



# SEECConnections

Winter 2005

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SEEC (formerly Supported Employment Enterprise Corporation) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enabling persons with developmental disabilities who have significant needs to live and work as contributing members of the community through individualized advocacy and support.

## SEEC

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SEECConnections Editor

*Cathy Dirksen*

## SEEC Launches Two New Initiatives To Expand Opportunities for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

### Project Ride

In early November SEEC began its work on **Project Ride** a new program to increase use of public transportation by people with developmental disabilities. The goal of Project Ride is to provide individuals with cognitive disabilities with increased opportunities and



greater flexibility to explore interests and careers in the community.

SEEC staff member, **Denise Thomas**, will serve as manager for this innovative program made possible by a generous grant from the **Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council** with additional funding from the **J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation**. Denise will work closely with **Ricki Epstein**, Metro's Director of ADA Programs, to create and conduct "Train the Trainer" workshops for staff working with this population; training sessions for drivers and station managers of public transit systems; and hands-on training of people with cognitive disabilities. The program will benefit adults throughout the county who now rely on paratransit systems, such as MetroAccess, or are dependent on friends and families to meet their transportation needs.

SEEC will reach out to human service providers, transitioning youth educators, and families of adults with developmental disabilities who are not currently served by a provider, to ensure all county residents who want to participate in this program have the opportunity to do so.

Workshops will be conducted with drivers and station managers of Ride-On, Metro, MARC, free shuttle services and other public transportation

**Project Ride** (continues on Back Page)

### Customized Employment Pilot Program

Fourteen people supported through SEEC's Employment Services program will participate in a pilot program to create **Customized Employment** opportunities in the Silver Spring area. The launch of this initiative was approved by SEEC's Board of Directors during a recent strategic planning session.

The goal of Customized Employment is to create "ideal conditions of employment" that lead to long-lasting, gratifying, and gainful employment for each individual served. Just as important, each employer benefits from the placement and is able to provide natural supports to ensure success.

Customized Employment uses a comprehensive approach, called "discovery," to learn about the unique skills, likes, dislikes, support needs, and career aspirations of each person. Once discovery is complete, the team uses multifaceted strategies, such as systematic instruction, to increase the individual's independence and competence on the job.

Twenty-four of the 90 people served in SEEC's Employment Services program currently enjoy customized employment experiences. Most of these individuals have been in their current position for more than five years and are welcomed and supported by their co-workers. It is SEEC's intent to make these ideal conditions of employment a reality for all individuals receiving SEEC's Employment Services.

SEEC will hold special parent meetings to further acquaint families with the principles and practices of Customized Employment, and to discuss plans for including their son or daughter in this innovative approach to expanding employment options for people with developmental disabilities.



Accredited for excellence in  
program Services



*From all of us at  
SEEC,  
we wish you a safe,  
healthy, and happy  
Holiday Season.*

## A Letter From the Board President

Dear SEEC Family, Friends, and Consumers,

This September I was appointed to the position of President of SEEC's Board of Directors. It is my honor to serve in this position and I take this responsibility with enthusiasm and a desire to contribute to SEEC's present and future; both as a parent of a SEEC consumer and a professional advocating for people with disabilities and mental illness.

SEEC's Board of Directors consists of 14-16 volunteers representing a wide range of professions and expertise. Experts in the fields of accounting, law, disability rights, fundraising, and business management help guide the operations of the agency and its four key programs to serve children and adults in Montgomery County. SEEC's By-Laws mandate that a minimum of 51% of the Board members must be parents or caregivers of SEEC consumers to ensure that their perspective, personal experience, and insight contribute to our decision-making. The By-Laws also mandate that at least one SEEC consumer be a member of the Board. These requirements have been upheld for the 17 years of SEEC's existence. Community members who are dedicated to our mission and share our vision for an enriching community life experience for the individuals we serve are also represented on the Board. These members extend our resources and broaden our base of support, and we are grateful for their time, energy, and contributions.

