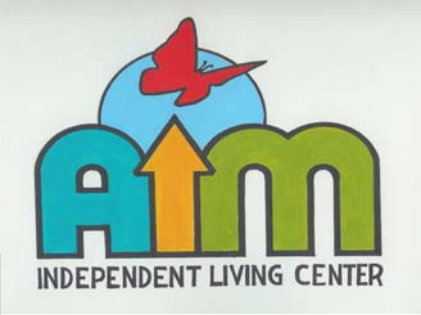
♦ VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 ♦ NOVEMBER 2006

Wings of Change



271 EAST FIRST STREET CORNING, NY 14830

AIM's red-orange Butterfly represents the Fire and Determination in each Human Spirit as he or she chooses Life and the Freedom of Independence.

Transition Services

AIM's Transition Services programs assist student's ages 14 to 21 with their movement from school to post-school life. This can include assistance and advocacy support working with the Committee on Special Education (CSE) and the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEP's). Transition services support can be provided to any district within Steuben and Chemung Counties.

AIM is currently entering into year two of a four year collaborative grant with the Elmira City School District titled the IL/School Partnership Grant. The purpose of this grant is to serve students with disabilities nearing graduation from Elmira Free Academy (EFA) and Southside High Schools. AIM hopes this year to serve 50 or more students from the two schools. Programming includes monthly informational sessions on topic areas such as employment, housing, recreation, transportation, budgeting, self-advocacy skills, post-secondary education and health and wellness. In addition the program supports two Young Adult Peer Groups at both EFA and Southside to encourage peer mentoring, socialization and involvement in the community. AIM can assist students with the development of a plan for their transition into adult life including the support and assistance with accessing services in the community for successful outcomes.

During December's holiday season, the Young Adult Peer Groups from Chemung and Steuben Counties will sell Christmas ornaments, pins and door hangers. For more information or to make a purchase please contact Brandi Elliot at AIM, 962-8225.

AIM's Transition Services program in Steuben County, additionally funded by a grant from the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC), titled the Youth Career Project or YCP, made possible with a collaborative effort with the Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben Workforce Development Center, is in its final year of a two year grant ending in June of 2007. The grant afforded the chance to provide job coaching, job development services and other educational programs for students, teachers and

Continued on page 2

Transition Services Continued

parents. With the recent merger of S/A BOCES and SCT BOCES, now called the Greater Southern Tier (GST) BOCES the region in which this grant can offer services has greatly expanded.

Events to look for during the 2006-2007 school year include:

- Series of workshops hosted at the Workforce Development Centers focusing on topics related to employment.
- December 12, 2006 the Looking Ahead Career Fair at Watson Homestead for 9-12th grade students to participate in a series of mock interviews given by actual employers from across the local regions.
- April 2, 2007 the second annual "Movin' On" Conference for students from EFA and Southside High Schools.
- June 5, 2007 the Looking Ahead Engaging Our Youth Conference held at Corning Community College for youth in grades 6-8.
- On-going monthly Young Adult Peer Groups in Chemung and Steuben Counties.

AIM welcomes Beth Perry as the new Coordinator of the Chemung County IL/School Partnership Grant providing transition services to youth at EFA and Southside High Schools. Beth was formally employed part time by AIM as a job coach while attending Corning Community College. Beth then transferred to Cornell University where she just completed her Bachelors degree in Human Development. She grew up in Chemung County and resides there today with her husband and children.

Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program

New staff members have been added to the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program. AIM welcomes Lisa Santamaria and David Tokar. Both joined AIM on July 23, 2006. Lisa and David are responsible for conducting CDPAS consumer intakes and home visits.
Welcome Lisa and David!

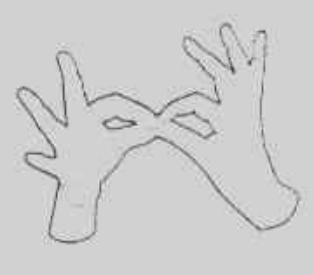
AIM administrative staff and employees would like to wish everyone a safe

Access Awards

On July 26, 2006, the Americans with Disabilities Act celebrated its 16th anniversary. AIM commemorated the occasion through its annual Access Awards at AIM's McNeil Center. Access Awards are given to people or businesses demonstrating motivation to make changes resulting in the elimination of architectural or attitudinal barriers. Individual recipients receiving Access Awards were: Jim Goodling, City of Corning, for his efforts with the Market Street Project, Pat Flynn, City of Corning, Market Street Restoration project, and Diane Spotts for voluntarily utilizing interpreters at elementary school functions. Regal Cinema at the Arnot Mall received an award for making closed captioning available. Additionally, the following enterprises received a 2006 Access Award for architectural improvements:

AJ's Hair & Make-up
American Red Cross
Bacalles Glass Shop
Bagel Shop
Barber's Jewelers
Berger's Ski & Snowboard Shop
Beyond Baskets
Bong's Jeweler's
Brown's Cigar Store
Charles Boyian
(For 11 E Market Street)
Claudette's
Connors Market Street
Mercantile
CCU
The Crystal Rose
Every Girls Dream Bridal
Fat Cats
Flip Flop & Flip Flop Home
Foto Factory
Gaffer Grille & Tap Room
Galvin & Haines Insurance
George Welch
(For 19 E. Market Street)
Home Again/Closet Treasures
Heart To Hand
Information Center of Corning
Katherine's Garden
London Underground Café
Market Street Brew Pub
M & T Bank
Noah's Ark
(For 58 E. Market Street)
Robert Ecklin
(For 23-25 W. Market Street)
And
(For 27-29 W. Market Street)
Route 81 Radio
Shoe Doctor
Snooty Pig Irish Pub
Sprague Insurance
Three Birds Restaurant
Urban Cottage
Vincent Welch
(For 29 E. & 13 E. Market Street)
West End Gallery
Western Regional OTB
Wireless World
Wild Birds Unlimited

Deaf Services



Elmira Mayor John Tonello declared Sunday, September 24, 2006 through Saturday, September 30, 2006 Deaf Awareness Week. The objective was to help raise awareness among the public about deaf culture and to differentiate between misconception and fact. The proclamation urged all citizens to join in celebrating and honoring the culture, heritage and language of individuals who are deaf in the Elmira community.

Cards, requesting an interpreter when stopped by the police, are still available through AIM. Anyone interested in obtaining a card is asked to contact either Shelly Danley or Kelley Crocker at AIM's Elmira office. (607 733-7764 TTY) or 607 733-3817).

Kelley Crocker, an advocate with AIM's Deaf Services, attended a week-long, intensive multidisciplinary course of study in crime victims' rights and services. Sponsored through the New York State Victim Assistance Academy (NYSVAA) , Kelley earned a certificate of completion with her participation in learning about more than 30 topics concerning crime victims' rights under New York State law.

AIM's Deaf Services department completed a mass mailing to health care providers and legal representatives in Chemung, Steuben and a portion of Schuyler Counties. Letters, brochures and magnets with information about interpreter referral agencies were provided. If you would like a magnet, please call AIM's Elmira office at the telephone number listed above.

New Employee

John Dundas is our new caretaker and all around fix-it person. John is in charge of the upkeep of AIM's buildings and grounds. He also maintains AIM's vehicles and acts as the driver for many AIM events. Say hello to John when you visit AIM's offices.

Funds Available for Home Modifications

New York State is providing funding under "Access to Home" grants to help New York seniors and those with disabilities to remain in their homes and out of nursing homes. The Access to Home awards will provide money to not-for-profit organizations to administer local programs to make the homes and apartments of low and moderate income New Yorkers with disabilities more accessible. Providing assistance with the cost of adapting homes to meet the needs of those with disabilities will enable individuals to safely and comfortably live in their residences and avoid institutional care. The funds can be used to build ramps, modify bathrooms, and other home or apartment features for those in wheelchairs or with other impairments. This assistance will also allow individuals currently living in institutional settings to transition back to their homes once the homes are appropriately adapted. For more information please contact the following agencies in your county:

- Steuben County: SCAP, PO Box 31, 16 William Street, Bath, NY 14810. Ask to speak to Virginia Bates. Housing Programs Coordinator, at 776-7664 extension 225 or Evie Lamb, Program Intake Specialist at 776-7664 extension 229.
- Chemung, Schuyler and Tioga Counties: Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, 935 East Avenue, Suite 300, Rochester, New York 14607, Phone 1-686 461-4263 or email at Sheen@rochester.rr.com.
- Allegany County: Andover Historic Preservation Corp., 22 East Greenwood Street, Andover, NY 14806, Phone 478-8009.

Information, Please!

