

Bonnie Brae TODAY

Fall/Winter 2004



Bonnie Brae Celebrates Opening Of Roebling Cottage



Photos by Debbie Weisman



From left to right: Board member Albie Booth; CEO Bill Powers; Meg Roebling; Board member David Mazzo; Kristian Roebling; and Bonnie Brae boy Louis holding the original plaque for Paul's cottage.

Thank you Peapack-Gladstone Bank for providing financing for renovations to Paul's cottage. Representatives from Peapack-Gladstone Bank from left to right: President Frank Kissel, Mike Giacobello and Jim Stadmueller.

From left to right: Board members Albie Booth, Natalie Gallagher and David Mazzo cut the ribbon at the Roebling ceremony.

September 16, 2004 – A crowd of Bonnie Brae staff, residents, trustees and other community supporters gathered on the Bonnie Brae campus to ceremoniously “cut the ribbon” on the newly built **Roebling Cottage**, which will provide much-needed residential treatment services to 16 additional boys.

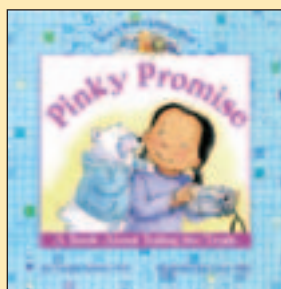
This state-of-the-art facility stands on the former site of *Paul's Cottage*, built in 1928. *Paul's Cottage* was made possible through a donation by the family of Mr. John Augustus Roebling, one of the design engineers of the Brooklyn Bridge. John and his wife, along with their son Siegfried, made the donation in 1928 in memory of a younger son, Paul. They resided at Boulderwood in Bernardsville at the time. **Kristian Roebling**, great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Roebling and grandson of Siegfried Roebling, was in attendance at the opening with his wife, **Meg**.

“The need for Bonnie Brae’s services has never been greater” explained Bill Powers, Chief Executive Officer, during the opening ceremony. “We are responding to an urgent statewide demand.” Several residential treatment centers in New Jersey have recently closed, forcing children

to remain in placements such as juvenile detention centers, where their problems are not addressed. Other

children have been placed out-of-state, separating them from family, friends and communities.

To further meet that need, plans are now under way to renovate Kiwanis Cottage, an older building on campus that is currently vacant. This renovation will create living quarters for twelve of our youngest boys, ages 11-13. In a space all their own, the younger boys will have more opportunities to “just be kids”, free of the pressures to grow up too fast that often result from living with the older teens. *We are seeking community support for this important project. For more information, please call the Bonnie Brae Development Office at 908-647-8803.*



Bonnie Brae Psychiatric Medical Director Publishes Children's Book

You are invited to attend a special book signing by Dr. Vanita on Saturday, October 30, on Bonnie Brae's campus in Bernards Township from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm in the library.

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From the Brae



Photo by Deborah Montgomery

While a college degree and relevant work experience will earn you a position at Bonnie Brae, it is your daily demonstration of the “Three C’s” – Compassion, Caring, and Commitment – that earns you the trust and respect of our residents. Unfortunately, very little of the typical undergraduate curriculum of Psych 101 or Sociology 202 prepares you for the realities of residential treatment. Much more relevant knowledge and skills will be gained as you work with your team to patch together children’s lives and to mend broken families.

Your first dose of reality meets you at the front door. The children in your care are not pleased to see you. They do not rush to greet you with a fresh cup of coffee and the morning newspaper. Instead, they either appear completely uninterested in your arrival or greet you with a long laundry list of complaints. Why do I have to go to group? Can I skip dinner? Can you call my aunt? On other days, your shift begins with a crisis. Harsh words. Yelling. Slamming doors. Someone is not happy with someone else. Someone is inevitably not having a very good day.

So you take a deep breath, take off your jacket, and head straight for the staff office, a small island of calm in the midst of a raging sea of adolescent male emotions. A pack of children follows you to the office. As you greet your fellow staff members, you are already responding to the children’s requests. Some are easily satisfied, some not so easily satisfied. Many of the requests are for your time or attention. You agree to attend an upcoming treatment team review. You agree to drive some of the children later to the local store.