The Board of Directors meets quarterly to review financial statements, quality assurance issues, and the organization's management systems, policies, and procedures. The Board's Executive Committee, consisting of the president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and past president, meets with the executive director on a monthly basis to keep abreast of current issues, monitor routine practices, and make adjustments and decisions in a timely manner to ensure that SEEC operates efficiently, and that our programs serve the best interests of stakeholders.

SEEC has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1987. At that time, we served just four individuals as they pursued employment opportunities in our community. Under the leadership of our volunteer Board and Karen Lee, who has served as executive director for 16 years, the agency has grown to serve more than 200 individuals. Our goal is to help the people we serve achieve their vision of "The American Dream:" to live in a home of their choosing, pursue gratifying and gainful employment, enjoy fulfilling leisure activities, and develop and participate in lasting friendships.

I thank those who have gone before me in upholding our mission—"To enable persons with developmental disabilities who have significant needs to live and work as contributing members of their community through individualized advocacy and support." I look forward to working with our current Board as we seek new and innovative ways to support our consumers as they become fully integrated in our rich community life.

Joseph A. Autry, III, M.D.

President, SEEC Board of Directors

## SEEC Thanks Outgoing Board Members

September marked the end of the terms for three members of SEEC's Board of Directors: **David Lee**, **Barbara Patigalia** and **Sarath Rajapatirana**. All three of these representatives are parents of individuals served by SEEC.

David served as Treasurer and Chair of SEEC's Finance Committee for more than four years, and was a member of the Executive Committee. Barbara, a speech pathologist, served on SEEC's Quality Assurance Committee and Sarath was a member of the Finance Committee. We are grateful for their contributions of time, expertise, and financial support. They have made a tremendous impact on the future of SEEC.

## Kevin Murphy Receives Volunteer Award

SEEC Board member, **Kevin Murphy**, was recognized for his volunteer efforts on behalf of people with disabilities by the **Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS)** this past June. It was our pleasure to nominate Kevin for the Volunteer Award as a way of acknowledging his substantial contributions to SEEC over the course of the past few years.

Kevin is a busy attorney, loving husband, father of three, and a soccer coach, yet he finds time to be a stalwart volunteer and advocate for people with developmental disabilities. As chair of the SEEC Sunday Salons fundraising events for the past two years, Kevin has helped us raise nearly \$100,000 to support our programs and services. He rarely misses a Board meeting and his expertise in law comes into play whenever SEEC addresses human resource and liability issues.

We are very grateful to Kevin for his significant contributions to SEEC and congratulate him for receiving the MACS 2005 Volunteer Award.

## SEEC Welcomes New Board Member, Linda Cole

At its September meeting, **Linda Cole** was unanimously voted to a position on the SEEC Board of Directors. Linda is the mother of **Elizabeth Cole**, a woman who receives supports from SEEC's Employment Services Program and the recreational program at VIA. Elizabeth is a volunteer at **Asbury Village** in Gaithersburg and lives in the Brown House, a group home run by the **Jewish Foundation for Group Homes**, in Silver Spring. Linda graduated from Yale College in 1973 and from Harvard Law School in 1976. She worked at the U.S. Justice Department until 1981 when Elizabeth was born, at which time she became involved in the special needs community as a volunteer. Linda is married to **Chuck Cole**, an attorney. They have two other children, **Alan** (17) and **Laura** (22), who are actively involved in Elizabeth's life.

## Community Safety Trainings

The safety of those SEEC supports as they pursue their interests and employment opportunities in the community is of paramount importance to us. This fall, SEEC partnered with **Kate Wissman**, LSCW, of the **Jewish Social Services Agency's Office of Disability Services** to provide community safety workshops for SEEC participants, staff, and caregivers. The workshops were offered on three dates and times to ensure there were ample opportunities for interested people to attend.



Ms. Wissman conducted an interactive workshop based on an adapted curriculum utilizing picture cues and role

playing to enhance the full participation of all attendees. Topics addressed included safety precautions to take, how to say no to unwanted interactions, how to respond in threatening situations, and what to do if you become a victim of a crime.



