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## ***THE ASSOCIATION***

### **FOR COMMUNITY LIVING**

*Creating Opportunities, Building Relationships, Improving Lives  
for children and adults with developmental disabilities since 1952*

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## **Local Non-profit Kicks-off Annual Campaign**

### **The Association For Community Living's CAMPAIGN 2008 BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

The Association For Community Living, a local non-profit, will kick off its annual fundraising Campaign on March 5 with a goal of \$325,000. This year's campaign theme **Building Relationships** describes an important founding principal of the organization.

The Association provides support, resources and programs to over 1,355 individuals with developmental disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome. The Association also supports individuals with major brain trauma such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Shaken Baby Syndrome. Currently, The Association provides services to over 1,011 families in 86 cities and towns in Western Massachusetts and northern Worcester County.

The Association For Community Living was created in 1952 by five mothers of children with mental retardation who shared a dream that their children would live and grow as valued members of their communities. This dream challenged societal expectations which, at the time, held that people with developmental disabilities were best separated from their families and placed in institutions.

Filled with vision and optimism, the mothers created a web of supportive connections for their children so they could live at home. Today, The Association honors the mothers' vision through their dedication to creating opportunities, building relationships and improving lives for the individuals they support.

The campaign is being co-chaired by Mr. John F. Heaps, Jr. and Mr. Stephen Davis.

John Heaps Jr., president and CEO of Florence Savings Bank in Northampton, has served on the campaign committee for the past five years. Within this time, John has successfully involved other local banks in the campaign. John serves on the campaign committee because The Association "helps so many good people and families in our local community of Hampden and Hampshire Counties."

Stephen Davis, former co-owner of American Saw, and local philanthropist, has been co-chairing the campaign for the past twelve years. He originally became connected with The Association while searching for services for his brother, Bob, who has a developmental disability. Over the years, the Davis Foundation and the Davis family have generously supported The Association's mission. The Irene E. And George A. Davis Foundation received The Association's *Partner in Philanthropy* award in 2002.

Headquartered in Springfield, The Association has offices in Athol, Easthampton, Greenfield, Northampton, and Pittsfield. For more information on The Association For Community Living visit our web site at [www.theassn.org](http://www.theassn.org).

To make a donation, include us in your will, donate appreciated stock, or give a charitable planned gift to The Association For Community Living, please contact Beverly Herbert, Director of Development and External Communication, at (800) 536-2910, or visit the website at [www.theassn.org](http://www.theassn.org), click the link "Make a Gift", or email us at [donations@theassn.org](mailto:donations@theassn.org) to request more information.