



June 2017

Duck Race Success Generates More Than Money

More than 11 years ago, a group of committed employees and community members sat around a table to discuss how Carey Services could conduct an event — in the community — that included the community as a whole with the goal of raising money to fill unmet needs of those we serve.

As I reflect on last weekend's 11th Annual Carey Services Duck Race, I am amazed at how the event has grown and evolved. As I reminisce about the race's history, I am thankful that race supporters have helped many individuals served at Carey Services in those 11 years.

The race has evolved from an event conducted during regular Splash House hours to an evening event, designated solely for the cause of Carey Services and solely to support individuals the agency serves.

Many individuals served by Carey Services have needs beyond those their insurance and income can support; many individuals served by Carey Services depend on Carey Services for daily support and for needs others might take for granted. Because of community financial support through events like the Duck Race, we can help meet the needs of those we serve.

The work required to conduct a duck race every year truly takes a village. During the past 11 years, many community businesses have stepped up to sponsor and support those we serve. Hundreds of individuals have purchased tickets, some of whom have consistently bought tickets each year. Many businesses and individuals have donated items for race-day prizes or for silent auctions.

And, once the organizing is complete, hundreds of individuals have joined us on race days to celebrate and cheer on those yellow rubber ducks. Many more community members have

provided great support to come together and volunteer on race day to make sure the event goes smoothly.

As we look to the future, we intend to continue growing the race and for it to be a valuable opportunity for the communities we serve. We continue to look to businesses and individuals who have a passion for people with disabilities, low income families, and children who need a quality early childhood experience in our Early Head Start program.

We want to connect our organization with that passion. If you have an interest in connecting at a deeper level with Carey Services on our Duck Race, or with other events and efforts we conduct throughout the year, please contact me at (765) 668-8961, ext. 102, or by email at jallbaugh@careyservices.com.

At this year's Duck Race, we had a family member share a testimony of how Carey Services has changed her life in a positive way. The following is an excerpt from her testimony:

"In 1995 while living in a small town in Illinois my husband was offered a job in Marion. As the parents of a special needs young adult we needed to find the possibilities here for him. Jeff was in a wonderful program in Illinois and we didn't feel we could compromise him. We learned of Carey Services and came to Marion to check it out.

"Jeff has been with Carey Services through the biggest part of his adult life; he has worked out in the community as well as in house. He is looking forward to trying the Creative Hearts art program at the agency. He has been blessed with staff that has been able to help him find the direction and support needed for him to know success. He is involved with CSA and Special Olympics, outside of Carey Services, and the agency has been a great supporter of both programs.

"He has learned many tasks over the years and made many friends along the way. While the road has not always been easy, and there have been bumps along the way, Carey Services has allowed him to use the abilities he has to become the (mostly) independent person he is today.

"I believe in Carey Services and their values, and I believe they are an asset that not every community has; we are a truly blessed community."

Thank you to everyone who supports Carey Services so we can turn abilities and barriers into opportunities and work to assure that all people, regardless of their abilities or barriers, are empowered and equally valued members of the community.

Jim Allbaugh, President/CEO