

Transitions News!



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HOLIDAY PARTY FUN

By Kristin Emerick
Transitions Central

The holidays are a busy time for everyone and those involved with the Transitions Central program are no exception. In an attempt to reduce stress felt by staff, consumers, their families and community sites, Transitions Central holds a holiday party each December. This gives people a chance to have some fun and enjoy time with their friends prior to the holiday break.

Transitions Central held their annual holiday party on December 14, 2012. The event took place at the Delta Presbyterian Church on Michigan Avenue in Lansing. Almost one year ago, Transitions Central, Charlotte and Grand Ledge held a Valentine's Day party at the church and they graciously allowed the use of their space again for this year's holiday party. The entertainment portion featured the live band "Martin and Company" who performed a variety of favorite songs and got people dancing! Jolly Java served pizza, chips, cookies and pop. Overall, this year's Transitions Central holiday party went really smoothly and fun was had by all! This is an event that everyone anticipates attending. It is a wonderful way to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

MICRO-ENTERPRISE SUCCESS

By LeAnna Woods & Pam Marietta
Micro-Enterprise



On November 16th Micro Business Owner James McMillian, who sells recipe books with personally selected recipes as part of his Micro business, decided to test one of the recipes from his

new recipe book by having a chili sale. James first chose a vegetarian chili recipe. James then decided

to also use a traditional chili recipe from his previous recipe book for our meat lovers.

James helped make flyers to hand out and put them up. James went shopping with staff for all the supplies needed to host this event. During James' regular scheduled outing he took flyers to give to his friends at McDonald's to invite them to attend this sale. James' sale was held in the Transitions North Micro room. The day of the sale James worked with a Micro staff person to prepare the chili to be sold. James got suited up in his chef's apron and proudly served his customers their choice of chili.

James marketing skills paid off because his friends from McDonald's did come to enjoy a bowl of James' chili. James and his friends really seemed to enjoy themselves while they socialized and ate their delicious chili in the micro room. After they finished eating, James took his marketing skills a bit further and also encouraged his friends to shop around the micro room to support his other friends who have micro-enterprises. James' friends were impressed with the products and purchased not only James' chili but other products as well!!! When the monies were counted James had earned \$142.00 from his sale. James sold completely out of the traditional chili. This was the best food sale ever recorded for Micro!

Hats off to James for a job well done, not only promoting his business but those of other Micro Business owners. Just so you know James does have available for sale the recipe books in which these great chili's were made from so feel free to come by and grab one. They sell for \$5.00 each. They can also be ordered by calling the Micro-Enterprise staff, Pam and LeAnna at 517-346-2336.

TRANSITIONS PROGRAM CLOSINGS

Monday, Feb. 18.....Presidents' Day
Friday, March 8.....Inservice Day

LET PEOPLE KNOW YOU CARE

By Lisa Marshall
Transitions South



Never take for granted the people you love and see every day. Tomorrow they may not be there anymore.

Ray Miller was not just a gentleman; he was a gentle man with the kindest soul. Our friend Ray Miller was

called home to heaven on Wednesday January 2, 2013. Ray will always be remembered for his unconditional kindness and generous nature. Ray would spend his days at Transitions South making cards, letters and jewelry to give to his friends to make them happy. Ray was the sort of person who would give you his coat if you were cold or share his lunch if you were hungry. Ray will always be remembered for his kindness, his respectfulness, his contagious laugh, his spunk for life and his love for the Lord he worshipped. He was an angel here on earth and now he is one in heaven. Thank you, Ray. We will always remember you.

HOLIDAY PARTY 2012

By Elizabeth Putnam
Transitions Mason

Wow! How do we thank Heather Shepard and the Ladies Auxiliary from VFW Post 7309 in Mason for their tremendous efforts with throwing EPIC Holiday Parties for the last 4 years? How do we thank them for serving a complete turkey dinner to 150 people, for making sure Santa and Mrs. Clause were there and that they had gifts for everyone, for inviting the Grinch (ok, he didn't have gifts but was an awesome green color that looked great in pictures) and how do you thank these fine folks for especially.....inviting Elvis? ELVIS PRESLEY attended the party! We've thrown a lot of Holiday parties over the years and we love Santa, we do, however, when Elvis is IN THE HOUSE, everything else ceases to exist. He sings, he dances, the party goes sing and dance right along with him, he throws autographed scarves, they scream with joy and swoon and if that's not enough, he poses for individual pictures with over 100 people. How do you top that! It's been amazing and very very memorable. Heather will be leaving her post as President of the Ladies Auxiliary and sadly, will not be organizing this event for us in the future. The planning will have to begin immediately for

this December; it may take that long to top what we have had. I also want to thank Charlie Parmalee and his band for keeping everyone on the dance floor the past four years and to Matt King for making sure Elvis had time in his schedule to make memories for the people we serve.

