introducing
melwood opportunities

2010 report to the community

fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010
Letter from the Chairman of the Board & President/CEO

“Opportunity” means different things to many people. The shared experience is that everyone benefits from opportunities they receive throughout their lives. The same holds true at Melwood, which provides thousands of opportunities for people with disabilities each year.

Over the past year, we have thought about and devoted a great amount of effort to provide meaningful opportunities for people with disabilities to live, work and play how they choose. The rewards have been astounding, and it is our great pleasure to share with you some of the successes those at Melwood have achieved as a result of their opportunities.

Thank you for making those opportunities and successes possible through your support.

Sincerely,

Andrew V. Colevas
Board Chair
Janice Frey-Angel
President/CEO

PS: We all benefit from opportunities. Share your opportunity with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MelwoodNews or on our blog at www.melwoodopportunities.org
Melwood provides employment opportunities for adults with disabilities through a partnership with the AbilityOne Program and community employers.

**Highlights 2010**

/// Employed 821 people with disabilities through the AbilityOne Program.
/// 139 people with disabilities found competitive jobs in the community.
/// 16 people with disabilities employed at Melwood Recreation Center.
/// 7 Melwood workers earned Goddard Peer Awards.
/// Over 160 workers logged 9,400 hours of snow removal following the February 2010 blizzard.

**HUD Heroes**

Ricardo Valentin and Alonzo Brown are two of Melwood’s self-described “HUD Heroes” who, like other Melwood employees with disabilities, take the opportunity to perform when situations require.

During the February blizzard in the Washington, DC area, they were two of 19 Melwood employees who worked and slept in shifts to keep the US Department of Housing and Urban Development open for essential personnel. For more than a week during and after the storm, 160 Melwood employees worked around the clock to keep HUD and several other federal sites open for essential personnel.

“People still compliment us on our work,” said Brown, “so we still call ourselves ‘HUD Heroes’ when it comes to snow removal!”

Valentin, a Melwood employee at HUD since 2003, said, “I like that our jobs earned us the title of ‘HUD Heroes’ when it comes to snow removal!”

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Volunteers worked around the clock to keep the US Department of Housing and Urban Development open for essential personnel.

Tony Posey

Tony Posey is a 49-year-old HUD custodian who worked around the clock throughout the February 2010 blizzard. While he was on duty, he was constantly asked to clean an entire wing of the building.

Sgt. alphonse peda

Sgt. Alphonse Pedra is a 45-year-old HUD custodian who worked around the clock throughout the February 2010 blizzard. He was constantly asked to clean an entire wing of the building.

**Greg Posey**

Greg Posey is a former self-instructional participant who works as a custodian at General Services Administration in February, but his real opportunity came months before his first day on the job.

Posey suffered from seizures and joined ESS to re-enter the workforce. For six months, he actively searched for employment that suited his skills.

A new job opened up, and Posey was able to secure a custodial position with HUD.

**Jessica Rosado**

Jessica Rosado is thrilled to work full-time at the Naval Research Laboratory. When she first applied, she thought it was a part-time job at the Federal Krieger program.

Rosado enrolled in Melwood’s Employee Support Services (ESS) after attending Kennedy Krieger Institute and wanted a permanent position. She was hired for a custodial job.

**Albert Williams**

Albert Williams is a former self-instructional participant who works as a custodian at General Services Administration in February. He was struggling to find a custodial job with a stable salary.

Williams worked at General Services Administration in February, but his real opportunity came months before his first day on the job.

**Jason Wise**

Jason Wise is a former self-instructional participant who works as a custodian at General Services Administration in February. He was struggling to find a custodial job with a stable salary.

Wise has epilepsy and relies on public transportation to get around. He began looking for jobs that would better suit his skills.

When a custodial job opened up, Wise applied and was hired for a full-time, permanent, Metro-accessible position, where he has done very well.

**Albert Williams**

Albert Williams is a former self-instructional participant who works as a custodian at General Services Administration in February.

His hard work and diligence is well known. For 15 years, he worked for Melwood at Prince George’s County Courthouse and on a roadside cleanup crew.

