resident of Bello Machre's Residential Group Homes and lives in one of our community homes. If you stop by to visit him, and he isn't enjoying one of his favorite shows like *Family Feud* or *The Adams Family*, he's most likely painting.

Art has been a lifelong pursuit for Ed and although he's dabbled in a few different mediums, paint has always been his favorite.

"He has such a way of bringing colors together and making each one pop," shares Ed's Direct Support Professional DeAsia. "He will paint all day if you let him — no matter the place or time. We've been on vacation and he'll be so inspired that he wants to start painting. Sometimes he'll wake up in the middle of the night and begin working on a new piece."

Ed even has his very own art studio behind his home. The cozy and decorated studio features finished paintings hung along the walls and easels of Ed's masterpieces. Ed recently held his latest art show at his personal studio. Not only is Ed a creative artist, but he's also a shrewd businessman. Ed's art is inspiring, bold, and beautiful, but it is not free.

If you've had the pleasure of sharing a conversation with Ed, he'll inform you, **"Nothing's cheap anymore."** 

Ed undoubtedly puts his earnings to good use. DeAsia shares, "We're always going to the store to buy more supplies. He uses his money to buy canvases, paint, paintbrushes, and other necessities."

This doesn't mean that Ed won't occasionally treat himself. After his last art show, Ed made sure to stop by the Crafty Crab for one of his favorite dishes — crab cakes.

Although Ed enjoys the money that his art brings in, if you ask if he's an artist or businessman, he'll respond: *"artist."* 



Enriching Lives Heart by Heart 4

## A Smooth(ie) Journey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sean's joy, growth, and new skills are a testament to the power of community support and dedicated service. We eagerly look forward to Sean's future and express our gratitude to Tropical Smoothie Cafe for their invaluable role in Sean's career exploration!

Sean's achievements are truly inspiring and we are excited to continue to support him on his journey.



Sean organizes the store too — keep up the great work!



#### MASON'S RAY OF HOPE

"Giving Mason the ability to communicate his needs is going to open up an entire new world for him," says Mason's mom Hannah. Mason turns three this September and has already been through so much in life.

Shortly after birth, Mason was diagnosed with Down Syndrome.

Mason's parents were blindsided by the diagnosis clear pregnancy screenings had indicated no elevated risk of Down Syndrome, and they faced an uncertain path ahead.

The first six months were especially tough as Mason's parents adjusted to the unexpected diagnosis. They spent their time vigorously trying to figure out how they could help Mason and what they could do to facilitate his development. Mason's parents love their baby boy with all of their hearts, but they spent a lot of time shortly after Mason was born worrying about his future.

Hannah, Mason's mother, vividly recalls a turning point around the six-month mark. "Somewhere along the way, I realized that Mason is perfect just the way he is. My focus shifted to supporting him, and life became brighter."

Now, Mason and his family couldn't be happier. "Mason hasn't spoken his first word yet, but he reads aloud in his own way, uses signs to communicate, and brings joy with his laughter," Hannah shares. "He gives the best cuddles and melts your heart."

In November 2023, Bello Machre supported Mason and his family through our Hertha & Jesse Adams Ray of Hope Program, which provides funding for resources and services that help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. "I learned about the Ray of Hope Program through another parent," Hannah explains. "When you have a child with special needs, expenses accumulate quickly for the endless items and services that could help with your child's development."

With Ray of Hope funding, Mason's parents were able to purchase signing lessons to help him develop communication skills, as well as a tablet that he uses to tap different buttons and express his various needs.

Mason's parents reflect, "Having to put your child's developmental needs on hold because of money is never an easy decision, but Ray of Hope is giving us well, a ray of hope for Mason's communication abilities! Thank you, Bello Machre, for supporting my son and giving him the opportunity he needed."



Mason and his family

To learn more about our Hertha & Jesse Adams Ray of Hope Program, scan the QR code.





## Our biggest turn out!

Bello Machre's largest fundraising event, Every Step Counts, was held in two locations: at Manchester Valley High School in Manchester, MD and Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, MD on Saturday June 8, 2024. This day brought smiles, laughter, and heartfelt energy. Over 400 people from our community came out to walk, donate, and celebrate Bello Machre. The generosity from our sponsors, donors, and family members truly helped make ESC 2024 another year of success!

