

2025
SPRING/
SUMMER

Bello Machre News

Helping change *Lives* Heart *by* Heart

Alex is Beating the Odds



A Journey of Strength and Support



Alex and his support staff enjoying the day at Every Step Counts!

When Alex moved into Bello Machre's Napa Court home four years ago, his calm presence and kind spirit quickly made him a beloved part of the family.

He bonded easily with his housemates and staff, especially his Family Living Director, Candace Dukes.

It wasn't until he began receiving regular medical care that the team learned Alex was living with advanced kidney disease. At the time, his outlook was uncertain.

"Alex has shown such resilience and has overcome so much in a short time," Candace shared. "When we first learned about his diagnosis, his doctors, the Napa Court staff, and I worked together to create a plan that would help him live the best life possible."

With Alex's full involvement, the team focused on lifestyle changes that supported his health. His commitment, along with the care he received, helped delay the need for dialysis for three years.

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MISSION

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





Dr. Robert T. Ireland
PRESIDENT & CEO



Use the QR code to visit my blog,
Meeting the Moment, Together

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While visiting one of our homes, I met a Bello Machre resident who doesn't use words to communicate but always greets me with the **world's brightest smile**.

Every time I see her, I'm reminded how wonderful it is that she will always be loved as part of our unique Bello Machre family — and that is because of all of you: our generous donors and inspiring staff.

She isn't aware of funding streams or government policies. She may not understand what it takes to keep a roof over her head, but she knows the warmth of a loving hand and the safety of a caring family. She represents our most vulnerable residents, those who depend entirely on us. **If we don't care for them, who will?**

Looking ahead, we're focused on the future. We're building five beautiful wheelchair-accessible homes to replace our older ones. These spacious *forever homes* reflect our commitment to providing a lifetime of loving care and opportunity.

We remain dedicated to our mission, but these are challenging times. Much of our funding comes from state and federal governments. We have weathered tough seasons before, including a recession and a pandemic, and emerged stronger. We will navigate this moment the same way, step by step and together.

Thanks to your generosity, we are wrapping up the fiscal year on solid ground. From heartfelt visits that inspire lasting gifts to families choosing to include Bello Machre in their long-term giving plans, the generosity of our community continues to sustain and strengthen our mission. These meaningful acts of support ensure that we can keep providing a lifetime of loving care to those who need it most.

Because of this support, people in our Residential Program live full, meaningful lives in beautiful, accessible homes. Individuals in our Meaningful Day Services form friendships and engage with their communities. Families find hope and access to vital resources through the Ray of Hope program. And through our Employment Program, job seekers discover purpose and connect with local businesses.

As we look ahead to tomorrow, we invite you to be part of the journey by giving your time, sharing your talents, or offering financial support. The people we support may never know your name, but they will feel your love every day. **Thank you for being part of our Bello Machre family.**



Visit www.BelloMachre.org



Learn how you can help.

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Share your connection.



JASE'S RAY OF HOPE

At Bello Machre, we believe that every chapter of someone's journey matters — and for Jase, a bright new chapter is just beginning.

Jase is one of the newest recipients of critical funding through our Ray of Hope, which helps people with developmental disabilities access the resources they need to live fuller, more independent lives.

With help from the Ray of Hope program, Jase and his family can access the therapies that support his growth and well-being.

"Our family is forever grateful for the Ray of Hope Program from Bello Machre. It's so challenging in today's world to afford all the supports a high-needs child requires." The financial strain had been building for some time for the family. "The juggle of managing these expensive therapies can become overwhelming so quickly."

That's when Bello Machre's Ray of Hope program stepped in to help lighten the load and provide Jase and his family with the support, and peace of mind, they deserved.

"Without this support, we may have had to consider whether our son could continue with his therapies. Thank you, Bello Machre, for your important work. You are making such a difference."

Jase's story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when families have the support they need. The Ray of Hope program doesn't just fund services — it fuels progress, relieves pressure, and opens doors for children like Jase to thrive.



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



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.



a Wolfpack bond



The “Wolfie” gesture is a way to show school spirit and support for the Wolfpack — their human spirit touched the Bello Machre community.

Earlier this spring, a passionate group of students from North Carolina State University traveled to Maryland for a week of service with Bello Machre, and in just a few short days, they made a lasting impact.

With open hearts and incredible energy, the students immersed themselves in the Bello Machre community. They shared meals, created art, played games, and danced the night away with the people we support. But beyond the fun and laughter, what stood out most were the genuine connections that formed.

For many students, it was their first time working so closely with adults with developmental disabilities. “I was anxious at first,” one student shared. “But seeing how welcoming everyone was, and learning how to truly listen, changed

everything.” Another shared how powerful it was to see joy and expression shine through something as simple as painting or singing karaoke.

Throughout the week, Tracy Lynott — Bello Machre Director of Development — served as a guiding light. Students described her as the definition of servant leadership: someone who leads with empathy, passion, and purpose.

From making friendship bracelets to meaningful one-on-one conversations, the week was filled with unforgettable moments. One student summed it up perfectly:

“My biggest takeaway is that you receive just as much from service as you give — if not more.”

