

Peaceful Living Highlights September 2013

Mother Theresa once said that, "Loneliness is the leprosy of the West." Many people with disabilities feel alone and unwanted and can even feel that they are a burden to their families. At Peaceful Living, we believe people with disabilities want to belong to their community, to a faith community and most importantly, they have gifts to offer. Every day we work to make that a reality.



Bob Wendt and a friend at a recent SOUL event.

To this end, we are happy to announce the addition of Bob Wendt, Director of Congregational Ministries, to our team at Peaceful Living. After spending almost 20 years in pastoral counseling, Bob has returned to PA following an eight-year stretch as the Vice President of Student Development and Dean of Students at Alaska Bible College. Bob said recently, "God has led my wife and I back to PA to serve this community of people that God calls "the indispensable ones" in the body of Christ according to 1 Corinthians 12. I am excited to help our congregations fully embrace members new and old with disabilities into their church families."

"People with disabilities all have special gifts to offer, it's

just a matter of taking the time to learn what they are," said Executive Director Joe Landis. "Our congregations are broken. By including people with disabilities, they are made whole. We are very fortunate to have Bob here doing this important work."

Bob is now available to help your congregation find ways to be more welcoming and accessible for all members of the community, especially those who need us most. Feel free to contact Bob at <u>bwendt@peacefulliving.org</u> or call 610.287.1200.

Some other ways your congregation might like to help our congregational ministries program could be to host and provide volunteers for our monthly SOUL (Social Opportunities for the Ultimate Life) respite events, or Friendship Connection events. We also host dances throughout the year providing social opportunities for people with disabilities.

For more information about the other programs of Peaceful Living, visit <u>www.peacefulliving.org</u>. Follow us on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/creatingbelonging</u> to see what we're up to.