When the contract ended, Albert was only working part-time. He eventually worked part-time in custodial jobs, but he still wanted to find a custodial job with a stable salary.

Williams says finding a job means doing his very best. “My basic skills I do an excellent job, and I know I do well,” he said.
Melwood supports opportunities for people with disabilities to maximize their independence and inclusion in the community.

Highlights 2010

/// 176 Crossroads participants worked on life skills, employee development and horticulture therapy.
/// 30 older adults with disabilities enjoyed recreation and community activities through the Personal Enrichment Program (PEP).
/// 20 people progressed in their goals to more independent activities.
/// Community Support Services provided case management and direct support services for 120 children and adults with disabilities.

Will Lampe

Will Lampe works hard and is taking control of his life. He joined Melwood in 2004 after graduating from high school. His father wrote that, “six years ago, his prospects didn’t look that bright, but a lot has gone right in the last few years.”

Lampe’s opportunity for a brighter future came when he began a part-time job in Melwood’s greenhouse. Working alongside Melwood staff, he developed the confidence and skills he needed to organize his work on the job, set goals and work toward them.

Now, Will works full-time on a Melwood landscaping crew and loves his job. He rises at 5:30 each morning, earns a respectable income, saves for retirement and pays taxes. He pays his own living expenses, and uses his earnings to play golf, take piano lessons, watch movies and eat at restaurants.

Stephany Cunningham

Stephany Cunningham “never had private space” in her parents’ home, and was determined to move into her own home and become more independent. In 2010, she did just that with assistance from Employee Support Services.

Cunningham and her ESS careworker searched for available apartments, prepared the necessary documents and security deposit, and moved into her new home over the summer. She also relies on ESS to help her job skills to compete better in the workforce.

Gary Alpern

Gary Alpern is outgoing and eagerly introduces himself to new friends at social gatherings. Regular events and activities, taking place in the Life Skills area of Crossroads give him plenty of opportunities to improve his interaction with others.

In the spring, Alpern and others in Life Skills completed a dazzling abstract art project with help from Kim Visek, CSS care manager. Word quickly spread about the painting, hanging in the Community Services lobby.

Enthusiasm for another, larger project grew, and with Visek’s support, Gary and others in Crossroads added their own creative touch to an breathtaking 46-foot long canvas that hangs from the Contract Services hallway.

At a reception following the piece’s installation, Gary proudly introduced himself to attendees, gestured to his contributions to the work, and told them, “I did that part, Mel!”

Damon McIntyre

Damon McIntyre, who married in June and now lives with his wife and three-year-old child, has relied on Community Support Services to manage his bipolar disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder since 2003.

Regular Dialog and coaching from his careworker helps McIntyre manage mood swings, deal with frustrations and anger, and better handle events that could cause him to become depressed. These services help him live and work independently, but Damon prefers to talk about how they enable him to help others with disabilities. McIntyre works as a teacher’s aide in a middle school special education classroom for children with developmental disabilities and says, “I’m only a couple years removed from receiving these services myself.”

McIntyre earned his associate’s degree from Prince George’s Community College and will graduate from Bowie State University with a psychology degree in December 2011. “I’m a product of how education does work, and I want to give back. CSS helps me map out my future from a professional standpoint.”

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Highlights 2010

/// 500 children of all abilities attended Camp Accomplish.
/// 233 people enrolled in the Equestrian Program.
/// Access Adventures provided vacation and travel trips to 319 adults with disabilities.
/// The Terrific Teen Program at Melwood Recreation Center received the “Innovative Program Award” from Maryland Recreation & Parks Association.

Children and adults of all abilities have opportunities to enjoy recreational activities on site and in the community through Melwood Recreation Center.

Caroline Graf

Caroline Graf was certain that summer camp was right for her after touring Melwood Recreation Center with her mother in the spring, saying, “When I saw it I realized it had everything I liked, and this camp looked a lot better than the other camps I had been to.”

