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Fall Edition -October 2011

## Program Director



**Josh Huba**

- It's a very exciting time to be a part of
- Building Blocks. We continue to grow,
- strengthen and expand our impact on the community. The clients continue to be involved in a number of projects and volunteer opportunities in the south Lake County area. Recently the gardening class has become involved at the

Clermont Health and Rehabilitation center. They have been distributing small flower plants to the patients and are working to establish a flower and vegetable garden at their center. October marks the beginning of the 4th quarter where the clients will choose the classes they wish to participate in for the next three months. The center will be offering a new class this quarter called Community Awareness. This class will focus on getting the clients out in the community to educate them on the landmarks and sites that make up

the Clermont area. Field trips will include places like the Citrus Tower, Lake Louisa, and the local orange groves. We are also looking for volunteers to help out in a number of classes including gardening, computers, and language arts among others. We look forward to continuing progress and close out 2011 as another successful year at Building Blocks.

Josh Huba's email:  
[jh@buildingblocksministries.com](mailto:jh@buildingblocksministries.com)



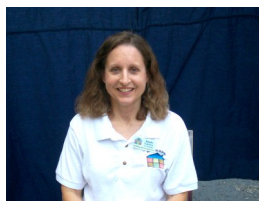
## Center Closed

- OCT. 10 - COLUMBUS DAY
- NOV. 23-25 THANKSGIVING
- DEC. 22, 23, 26,
- 30 CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

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## Case Manager



**Sandy Castor**

Our goal at Building Blocks Learning Center is to provide quality in-

dividual care for each client we serve. When a precious one has any life changes as we all know it affects every area of their lives. These surface through many different behaviors. Please communicate these life changes/behaviors with

us. Also if/when they have any med changes, transportation or any service changes please in writing let us know of these. We must keep their records up to date here at the center.

Sandy Castor's email:  
[sc@buildingblocksministries.com](mailto:sc@buildingblocksministries.com)

# Around the Block

## October 2011

**October 8** -5k Fun Run/  
Walk – Sat. 8am at NTC  
Track. Please call Josh @  
(352) 250-5068 for direc-  
tions or more information  
concerning the event.



**October 10-14** -Breast  
Cancer Awareness Month.  
Clients are asked to wear  
pink for the week.



**October 11**- Thanksgiving  
Jars Fundraiser order forms  
distributed.

**October 28** —Final day to  
return Thanksgiving jar or-  
der forms.

**STAY UP TO  
DATE AND GET  
INVOLVED!**



## November 2011

**November 11**—Christmas  
Jars Fundraiser order forms  
distributed.



**November 17** -Thanksgiving  
Dinner

**November 14-18** Fall Festi-  
val Fun Week – @ Lake  
Minneola.

**November 18,21,22** Thanks-  
giving Jars delivery



**November 28** Final day to  
return Christmas jar order  
forms

## December 2011

**December 16** Beginning of  
Christmas Jar delivery.



**December 21** Client Christ-  
mas Party – Secret Santa

**December 19-21**- Holiday  
Jars distributed

### MAKE A DONATION!

Items we are in need of:

- \* Mason Jars —pint & quart
- \* Empty aluminum cans
- \* Copy paper
- \* Paper towels
- \* Plastic utensils
- \* Scrapbooking materials

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make a check out to Building Blocks Ministries, Inc. If you would like the money to be donated towards a particular cause or class please specify on the check.

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# Around the Block



## Holiday Jars and Plant Sale

Building Blocks will be selling holiday jars filled with a variety of tasty recipes including breads, cookies, and soups. Order forms for the Thanksgiving Jars will be distributed in October. Order forms for the Christmas Jars will be distributed in November. All proceeds fund the Building Blocks cooking class. The exact dates can be found on page two.

The gardening class will be selling plants this year to help fund future flower and vegetable garden projects in the community. Order forms will be distributed in November. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Building Blocks Athletes

### Hankies

Building Blocks softball team won the county games on August 20th and the area games on September 24th

Now they have a chance to go to the state games on November 4th & 5th.

### Good Luck Hankies!



### Hoopsters

County games will be held in December, area games in January, and state games in February. Practice will start after the softball season end.

