

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY LIBERTY RESOURCES, INC.

PHILADELPHIA'S CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



**A Newsletter Advocating and Promoting Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities**

## Moving Forward with Pennsylvania's New Governor on Independent Living Issues

*by Cassie James Holdsworth*

Pam Auer is a well-known advocate from Central PA, and is currently Program Director at the Center for Independent Living of Central PA. Many of us see her as a policy advocate. She fights tooth and nail for Consumers and the Independent Living model.

Since Tom Corbett was predicted to be our next Governor and did not yet have a policy paper on disability issues, Pam took on the job of meeting with him. She also worked to disseminate information to the disabled community so that we could make an educated decision when voting.

When Pam met with Corbett, he stated that he understood personal assistance was more cost-effective and that it is usually preferred to living in a nursing home. Pam felt he listened and he gave her contacts for information she needed. She also knows that he wants to clean up fraud in Medicaid and other programs. We support him in this effort, but fear that for some, it could become a witch hunt to get people off of needed



**See "Governor", p.2**

## Governor *continued from page 1*

services as has happened in other states.

Pam and the advocates want to give the newly elected Governor a chance. We want to meet with his transition team and eventually with the Governor so he can understand our issues from our own perspectives. However, we do have concerns that we are not represented on the transition team. When we look at the make-up of this team, we see developmental disabilities, aging, home care associates and providers, and nursing home advocates represented. However, we do not see people with physical disabilities or representatives from Independent Living Centers.

There are differences between home care and personal assistance programs. The Consumer-directed programs were born out of the Independent Living Movement. Home care is more medical model and allows Consumers little control, whereas the Consumer-directed model allows us to hire and fire our own attendants and to direct them in assisting us. The home care model does not allow assistance with many activities of daily living that many of us train and direct our personal assistants to carry out for us.

Often home care providers believe attendants must have mandatory training. However, we believe the Consumer is the expert and has the right to train their own attendant or

send them for specific training they want them to have. Our programs are often more cost-effective and allow more flexibility in the Consumer's life.

More recently, we find that the foundation of Consumer-controlled programs has been rocked. We see more medical model requirements, less Consumer control and more provider management. We see waiting lists going up and less flexibility and partnership in the service planning. We want our newly elected Governor to not only assist us in making our programs the quality programs they have been in the past, but to improve them. We want people who want out of nursing homes to continue to be transitioned to the community.

Pam is attempting to set up a meeting with the Governor at which we plan to discuss the accomplishment of these goals. As advocates, we want a good relationship with Corbett in which we can work together to improve the lives of people with disabilities, both young and old, and in which we can become as self-determined as we are able, rather than a commodity for a provider industry. We want to direct our services and medical care. We will do this through meeting and working with his office. If that doesn't work we will band together and fight until something happens. We are a community that has been battling for years; most of our freedoms have come from these battles and not the industry of care. ★

## To Governor Corbett:

Let's keep Pennsylvania's progress on rebalancing our long-term care system for people with disabilities and seniors moving forward. Under Governor Rendell's leadership, the Commonwealth shifted away from expensive and undesirable nursing home facility care and moved thousands of seniors and people with disabilities toward home and community based services.

Pennsylvanians, when given the choice, want to live in their own homes with the supports and services they need to live independently instead of in lonely nursing facilities away from family and friends. Pennsylvanians need you to continue our progress and ensure that home and community based services continue to expand to better serve our seniors and people with disabilities and save scarce taxpayers' dollars.

### *About Liberty Resources*

A non-profit, tax-exempt, community-based Center for Independent Living (CIL), Liberty's mission focuses on advocating for and working with persons with disabilities to ensure their civil rights and equal access to all aspects of life in the community. It is the philosophy of the Center that all individuals have the right to live in the community with dignity and independence and to exercise control over their own lives.