Having knowledge of safe practices and strategies for handling stressful situations in the community empowers individuals with developmental disabilities to be aware of their environment, boosts their self confidence, and increases independence. Two additional safety trainings on the topics of sexuality and self-defense are planned for the coming months.

## Congratulations Are In Order

The SEEC staff extends our most heartfelt congratulations to **Bruce Wallace** and **Elizabeth Golder** for celebrating the first anniversary of their lifelong commitment to each other. Bruce is a participant of SEEC's Employment Services program and has been a service attendant at **la Madeleine** restaurant for more than five years. In 2004 he received a "Consumer Recognition Award" by the **Maryland Association of Community Services** in recognition of his active lifestyle that includes competitive employment, community participation, and volunteerism. Elizabeth is currently employed at the **Davis Library**. The two recently took a cruise to Jamaica, Mexico, and the Cayman Islands.

Congratulations are also extended to **Jeff Carroll** who was presented with an "Excellence in Human Resources" award by his fellow employees at the **Food and Drug Administration**. Jeff has worked at the FDA for more than 13 years as a clerical assistant. He was given the award at a special ceremony held in his honor this past July.

## Values in Action Activities

Thanks to a generous grant from the **William S. Abell Foundation**, participants of SEEC's Values in Action (VIA) program have experienced a wide range of special activities and community classes. In addition to their daily community outings they enjoy art classes at Montgomery College, regular workouts at the YMCA, interactive musical performances, a men's group, and special activities such as a High Tea and fishing at the local park. We are grateful to the William S. Abell Foundation for making these opportunities and good memories possible.



Caroline Lee, Graham Tubbs, and David Mulkey make decoupage bowls at Montgomery College.

## It's Vacation Time!

Everyone needs a break from the normal routine. Over the past year, several participants of SEEC's Community Living Program saved their money and took off for some exciting vacations.



Betty Reedy, Joan Hight and SEEC staff member, Ursula Makon, at Disney World.

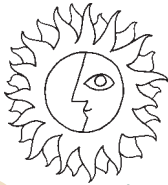
**Tim Matthews, David Gilbert, Bradley Brandenburg, Laurie Springer, and Terry Gough** spent four days in August in fabulous Las Vegas! The gang had a blast playing the slots, taking in shows, and cruising the "strip" of this famed locale. When not out and about, they enjoyed the indoor amusement park at their hotel Circus, Circus.

Disney World was the vacation of choice for **Joan Hight and Betty Reedy**. The ladies enjoyed sight-seeing, games, and the wide range of activities that makes Disney World truly magic. They even met up with **Minnie and Micky Mouse!**

**John Durgin** took a trip back in time then splashed in the waves when he visited Colonial Williamsburg and Virginia Beach in early September.

The Big Apple was the destination for **Bill Burris and Elmer Moore**. In November the two headed off for a long weekend of sight-seeing and enjoying all the great city of New York has to offer.

# GIVING to SEEC



## SEEC Sunday Salons Are Coming! March 5 – 20, 2006

Our seventh season of *SEEC Sunday Salons* is just a few months away. Last year these fun-filled events, hosted in the homes and businesses of SEEC family and friends, raised more than \$55,000 for SEEC programs and services.

The 2006 season will offer a mix of events certain to have a broad appeal. You won't want to miss the opportunity to join us for a tasting of the wines and cheeses of France, donning your apron for some cooking at the redDog Café, or rolling up your selves for some baking with little ones at Just Cakes. New this year is a party featuring Lebanese cuisine and culture (including bellydancing!), and a visit back to yesteryear in our "Life Before TV" Salon. Our traditional "Cocktails and Cabaret" will once again feature the outstanding talents of Julia Nixon and Dave Ylvisaker and a greatly expanded Silent Auction – an event not to be missed.

Look for your invitation to the SEEC Sunday Salons in your mailbox this January. We look forward to seeing you in March.

### Sunday Salons Sponsorship Opportunities

The success of the *SEEC Sunday Salons* is dependent on the individuals and businesses who have traditionally contributed from \$500 to \$5,000 as sponsors of these fundraising activities. We encourage all SEEC friends and families to help us broaden this base of support by soliciting sponsorships from your employers, business associates, friends, and neighbors who share our vision of enriching the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

For more information about SEEC Sunday Salons sponsorship opportunities, contact Cathy Dirksen at 301-576-9043 or email [cdirksen@seeconline.org](mailto:cdirksen@seeconline.org).

