

The Charter House Journal



Coordinator's Corner

Janice Baker has been with Charter House almost since its beginning, and has deeply shaped its very essence. Janice imbues everything she does with respect and dignity and acceptance. I always know when she arrives at work because I hear her greeting the members with joy in her voice. She is pleased to see them, every morning, and lets them know that she is so glad they are here. Now, Janice is going to retire after 27 years of service to CEICMH and Charter House, and we all will miss her deeply.

Many of you know Janice from her working at AMHS but also many of you have met her when at the Training Unit where she taught Person Centered Planning and Self Determination.

Janice is truly one of the most remarkable people I have ever worked with and I have learned so much from her. She has the rare gift of not taking anything personally that the members may do or say. Her work ethic is impeccable. She is always kind and patient with our members, and her creativity with developing meaningful and enjoyable activities delights the members and keeps them so engaged. She treats her coworkers with respect. She is the ideal co-worker. She is the ideal Team mate, she listens respectfully to all of us, she speaks up when it is needed, sometimes as the voice of reason, and she has a great sense of humor. I have never heard her speak ill of anyone.

One of the traits which I value in people is taking initiative. Janice excels at this and involves the members. She has wonderful innovative ideas of benefit to the club members such as training them to be leaders and then having them co-lead a group with her. One year she decided that she would create a "conference" experience here at Charter House so our members would be better prepared when they attended a clubhouse conference. This helped our members to gain mastery over being in a new and different place.

Janice is not the kind of person to say "no" too quickly. When new initiatives have come down from DCH Janice always considers in what way they could benefit our members, and applies them as such. In the case of person centered planning and self determination, she valued these practices so much that she herself became a trainer and supported the establishment of this approach.

She has enriched the lives of many of the members Charter House has served over the years. There have been so many times that members have told me how wonderful Janice is to them, how Janice really listens to them, how they love her. Everyone with whom Janice has worked has been blessed by the experience.

We will celebrate Janice on her last day, March 29. More details will be forthcoming later on the party but mark off the lunch hour and plan to be here.

Volume 5, Issue 2

March 2013

Special points of interest:

- MAC Meeting
- Rodeo
- Clubhouse Retreat
- Christofer's Retirement
- Janice's Retirement

Inside this issue:

MAC Meeting	2
Remembering Michael	2
At Fault (Poem by "Bo")	2
Rodeo	3
Christofer Michael's Retirement	4
Janice Baker's Retirement	5
Clubhouse Retreat	7

MAC Meeting at Fresh Start

(By Nicole Wright)

We at Charter House, attended the Michigan Association of Clubhouses, (MAC) Meeting on February 26th. Julie T., Ryan S., myself, and our coordinator Stephanie Tighe traveled to Fresh Start Clubhouse in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

We learned that in St Louis, Missouri, the 17th International Clubhouse Meeting will be held. The "Save the Dates" are October 19-24.

The Michigan Clubhouse Conference will be held at the Radisson on May 20 & 21st.

The theme will be "Celebrating Success".

From Genesis Clubhouse, Lee Kellogg was asked to be on the International Advisory Board for Clubhouses. The Board meets annually in New York City. Lee asked the MAC to fund his trip and he would keep the cost below five hundred dollars. The MAC budget currently has over \$7000 in it. They were glad and proud to send Lee to New York.



Remembering Michael

(By Gary L. and John O.)

John O.'s brother Michael passed away recently. We are taking time here for John to talk about his brother.

Michael's favorite food was pizza and drinking milk. John has many good memories of his brother Michael. Michael was 49 years old and lived with Cerebral Palsy. Michael like movies about construction and was interested in the

Police and Fire Department. John said that his brother was a nice guy and that he is thankful that Michael made it to Heaven.



At Fault

(by William Washington)

As a child
I grew up wild
No one really knew my name
When I was at fault, I'd take the blame
And then I put myself to shame

There's a lot of good I like to do
Working hard, with the crew
We all got problems you might not understand
But the Lord has helped me through this land



Rodeo at MSU

We had an outing at the MSU stables to see the horses and watch a rodeo. We met Amanda (Charter House Intern) there and she showed us around and let us play with her horse. There was pop, cotton candy, hotdogs, and lots of goodies. They were selling shirts, hats, and jewelry. There also was an artist painting pictures of the rodeo. We got to meet a cowboy named Max. We took pictures with the cowboy and the clowns. It was a blast! Lots of fun!



Christofer Michael's Retirement

(By Nicole Wright)

Arven Prude said Christofer was a good guy and he had a nice retirement party. He was sad to see him go.

Stephen Marusich said the Chinese Food at the party was really good. Jodi, Lucia, and Stephanie prepared the feast. The retirement party and program was quite nice. Past Charter House staff attended, the likes of Rick, Mary, Gail, George, and Rob Davis. They wished Christofer good luck. You will be missed Christofer.



