

SPRINGBOARD LANDINGS

MESSENGER

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

BY RICHARD CHAMBERS

The Holidays are upon us! Truly a season of thankfulness and joy! We are grateful for the friends, supporters, and volunteers of Springboard Landings. Thank you so much for the land leads from the last newsletter. Please keep them coming! We are happy and thrilled to announce that our land acquisition team has partnered with a very talented real estate agent, Kathleen Timberlake. Also, after research by our Operations Coordinator, Elizabeth Woodliff, and Board discussion, we implemented a new software system to enhance our administrative capabilities.

As a teacher, I was taught so many important lessons by my students. One such lesson came from a student who experienced learning difficulties. During a conversation, I once asked her, "How do you cope with a learning disability?" Quickly she emphatically informed me that "she had 'learning differences' which would only become disabilities if she allowed them to become disabilities." A lesson well-taught by my student and well-learned by me. I remain eternally grateful to her.

Springboard Landings will assist a community of amazing individuals who have developmental differences. As Scott Hamilton is quoted on our Springboard Landings website, "The only disability in life is a bad attitude."

Thank you and enjoy the Holidays!



Richard Chambers

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 [@springboardlandings](https://www.instagram.com/springboardlandings)

 youtube.com/c/SpringboardLandings

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With grateful hearts we
wish you Peace, Joy, Hope,
and Love

A CHANCE TO BUILD A LIFE

BY ELIZABETH WOODLIFF

Building the life he enjoys is not always easy for Ryan Legette. Like most people, Ryan has dreams of accomplishing more at work and potentially earning a promotion. He yearns for connections and hopes that someday he will learn to stay on top of cleaning his apartment.

When I interviewed Ryan a couple of weeks ago he told me, “I’m living a life I like”, in answer to my question, “What is your favorite thing about your current living situation?” Ryan, a grocery bagger at Publix, was diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder when he was ten years old. His disability has not stopped him from pursuing a fulfilling life; however, basic things can hinder his dreams, even things that are supposed to help him. His disability status only allows him to work part time, which he describes as a “lose, lose situation”. It is also hard to navigate relationships.



Ryan Legette

Ryan lives alone. He knows not everyone likes or understands him. He loves children because they accept him just the way he is. When talking about community, he said, “I can’t force people to be my friend. If they don’t like me, they don’t like me. But I can still like them.” Society does not always accept people like Ryan because it does not take the time to understand someone with a developmental difference. Ryan is not naïve to this reality but will not let it stop him from chasing the life he wants. Ryan, like you, has basic human longings for love, belonging, and esteem. These desires push us to build good lives surrounded by people we love and respect who love and respect us back.

This is what Springboard Landings is all about! Our purpose is to build an intentional community for adults with developmental differences to live in a secure, community-centered environment with limited support. They will have their own space while building a surrogate family with peers who love and support them. Your support will turn this dream into a reality and give a home and community to people like Ryan.

HOPE AND RENEWAL UNDER ONE ROOF

For the third year Springboard Landings, along with other outstanding local nonprofits, participated in the Gordon Jewish Community Center’s Under One Roof Art Show. Each nonprofit created a piece of art representing their mission as it relates to this year’s theme, Hope and Renewal. This triumphant event celebrated each other’s art and organization as they look to the future after a very stressful year.

Local artist, Katherine Hope Lee, perfectly encapsulated the theme, mirroring the future Landers entering a new stage of life at Springboard Landings. “...The image of a butterfly exiting a chrysalis kept entering my mind. As I painted, I kept imagining the butterfly flying into a new life of independence.” Katherine, a native of Birmingham, AL, is a school counselor at Nashville Christian School. She has lived in Nashville for the past four years and pursues many artistic endeavors.

Thank you, Katherine, for an exemplary, meaningful piece of art!



From Left: Vicki Chambers, Richard Chambers, Pat Cooper, Susan Cooper, Charlie Cooper, Katherine Hope Lee, Elizabeth Woodliff, Peter Last

SCHERER LUCK

By John Cooper

*“Being a good steward of God’s Blessings.”
“Improving the lives of others.”*

These are two themes that run through the Scherer family and we feel blessed to be recipients of their contributions to Springboard Landings. We wanted to know the origins of these family themes, so we sat down with matriarch Pat Scherer and her daughter-in-law, Rhoda, to take a deep dive.