## SEEC Awarded Two Grants to Fund Project Ride

In October SEEC was awarded an \$85,000 grant from the **Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council** to spearhead **Project Ride**. SEEC will be the lead agency in this collaborative project involving transit providers and human service agencies to increase ridership of people with developmental disabilities on public transportation systems in Montgomery County. (See the article on the front page of this newsletter.) This is the first year of a three year program that will eventually extend throughout the state of Maryland.

In November SEEC received a \$20,000 matching gift to support the project from the **J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation**.

Research has shown that transportation is the number one barrier for people with disabilities to be full participants in community life. We are grateful for these grants that will help us solve this long-standing issue that affects the lives of so many people.

### SEEC Supports

#### Children with Developmental Disabilities

A grant from the **Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration** with additional funding from **The United Way of the National Capital Area** has made it possible for SEEC to provide financial assistance to 83 families in its **Family Services Support program (FSS)**. Grants of up to \$2,000 per family are awarded to pay for medical bills, special therapies, camp tuitions, respite care, special equipment, and more to ease the financial stress of raising a child with a disability.



Frances Stephens (7) enjoys therapeutic horseback riding thanks to an FSS grant.

### SEEC Contributions July 1, 2005 through November 30, 2005

#### \$50,000+

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

#### \$20,000 - \$49,999

The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation

#### \$5,000 - \$19,999

Leslie and Sam Kaplan  
SB&E Client's Consolidated Trust

#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Carol and Richard Barsky  
Carl M. Freeman Foundation  
Suzanne and Alex Ratnofsky

#### \$500 - \$999

Suzanne Maybee  
Susan and Paul Schaefer

#### \$100 to \$499

Sofia Ball  
Mindy Bilker  
Steven Brynes  
Antonia Bullock  
Linda Cole  
Ruth Dalton  
Drena Damascos  
James F. Garten  
Ida George

Charles D. Hill  
Sandi Johnson  
David and Patricia Lee  
Katherine and John Loudon  
Patricia Murr  
Nolan Rappaport  
Barbara Ratnofsky  
Meera Singh  
Up to \$99  
Miriam Alpern  
Joseph A. Autry  
Marilyn Funk  
Inga Tijo

We extend a grateful thanks to the **Montgomery County Department of Housing Rehabilitation** for the renovation of the home owned by **Bill Burris** and **Elmer Moore**, two individuals in our Community Living Program.

SEEC would also like to thank **The Page Group**, a graphic design and branding firm, for their donation of a Xerox Color Laser printer.

We thank **IBM** through **Gifts In Kind International** for donating computers that will be used in the homes of individuals in Community Living.

SEEC is appreciative of the contributions and donations made by members of our community. If you have contributed to SEEC during this time period, and your gift is not acknowledged above, please contact Cathy Dirksen, at 301-576-9043 so that we may correct our records.

## 'Tis The Season For Giving'

During this holiday season, we hope you will make a gift to SEEC to benefit adults with developmental disabilities who participate in our programs and services. Please consider one or more of the following ways to make your contribution.

- Use the form below to make your financial contribution to SEEC by check or credit card.
- Make your donation on-line by visiting [www.seec-online.org](http://www.seec-online.org). Click on the donation page to make your contribution.
- Make a donation of appreciated stock (a tax benefit to you and an immediate benefit to SEEC).
- Participate in SEEC's Giving Tree located in the lobby of our Silver Spring headquarters building. The holiday tree is adorned with pretty paper ornaments, each listing a desired gift from one of the thirty individuals served in SEEC's Community Living Program. You may call **Ramona Acosta** at 301-576-9017 if you would like to donate a gift, but are unable to come to the office in person.