### Go Hoopsters!



## In the Works

Many new things are in the works at Building Blocks Ministries, Inc.

The Board of Directors have worked hard to get us into our new home. The latest update: 7 Grant Proposals were submitted and we are waiting to hear back from them. There are no other offers pending on the building. We hope to

close in November. We will keep you updated as things unfold.

The Board has made a decision to add new programs which are being worked on and applications are being made. As they are approved we will make those announcements.

We completed the "Strengthening Communities" Capacity Building grant on September 20, 2011. Many of the staff and Board Members attended monthly trainings that were provided and all of us greatly benefited from these trainings!



## 3rd Annual Charity Auction/Dinner – March 2012

The Planning Committee will be forming in November for the Charity Auction/Dinner – If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Lora by phone or email and provide her with your contact information and the best time of day for you to meet. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated!

This year's proceeds will go to the scholarship fund for the

private pay clients.

In the state of Florida there are 19,000 persons with disabilities who are on the waitlist for services. In Lake County there are 255. Building Blocks has 11 clients who must pay privately to attend the Center. We also have 8 more pending applicants who want to attend the Center but need scholarships to do so. Our goal is to raise \$10,000! The amount needed to fund the

scholarship fund is \$20,000.

The Community Foundation of South Lake has contributed \$3,500 to the scholarship fund but this is not nearly enough to support these families. Currently 9 families are being served with this grant. More grant foundations are being sought for funding but no funds have been secured to date.

I encourage you, if you are a family whose family member receives the Medicaid Waiver to please consider helping those families who are still waiting, and have waited in some cases well over 7 years. Please look over your schedule to see if there isn't some way that you could serve on a committee for the Charity Auction/Fundraiser. We need your help and together we can accomplish this goal! Thank you for considering!

# Around the Block



## History of Building Blocks Ministries, Inc.

Building Blocks Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit organization registered in the State of Florida as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization; for the purpose of helping adults with developmental or other disabilities believe in themselves and achieve their dreams through life skills, job skills and work-force programs that prepare them for independent living and successful employment. Building Blocks Ministries, Inc. was founded in December of 2005 to meet a community need that existed for training and job placement programs for adults with developmental or other disabilities in Lake County. The Learning Center was opened on August 1, 2006!

Dr. Paula and Dr. Kerry Whetro, the founders of Building Blocks, are both passionate about helping the disabled receive the support they need. Their daughter, Lora, was diagnosed with a Central Processing Disorder when she was 8 years old. They worked together as a family to support their daughter by creating new ways for her to learn and grasp important concepts. Her goal was to graduate from High School with a standard diploma, something that many school counselors and teachers thought to be impossible, yet she was determined to succeed. As a freshman the decision was made to homeschool to get caught up on things that were lacking. Using the ACE curriculum and working with Ms. Angi Pitt, now with New Hope Christian Academy, Lora completed 5 years of English in one school year and finished all of the required courses to finish her freshman year. After this our family moved to Ohio for a year to be near family for support as my father-in-law battled with cancer. While in Ohio, Lora passed her reading proficiency state tests, an accomplishment that the school counselor thought impossible and insisted that she must have had extra time or support, in which she didn't!! The counselor questioned this due to her IQ score being a 71. They tell us the normal range should be 110-120. I'm not certain that a person's IQ score should ever be used to measure their ability. When a person has a dream and desire to accomplish a goal, I believe that they should be able to have the support needed to accomplish that goal!

In 2004 we move back to Florida and in 2006, Lora reached her goal! She graduated with a 3.2 GPA and a standard high school diploma. She enrolled at Lake Sumter Community College and graduated in 2010 with an Associates' Degree in Office Administration. Lora has been employed at Building Blocks Ministries, Inc. since the first day we opened and continues to grow with us!

She is the reason that we have been so determined to serve adults with developmental and/or other disabilities. We have always desired that Building Blocks be a place where the staff encourage the clients to dream, to believe in themselves and achieve their dreams. We will try our best to serve every client and to assist them with the training that they need to achieve their life dreams. Our Board of Directors are supportive of the mission and vision and work hard to help us achieve our goals!



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