



# The Communicator

## Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter!

The annual Alpha Picnic was held on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Alpha facility. The Special Events Committee did their usual outstanding job of preparation and a good time was had by all. The barbeque was started with the Alpha-produced CHARCOAL BUDDY, and Chefs Jim Cornett and Chad Aleshire produced some fantastic hamburgers.

### Friends of The Alpha Group

Under the leadership of our chairperson Gloria Leonard, FOA held the first ever Rubber Duck Races at Mingo Park on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. On the day following the largest single-day rainfall ever in Central Ohio, the weather was terrific and the river was fast. Our corporate sponsors included:

AHP	PPG	Lawrence Law Offices
Emergency Plumbing	Jeg's	First Citizens National Bank
Ke Wa Pa	Innopak	

Contributions are too numerous to mention, but worthy of note were:

- Custom signs by Jana Watterson
- Promotion and art work by Matt Crow of Leighton Creations
- Bag Raffle by Barb Brinegar, Phyllis Barvitski and Holly Shellogg
- Connie Kerns and the 'All Things Ducky' crew
- Racing officials Jim Cornett, Brett & Autumn Pizzuto and Katelyn Davis
- Volunteers from AHP, Alpha Staff and many friends of The Alpha Group.

The FOA fundraising efforts this year benefited Alpha Manufacturing and will be put to work to aid individuals selecting us as their vocational service provider.

There are plenty of 'All Things Ducky' items available for purchase. Contact Connie Kerns at [conniekerns@alphagroup.net](mailto:conniekerns@alphagroup.net) for details.

Pictures and information about the races and FOA are available on our web site: [www.alphagroup.net](http://www.alphagroup.net)

Alpha's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year is 2010. You can join in the fun and satisfying work of the Friends of Alpha by becoming a volunteer member. Contact Gloria Leonard at: [jleonard7@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jleonard7@columbus.rr.com)

### Board of Director Updates

Strategic planning continues to be a focus of the Board's activity during the second quarter. Priority has been given to facility planning, funding, needs assessment, survey and succession planning.

The Board worked extremely hard during the quarter and is currently reviewing business plans and budgets for the upcoming year.

The Annual Meeting of the Alpha Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, at a location yet to be announced.

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### Note Worthy

- ⇒ *During a recent tenant survey taken by personnel from the General Services Administration, satisfaction at the Federal Courthouse in Columbus rose a full 6% into the mid-90% range since Alpha Office & Lawn began providing services.*
- ⇒ *The Dept of Homeland Security recommends these 8 tips for staying healthy during the anticipated outbreak of the H1N1 virus:*
  1. Wash your hands frequently,
  2. Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes,
  3. Cover your coughs and sneezes,
  4. Wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose,
  5. Keep frequently touched common surfaces clean, such as computer equipment, telephones, etc.
  6. Try not to use other workers' phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment,
  7. Maintain a healthy life style,
  8. Stay home if you are sick.
- ⇒ *Our eBay® division continues to grow, recording \$8112 in year-to-date sales through May 2009.*

### Upcoming Special Events

- ⇒ *October 23 Fall Dance*
- ⇒ *November 26-27 Thanksgiving Program Closed*
- ⇒ *December 23 Christmas Party*
- ⇒ *December 24-25 Christmas Program Closed*
- ⇒ *January 1, 2010 Program Closed*

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## Ergon Employment Solutions

Ergon has established an agreement with the Big Walnut School District, which will provide work experience during the 2009-2010 school year. American Showa and other employment sites in the school district are participating in this project.

The Project Search site at Anthem Insurance, Worthington, began in August for the 2009-2010 school year. An effort is underway between Ergon and the Delaware Area Career Center to expand the Project Search concept to additional employment sites for the 2010-2011 school year.

Ergon will join with Columbus Speech & Hearing, Mound Builders and the Columbus Vision Center to create the Connectors-to-Success Program. This thirteen month program will feature employer training on ADA issues and take a grass roots approach to educate employers about the abilities of the potential employees represented by the Connectors-to-Success collaboration. Funding for the project was obtained through a stimulus grant from the Ohio RSC.

## Adult Day Support Services

Group trips this quarter included the Velvet Ice Cream Factory, Columbus Zoo, Ohio State Fair, local county fairs and festivals and a visit to Anthony Thomas Chocolates... sweet. Other activities included pontoon boat rides at Alum Creek State Park and canoeing on the Mohican River.

Homemade tie-dyed T-shirts were the attire for a group photograph. Individual scrap books for this year will be completed by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Studies are underway to modify the ADS space and create a more enjoyable, better suited environment for those selecting Alpha as their day habilitation provider.

In cooperation with The Arts Castle, a grant proposal was submitted to the Delaware Community Foundation. If approved, this proposal, titled ART IS FOR EVERYONE, will fund the creation of an art therapy project for ADS.

Watch for notification about the 2010 calendar produced by ADS. This edition will feature photos of individuals placed on the month they were born. What a great way to celebrate a birthday! Last year's supply of calendars sold out quickly. To place an early order, contact Rhoda Brewer: rhodabrewer@alphagroup.net

## Alpha Office & Lawn Services

The change of seasons represents a change in focus for AOLS. While always busy with janitorial sites, ranging from the Federal Courthouse in Columbus, to the road sides rest areas on I-70 outside of London, autumn represents the time for the AOLS crews to put away the lawn mowers and bring out the snow plows.

New opportunities for this division include examining a mess attendant enclave, through NISH, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. Also under development is an opportunity to provide grass cutting services for the Ohio Exposition Center.

Thanks to the efforts of Connie Kerns, AOLS crews cleaned fire hydrants for the City of Delaware during the summer. The project was featured in the July 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Delaware Gazette* and in an edition of *Delaware This Week*.

## Alpha Manufacturing

Summer 2009 can be titled the 'Summer of The Buddy' here at Alpha. The CHARCOAL BUDDY really took off, due to efforts throughout the summer at events across the state.

Due largely to these events and the tireless efforts of Alpha Board Director Peter Apostoluk, articles about Alpha and The Charcoal Buddy appeared in issues of *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *The Delaware Gazette*, and in the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities newsletter, *The Pipeline*. Media coverage also included about.com and metrohomeplate.com.

Currently, Alpha is working to develop pricing for an annual quantity of 89,000 charcoal baskets for a large wholesaler, developing partnerships, seeking retail distribution in the year-round barbeque sections of the country, and working on a holiday gift package.

International Paper recently sought Alpha Manufacturing as a resource to sort two trailer-loads of boxes. This opportunity came as a direct result of the efforts of Jim Cornett and Connie Kerns, who contacted the company for trash containers needed for the FOA Duck Races.

Manufacturing enjoyed continuing work from Jeg's, Delo Screw Machine Products and other long-time customers throughout the quarter.