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## It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

With the snow covered hills and multiple sightings of Santa, Clelian Heights is starting to look more and more like Christmas everyday!

With a great fall behind us, we move forward into an exciting winter. November and December have been outstanding months for the production of dog biscuits, soap and candy.

Holiday treats for our canine has far exceeded our expectations! Woofles, pup pizzas and Christmas treat bags have been boxed and bagged as soon as they roll off the production line.

"Puppy Chow", a mixture of chex cereal, peanut butter and chocolate chips, has proven to be a staff favorite. Made entirely by the clients, "puppy chow" is as fun to make as it is delicious to eat.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness", a proverb our workers attest to while working in the soap making area. Snowflakes, Christmas trees and other holiday themed

soaps are handmade and boxed. Sales of soap have been through the roof with over 500 soaps being sold so far! Thank you for all your love and support for our new endeavor.

Another huge sign of the holiday season is the annual "Christmas Dinner Dance". Rivalled only by Kennywood, the dinner dance is the biggest social event on the Clelian Center calendar. The 15<sup>th</sup> annual dinner dance held at the *Lampighter* restaurant will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup>. This event is attended by over 200 family members and staff. After the delicious buffet dinner and huge assortment of decadent desserts, you can dance the night away to the tunes of DJ Ted!

We also anticipate the arrival of the big man in red descending from the helicopter later in the month!

We have a lot to celebrate and do so with the singing of carols and other holiday related activity!

Merry Christmas to all and a Healthy and happy New Year!



### The Few, the proud...the interior decorator???

Former Marine and Clelian Supervisor Kevin LaSlavic let his creative and holiday spirit out this month by thoroughly decorating the Clelian Center from top to bottom. When asked where his creative motivations come from, Kevin replied, "My wife won't let me decorate at home."



Hard at Work  
at Clelian  
Center!



We look  
forward  
to  
another  
exciting  
year!!!

*A Family Affair*



*Did you know...*

*The New Years Luncheon at McDonalds will be held on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>?*

*The Christmas Dinner Dance at the Lamplighter is December 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 6:00pm?*

*Santa will arrive via Helicopter December 20<sup>th</sup> and visit the Clelian Center to distribute gifts?*

*A Choir from Clelian Heights performed for the Sisters of Charity at Caritas Christi to raving reviews?*

*We had two music therapy students from Seton Hill University, Molly Gladfelter and Stephanie Morris, who came each week to teach us a music lesson? We thank Molly and Stephanie for all of their hard work and talent!*

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.clelianheights.org](http://www.clelianheights.org)

## Goodwill Power of Work Awards

We are pleased to have nominated the *Courtyard by Marriot* and *Greensburg Sam's Club* for the *Goodwill Power of Work Awards* for being such great employers to several of our clients in the center. The competition consisted of 90 employers around the Pittsburgh area who were judged on the evaluation of the nominees efforts in support of workforce development and in creating enhanced opportunities for people with barriers to employment, including individuals in such non-traditional populations as: people with physical and/or mental disabilities, displaced workers, participants in welfare-to-work programs, people who are homeless, people with limited work experience, people with limited education/training, older and younger workers and workers with criminal backgrounds. Both businesses were pleased and honored to have been recognized.

Representatives from both businesses attended a luncheon along with job coach Connie Gipson at the Omni William Penn Hotel of Pittsburgh along with 400 others from business around the area who employ persons with disabilities. It was a very heartwarming affair and exciting to know of so many businesses that are now employing persons with disabilities. We really have come a long way, with still a long road ahead, but it's nice to know the system is heading in the right direction!



## News and Notes from the ATF

It's looking a lot like Christmas in the ATF! November began as we welcomed two new staff members into the Clelian Center, Bryan Downs and Cherie Dell. They are sincerely appreciated and welcomed into our staff family!

We had several outings in November, and the most popular seemed to be a play in Ligonier. We all enjoyed "Wonderland" put on by the Hollow Tree Players. One client stated, "I loved the queen. She had a nice smile." All enjoyed participating in the audience and following the familiar story of Alice and Wonderland. We even got to meet and spend time with the cast as we left. Of course all were happy about lunch out on the way back. December field trips have been few due to our many holiday activities and our soap production. We have been busy, Busy, BUSY, but all are happy and excited about the upcoming activities later in December. We are planning to make gingerbread houses and to have a holiday pizza party.

Another activity that warmed our hearts was making gifts for the retired sisters who we visited and caroled for. We received a standing ovation from them. This holiday season our focus has been giving back to others and showing others kindness. Merry Christmas to all and to all a safe and happy new year!

*Merry Christmas*