

SHORELINES

News from Shore Community Services, Inc.

Striding Towards A Promising Future

Spring Benefit Honors Dr. Jane Nani & Roxanne VerBurg

Our Spring Benefit "Striding Towards A Promising Future" was held on April 24th at Pinstripes in Northbrook. The Derby themed event honored Dr. Jane Nani with the Thomas and Lois Lloyd Humanitarian Award, named after our founders; this is the highest recognition given for one's commitment to our mission of improving the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Nearly 180 people attended and helped raise significant funds.

Dr. Jane Nani is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI). She has been practicing medicine since 1996. Dr. Nani completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cook County Hospital in Chicago in 1994, followed by a fellowship in REI at Beth Israel Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Boston. She works for Fertility Centers of Illinois, which believes "Your miracle is our mission". As one of the nation's leading infertility treatment practices, the Centers' goal is to provide the highest quality of care to help their patients realize their dream of parenthood.

She has presented numerous scientific papers at national meetings and gave the Presidential Plenary Talk at the Society for Gynecologic Investigation. She is passionate about helping couples and individuals achieve their dream of parenthood and has a specific interest in third-party reproduction. Her professional interests also include Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) and hysteroscopic surgery. In 2024, Dr. Nani was Castle Connolly Top Doctor.

Dr. Nani is a native of Los Angeles and currently resides in Glenview with her husband Gary Rogaliner. She has two children, Emily and Kevin (Sarah Berendsohn), one grandson Benjamin, and another grandchild is expected in October.

It was through her late sister, Judith's, enrollment at the Joseph Koenig, Sr. Training Center in 2004 that Dr. Nani first became familiar with Shore. Judith attended the vocational program for over 10 years and was always proud of the paychecks she earned from the packaging and fulfillment work she completed for area businesses. In her spare time, Judith enjoyed talking with her friends and playing Monopoly, especially being the banker. She passed away on October 23, 2018, at the age of 61.

Dr. Nani has been a long-time supporter of Shore. Her generous investment has been instrumental in the Joseph Koenig, Sr. Training Center renovations, which will provide a state-of-the-art vocational and recreational center for current and future individuals served.

"We are immensely grateful to have a steadfast supporter like Dr. Nani who firmly believes in Shore's vision to be the organization of choice for families and community partners that promotes dignity, opportunity, and inclusive living for individuals with disabilities," said Erin Ryan, CEO.

Meridith Adams, Board President, presented Roxanne with our President's (lifetime achievement) Award for the strides and progress she has made throughout her journey with us over the past 37 years while being a resident at Buehler House/Shore Homes East.



Roxanne with her brother Rocky VerBurg at the 2025 Spring Benefit.



Dr. Jane Nani (c.), Thomas and Lois Lloyd Humanitarian Award recipient, with Erin Ryan, CEO (I.) and Mary Matz, Chief Philanthropy Officer



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Heartfelt Message From Roxanne's Brother

My name is Rocky VerBurg, and I am Roxanne's youngest brother. I am so happy to be here tonight to celebrate with my sister. I would like to take this opportunity to give this amazing organization a huge Thank You for making such a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Many years ago, my mother found herself in extremely difficult circumstances—an immigrant woman {from the Phillipines}, navigating life as a newly single parent to six young children—including one that required special care. Alone and without family here, she faced many challenges and hardships --but luckily, she also found kindness and support to help carry her through-- Shore became an essential part of that support system.

Shore has been instrumental in my sister's growth, development and quality of life. My family takes great comfort knowing that she is understood, cared for, safe, happy and celebrated. I honestly don't know what my mother would have done without this community. My mother is no longer with us, but I want to tell you that my family is forever grateful for all that you have done and continually do for Roxanne and others facing similar challenges.

To all the staff, volunteers, board members, supporters, everyone hands on or behind the scenes – Thank you for not only doing a job, but creating joy, dignity, independence and truly making a lasting impact on people's lives. What you do matters more than you know.



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Celebrating 74 Years

Since 1951, Shore's mission has been to improve the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. We accomplish this through educational, residential, vocational and related programs, along with community integrated support services. Our tagline is "Guiding Individual Abilities," which aims to empower every individual to achieve greater independence and to live with hope, passion and purpose.