## Your Contributions Enhance the Lives of SEEC Consumers

Cash donations and in-kind contributions of equipment and supplies directly enrich the daily lives of SEEC consumers, lower overhead expenses, and increase staff efficiency. Below is a partial list of what your contributions are used to pay for throughout the year:

- Out-of-pocket expenses for daily community outings for participants in SEEC's Values in Action (VIA) day program
- Clothing, furnishings, and household goods for those served in our Community Living program, all of whom have incomes far below the poverty level
- Maintenance of donated vehicles used by staff to transport people in our Community Living Program, or the purchase of used vehicles for their use
- Medical and dental expenses not covered by Medicare or Medicaid
- Equipment and supplies for VIA, SEEC's day recreational program
- Assistive technology equipment and supplies to help individuals increase their independence at work and home
- Professional fees and tuitions for advanced staff trainings

*Please support SEEC as generously as you can this holiday season. Contributions are tax-deductible and directly benefit people with developmental disabilities who often go without the niceties many of us take for granted. Donations of furniture, gently used adult clothing, equipment, and services are also appreciated.*

Giving to SEEC is easy to do. Just complete this form and mail it in!  
Or go to our website to make your donation. Visit [www.seeonline.org](http://www.seeonline.org).

*I would like to make a contribution to SEEC to help provide needed services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.*

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed my check payable to SEEC. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my gift to:  VISA  MasterCard City: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: SEEC, Attn: Development Office, 8905 Fairview Road, Suite 200, Silver Spring, MD 20910

## Staff Appreciation and Awards

The SEEC staff enjoyed a fun evening of good food, great music, and dancing at a party held in their honor this past August at the Silver Spring Hilton. At the event, awards were presented to our program and administrative staff who have made significant contributions to SEEC's mission over the course of the past year. The Rookie and All Star awards were created to acknowledge the unique contributions of both new and veteran employees. However, everyone walked away a winner by taking home at least one of the many raffle prizes donated for the event.

### Rookie Award Winners

(For staff employed for less than one year)

Community Living:	<b>Lavella Steven, Sr.</b>
Honorable Mentions:	<b>Ramona Acosta and Ebele Carpenter</b>
Employment Services:	<b>Nicole Harrison</b>
Honorable Mention:	<b>Clarence Kandakai</b>
VIA:	<b>Lisa Brown</b>
Honorable Mention:	<b>Keisha Goodman</b>
Administration:	<b>Molly Scofield</b>

### All Star Award Winners

(For staff employed one year or longer)

Community Living:	<b>Veronica Lawrence</b>
Honorable Mention:	<b>Ann Marie Cooper</b>
Employment Services:	<b>Martrell Kelly</b>
VIA:	<b>Leona Gordon</b>
Honorable Mention:	<b>Charles Agyei</b>
Administration:	<b>Linh Ly</b>
Honorable Mention:	<b>Denise Thomas</b>

## SEEC Welcomes New Staff

The following individuals have joined SEEC'S staff within the past six months:

**Cynthia Dawkins**, Administrative Assistant, Communications and Development

**Patience Ekpo**, Personal Care Assistant, Community Living

**Dwayne Green**, Transportation Coordinator, Resource Department

**Marian Gyepi-Garbrah**, Personal Care Assistant, Community Living

**Nkechi Onazi**, Recreation Assistant, VIA

**Otse Onazi**, Recreation Assistant, VIA

**Rose Oriaku**, Community Connector II, Community Living

**Shannon Poole**, Employment Services Pilot Team

**Sherrie Paisley**, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Resource Department

**Camille Smith**, Human Resources Director, Human Resources

**Valerie Smith**, Receptionist, Administration

**Christian Uwakolam**, Overnight Awake, Community Living

## Staff Trainings At SEEC

To ensure the safety of the people we serve, and to provide the highest quality of direct supports, SEEC conducts numerous trainings for new and veteran staff. Trainings mandated by the Developmental Disabilities Administration include topics such as medications, the characteristics of specific developmental disabilities, first aid, and CPR.