# The New Home and Community

by Jennifer Barnhart

## Based Services Advisory Group

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) has established a Consumer Advisory Group that is meeting monthly. The purpose of the group is to provide Liberty Resources with advice about how to run HCBS with the highest amount of Consumer control possible. Examples of the topics discussed so far include:

- What makes a good Supports Coordinator?
- Information about the Environmental Modifications process
- The new procedure for transportation expenses under the waivers
- Required changes in paperwork for Reassessments
- The draft Home and Community Based Services brochure

The possible role of the group is as limitless as the range of topics on the agenda. Participating in

this group is an important way of receiving information about the latest developments in the Office of Long Term Living, the part of the Department of Public Welfare that administers these programs from Harrisburg.

Liberty Resources has had a long standing practice of asking for Consumer input. Consumers of LRI's Allentown office decided to have a committee that meets every other month.

In Philadelphia, the HCBS Advisory group created another committee that now focuses only on Financial Management Services (FMS) issues. Both groups meet the same day—the first Wednesday of every month. They have been “flip flopping” which group meets first each month. Full schedules of the committee meetings and topics are posted in Liberty Lite and on our website each month. If you have something to say, please come. You know what they say: “If you don’t vote, you can’t complain!” ★



### **JOB FAIR at LIBERTY RESOURCES**

**Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

2:00 - 4:00 PM, Wade Blank Room, 5th Floor

RSVP by March 1 with any accessibility accommodation requests: [communications@libertyresources.org](mailto:communications@libertyresources.org) or call 215-634-2000 ext. 203

# Participants Run for a Cause with "Team Liberty" in the 2010 Philadelphia Marathon

by Emily Coder

More than 20,000 runners, walkers, and wheelers competed in the 17th Annual Philadelphia Marathon, Half-Marathon, and 8K Saturday and Sunday, November 20th and 21st. For the first time, push-rim and hand-crank wheelchairs were included in all three divisions—the 8K, the Half-Marathon and the 26.2 mile Marathon. This was a banner year for the marathon with over 23,000 participants from all 50 states and 41 countries.

LRI was one of 12 non-profits associated with the race and had the opportunity to have people run, walk, and wheel on our behalf and raise funds. Dubbing our group "Team Liberty," we strove to raise funds for and awareness of Liberty Resources, all disabilities, and the philosophy behind the Independent Living Movement. Team Liberty participants—some of whom have disabilities—competed in races including the wheelchair division, the 8K, the Half-Marathon, and the Marathon.

Liberty raised over \$10,000 and generated valuable publicity for the Center and people with disabilities. Many of our Team Liberty participants did not know about Liberty before they joined and were excited to learn about our mission of independence and to spread the word about Liberty



*LRI CEO Tom Earle and Disability Rights Attorney Steve Gold begin the 8K.*

and the many services we provide people with disabilities.

One participant who hoped to raise funds for Liberty Resources Academy and their Veterans program is Colonel Paul Sarat, a 1983 graduate of Haverford High School currently serving in Afghanistan. Sarat ran a half-marathon in Afghanistan on November 21st to replicate the one taking place in Philadelphia. People can learn more about him, Liberty Resources, or running an upcoming race on behalf of people with disabilities at:

<http://www.libertyresources.org/team-liberty>

The Marathon's partnership with non-profits exemplifies the value of common purpose in a community. Liberty Resources was fortunate to be involved with the race this year and we are looking forward to participating again next year. ★