Both Pat and Rhoda came from humble beginnings before they became family.

Pat was born in Southeast Missouri. She met Jim Scherer when she was 15 through the local Catholic Youth Organization and they were married three years later. Eventually they moved to Mountain Top, PA where Jim worked for Maytag and was offered the Nashville Territory.

Pat recalls after about three years in Nashville, Jim asked if she wanted to start their own business. Her initial concern was they didn’t have the money to do that. They had their first two (eventually four) children at home and Pat was working for H&R Block. So she went to Nashville Tech and took classes in Accounting and absolutely loved it. A-1 Appliance was launched in February 1982 and Pat’s role was Bookkeeper. Their accountant said she got a better result on their first tax return than he did and it was all right!

Starting a business was a leap of faith for the Scherers and money was tight. Another story Pat shared was when Jim wanted to put in a new sidewalk. She noted that Jim never looked at the check book. “I asked what’s that gonna’ cost? He said \$500. I said we don’t have that kind of money to pay for that. Jim said it’s too late, they’re coming in tomorrow to put it on.” That day they sold five appliances and that paid for it. Pat credits God for providing.

Since that time, A-1 Appliance has



Rhoda Scherer and Pat Scherer at Pat’s Home

become a Nashville staple, employing 40 people with the reigns passed from Jim to their oldest son, Steve, who is now the Owner and President.

Enter Rhoda.

Rhoda and Steve Scherer have been together for almost 20 years. After her first two years of college, Rhoda started working in a group home CILA, Community Integrated Living Arrangements. She finished her bachelor’s degree in Psychology at Eastern Illinois University and has an extensive background with the DIDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) population. She was even recognized with a proclamation from the Tennessee State Senate in 2011 for 14 years of service. But it didn’t stop there.

Rhoda is also a producer and created Psychology Matters, a television show to help educate the public on the different elements of psychology and mental health issues. It airs in 20 different counties in Middle Tennessee. She’s on the Community Advisory Board for Nashville Public Television and was most recently Vice President of the Altrusa Club Nashville.

Both Rhoda and Pat made philanthropy a priority as the fruits of the Scherer business grew.

Pat’s involvement with Visitation Hospital Foundation was instrumental in building a permanent medical center in Haiti. She shares stories about the people who touched her heart during her eight visits to Haiti and she has also opened her home o a number of young Haitians who came to

Nashville for surgery.

Rhoda created Aunt Rhoda’s Care Closet (ARCC) at Creek Wood High School in Dickson County where students can personally go online, choose school supplies, hygiene products, clothes, prom dress, food or whatever they need to be successful, through a QR code for total anonymity and no shame. The school’s HOSA club helps manage it and starting this semester, two \$500 scholarships will be offered for HOSA club members that are financially in need.

When asked what people should know about Springboard Landings, Pat said, “It’s about trying to get it built. People know there’s people that need help. Getting the word out is the best thing you can do.” And Rhoda added, “There’s a big distinction between the folks that cannot take care of themselves and the folks that just need a little assistance. And there’s a big need for that.”

Thank you to Pat and Rhoda for being difference makers.





179 Belle Forest Circle
Suite 301
Nashville, TN 37221

Title FirstName LastName

Address 1

City, State ZipCode

Providing adults who need a limited amount of support an option for independent living in a secure, community-centered environment.

Springboard Landings is a member of the Center for Nonprofit Management and The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

elizabeth@springboardlandings.org

Are You 70½ or Older?

You can contribute up to \$100,000 to Springboard Landings, without paying taxes on the withdrawal from your IRA. Make the QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) withdrawal directly to Springboard Landings Fed.ID #80-0650695. Check with your Financial Advisor for further guidance.



Tax Season is coming up! This is your last opportunity to make a **tax deductible** donation in 2021.

We will send out tax letters in the beginning of the year. Please reach out if you have any questions.