In addition, SEEC provides staff members opportunities to develop their skills through courses offered by **Montgomery College**. Nearly a dozen SEEC staff members have completed the **Strategic Training Enhancement Program**, made possible by the **Montgomery County Workforce Investment**

**Board**. The program consists of weekly evening classes held over six months and includes instruction on computer technology, communications, medications and assistive technology. Recently, six members of SEEC's Employment Services staff completed another course offered by Montgomery College called **Advanced Job Development for Professionals Supporting Individuals with Developmental Disabilities**. This course, made possible through a federal grant from the **Department of Labor** as a part of its **Customized Employment Initiative**, teaches methods and strategies to enhance the job development skills of local human service providers with a goal of providing consumers with Customized Employment.

More than ten SEEC staff are participating in on-going training workshops to learn how to use systematic instruction and "prompt fading" to help individuals perform their jobs with greater independence. The workshops are conducted by representatives of **Griffin-Hammis**, nationally recognized experts in the field of Customized Employment. The strategies and tools taught are used by professionals in the disability community to create optimal outcomes in the workplace.

Systematic instruction is an effective approach to teach new skills to individuals with developmental disabilities. The technique includes the use of task analysis, a method to break a particular task in to a customized series of discreet steps. Once developed, these task analyses become training tools and are used to gauge progress through ongoing probes. The staff were also trained to use a prompt hierarchy to "step down" the level of assistance an individual receives as they gain competency in performing their tasks.

At the request of families, and as we look toward the further development of our staff's skills and expertise, additional trainings will be offered throughout the year. We look forward to implementing strategies learned and celebrating our consumers' increasing competencies in the community.

## Our Thanks to SEEC Employers

SEEC employers represent a wide range of businesses, government agencies, associations, retail establishments, and restaurants throughout Montgomery County. We hope you will patronize these businesses as your way of showing support for the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in our community workforce.

Anxiety Disorders Association of America (ADAA), Silver Spring	Martin Luther King Park (M-NCPPC), Silver Spring
Asbury Nursing Home, Gaithersburg	Metropolitan Center for Assault Prevention (MCAP), Wheaton
BAPA Imagination Stage, Bethesda	Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Rockville
Bauer Community Center, Rockville	Nat'l Naval Medical Center (NNMC), Bethesda
Bethesda Cares Soup Kitchen, Bethesda	PetSmart, Germantown
Big Lots, Gaithersburg	Pizza Hut, Gaithersburg
Bugaboo Creek Steakhouse, Gaithersburg	Pleasant Groom-N-Inn, Rockville
Consolidated Theatres (Majestic 20), Silver Spring	Quality Suites, Gaithersburg
Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Bethesda	Randolph Hills Nursing Home, Wheaton
Cradle of Hope Adoption Agency (COH), Silver Spring	Red Lobster, Gaithersburg
CVS, Silver Spring	Roy Rogers, Gaithersburg
Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Germantown	Safeway, Gaithersburg, Kensington, Rockville
Discovery Communications, Silver Spring	Salvation Army Thrift Store, Germantown
East County Community Center, Silver Spring	Securities & Exchange Commission, Washington, DC
Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Rockville	SEEC, Silver Spring
Food Lion, Gaithersburg	Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Rockville
Goodwill Industries, Rockville	Shoppers Food Warehouse, Germantown
Golden Bull Restaurant, Gaithersburg	Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department, Silver Spring
Humane Society of Montgomery County, Rockville	Snider's Super Market, Silver Spring
Just a Dream Horse Farm, Potomac	Special Olympics, Inc., Washington, DC
Kensington Park Library, Kensington	Strawberry Knolls Elem. School, Gaithersburg
Karasik Day Care, Silver Spring	Suburban Hospital Healthcare System, Bethesda
la Madeleine, Rockville	TJ Maxx, Germantown, Olney, Rockville
Lincoln Park Community Center, Rockville	Tower Records, Rockville
Loews Cineplex, Wheaton	Toys R Us, Rockville
Marriott, Rockville	Walker's Laundromat, Gaithersburg
	Weil Communications, Rockville

*If you are a business owner or manager, please consider adding your company's name to our growing list of employers who reap the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities. For more information on how to become a SEEC Employer contact Steve Blanks, Employment Services Director at [sblanks@seconline.org](mailto:sblanks@seconline.org) or by calling 301-576-9025*

## CVS Pharmacy Receives Disability Hiring Award



Gus Pratico accepts the Disability Hiring Award on behalf of CVS. Joining Gus are (from left to right) Steve Blanks SEEC's Employment Services Director, Steve Brudin, and his parents Sandy and Bob Brudin.