# LRI Celebrates 30th Anniversary in Style

by Joel Moffatt

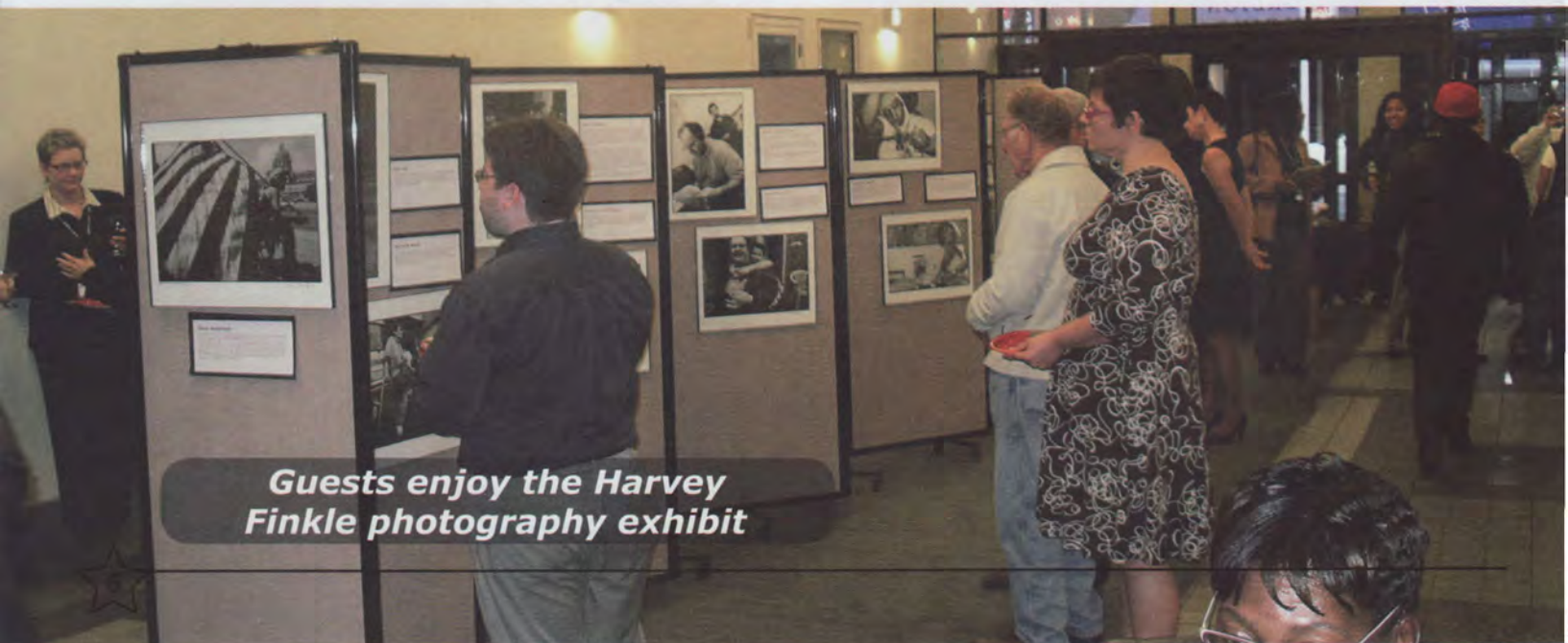
Consumers, LRI staff, volunteers, and supporters gathered on Thursday, October 21 to commemorate Liberty Resources' 30th Anniversary. A semi-formal cocktail affair, the event featured a gallery of photographs by renowned photographer Harvey Finkle, who has labored over most of the CIL's history to capture the essence and spirit of the Independent Living Movement in his stunning photographs.

The photos on display spanned the three decades of the Center's existence and featured many of LRI's Consumers and staff. These iconic, black and white images marked the culmination of a year-long project by Harvey Finkle, through which he succeeded in capturing the many facets of independent living. The exhibit offered a glimpse of Consumers at home, at work, at school, with their families, transitioning out of nursing homes, and engaged in advocacy actions.