Dear Shore Friends and Family,

During our past 'Year of Rejuvenation', Shore has made significant investments in infrastructure and facilities improvements, strengthened our advocacy and community engagement, maintained and improved quality assurance, and deepened our overall impact.

In reflecting on my first full year as CEO, I would be remiss if I did not first acknowledge my appreciation and gratitude for the continued support that Shore families, stakeholders, and community partners demonstrate for our organization's mission. Together, we are striding towards a promising future for Shore and making a difference daily in the lives of individuals served, and in our communities.

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, we focused on implementing strategic organizational advancements that will have long-term benefits for our individuals served, and maximize our potential to build on Shore's 74-year legacy of guiding abilities and shaping futures.

We enhanced Shore's residential homes and program administration facilities, including renovations to the Joseph Koenig Sr., Training Center; introduced new services and initiatives to strengthen our continuum of care; expanded our management team; and initiated exciting new partnerships to position the organization for greater success in years to come. Additionally, we have worked to broaden public and media awareness for Shore's services and efforts to promote and foster independence, inclusion, dignity, and opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Be sure to visit our website - shoreservices.org - for recent news highlights including our exciting CBS 2 Chicago news feature and details on upcoming events like our 30th Annual Golf Outing on September 26! Also, check out our new agency video that was produced by OC Creative.

As we reflect on a tremendous year of growth and look ahead to observing and celebrating our milestone 75th anniversary in 2026, we thank you for your ongoing involvement and steadfast support in driving Shore's mission forward!

Warm Regards,

Erin

Erin Ryan, MSW, MPH
Chief Executive Officer



Terri (L.) watches Lissa Levy, Owner of Elle's Marshmallows, as she prepares to package some of her artisan marshmallows. Lissa employs several of our individuals served in exchange for using our commercial kitchen.

True North - Find Your Path Program



Courtney secured a job as a Bus Attendant with help from Shore's Community Employment Program.



Allan is all smiles at music therapy at the Institute for Therapy Through the Arts.



Michael and Vincent enjoy attending the "Sports Explorer" Program offered by Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR).



I. to r. Dmitry, Terri, Doug and Philip stopped for a photo while taking a stroll at the Chicago Botanic Garden.



74th Annual Meeting

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our 74th Annual Meeting on June 25 to hear about accomplishments made during our year of rejuvenation at Shore, and to learn more about how we're striding towards a promising future! Congratulations to our individuals served who received awards for personal achievements, Niles Township Food Pantry - Community Partnership Award winner - and staff members who were awarded for exemplifying Shore's Values in Action, which is named after Dr. Carl P. Lieberman. They were nominated and voted upon by their peers and family members. We're looking ahead to celebrating 75 years of guiding abilities and shaping futures together in 2026, and broadening our impact for many years to come!



Anni Braverman, Chief of Vocational Services, presented Felicia with a Personal Achievement Award.



Polo was presented a Personal Achievement Award from Teresa Rutkowska (c.) and Necole Mills, Chief Program Officer.



Shatana Tyrone, Director of Community Day Services, with Mitchell, recipient of a Personal Achievement Award.



Paula was thrilled to receive a Personal Achievement Award for making great strides as she transitioned to the Laura House CILA.



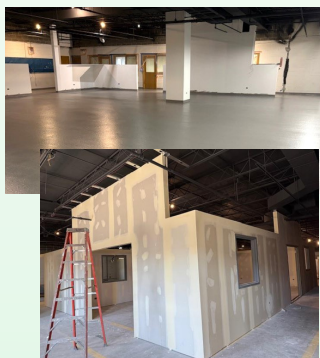
Diego Garcia, Facilities Manager, with Erin Ryan, CEO. He received the Dr. Carl P. Lieberman Values in Action Award.



Regina Miller, House Supervisor at the Laura House CILA, with Erin Ryan, CEO. She received the Dr. Carl P. Lieberman Values in Action Award.

Training Center Renovation Update + Volunteer Request

Renovations at the Joseph Koenig Sr. Training Center have been underway this year and are nearing completion! Shore is looking forward to a grand reopening of the new state-of-the-art vocational training space to occur this summer. We are requesting volunteers to assist with final touches - painting, decorating, and general sprucing prior to the return of our individuals served. To confirm volunteer interest, e-mail Mary Matz at mmatz@shoreservices.org.



Happy Retirement Clare!