You promise to contact another child’s case worker. You listen patiently but refuse to overturn consequences from an early morning “misunderstanding.”

Leaving the staff office, momentarily unencumbered by questioning children, you proceed to the cottage’s living room to prepare for this afternoon’s group. Today’s topic is resolving community living problems, and although you are personally aware of enough problems to discuss for a full month, your challenge today will be to keep the group focused. With an unexpected return of warmer weather and the neighboring boys’ afternoon football game, it will be a challenge to keep your group from losing focus. Fortunately your partner today is a more experienced staff member who has a special gift for keeping the group interested in the chosen topic.

You have had much to unlearn and to re-learn during your first full week at Bonnie Brae. You have learned that diagnostic labels, so important to your success in that psych final exam, mean very little in the day to day life of your assigned cottage. You have learned to juggle multiple requests without ever losing your cool. You have learned that treatment success involves many people working toward common goals. You have learned to recognize small steps as successes and have given up on achieving those major dramatic break-throughs so common in “made for television movies.” Most importantly you have learned to relate to the children as children and not as case studies. Thanks to this revelation, and with much guidance from your peers, you have discovered that you are an effective counselor.

When your shift is finally over, you are thoroughly exhausted. You have given so much of yourself to the children in your care that you barely have the energy to drive home. But, it is a happy state of exhaustion. You have proven to the children in your care, to your more experienced peers, and most importantly, to yourself, that you are indeed an effective worker with troubled children.

You are a hero to these children. Welcome to Bonnie Brae!



William M. Powers, MHA, MPA
Chief Executive Officer

DONATE ONCE. GIVE TWICE.

BONNIE BRAE'S 2004 HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAM

The holiday season provides us all a special opportunity to remember, thank and honor family, friends and clients. For a unique gift, Bonnie Brae is offering an opportunity to express your appreciation while simultaneously benefiting the boys in our care.

Here's how it works:

- With your holiday contribution to Bonnie Brae, you will also provide us with the name(s) and address(es) of those you would like to honor.
- We will notify each honoree of your generosity with a custom greeting card.

The greeting card will describe Bonnie Brae, the benefit that a boy will receive from the donation that was made in the honoree's name, and why that item or service is needed. Some examples:

- A gift of \$30: Will purchase a warm sweater or sweatshirt for the coming winter
- A gift of \$60: A much-appreciated uniform for our basketball, softball or volleyball teams
- A gift of \$100: Will cover the costs of materials and supplies for one boy in our "Activities for Daily Living" course
- A gift of \$250: Pays for medical and dental services and supplies to meet the critical needs of one or more of the boys in our residential program
- A gift of \$500: The cost of one boy's tuition/expenses for our Work Experience Program
- A gift of \$1,000: The cost of sending one of our boys on our annual all-campus camping trip in Canada

Details and order forms will be mailed in early November. For more information, call the Bonnie Brae Development Office at 908-647-8803. *Best wishes for a joyous holiday season!*

...Children's Book

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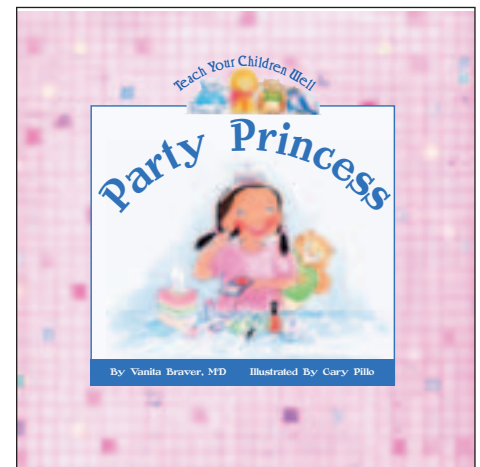


Dr. Vanita, Psychiatric Medical Director at Bonnie Brae and author of the children's book series, "Teach Your Children Well" published by the Child Welfare League of America.

Pinky Promise is the first children's book from Dr. Vanita's *Teach Your Children Well* series (Child & Family Press) to be released this November. This book is dedicated to Bonnie Brae.