Searching for information about community and agency services can be a daunting task. Usually people have some idea of what they need but they may not know where to start looking. As an independent living center, one of AIM's four core services is providing information and referral. When AIM receives a call from someone who needs help, AIM's advocates can assist an individual by offering information and referral to other community resources. Advocates also will help people who want to self-advocate for themselves as well as parents seeking help with the school systems.

Please call AIM's Corning office at 962-8225 or Elmira office at 733-0180 and ask to speak to an advocate.

Traumatic Brain Injury Services

AIM's third annual Punkin' Chuckin Fall Festival took place on Saturday, October 7, 2006. Located at the Country Pub II on Meads Creek Road in Painted Post, the event included craft vendors, children's' activities, a lawn mower race and of course, punkin' chuckin catapults. This year the catapults incorporated four kid-sized shooter just the right size for hurling plastic pumpkins. Admission was $1.00 to $2.00 and free to children under the age of three. Proceeds will benefit AIM's Traumatic Brain Injury Program. Next year's event promises to be even bigger and better. AIM would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the terrific volunteers who made this year's chuckin' event a huge success.

New this fall: Traci Roche, Director of AIM's Consumer Services, attended two informative seminars relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Olmstead Act. If you or your organization are interested in scheduling a workshop with Traci regarding the ADA and Olmstead Act, please call Traci at 962-8225, extension 23. The TBI Support Group also has two new drivers. Please join AIM in welcoming Cliff Miller and Janna Hija. Lots of new adaptive equipment has been added for the TBI cooking classes. In 2007, AIM will begin providing services, on a limited basis, for the New York State Department of Health's TBI Medicaid Waiver Program. For more information about any of the above items or to have your name added to the mailing list, please call Traci at 962-8225, extension 23.

Consumers' Corner

Consumers' Corner is your space to share your accomplishments, news, opinions and any other information you would like to exchange with other individuals with disabilities.

AIM asks that you send your correspondences to:

Attention Newsletter Editor at AIM, 271 East First Street, Corning, New York 14830. Please include your telephone number. You may also call AIM's offices at 962-8225 and ask to speak to the newsletter editor.

New Voting Machines Ready

A new Federal law requires that at least one accessible voting machine is in place at all polling locations for any election in 2007. Because of the new laws in the HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT, (HAVA) the Chemung County Board of Elections moved to 378 S. Main St, formerly the site of the Southside Library. The move was necessary to fulfill the requirements of the HAVA law by providing storage and ownership of the new voting machines and annual training of election inspectors. According to information provided on the Chemung County website, Democratic Election Commissioner Keith Osborne said, "This new location will provide the voting public and anyone interested in registering to vote, street level access to our offices." We are very pleased with the new location and the effort shown by County and City leaders to bring our Office into the 21st Century." In Steuben County, individuals with disabilities can vote in this year's November elections using a fully accessible voting machine at the Steuben County office building in Pultney Square, Bath, New York. Al Johnson, the Steuben County Democratic Election Commissioner, announced the Board of Elections

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AIM for your goals…they are yours to reach…

271 East First Street
Corning, NY 14812

Voice/TTY: 607-962-8225
Fax: 607-937-5125

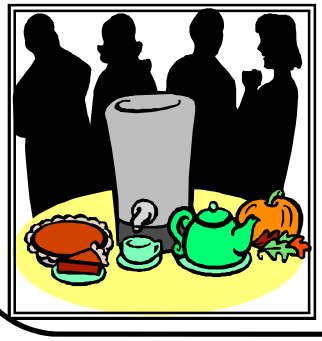
will have a voting demonstration at the Civil Defense Center in Bath, on October 25, 2006, between 1:00 and 6:00 PM. The purpose of the "Open House" is to invite the public to visit and take a look at the selection of possible voting machines considered for purchase in 2007.

As always, people with disabilities may continue to use an absentee ballot, ask for assistance from a Board of Election official or have a family member of friend accompany them into a traditional voting booth. For more information or to make arrangements to practice on this year's voting machine: please contact:

Chemung County's Board of Elections at 607-737-5475.
Steuben County's Board of Elections at 607 774-2260.
Schuyler County's Board of Elections at 607 535-8195.

Informational brochures are available through AIM offering instructions for using the Avante Vote-Trakker Ballot Marker. Please stop in at the McNeil Center to pick up a brochure or call AIM's offices to request a brochure sent to you in the mail.

AIM's Annual Holiday Celebration



Holiday Party
Thursday, December 14, 2006
Dayspring II Apartments,
220 Tioga Avenue, Corning, NY
Starting at 6:00 PM
Please bring a dish to pass.