As a lasting tribute to what LRI and Independent Living Movement advocates have achieved over the past three decades, the best photos from the project were compiled into a coffee table book, which guests received at the event. If you missed the event and would like to get your very own copy of *Independent Living: The People Behind the Movement*, send \$5 to:

Liberty Resources  
Attn: LRI30 Book Orders  
714 Market Street, Suite 100  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The event also featured a student jazz trio from Temple University. Wine was generously donated by Barefoot Wine, and beer was partially donated by Philadelphia's own Yards Brewery. ARC (Achieving Reunification Center), a Sovereign Building tenant, provided volunteer servers and bartenders, and their catering service provided exquisite food. ★



**Guests enjoy the Harvey Finkle photography exhibit**

# Welcome, New Board Members! *by Amy Sloan*

Liberty Resources is extremely pleased to announce its new slate of Board of Trustees Officers beginning in January, 2011: Marshall Brown, Chair; James K. Goodwin, Vice Chair; Melissa Monser, Secretary; Linda Lukiewski, Treasurer; and Janice McGrane, Past Chair. We are extremely grateful to Janice for all her good work as Board Chair, and look forward to her continued input as Past Chair.

Additionally, we would like to welcome newly elected Board Members Michael Bencrowsky, Mary Ellen Caffrey, Joyce Farria, Dynah Haubert, Joseph Nolan, and Brenda Pedro. We look forward to their fresh perspective in supporting our continuing Board Members, Tom Earle, John Gladstone, Eric McNeil, Marsha Peurifoy, Erik von Schmetterling, and Filomena Ward.

The function of Liberty's Board is to assist Consumers and the Chief Executive Officer in setting the direction and fiscal compliance for the organization. Members invest two to six hours per month and make a significant contribution to advancing our mission.

If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, please call 215-634-2000 to request a Board Candidate Nomination Form. You can also download a Board Candidate Nomination Form at:

**[www.libertyresources.org/about-us/board.html](http://www.libertyresources.org/about-us/board.html)**

Once you receive your form, complete it, and feel free to use additional paper if necessary. Also, attach a resume (if you have one) and/or a brief summary of your life experience and/or advocacy experience in the disability community.

Return the completed form with attachments to:

Nicholas Allin  
714 Market Street, Suite 100  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Fax: (215) 634-6628  
[nicholasallin@libertyresources.org](mailto:nicholasallin@libertyresources.org)

If you have any questions, contact Nicholas Allin at (215) 634-2000 extension 211. ★



*Newly-elected Board Chair Marshall Brown and new Board Member Joyce Farria.  
Inset: Past Chair Janice McGrane.*

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

Moving Forward with PA's New Governor	1
The New HCBS Consumer Advisory Group	4
Team Liberty in the 2010 Philadelphia Marathon	5
LRI Celebrates 30th Anniversary in Style	6
Welcome, New Board Members!	7

**LIBERTY WORKS** is published quarterly by Liberty Resources Inc. All contents © 2011, Liberty Resources, Inc. **Executive Editor/Designer:** Joel Moffatt **Assistant Editor(s):** Amy Sloan, Emily Coder **Contributors to this issue:** Cassie James Holdsworth, Jennifer Barnhart, Emily Coder, Joel Moffatt, Amy Sloan **Photo credits:** Joel Moffatt (1, 6), Harvey Finkle (5, 7)

Thanks to the generous sponsors of LRI's 30th Anniversary Celebration and our 2010 Philadelphia Marathon Fundrasier!

BAREFOOT  
WINE



PHILADELPHIA'S OWN  
**YARDS**  
BREWING COMPANY  
EST. 1994



**EnduraFit**  
moisture management system™

Liberty Resources, Inc. • 714 Market Street, Suite 100, Philadelphia, PA 19106  
215-634-2000/6630 VOICE/TTY • 215-634-6628 FAX • E-mail: LRInc@libertyresources.org  
Marshall Brown, Chair of the Board • Thomas H. Earle, CEO • www.libertyresources.org

All inquiries regarding this newsletter, refer to the editor. To be added to the mailing list, contact the Philadelphia office. Unless indicated, articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

www.libertyresources.org  
888-634-2155 (TOLL FREE)  
215-634-6628 (FAX)  
215-634-2000 (VOICE)/6630 (TTY)  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
714 Market Street, Suite 100

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 514  
Philadelphia, PA

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY LIBERTY RESOURCES, INC. PHILADELPHIA'S CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

# Liberty Works