"It was so heart warming to see so many people gathered to celebrate this year's Every Step Counts," shares Bello Machre Vice President & COO Julie Provan. "It was our biggest turn out to date!"

The top three individual fundraisers for our 33rd Annual Every Step Counts were Kathryn Zorn (\$8,100), Terri Hurtt (7,355), and Lana Slobodyanik (\$3,750).

The top three fundraising teams for Every Step Counts 2024 were the Westview Drive Home (\$9,720), the Wohlgemuth Home (\$7,355), and Tential's team "Raise the DunBAR" (\$7,158).









**Bello Machre would like to** thank its generous sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped make Every Step Counts a giant success!





Check out our Every Step Counts 2024 video on our Website, Facebook, and YouTube!

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Apriel Williams Ms Charmaine Williams Ms Gloria Williams Ms. Sandra Williams Taylor Williams Ms. Carolyn Wingeart Ms. Julie Woepke Ms. Sharon Wolfson John Yates Mr. Robert Zoller-Gritz Gifts In Kind & **Event Participants** Mr. & Mrs. Robert Aguilar Mr. Gregory Akers Ms. Mariana Alvarenga Ms Andrea Armstrong Bello Machre Employees Mr. Todd Bonnev Mr. Bob Brick Ms. Judy Brick Glenn & Nikki Brockmeyer Shannon Brown Canada Dry Potomac Corp. Cattail Construction Group Ms. Ashlev Chamblee Ms. Cassie Ciepiela Ms. Maria Ciepiela Ms Kendra Collier Eric Collinson Ms. Martha Collinson Tv & lan Connors Andy Cooch Ms. Kiehl Crone Ms. Melissa DeBuon Daniel & Victoria Dewey Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dietrich Shannon Dillen Ms. Sarah Doccolo Kai Dorsey Ms. Sonya Dorsey The Dowell Family The Doukas Family Ms. Michelle Dumsha Mr Vernon Duncan Christine Duncan Elks Lodge - Severna Park Mr. Andrew Eyring Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler Ms. Linda Figallo Mrs. Carol Figueroa Ms. Liz Fink Ms. Jenna Fisher & Mr. Micah Rufsvold Mary Lynn Fisher Valerie Foxwell Mr. & Mrs. Alan Fluck Amy Fontz Mr. Joseph Gear Ms. Michele Y. Goodman-James The Goldthwait Family Ms. Robin M. Gutshal Mr. & Mrs. Griff Hall Mr Joseph Hamm Ms Juanita Hartman Harriss Roofing Ms. Hailey Henry Patty Honeycutt Ms. Nancy Hoover Lylah Humphries Judd Ireland Ms. Emily Jackson Mrs. Kathy Jackson Mr. & Mrs. Bill Jaeger Mr. John Jones Mrs. Nancy Kennerly

Mr. Matthew White

Mr. John Whitner

#### Ms. Cheryl Lawson Mr. & Mrs. Martin Lynott Ms. Karen McCarty Ms. Katelvn Meniivar Martha Merz Mr. Derek Miller Mr. & Mrs. Tom Neuberger Ms. Karen Nickey Miss Hannah Olexy Ms. Helen Onomerike Brian Ondrovik Ashlie Pack David Pack Elana Pack Mr. & Mrs. David Parrish Pam Pasternack Ms. Megan Rattliff Ms. Christine Rogall Mr. & Mrs. Charles Roper Ms. Norma Rosales Ms. Tanicia Rovster The Ruth Family Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Ryan Mr. & Mrs. James Salomon Mr. Ricky Samples Ms. Wendy Schlining Ms. Paula Schnabel Ms. Vickie Schnabel SCLogic Group Mrs. Dianne Scott Ms. Susan Sheehan Mr. & Mrs. Tim Sheeler Ms. Claudia Skinner Ms. Brittany Skinner Ms. Heather Stocklager Ms. Judie Strawbridge Ms. Holly Sutliff Ms. Honora W. Sutor Jimmy & Suzette Tadlock Team Tential Ms. Eva Tucholski Ms. Barbara Wagner Ms. Pamela Walter Ms. Kristen Whipple Ms. Drucilla Whitner Mr. David Wynkoop Mr. & Mrs. Bill Zephir