Dr. Vanita Braver is a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist. Her psychiatric services include ongoing comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment and treatment from a developmental perspective.

Dr. Vanita says, "Character is destiny." *Teach Your Children Well* is a series of nine picture storybooks created for children 4 to 8 years old to teach positive character traits to the very young.



This book is dedicated to Bonnie Brae. Books are for sale through Bonnie Brae for \$8.00 each and all profits will benefit our residential treatment program. Visit our website at www.bonnie-brae.org or call 908-647-0800. Books can also be purchased in our Thrift Shoppe. Books are also available through www.drvanitabraver.com; Proceeds go to the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), which promotes the well-being of children, youth and their families.

Her next book, *Party Princess*, is scheduled for release April 2005.

What would we do without them?

by Debora Montgomery

Photos by Debora Montgomery



**Back row left to right:
Gerardo Castro, Brad
Freuler, William Hill.
Front Row: Anthony Titus,
Michael Bailey, Luis Artiles.**



**Janice Pletscher, administrative
assistant and interim
supervisor of the Maintenance
Department, has worked at
Bonnie Brae for 21 years.**

When we drive into Bonnie Brae, we come down the long driveway and have a pristine view of the vast clean-cut campus. We park in the clean parking lot and walk up the clean pathway into the well-maintained building where the lights are on, the heat or air conditioning is working, and windows open freely. These are just a few of the many things we may not even think about... as long as they are working satisfactorily, anyway.

The Maintenance Department is responsible for making the Bonnie Brae employees' workplace comfortable. Janice Pletscher is the interim supervisor until the permanent supervisor begins in a few weeks. Brad Freuler expressed, "The Maintenance Department has been very organized and structured under Janice's supervision."

Janice said, before she worked with the maintenance team, she would make requests and hoped to have them done without delay. Now that she has the chance to work with the team she has a whole new perspective. The number of demands the men have go beyond the call of duty which is supposed to be 6:30 am until 8:00 pm. The team is on call 24/7. Brad Freuler who is the foreman for the maintenance team, stated, "At other companies, there are set

responsibilities to a maintenance position. At Bonnie Brae, you need to be a jack of all trades to survive in this position." The maintenance team all nodded their heads in agreement as he said this. William Hill gave a fine example. One day, a few years back, there was so much snow on the ground that the kitchen staff could not make it in. Bonnie Brae is open 365 days a year for the boys who live on campus, so of course they had to eat. It was the Maintenance Department that made sure each boy had food. This is not part of their job requirements but they did it and we are thankful they did!

The functions of the department are: Anthony Titus makes sure all vehicles are safe for transportation of the boys, checks appliances to make sure the electrical wiring is approved, and so much more. Gerardo Castro and Luis Artiles are housekeepers. They make sure the carpets are shampooed and the campus is free of any debris. William Hill is a skilled carpenter and along with a general carpenter does 90% of the carpentry work at Bonnie Brae. Brad Frueler is in charge of planning and allocating the work assigned. He is also responsible for making sure Bonnie Brae passes the fire safety codes. Janice Pletscher coordinates with Brad Freuler and oversees the Maintenance Department. Irene Greene helps with language interpretation for the maintenance team.

Brad Freuler summed up the purpose of the maintenance team in two sentences. "Our job is to provide a safe and clean environment for the Bonnie Brae boys and staff. If we take a week off, everyone would know why there is a Maintenance Department at Bonnie Brae."

So the next time we turn on the lights in the building or open the window, remember it is the maintenance team who is responsible for making our work environment a little easier at Bonnie Brae.



Photo by Debora Montgomery

William Hill working hard in the maintenance shop.