“After seeing the swimming pool, visiting the horses in the field and peeking inside one of the air-conditioned cabins, Caroline started to get excited about spending time at Camp Accomplish,” said assistant director Marisa Cucuzzella. Caroline enjoyed it so much she spent seven weeks at camp as both a day and overnight camper.

Caroline’s mother, Jill, looked forward to stories about camp when arriving home, saying, “before we got out of the park and ride lot, she spilled the beans” about trail rides on Scooter the horse, going to the pool, making friends and meeting others who like teen star Selena Gomez.

“To know that she is not only safe, but HAPPY, means the world to me,” said Caroline’s mother.

Fay Carroll

Fay Carroll has enjoyed Melwood Recreation Center from almost every possible opportunity. She first attended overnight camp in 1998 and returned for several summers, entered the Terrific Teen Program, became a junior counselor, and is now entering her third season as a camp counselor for Access Adventures and Camp Accomplish. “I enjoyed the people more than anything else, and wanted to give back,” said Carroll.

“Fay has always been an empathetic, hard-working and fun-loving person who brightens the days of people around her,” said Leigh-Anne Hodgetts, Access Adventures Travel Host. In 2010, Mr. Young enjoyed his first cruise, a 7-day Bahamas trip that left from Baltimore and stopped in Port Canaveral, Nassau and Freeport. While in Nassau, Robert experienced another first, the opportunity to swim with dolphins.

Paula Barnes

Paula Barnes likes arriving early for riding lessons at Melwood Recreation Center’s Alfred H. Smith, Jr. Equestrian Arena on Thursday afternoons. Staff at Spring Dell Center in La Plata say she looks forward to up-coming lessons all day.

“What I like most is brushing the horses before and after lessons,” she said.

When Paula, who has limited use of one arm, first started riding, she needed the physical support of a leader and two sidewalkers. Now, she can mount her horse in less than five minutes and ride without help for 50 steps.

Paula’s first opportunity to ride was in 2010, and she was reserved but determined to become a rider. Even though it took more than 15 minutes during her first lesson for her to mount her horse. Paula is patient, and refused to give up.

“Paula is a talented, and likes to take her time grooming and tacking,” said Doria Fleisher, Assistant Director of Programs & Education.

Robert Young

Robert Young is often one of the most senior members when he vacations with Access Adventures, yet remains young at heart as he travels to Disney World, the Bahamas, Myrtle Beach, and Williamsburg.

“You know exactly when he’s having a good time because the most beautiful big smile comes across his face,” said Leigh-Anne Hodgetts, Access Adventures Travel Host.

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Melwood’s fund development efforts had further opportunities to grow with the fourth Melwood Prince George’s County Open presented by Under Armour, held May 31–June 6 at the University of Maryland Golf Course and broadcast worldwide on The Golf Channel.

The tournament is “a great event on the Nationwide Tour,” said tournament director Teo Sodeman. “The support we received from the university, club members and local business community is remarkable.”

At Media Day before the event, Sodeman and Leon Duncan Under Armour Brand Director of Golf, announced that Under Armour agreed to be presenting sponsor for the 2010 and 2011 events.

The event generated over $10 million total economic impact for the local community, and event proceeds help Melwood continue to help and support people with disabilities.

Maryland men’s basketball coach Gary Williams served as tournament host and will also host the 2011 event, to be held at University of Maryland Golf Course May 30–June 5, 2011 and broadcast on The Golf Channel. Opportunities to volunteer, purchase tickets, or sponsor the event are available at www.pgatouratumd.com.

Melwood’s total income for fiscal year 2010 was $66,782,000, and expenses amounted to $65,769,000. This surplus reverses four years of deficits, and is attributable to aligning financial results to strategic objectives, including making difficult decisions such as discontinuing certain operations; closely scrutinizing financial data at various operating levels; and developing budgets that provide sufficient levels of detail for proper monitoring and managing of the organization. These actions allowed management and the board to identify problem areas with more clarity and implement corrective measures in a timely fashion. As a result, Melwood is now in a position of financial growth and increasing the amount of people we serve.
We are "very pleased to be able to contribute to such a worthwhile program. We hope to include Melwood in future charitable projects we may undertake."