A DAY AT THE BALLET

By Tonya Seely
Transitions North

Over Thanksgiving the Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan performed its annual presentation of The Nutcracker at the Wharton Center. The Nutcracker is a two-act ballet with a score by Tchaikovsky and was first performed in St. Petersburg, Russia in December 1892. Since then, and especially since the 1960s, The Nutcracker has been a perennial favorite around Christmastime in this country. Many of the songs from the Nutcracker are recognizable in movies and commercials.

The Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan is an independent, non-profit dance company for boys and girls ages 8-18. Dancers typically have a ballet studio where they train and then come to the Children's Ballet Theatre to be able to participate in its performances. While at the Children's Ballet Theatre children learn about makeup application, costume care, theater etiquette and respect for fellow dancers. In addition they have rigorous rehearsals and extensive planning.

On November 26, nearly 30 people from Transitions North attended this event. New to the show this year was the addition of children with special needs featured in one of the scenes. Jeanne D "loved the whole thing" and thought "it was good" to have the children with special needs be a part of it. Sarah D loved the "dancing, music and costumes". Brenda V thought the show was "fine" and enjoyed the "dancers in tights". People really enjoyed the show as evidenced by much clapping and cheering. We are looking forward to attending their spring performance of Sleeping Beauty.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF DARCY WILDMAN

By Terri Beard
Transitions Employment Solutions

When Darcy Wildman was referred to CEI-CMHA for Vocational Services and then to the Inspirational Center, he had already been through so much in his

young life. He was untrusting, oppositional and argumentative. Darcy loudly proclaimed that he would eliminate anyone who did not do things his way. He was a challenging person that tried to push people away. At the core of all of his defensive behavior was his determination to become independent and to have the ability to make his own decisions.

Working with Darcy required patience and persistence for me as his Vocational Counselor, his job coach and the staff at the Inspirational Center. After many trials with Darcy, he started to trust people.

Darcy, when given the ability to make his own decisions and choices, began to blossom. He was willing to listen to suggestions and he actually applied new ideas to his life. After assessing his decisions each month, he began to learn what worked and what didn't in his life. He also began to accept options from those helping him.

Darcy has learned that he can budget his money to last instead of spending all of it at one time. He no longer finds himself going without things that he needs.

Darcy has a great support team now. He is more trusting and has gained a sense of pride and confidence in himself. He laughs more, listens more; he doesn't explode in anger any longer and is taking pride in his appearance. He is building a stable foundation for his life.

It has been an amazing journey working with Darcy. He is now ready to secure paid employment in the community, through Job Development activities.

If you have job leads for Darcy or anyone else, please contact Terri Beard at 517-346-9535 or Iman Abdullah at 517-346-9568.

A HARD WORKER

By Tom Wright
Employment Solutions

As a job coach, I've worked with many consumers in a variety of different jobs. One of the most enthusiastic has to be Gary B. who, I like to call "Mr. Positive."

In the last two years, we've worked together on two main jobs. The summer of 2011, he was setting up the Allen Street Farmer's Market. It is a physically demanding job, especially in the heat of summer. He sets up a lot of tents and other related equipment. The

tents must be anchored with about 80 large cement blocks.

Gary started the cleaning and trash job at St. Gerard's School in January of 2012 which was just as challenging but in a different way. St. Gerard's is a very large school with lots of rooms and bathrooms which each have multiple trash containers. Gary is still working on mastering two jobs independently. He does his work in an upbeat and energetic manner. Gary thrives on interactions with coworkers and his sense of humor and caring nature along with his eagerness to work make him a valued member of both crews. Gary is another of the successful workers contributing in the community.

A GREEN AND WHITE CHRISTMAS

By Emily Romblom
Transitions St. Johns

The first day of winter came with a vengeance last year. But that didn't stop St. Johns from having our annual Christmas party. On December 20, we gathered once again at the VFW Hall for snacks, socializing, and other surprises. As we all gathered in, after a morning of socializing and cookie decorating, it was time for a delicious lunch. The main entrée was thick slices of ham, served with or without pineapple. On the side were a delicious green bean casserole, au gratin potatoes, and a biscuit. If I'm not making you hungry yet, there's even more. There were many different pies and cookies. Pumpkin, apple, and blueberry pies were surrounded by chocolate, oatmeal or peanut butter cookies. The meal was complemented by raising our glasses in honor of two very special people who we lost this past year.

