

DIGS NEWS

Winter 2012

DIGS Inc. is a 501C3 non-profit organization whose mission is to provide safe housing, work and leisure opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. Please visit our website www.digsrome.org

Member Highlight!

The Miracle of Monica

Thirty-five years ago, we were told by a group of pediatric heart specialists that even if surgery were possible, our 2 month old baby would never thrive, and to take her home and keep her comfortable. I could not see my child's young life ending without a fight. We found another heart specialist in Birmingham. At 3 months, she had gained only half a pound since birth, was terribly weak, yet somehow survived open heart surgery. The day after Christmas, we brought home our little miracle.

The next several years we watched her with thankfulness that she was alive and developing, but also realized her development was much slower than normal. After endless testing and counseling, we had to accept the fact that Monica would always have "special needs". Some specialists said to treat her like a normal child and see what happens. Others said to get her in Special Ed immediately. So we put her in Special Ed AND every activity that we could with "normal" children. She danced, sang in the church choir, went to Girl Scouts and had a very full life. After high school, all of a sudden

she was too big and too old to participate in these activities with other children and there were no adult activities she could join. She began attending Network Day Services and then went to her grandparents in the afternoon. As her grand-



father's health declined, she became very absorbed in "helping" with his care. They had a very special bond and his death six years ago left a huge void in her life.

Then another miracle came into our lives...

DIGS. Monica became involved first in Camera Club. She enjoyed it so much that she joined the Just As I Am choir. In choir she found her voice and was given the chance to shine again as she had when performing in dance recitals when she was younger. She now also participates in Art Club, Dance Club, swimming, helping with Garden Art and any other activity that comes along. There are always birthdays and other events to celebrate with all her friends, old and new. Once again her life is full. And her Mom enjoys the company and support of all the other parents and caregivers. We are truly blessed!—Joy Jones, Monica's mother



Ms. Challenger 2012



Ashton Patty was selected as Miss Challenger at the Coosa Valley Fair 2012. Ashton is a member of the 'Just As I Am' choir. Congratulations Ashton!



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- Charlie Schroeder**
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Barbara Monday
Executive Director



Thank you
for serving



DIGS Receives Grant from Community Action Partners

The DIGS 'Snap Happy' camera club recently applied and received a grant for two new cameras, printer, ink and other supplies. We thank CAP for their support!!! Community Action Partners (CAP) is a nonprofit formed to support and coordinate the services of other nonprofits in the Rome/Floyd County Area. Proceeds from Rome ReSale thrift store provide them with funds which are distributed by grant application. Thank you CAP!!!

CONTRIBUTIONS, MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

- W. Ellrich
- Patricia & Larry Nale
- Mr. & Mrs. R. McKenzie
- Mr. & Mrs. Roger Canuel
- Ms. Cynthia Holder
- Mr. & Mrs. John Peek
- Ms. Walley Barnard
- Mrs. Jack Waldrep
- Mr. & Mrs. W. Ellrich
- Ms. Wanda Black
- Mark & Pat Lusted
- Joe & Cheryl Moon
- Bill & Barbara Monday

GE Matching Gifts

Mr. & Mrs. Roderick Lusted

In honor of Cory Schroeder

Gerry & Miles Barge

In honor of Horace & Jean Moon

Mr. & Mrs. Roderick Lusted

In honor of Tom Dahn

Bob and Bettye Dahn

In Honor of Michael Paul

Ms. Pauline Latta

In Memory of Joy Watkins

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Reed

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In Memory of E.C. Harrison

Julian Mark Harrison III

In Memory of Barbara Paul

Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Weathington

Mr. & Mrs. Decky Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Lawler

Ms. Sara Schnuck

Mr. Gene Cranford

Ms. Betty Davis

The Esther Sunday School Class

Shorter Ave. Baptist

Ms. Mary Williams

Ms. Joyce Salmond

Mr. & Mrs. Danny Proudfoot

Ms. Laura Harrison

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Monday

Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Schroeder

Ms. Linda Blackwell

Young At Heart

Shorter Ave. Baptist

Roulhac Middle School, Chipley, FL

Ms. Joyce Salmond

Ms. Sue Houze

Ms. Pat Sweezey

Mr. Eddy Rudd

Mr. Lamar Paul

Planning a Party?
Need a DJ?
Call Shawn
Mix A-Lot
706-346-3974




Amy Lynn

Joy Watson



*Our Angels
will always
be Among Us*



Barbara Paul

DIGS leisure opportunities provide fun, friends, social skills learning, and world experiences.



Singing for the Shrine Telethon has become a yearly tradition. Several of our 'adults' were helped by the Shriners.

'One Step Closer' garden art began by making stepping stones as a fundraiser. It has grown to mean much more than that.



Our 'adults' are learning work skills and how to use a variety of tools and safety equipment.

To book a 'Just As I Am' performance at your church or civic organization, contact director, Pat Swezey at 706-506-2651 or LivnFaith7@aol.com

Snap Happy



Camera Club



Entering our photography in the fair is great! Going on photo shoots, priceless!



Art Club members learn to use their creativity to inspire others. Camera Club's photography is used to make greeting cards.



October dance club is a costume party!

"Just As I Am" choir, Snap Happy Camera Club and 1 Step @ A Time dance club are co-sponsored with Rome/Floyd Parks & Recreation Authority.



Our products are available for donation at many area arts/crafts festivals. Our 'adults' help with setting up and staffing booths.



What sensory issues?!!



co-sponsored by Floyd Heyman Hospicare.

Creativity at its best!

Thank you to our co-sponsors!



Stop by to see the new things we are adding and support our mission to provide safe housing, work and leisure opportunities for adults with developmental challenges.



DIGS, Inc.
 P.O. Box 1053
 Rome, GA 30162-1053

The 'Just As I Am' choir sang
 for the Heyman HospiceCare's
 Lighting of the Tree .



Monica's art
 won
 Honorable
 Mention
 at the fair!

Here our artists
 are learning about
 Expressionism
 using Edvard
 Munch's The
 Scream. They
 then drew their
 own versions.



The Christmas
 spirit is
 overflowing at
 the December
 dance club.



Help Needed to Make This Plan a Reality A window of opportunity has opened for some adults with developmental challenges on the waiting list to receive funding for caregivers. About a third of the funds needed to build this home have been raised. We,



as parents, grandparents, sisters, & brothers who are caring for our 'adults' need to plan for the time we can no longer care for them. The goal of our 'adults' is to live independently and be part of the community just like anyone else. Our goal is to build and maintain homes that provide appropriate supervision and support for them to have lives that are fulfilling with work, friends and activities. The time for DIGS to build our first home is NOW.

By donating needed funds, materials or labor you can be a part of a very rewarding experience. We are moving ahead with site preparation very soon and need our 'village' to help turn this vacant land into a dream come true. **DONATE TODAY!** For more information contact Charlie Schroeder 770-324-2391



Please consider making DIGS, Inc. a part of your planned giving.

- General Fund to support our ongoing activities
- Capital Fund for building our first home for adults with dev. disabilities
- In honor of _____ for _____
- In memory of _____

Send an acknowledgement letter:
Name _____
Address _____
City,State,Zip _____

Please return your donation to

DIGS, Inc.	or	DIGS, Inc. Attn: J. Smith
P.O. Box 1053		c/o River City Bank
Rome, GA 30162-1053		228 N. 2 nd Ave.
		Rome, GA 30165

DIGS, Inc. is an entirely volunteer organization. Every dollar raised is used to support our mission for adults with developmental disabilities. We are a 501C3 nonprofit. Your donation may be tax deductible.

For a monthly calendar of events, please visit our website www.digsrome.org