

# Charter House Journal

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JANUARY 2013

## Coordinator's Corner

It is hard to believe that the holidays are over. We had great times here at Charter House including being open on Christmas Day for the first time. We had a wonderful Bacon Brunch. I especially want to thank Kelly Curtis and his family for helping out that day. His dad Steve and mom Colleen and brother Casey were all here and cooked the brunch. We had bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs with cheddar, fruit salad, and sweet rolls. We also had toast with some of Charter Houses homemade Strawberry Jam. Jonah brought in scones and Ruth made Rice Krispie treats. Steve and Colleen made 4 kinds of homemade cookies and Stephanie's mom, Marcia, made peanut brittle. Everyone got to

take home a bag of treats.

Now that the holidays are over we are getting back to work on our clubhouse in preparation for ICCD accreditation. This month we are having a retreat to look at how we can be sure that the members are involved with all of the clubhouse work. We are also going to be moving our units. Currently we have kitchen, maintenance and clerical units. The names for these units do not accurately reflect all of the work that we do and they divide members up by tasks. We want members to have access to all types of work yet be able to bond with a group of workers. Because of this we are going to divide our work units by floors. So some people will work in the lower level

(kitchen, snack shop, maintenance and computers) and other people will work on the upper level (clerical, advocacy, computers, banking and maintenance). It is a great opportunity for members to diversify their work experiences and gain confidence with a wider range of skills).

## Good-Bye to Jonah

Jonah's last day with Charter House is January 16th. We will be having a going away party for him this day. He is moving to Raleigh, North Carolina to be closer to his son. We are going to miss him. He has been a lot of help with our data entry and computer tasks. He has led meetings and worked on clerical unit. He has also participated in our parties and outings. Jonah plans on getting connected with a Clubhouse in his new town. We are going to miss him but

will be sure to mail our newsletter to him so he can keep in touch with what we are up to. Jonah's favorite part thing about Charter House is the way people look out for each other and support each other. He appreciates that we have a good sense of humor and feels it makes it easier for us to work together. He says "Thank You" for supporting him through a hard time in his life and for helping him to get back on his feet so he can move onto the next phase of his life.

He will miss all of us and hopes to come back and visit.

We wish you all the best Jonah! Good luck with your move and your new life!

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### Special points of interest:

- Good-bye to Jonah
- Holiday Parties



## Michigan's 4th Annual Peer Conference

### NICOLE WRIGHT

I am a proud Charter House member who had an opportunity to become a Peer Support Specialist back in 2010. I attended the Peer Conference on a scholarship because presently I am not working as a peer. My hope and dream is to get a driver's license so I can gain employment as a Peer Support Specialist.

The Peer Conference was held on October 1-3 of 2012. It took place at the Best Western Plus

hotel in Lansing. The theme of the conference was promoting health and wellness by Learning, Leading, and Living.

I attended a workshop entitled, "Leading with Ideas: Making Change Happen From Within". I learned that there are many different types of leaders; but what interested me was personal leadership. In an effective leader, you could look for qualities such as: approachability, decisiveness, and discipline. I also understand that being a good leader is not about fame and it

is also knowing when to follow.

I would like to close with a quote:

"Praise loudly, blame softly."  
~ Catherine the Great

## New Member Interview - Inga

### MIKE ENDRISS

Where are you from?

*Detroit*

Do you have any hobbies?

*Write music and singing*

What sports teams do you like?

*Detroit Lions*

What kind of music do you like?

*Soul*

Do you have any children?

*Yes, 4 kids, all in college.*

Do you like to play any games?

*Cards, checkers, and Monopoly*

Do you like to travel and if so, where have you been?

*Yes, Mexico and Venezuela*

What do you like about Charter House so far?

*The members and staff are great*

## Charter House Response to Hurricane Sandy

Charter House learned that the Clubhouse on Staten Island was struggling to stay open after Hurricane Sandy struck the east coast. They were closed only one day and then reopened and fed people even though they did not have power. Some of their members were not as fortunate and lost their homes.

When CH members heard about the struggles of their members who lost everything they owned and were now homeless they responded immediately and sent money to them. One of the Friends of Charter House, Marcia Henry, sent a quilt for one of their members and another organization she is involved with, Sandys Quilting Friends, sent along another homemade quilt. We were very proud to send them two homemade quilts and a check. We wish them the best as they work to rebuild their homes and lives.

## Fire Mountain Grill Outing

RYAN SHANK

Charter House had their annual member luncheon at the Fire Mountain Grill. We all took a bus to the restaurant. We played Bingo and ate good food like: ice cream, salad, pizza, cookies, and cottage cheese with fruit. We socialized and got to chat with everyone. It was fun.

## Christmas Day Brunch

JONAH SHARKEY

On Christmas day Stephanie organized a brunch for Charter House members. People brought food to share, which complimented the food that was prepared by Kelly, Casey, Steve, and Colleen Curtis. The Curtis family generously donated their time to make a feast. The feast included cheesy eggs, pounds of bacon and sausage, and both regular and orange sweet rolls. Colleen made a variety of cookies too; sugar, molasses, and oatmeal chocolate chip. John made delicious coffee to enjoy as well. Members had a great time chatting while they ate and everyone left with a full belly and a full heart of joy for the holiday season.

## New Year's Day Party

We had a New Year's Day party at Charter House. We made homemade pizzas and had cookies and chips to go with it. We also had a great fruit pizza for dessert. We watched a movie and fellowshiped with everyone that came. It was a very fun day.

## Clerical Unit 2012 Summary

There have been lots of changes in the Clerical Unit this year.

We incorporated Advocacy and the Newsletter into our current work. We took lunch sales for a bit, but that has been taken over by the kitchen.

Many new members have joined us. We have changed the type of tasks that we do and that took some getting used to. We now have a 2nd unit meeting at 1pm in the afternoon.

Sam & Tricia were interns who were with us on Clerical, for the summer. Now we have Kelly, from MSU working with us.

Marge Greene got a new job at MSU and we are really happy for her. Brian Majeske also got a job doing Charter House transport. Lynn Lofton became a proud grandma for the first time this year.

Our goals for 2013 include doing more outreach and learning MS Excel to keep our mailing list up to date. We plan to expand the scope of our unit tasks and beginning to do some banking, and finally, to create a tour book and train members on giving tours. We are working toward ICCD accreditation.

## Clubhouses Save Lives

There was the tragedy at Sandy Hook school in Newtown, CT. In our morning meeting we had a discussion where we asked the question "If the murderer had been a part of a Clubhouse, would this have happened?" The answer we came up with was NO. Members identified that in a clubhouse you would not be as afraid of being in a hospital because you would be able to talk with other persons who had been in them and it would make it less scary. Also in a clubhouse you are not isolated. It helps to have friends.



## **CHARTER HOUSE**

*Where Everyone Has A Voice!*

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## **We Want More Members!**

Charter House is always ready to welcome new members. If you know someone who may be interested they can call Jodi or Stephanie at 371-2077 to arrange for a tour. Once a person has a tour they let us know if they want to become a member and we usually get them into the program within the next week. Our program is open to adults who have a diagnosis of schizophrenia, bi-polar, major depression, or schizoaffective disorder.

## **Newsletter**

If you would like to receive a copy of our newsletter please let us know. We can send it to you in the mail or an email version.