At the nomination of SEEC, **CVS Pharmacy** was presented with the Disability Hiring award by the **Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board**. CVS was recognized for two decades of hiring people with developmental disabilities in a wide range of capacities. **Gus Pratico**, Manager of the Hillandale store, accepted the award on behalf of CVS, joined by **Steve Brudin**, who receives support from SEEC. Steve has worked at CVS for more than 15 years. We applaud CVS for hiring people of all abilities and providing a welcoming and supporting work environment to help people with developmental disabilities succeed in their jobs.

## New Positions for SEEC Consumers

We congratulate the following SEEC consumers who have found new employment since the publication of our Spring/Summer edition of *SEECConnections*.

**Amanda Brant** is a stock clerk at **Michaels Arts & Crafts** in Gaithersburg.

**Enrique Bryce** is thrilled with his new position as a porter at **Starbucks** in Gaithersburg.

**Kevin Crockett** is a food assistant at **Roy Rogers Restaurant** in Gaithersburg.

**John Flood** assists with landscaping at **Martin Luther King Park** in Silver Spring.

**Heather Henry** recently started working in the maternity ward at the **Shady Grove Hospital** in Rockville.

**Jamie Pike** currently works as a volunteer at **Asbury Nursing Home** where she greets residents and performs a host of other clerical duties.

**Chris Sivers** enjoys his job greeting customers, retrieving carts from the aisles and parking lot, watering plants in the nursery, and restocking shelves at **Home Depot** in Germantown.

# BACK page

## Interested in Serving on SEEC's Board of Directors?

SEEC is looking for volunteers to fill two vacancies on our Board of Directors. Professionals in the areas of finance, accounting, marketing, community development, public relations, fundraising, and strategic planning are especially needed to help guide the agency's communications and development efforts, and to broaden our base of support in the community. Interested consumers, caregivers, and members of our greater community who want to learn more about serving on SEEC's Board are urged to contact Executive Director, Karen J. Lee, at 301-576-9006 or [klee@seeconline.org](mailto:klee@seeconline.org).

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### **Project Ride** *(continued from cover page)*

systems to establish a wide range of options to serve the needs of this population.

The project will also create a website and produce recommendations for expanding the current ADA trainings of transit providers to include information on meeting the needs of individuals with cognitive disabilities and protecting their safety as they use public transportation.

For more information about Project Ride, contact Denise Thomas at 301-576-9015 or email: [dthomas@seec-online.org](mailto:dthomas@seec-online.org).

## Have You Visited The SEEC Website Lately?

New features to improve communications were added to the SEEC website over the course of the past few months. Visitors can now use the site to access our staff directory (and contact staff with the click of a link), read past issues of *SEECConnections*, apply for a job at SEEC, or participate in surveys. Information on the site was updated and will be expanded in the future to include resources you can use, updates on current SEEC events, and more. Ultimately, the site will include features to make it more user-friendly for people with disabilities. Please visit us at [www.seeconline.org](http://www.seeconline.org).

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### **SEEC Parent/Caregiver Support Meetings**

Once a month parents, caregivers, and family members meet to network, share resources, and hear from professionals in the disability community. The meetings are typically held on the last Wednesday of each month from 7-8:30 P.M. at SEEC's VIA location. Notices regarding upcoming meetings are sent to families via email and flyers that are sent home in the backpacks of consumers who participate in VIA. Due to the holidays, there will be no meeting in December. We look forward to having you join us for our first meeting of the New Year on January 25, 2006. SEEC's VIA facility is located at 622 Hungerford Drive, Suite 7, Rockville, MD 20850.



8905 Fairview Road, Suite 200  
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***Strengthening connections between people with disabilities and the community.***