June 5th marked the last day of work for Clare Lane who served as the Administrator and Registered Nurse at Buehler House/Shore Homes East for over 41 years. Necole Mills, Chief of Program Officer, stated, "Clare has been a steady, compassionate, and thoughtful leader throughout her time with Shore. Her presence and guidance have meant so much to the individuals we serve, our staff, and to many of you who have come to rely on her consistency, care, and deep commitment. Clare's positive impact on the home and the lives of its residents will be deeply missed by all".



Pictured l. to r. Isabel, William, Joshua, Vincent and Clare Lane at Clare's retirement party.

Connected Families Support Network

Shore is happy to announce the creation of Connected Families, which was designed to bring together families and caregivers of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a positive, empowering environment. We aim to foster meaningful connections between people with shared experiences, encouraging relationships that extend beyond our meetings. Each gathering offers practical education, emotional support, and opportunities to learn from one another in a space that is uplifting, inclusive, and solution-focused. Together, we strengthen our community by building each other up. Free monthly meetings will be held at the Lois Lloyd Center, 8350 Laramie, Skokie, or virtually. Check out our website for upcoming meetings, and we look forward to you joining us.

Contact Valerie Moothart, Family & Community Engagement Manager, at (312) 515-4092 or vmoothart@shoreservices.org for more information.

Amazon Wish List

Our Amazon Wish List includes items that will help to aid our program facilitation, service delivery, and increase comfort for residents in Shore homes. Scan QR code to purchase an item (or more) and grant a wish for Shore.



Advocating Downstate

On May 22, Shore's leaders represented the organization at the Illinois State Capital.

Chief of Vocational Services, Anni Braverman; Chief Executive Officer, Erin Ryan; and Chief Philanthropy Officer, Mary Matz traveled to Springfield to participate in the Illinois Association for Rehabilitation Facilities 50th Anniversary Advocacy Day. (pictured with Rep. Kevin Olickal)



Building awareness and advocacy for Shore's programs and services is essential, and we are grateful for opportunities to connect with elected and community leaders statewide.

♥ In Loving Memory

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our Shore family members Harold Berg, Martin Margolis, Michael Roberts, Dr. John Ryan, Linda Selway, Richard Stein and Robin Wright Thomas.

Legacy Society

The Legacy Society includes some of our dearest supporters who have included Shore in their estate plans. This high form of generosity helps ensure that individuals who rely on Shore Services will continue to receive therapies, training and supports they need to achieve independence. For more info on our Legacy Society, please contact Mary Matz, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at (847) 982-2030 ext. 221 or mmatz@shoreservices.org.



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CONNECT WITH US



Fun Times



l. to r. Peter, Louis and Joshua took in the sights at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.



Stephen volunteered at The WasteShed in Evanston sorting buttons. This non-profit collects reusable art and school materials that would otherwise be thrown out.



Elizabeth enjoyed decorating a visor with beads so she could wear it this summer.



l. to r. John Barney, Lorraine and Tony work on questions for a game show that was created by individuals served from Shore's Community Day Services and were put on thepbnetwork.com. John is a volunteer from California who is teaching individuals with disabilities how to make tv and game shows.



l. to r. Isabel, Emilie and Tony visit with Officer Gonzalez and America, aka Meri, who is a comfort dog for the Skokie Police Department. Meri has been visiting the Lois Lloyd Center monthly and brings great joy to everyone she encounters.



Dara (r.) with Holly Jin, Community Engagement Supervisor at the Skokie Public Library, who facilitated an activity on emotions with finger print art as part of the Summer Reading Program.

Thank You Chicago White Sox



Terri proudly displays Shore's logo while attending the Chicago White Sox Charity Day on Wednesday, July 9th at Rate Field. She is pictured with l. to r. Harold Baines, Hall of Famer, Christine O'Reilly-Riordan, VP Community Relations, ED, White Sox Charities, and Sonia Mathew, McCormick Foundation. Shore is grateful for the generous support from the Sox organization.

Save the Dates

September 26, 2025 - 30th Annual Golf Outing
The Evans at Canal Shores - See enclosed flyer for details

November 1, 2025 - Annual Appeal Launch
Largest direct mail campaign for program support.

December 2, 2025 - Giving Tuesday
International Day of Giving

December Holiday Parties - Dates TBD
Volunteers needed!

January 3, 2026 - Shore's 75th Anniversary

75th Anniversary Gala - April 2026