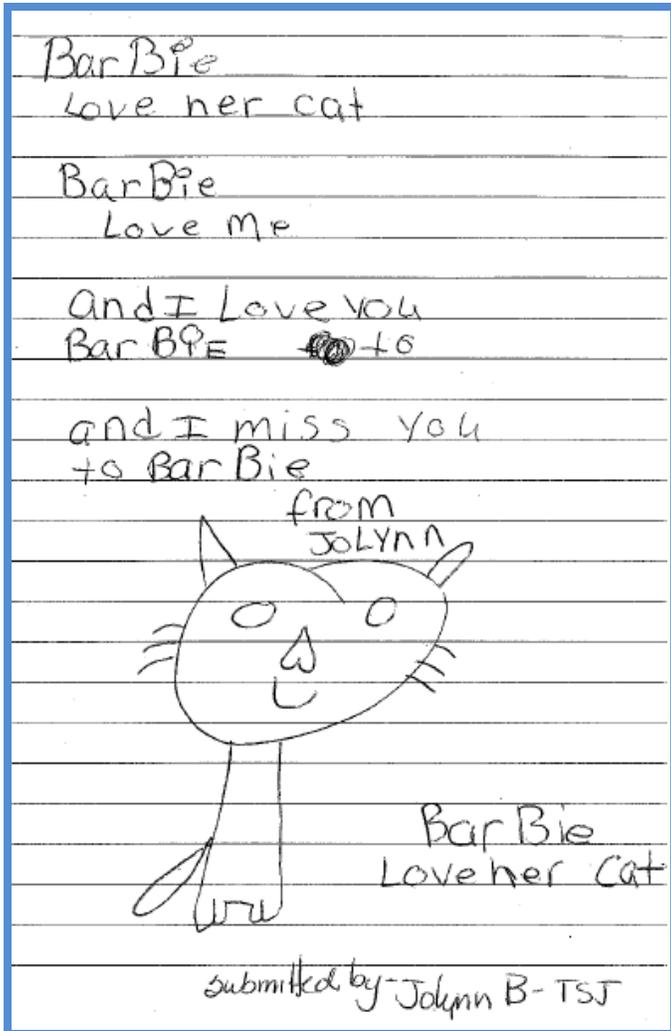
We will always remember Paul who passed away in May. His love of baseball, smile, and his contribution to our community are things that made Paul special to us. Yet we lost another valid member close to Christmas time last year. Barbie passed away on December 4 at the age of 54. Barbie was most remembered for her love of cats and bingo. She loved Hello Kitty, and also had two (real) cats of her own, Peaches and Sunshine. Barbie loved playing bingo. She played at both Hazel Findlay and the Clinton County Sr. Center. Concentrated on her card, she'd shake her head when she didn't have the number. But when she did have the number, she grabbed for the chip to put it on the card. When she had a bingo - you'd know it. She was very enthusiastic about it.

The party didn't end there. After lunch, our DJ got the music going again, as we danced off our meal. What most of us weren't expecting though was a surprise

guest coming to the party. A short while into our fancy footwork, the MSU fight song filled the room. Not only did we have Santa at our party that day, we had Sparty himself! He was one of the hits of the party. Just about everyone got their picture taken with him. He even led the conga.



Finally after dining and dancing it was time for the distributing of gifts. As we do every year, we each drew a name for a Secret Santa. Calendars, gift cards and stuffed animals were amongst the gifts exchanged between everyone. Gifts were also given out by the staff. It may have been a cold and windy day. But we all shared the warmth and joy of a great party that day.



ENTERPRISE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT THE MEGA MALL

The Micro Enterprise Committee of Transitions continues to support booth B-8 at this 300 booth Store. Products are available 7 days per week with the Mega Mall handling the sales. Consumers volunteer twice per month at the store as helpers, along with the other volunteers for 3 hour shifts. This provides a meaningful experience for consumers to explore work in a retail setting. Consumers who have micro enterprise products on display are able to go to the Mega Mall to check inventory, restock, decorate and rearrange the display. They can solicit sales by telling their family and friends where their items can be purchased. The site is handicap accessible and all on one level.

We look forward to meeting your last minute shopping needs by inviting you to visit. The Mega Mall is located at 15487 Old 27, 2 miles South of I-69, exit 87. It is open every day from 11 am to 6 pm.



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Micro Enterprise products are also available at:

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