

JODY O'CONNOR

We are delighted to share our interview with Jody O'Connor for this month's Staff Spotlight! Jody is our Builder of Relationships at OTR. She is the curator for Gallery OTR, oversees our resident art program and classes, and she is a wonderful networker for our organization. Jody has worked at OTR since the Spring of 2015, and is a beloved member of our OTR community.

" MY HOPE FOR OTR IS THAT IT GETS MORE AND MORE WELL-KNOWN AND CONTINUES TO BUILD THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS THAT PROVIDE DIGNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, HELPING THEM TO LIVE WITHOUT LIMITS" " - JODY O'CONNOR

→ What do you like most about your work?

"I love my job! I find the people I work with to be completely delightful and hardworking. I have never had a boss like Eric Huffman who is so dedicated to the mission of his organization and so supportive of my endeavors. I so enjoy our residents and have had a lot of fun in the art classes. I love to work with local artists who have created beautiful work. It is pure joy providing them a gallery space to exhibit their work, and the openings are exciting nights full of conversation."



→ What do you like to do when you're not working?

"When I'm not working I love to listen to music, exercise, and cook, but there is nothing more wonderful in my life than my grandchildren."

→ What has been your proudest moment at OTR?

"My proudest moment at OTR was when we had the gallery talk during the residents' art show which we have every June in conjunction with Evanstonmade. The teachers asked the residents about their art and what it means to them and the answers were so moving that I was just completely overwhelmed!"



→ What is your favorite quote?

"I have many favorite quotes and believe in the power of positive thinking. One of my favorite quotes that I say every morning is something my father-in-law Jack O'Connor said to me: "Don't let the good times pass you by for life is for the living. And when the chips settle you wouldn't change a thing because you see what leads to what."

→ If you could have any superpower what would it be?

"If I had a superpower I would make sure that there would not be a hungry person on earth"

→ What is your favorite OTR event?

"I love our celebration concert which is always an extremely talented artist performing. I love the OTR Challenge Tour because it's great to be out on the road with friends and family and then head back to a fun barbecue. I love the barbecue because a lot of the residents come."

About Gallery OTR:

The brainchild of Les Russo and Jody O'Connor, OTR invites local North Shore artists to exhibit their work in a gallery format at Hill Arboretum Apartments.

Gallery OTR hosts Thursday night opening receptions and artists invite their network of friends, family, and patrons, as well as OTR supporters. They leave their artwork on display for a one-month period until a new artist exhibits. A percentage of proceeds of each show's sales is donated to OTR. The goal of this event is to sell art, increase community outreach, and increase awareness for OTR.