We’re incredibly grateful to the NC State students for spending their time with us and for approaching our mission with such kindness and curiosity. Thank you for reminding us that the heart of service is connection — we can’t wait to welcome you back.



A week of service, smiles, and new friendships with the Wolfpack.

Beating the Odds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Alex enjoying quality time with house mates and support staff.

That time allowed him to build routines, relationships, and lasting memories.

One of those memories came in 2023 when Alex took his first-ever vacation to Myrtle Beach with his Bello Machre family. He enjoyed every moment, from visiting the aquarium and walking the boardwalk to relaxing in the pool, trying new restaurants, and shopping.

“He really enjoyed himself,” Candace said with a smile. “It was such a joy to see him light up.”

In early 2024, Alex began dialysis three times a week. It was a big adjustment, but in true Alex fashion, he approached the change with strength and optimism.

“Today, Alex is doing so well,” Candace shared. “He’s handling dialysis better than most. He’s full of energy,

ready for anything. He looks great, and more importantly, he feels great.”

His journey has touched everyone around him, including Program Director Saa Fillie, who shared: “Alex has redefined resilience. Faced with severe kidney failure, he embraced a complete lifestyle transformation with courage and determination. His progress has not only surprised the dialysis center but also inspired all of us. Together, with unwavering support from staff and Alex’s relentless spirit, we’ve witnessed a journey of strength, growth, and hope. We are beyond proud of him.”

Though soft-spoken at first, Alex brings warmth and joy to everyone he meets. He’s known for introducing Candace to others, even when they already know her.

“Alex is such a fighter,” Candace said. “He’s built meaningful relationships, and the bond we’ve created is something I’ll always treasure. I’m so happy to have him with us at Napa.”



With a brush in hand, Alex explores his creative side.

Alex’s story is a beautiful reminder of how compassion, perseverance, and a supportive community can create space **not just for healing, but for thriving.**



EVERY step COUNTS

Every Step Counts was a celebration to remember — bringing our community together and **raising over \$200,000** to support people with developmental disabilities. Held at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, MD, and Dutterer Family Park in Westminster, MD, our signature summer fundraiser showed the true power of community.

Families, staff, and supporters from across Maryland gathered for this special event, all to support the people with developmental disabilities who are part of the Bello Machre family. Whether walking, donating, or simply showing up in support, everyone contributed to the day's success. Attendees enjoyed dancing, live music, delicious food, and exciting raffles — making it a fun and memorable celebration for all.

“Every Step Counts truly is a staple Bello Machre tradition,” shares Julie Provan, Bello Machre Vice President & COO. “It’s more than just a walk. It’s a joyful celebration that brings together the entire Bello Machre community. From the people we support to their families, staff, and friends, it’s a day that perfectly reflects what we’re all about: loving care and opportunity for everyone.”

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, sponsors, and fundraising teams, Every Step Counts 2025 was a resounding success!



Top 2025 Fundraisers

Individual Fundraisers

Kim Zorn \$4,475
Janice & Jim Ellis \$3,229
Mark Glover \$2,205

Fundraising Teams

Wohlgemuth Home \$8,400
Westview Home \$6,391
Lana's Team \$4,575



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 2025 video on our Website, Facebook, and YouTube!

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Thank You!

WE HONOR DAVE & PAT MENZEL

Members of the Bello Machre Heritage Society have included us in their estate plans and made philanthropic gifts to the Legacy Fund. This vital fund helps ensure that we can continue providing a lifetime of loving care — today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

We are proud to welcome Dave and Pat Menzel as the newest members of the Heritage Society. Dave and Pat reflect, “We have included Bello Machre in our plans because we want to be able to help others who need care and a place to call home. We see all the positive that it has brought our son living in a group home. He now has an extended family and made true friends — we feel he has a sense of belonging.”



We are deeply thankful to everyone who has included Bello Machre in their will or estate plans.

CONTACT US TODAY

Email Tracy.Lynott@bellomachre.org or call 443-702-3016 to donate or ask any questions.

Very Grateful to Our 115 Volunteers



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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers **who bring smiles** to everyone's faces.

HELP US MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS!

Do you attend a local church or work for a business that loves giving back? We'd love an introduction!

We're always looking to connect with community groups, workplaces, and congregations that share our passion for helping people with developmental disabilities live full, meaningful lives.

If you have a connection or idea, we'd love to hear from you!



CONNECT WITH US TODAY

Email Hunter.Jackson@bellomachre.org or call 443-702-3078 to start the introduction..

UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Tee Up for Bello Machre's 41st Golf Tournament

Wednesday,
September 10th
2025



Sponsored by: **TENTIAL**

Additional Sponsors Welcome! www.BelloMachre.org/golf-tournament

Join Bello Machre's Every Step Counts

Saturday,
June 13th
2026



LATE SUMMER

- Gardening or yardwork at a Bello Machre home

FALL

- Decorate a home for Halloween or Thanksgiving
- Rake leaves or pot fall flowers
- Donate a Basket of Joy for Thanksgiving

WINTER

- Decorate a Bello Machre home for the winter holidays
- Donate a Basket of Joy for the winter holidays

VOLUNTEER WITH US TODAY

Email Jeremy.Crowe@bellomachre.org or call 443-702-3024 to volunteer & get involved.