#### Memorial Gifts

#### **Eileen Albergo**

Ms. Barbara Ballinger

#### Joshua "Drew" Chilcoat Ms. Barbara Laverdiere

#### Robert "Bobby" Dederer

Ms. Gloria Cichocki Ms. June Comegys Mrs. Evelyn Dederer Mr. & Mrs. John and Mary Goldburn Ms. Eileen Head Dr. & Mrs. Robert T. Ireland Ms. Iris J. Leplev Ms. Patricia Neuberger Ms. Martha J. Nichols Mr. & Mrs. Steven Thomerson

**Richard C. Derhammer** Sara S. & Robin D. Gray

#### **Amet Figueroa**

Mrs. Carol Figueroa

#### Laura Elizabeth Gortler

Mrs. Carolyn R. Burnett Col. & Mrs. Fred Gortler, III Mr. & Mrs. Chris Harris

#### **Janet Jenkins**

Ms. Carol A. Baker Ms. Stephana B. Campbell Mr. & Mrs. John Gordon Dr. & Mrs. Robert T. Ireland

#### A STEADFAST PARTNERSHIP

he Elks Lodge in Severna Park, Maryland has been a steadfast community partner of Bello Machre and the individuals we support. The Elks Lodge has hosted multiple 'Sunday Fundays,' complete with games, music, delicious food, and unforgettable moments spent with friends. The dedication of the Elks Lodge team in planning, coordinating, and hosting these enjoyable events is invaluable.



#### CONTACT US TODAY

Email tracy.lynott@bellomachre.org or call 443-702-3016 to donate or answer any questions.

Rhonda Kiler

#### MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIVING

#### Honor Gifts

Darcy Celestine Mr. & Mrs. Jay Dunne

**Bob Davis** Mr. and Mrs. James Davis

Annick Dolard Mr & Mrs Francis Dolard

Mattie Gosnell Ms. Carol Graham

Daniel & Tanya Mathias Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Mathias

**Gary Schiren** Mr. William R. Schiren, Sr.

Molly Wilmer Mr. & Mrs. Martin Lynott

**Katherine Zorn** Ms. Maryse Maillochon Petasis

## **Thank You!**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our friends at the Severna Park Elks Lodge for creating cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

Margie & Joe Klein Mr. & Mrs. Tom Neuberger

Anita Joy Kroh Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Debbie Kroh

Susan McMann Mr. & Mrs. John H. S. McMann

**Bruce Gerard Radowich** Ms. Karen Radowich

**Robert Roth** Mr. & Mrs. Damon Roth

Patricia Sullivan Mr. & Mrs. Martin Lynott

Arlene & Lisa Warzel Mr. Ed Warzel

Leonard Wojcik Ms. Denise Woicik





#### VERY GRATEFUL! 1,166 Volunteer Hours

Ms. Diana Ackermann Ms. Karen Agee Mr. Jody Allen Mr. Abdulraheem Alshanegiti Archbishop Spalding High School Mr. Chris Engler Asbury United Methodist Church Ms. Barbara Epperly Mr. Stone Ashwood Mr. Gregory Avara Mrs. Laura Avara Ms. Brianna Banfield Ms. Shatina Berger Ms. Angie Beswick Mrs. Mary Deborah Biggerstaff Mrs. Randon Bittings Ms. Airstin Bittings Ms. Farrah Booker Ms. Amber Brewer Ms. Alysha Brown Ms. Erin Brown Ms. Crystal Brownlee Ms. Ronita Brown Ms. Kathy L. Buss Mr. Cayden Byrnes Mr. Gavin Byrnes Mr. Thomas Byrnes Mr. Nick Caleo Mrs. Tobi Caleo Mr. Larry Cate Ms. Kelly Cicen Mr. Andew Cooch, Esq. Mr. Rod Corbin Mr. Joshua Cota Ms. Kasey Countryman Mr. Michael Cruz Ms. Debbie Davis Mr. Daniel Dewey Ms. Victoria Dewey Ms. Deena Dib Mrs. Krystal Dorsey Ms. Kate Dorsey