BONNIE BRAE WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATION TEAM MEMBERS



Photos by Debbie Weisman



Drina Simons
Director of Development

Lewis Jarrett
Chief Operating Officer

Drina Simons brings over thirteen years of experience in resource development in mental health services, health care and higher education to Bonnie Brae. She comes to Bonnie Brae from Wheaton College, where she was associate director of corporate and foundation relations. Prior to her position at Wheaton College, Simons was a grant writer with Lifespan Corporate Services in Providence, Rhode Island, a corporation that manages five area hospitals. Prior to joining Lifespan, she was director of community relations for The Christie School, a residential treatment center for children and youth located in Marylhurst, Oregon, where she received several local awards for her public speaking and publications. She also served for three years as a campaign manager for United Way in Portland, Oregon and managed events and publications for the Vancouver, Washington Chamber of Commerce. She earned her Bachelors degree from Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow School of Communications.

Lew Jarrett joined the staff of Bonnie Brae on August 1, 2004 as Chief Operating Officer. Jarrett, who most recently served as Director of Therapeutic and Specialized Programs for KidsPeace, has over 26 years of experience working with emotionally disturbed children and their families. Jarrett managed the initial expansion of KidsPeace from its original headquarters in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania between 1989 and 1995 to add three centers throughout the state, increasing the agency's capacity to serve an additional 300 children. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer of KidsPeace's Mesabi Academy in Buhl, MN. He initiated and managed the KidsPeace dual diagnosis and special needs programs and assisted with management of its out-of-state expansion. As Bonnie Brae's Chief Operating Officer, Jarrett coordinates all therapeutic and operational activities, manages operations to assure compliance with quality standards, and oversees the implementation of quality programs and support services. He earned his M.A. from Concordia University of St. Paul, Minnesota.

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Editorial Staff

Editor: Debora R. Montgomery • **Photographers:** Debora Montgomery, Debbie Weisman • **Proofreader:** Marie Macko

VISIT FROM THE COMMISSIONER AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



Commissioner of Human Services Jim Davy visited Bonnie Brae for a tour of the facility with Deputy Commissioner of Human Services Kathi Way.

From left to right: CEO Bill Powers, Bonnie Brae boys Jon, Michael, Cornell and Jason, Deputy Commissioner Kathi Way, and Commissioner Jim Davy

Bonnie Brae Thrift Shoppe



*Women's, Men's, Children's Clothing, Jewelry, Books,
Household Items, Knick-knacks and Much More...*

*Proceeds Benefit Boys' Programs
Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.*

(located on Bonnie Brae's campus) 908-542-2721

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION

Photos by Debora Montgomery



Standing from left to right: Tom Gunning, Grant Fenmore, Richard Mackey, Brian Murphy, Sharyn Karlewicz, Jack Schink, Mike Brueckner, Jim Rayner, Mei Deng, Mark Starr, Dawn Heisler, Fan Li, Sandy Martin

Bottom, kneeling from left to right: Maurice Castelbuono, Donna Raia, Sheri Shafir, Diane Metzler, Lynn Csak, Jose Miranda

Not in photo: Beat Schumacher

On Thursday, October 7, an enthusiastic team of volunteers from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation worked to install a new fence behind our new recreation building. This was part of their company-wide “Community Partnership Day.” Novartis has been a strong supporter of Bonnie Brae over the years as a corporate sponsor of our Tartan Ball, Scottish Festival, Polo and Tartan Golf Classic. In addition, Novartis contributed generously to Bonnie Brae’s capital campaign: “Building the Future -- One Boy at a Time,” which successfully concluded in 2001. Many thanks to our friends at Novartis for your contributions to Bonnie Brae!



WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM



The Bonnie Brae boys are proud of the deck they built behind their cottage on campus for their work experience program.

Some of the workers are pictured in the far right photo: From left to right: Bonnie Brae boys Justin, Chris; Intermediate Supervisor Gabe; and Bonnie Brae boys Mike and Kevin.



Photos by Debora Montgomery



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Reminders

- **Dr. Vanita's Book Signing - Saturday, October 30, 2004**
- **Tartan Ball - February 5, 2005**
- **Buy Adirondack chairs made by Bonnie Brae boys \$70.00 each**
- **Visit the Bonnie Brae Thrift Shoppe Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00 am until 4:00 pm**

**Inquiries please call Debora Montgomery at 908-647-4700
or log on to our website: www.bonnie-brae.org**