Janice Baker Retirement

(By Nicole Wright)

Charlie Wang wishes Janice the best of luck, enjoy your retirement.

Stephen Marusich is going to miss Janice. She is a good person.

Nicole Wright has seen a good leader who has led by example. It has been an honor to work along side her through the work ordered day. The best of the human spirit is embodied in everything she does. I pray for her a long and enjoyable retirement season. You will truly be missed.



Good-bye Janice

(By Julia C.)

I want you to know I hate writing this letter because I hate to see you go. But, since I have to, I guess I'll say I will miss you, and we will all miss you. You have been a real good staff and an excellent friend. You knew how to take us from Step 1 to Step 2 to Step 3. You make us feel real good. I know the church is happy to have another worker. You have been a great person to motivate us. Thank you and I will miss you.

Employment Update

(By Bill Zimmer)

Albert R. started his position on February 12th,. It is a front of the house position, dining attendant. He maintains the appearance of the dining room, cleaning tables and chairs, keeping napkins, salt and pepper filled, and helping students with spills. The job is part time, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 10 til 3. He is doing very well, and his supervisor stated, "Albert is doing a fabulous job and we are happy to have him here!".



More Employment News

(By Bill Zimmer)

Inga J. started her TE position at CMHB-finance on Feb 27th.

We also recently acquired a 12 hr per week position at Panera Cafe in Frandor shopping center, doing pots and pans, dishes, and taking out trash. The pay is 7.40 per hour. We are currently looking for applicants. Members who are interested in this position should contact Bill or Stephanie.

We are also developing a janitorial position at McDonald Hall/MSU, which will probably be 15 hrs, on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, during the day. More information will be forthcoming...

Charter House Clubhouse Retreat

Late last year, 2 staff and a member went for ICCD training at Independence Center in Missouri. Upon returning, the clubhouse was introduced to an action plan that would create an atmosphere at Charter House that is more in line with the ICCD / CI model. Previously at Charter House, there had been 4 units: Clerical, Maintenance, Kitchen, and Snack Shop. During our clubhouse retreat we changed from 4 units to 2 units: Upper Level and Lower Level. These changes have had some kinks, but change can be difficult and members and staff are beginning to settle in to the 2 unit system. Along with the visit to Independence Center, there have been 2 trips to Genesis House, in Fowlerville, to gather more ideas on how to implement the changes at Charter House. If anything can be said about the new changes, Charter House feels a lot more busy than it has in long time.

Upper Level

Charter House's Upper Level unit has many tasks.

Maintenance tasks, such as vacuuming and dusting, as well as cleaning bathrooms (*Charter House has 8 bathrooms!*), and wiping down tables, chairs and door knobs are performed on the Upper Level unit.

Banking is the responsibility of the Upper Level. The bank is where deposits from lunch sales, fundraisers, and snack shop sales are handled. The bank is also the place to have change made, in case you have a 5 dollar bill and you really want a Coke out of the machine!

Answering phones, attendance, data entry, newsletter, website maintenance, outreach, and card and poster creation are also responsibilities of the Upper Level.

The Upper Level has many duties, as does the Lower Level and without the participation of our wonderful members, we would be hard-pressed to get much of anything done.

Lower Level

(By Julia C.)

I am writing this letter to tell the newsletter editor about the Charter House Lower Level unit, which includes the Vineyard Grill, snack shop, and maintenance area.

I will start up with the Vineyard Grill. There are about 8 to 10 people who help make lunch. There are different people everyday. We have an afternoon shift also, which include people who clean up, doing dishes, the food trays, the counters, put away food, and take out the trash.

The snack shop is open five days a week, most days from 10–11:45 and 12:30–1:45pm. They sell pop, water, milk, iced tea, cheese and crackers, tv dinners, macaroni and cheese, candy, cookies, and granola bars. The snack shop is run by members trained to work a cash register and keep inventory. Currently there are 8 members trained to work in the snack shop.

The maintenance area consists of 10 to 18 people who volunteer to do the maintenance / cleaning tasks. The tasks range from cleaning bathrooms, to vacuuming, collect trash and recycling, cleaning handrails, washing windows, as well as cleaning up the outside grounds of Charter House.

I want you to know that we are all happy with the new development; we feel really good about what we are doing.

Thank you for letting me give you a description of the duties on the Lower Level. I hope you enjoyed it and learned what is going on at Charter House.

CHARTER HOUSE

"Where Everyone Has A Voice!"

606 W. Shiawassee
Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: 517.371.2077
E-mail: charterhouse@acd.net
Website: www.charterhousemi.org

The Charter House Journal