Dr. & Mrs. William Doukas Ms. Ashley Downey Mrs. Michelle Dumsha Mrs. Janis Ellis Ms. Zoey Epperly Ms. Tameka Estwick Mr. Saa Fillie Faboe Mr. & Mrs. Daniel V. Fox Ms. Jennifer Frazier Mr. John S. Goldthwait, Jr. Ms. Janet Grove Mr. John Hackman Mr. Gabe Hackman Mr. Griff Hall Ms. Randi Hautala Ms. Kristin Hayes Ms. Hailey Henry Mrs. Janic Holsonbake Ms. Patty Honeycutt Mrs. Karen L. Imhoff Mr. Hunter Jackson Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kairys Ms. Donna Keys Mrs. Lisa Kirby Mr. Landon Kuhl Ms. Alexa LaChapelle Mrs. Barb Lewis Mr. Gus Lynott Ms. Bailey McCoy Ms. Gail McGee Meaningful Day Program Mr. Kevin Medrano Mr. & Mrs. David Menzel Ms. Kristi Middleton Ms. Lashae Morant Ms. Candice Mumpower-Booker Ms Denice Neal

Mr. Trevon Nickens Mr. Ted Ochs Mr. Tre Overholtzer Mr. Tyler Pack Ms Brenna Palmer Ms. Kendra Parker Mr Jerome Pierce Mr. Kevin Pinder Ms. Kia Pinkett Mr. Cameron Powell Ms. Tabitha Rankins Ms. Caitlyn Reese Ms. Kathleen Reese Mrs. Cosette Rodriguez-Hernandez Mr. Rich Saad Mr. Quinn Salamandra Ms. Noelle Salamandra Mr. Michael Saldi Ms. Haleigh Samples Ms. Kristy Samples Ms. Jasmine Scharschell Ms. Mary Shipley Mr. Connor Skalitzky Mrs. Lori Skalitzky Skyline Technology Soluctions Mr. Jimmy Rey Tadlock, III Mr. Mickey V. Thomas Ms. Patricia M. Timmons Mr. Michael Todd Ms. Sarah Toriola Ms. Nicole Trumpler Mrs. Stephanie Walder Mr. Marty Waugh Mr. Steven Waugh Mr. Robert Welenc Mrs. Kara Welsh Ms Pamela West Mrs. Bobberie Whitney Ms. LuAnn Wilkins



A DINNER TO REMEMBER! We extend our heartfelt thanks to volunteers Noelle Salamandra and Alexa LaChapelle, who recently visited two of our community group homes to create a memorable dining experience for the residents. Not only did Noelle and Alexa prepare delicious homemade meals, but they also took the extra step of setting the tables to create a care-free dinner experience for everyone in the home. Their thoughtful gesture, which included a delightful sweet treat, brought smiles to everyone's faces.

We deeply appreciate Noelle and Alexa's dedication and hard work in ensuring these tasty meals reached our community homes. Their generosity, time, and effort has made a significant impact, and we cannot thank them enough for their kindness.

Ms. Erica Willett Mrs. Menkara Williams Ms. Tamara Williams Ms. Faith Wilson Mr. Sky Word Ms. Alison Workman Mr. Max Wrenn



#### UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES





 Come decorate a Bello Machre home for Halloween, Thanksgiving, or the Holidavs!

 Rake fall leaves and pot fall flowers to help prepare our homes for the winter season!

 Donate Thanksgiving and Holiday dinner baskets full of nonperishable foods and groceries.

 Adopt one of Bello Machre's homes from our Amazon Wishlist to help provide everyday items needed within the home.

#### CONTACT US TODAY

Email alexis.jaynes@bellomachre.org or call 443-702-3064 to volunteer & get involved.



Anne Arundel Headquarters 7765 Freetown Road Glen Burnie, MD 21060 p 443.702.3000 f 410.437.3749 Carroll County Office 255 Clifton Boulevard, Suite 301 Westminster, MD 21157 p 443.821.3386 f 667.367.2462

