

## **To The Berkshire Record**

### **RIVERBROOK EXPANDS DAY PROGRAM TO NEW TOWN CENTER IN STOCKBRIDGE**

#### **New Director Appointed**

Stockbridge, MA – Riverbrook Residence has moved its day program into the new Town Center in Stockbridge, offering a wide variety of activities that promote individual skills. In addition to Riverbrook’s regular services, a new transitional program for young men and women has been added and is being offered throughout Berkshire County on a “menu” basis, according to Joan Burkhard, Riverbrook’s Executive Director.

According to Burkhard, young adults aged 18-22 with developmental disabilities will find stimulating and meaningful activities, work, skills of daily living and the opportunity to be mentored by the women who live at Riverbrook. The residential community celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007 and is home to 23 women with developmental disabilities.

In the recently opened Town Center, participants in the Riverbrook program have a wide group of community people with whom to interact. The Center houses school district offices, police offices, senior citizen activities, a physician, an artist and Stockbridge town offices. The Center is in the middle of the town, an easy walk to the library, the post office, shops and the Red Lion Inn, where some Riverbrook residents are employed.

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## **New Director for Day Program**

Caren Mercer Montano has been appointed the Director of Riverbrook on Main Street. Montano was born in the Berkshires and recently returned with her family. “It’s wonderful to be back in this beautiful part of the world and particularly wonderful to be working with the women of Riverbrook,” she noted.

Montano earned a Masters in Education from Hunter College and an M.Ed from Columbia Teachers College. She previously worked for the Jewish Guild for the Blind and the New York State Technical Assistance Project. She has published extensively in the field of special education and has served as a consultant to the Lexington School for the Deaf, the Shield Institute and the New Jersey Technical Assistance Project.

“Riverbrook’s Day Program is a rich and varied opportunity for people to grow, gain self confidence and tap into new abilities each day. We offer music, art, employment, volunteer opportunities, horseback riding, swimming, Special Olympic training and exercise, product development for a local store, technology training, current events and cooking. It’s so rewarding to work with motivated secure adults and we look forward to welcoming newcomers to this program – they will see extraordinary role models in the Riverbrook residents.”

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Please visit [www.riverbrook.org](http://www.riverbrook.org)

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