



# Transitions News!

Volume 9 ~ Number 5

November 15, 2012

## HALLOWEEN FUN

By Lisa Mack  
Transitions South

Halloween at Transitions South is the best time of year for decorations and parties. This year, many thanks go out to families who baked and sent in delicious treats for the Halloween party. A special thank you to the family of Nicole A., who not only grew the pumpkins, but provided many of the decorations seen around the building, as well as the corn stalks and hay bales outdoors!

The Pumpkin contest was bigger and more challenging than ever, with entries competing from all of the Transitions programs, with the Senior 1 entry winning Honorable Mention.



Taking 1<sup>st</sup> Place within all Transitions programs was the owl made by Transitions Charlotte. These folks were some of the people that helped make this winner.



Transitions South's In House competition awarded first place to the entry by the CAT team.



Costumes were judged and prizes awarded for the best disguises. Gift cards went to the top three, so they will have a lunch out at McDonald's for their efforts.

A spooktacular day for Transitions South!

## IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

By Elizabeth Putnam  
Transitions Mason

I asked the people we serve here at Transitions Mason, what are we really about?? Is it all the cool stuff we do like going to the park on a beautiful day, riding horses, eating burgers at the lake, fishing, the zoo, finding a treasure at a garage sale, BIG parties, bowling, playing video games, hay rides, train rides, boat rides, carriage rides, touching a live reindeer, feeding baby horses, movies, plays, concerts, Lugnuts baseball, the county fair, singing with ELVIS!!!?? The answer I got?.....FRIENDS, pals, buddies, meeting someone who "gets" me finally, someone to talk to on the phone at night, someone to take away my loneliness. It's about having a stranger come in and thank us for watering their garden all summer and keeping it alive when they couldn't because of illness. It's about handing a homebound elderly person a hot meal and seeing how much they appreciate it. It's about keeping the playground area at the park picked up so the little kids can enjoy it and not get hurt. It's about being a loving lap for a shelter kitty and hearing it purr. It's about asking how someone is if they are absent. It's about celebrating birthdays. It's about grieving our friends who have passed. It's about really good friends.



## A TIME TO GIVE THANKS....

By Erin Parcell  
Transitions Grand Ledge



As the new DDC at Transitions Grand Ledge, I had no idea what to expect as I stepped through the doors on my first day. I was filled with excitement and anticipation of what the future held for me here. I was nervous about how a new face would be received by the co-workers as well as the people at the site. I am happy to say today that I have been nothing but welcomed and supported by my team and all the folks that come to have fun with us. We have so much to be thankful for but most of all we are thankful for all of the people in our community who have opened their arms to us and allowed us to come and experience what they have to offer. We have been busy with creating Ceramics at Haze Ceramics and More, visiting and helping with horses, playing with original Edison players, and seeing movies right across the street at the Sun Theater. As we celebrate our community, we have been enjoying a music filled lunch at Sir Pizza in Old Town supported by LCC Radio, picking pumpkins at the Cider Mill and attending the annual Color Cruise. As we honor the people who serve our community, we have had the privilege to meet with our local firefighters and policemen to better understand the difficult jobs that they do. Furthermore, we have recently celebrated one another with a very spooky Halloween Party. The festivities included a black widow piñata (thanks Rachel!), a fear factor table where we could dare ourselves to touch "body parts", snacks, and of course karaoke!! With so much to be thankful for, we have been focused on giving back in many ways as well through continued efforts with Meals on Wheels, the Humane Society, and participating this year in Mason Cares (a day to thank the firemen and police in Charlotte by washing their vehicles☺). Lastly, we do not want to overlook everyone that volunteers their time with us to make all this fun happen, whether it is hosting karaoke each week, making great party snacks, or just riding along to help with an outing, we truly have people that care. All that's left to do now is just say.....Thanks!

## TRANSITIONS ST. JOHNS ON THE GO!!

By Michelle Sheren  
Transitions St. Johns

It has been a very busy month of October at Transitions St. Johns! First stop - Grand Rapids where a group of folks travelled to check out the many, interesting Art Prize Competition Entries. Next stop- Mackinaw City! A long drive, but well worth it. The colors were beautiful, but it was a really cold day and we got to see our first snow of the season near Gaylord! Unfortunately we didn't get to do our picnic near the bridge this year, but we'll plan to have one next year. Everyone enjoyed crossing the bridge, viewing the island and shopping for Fudge, Taffy, Flavored Popcorn and Souvenirs!! It seems like the more often we go back to Mackinac, folks are discovering favorite things they like to bring back home with them.

Back to the South for our next trip to MooVille located in Nashville, MI!! A tour of the dairy farm and all of its robotic features, a picnic and an ice cream cone were the highlights of that trip. Also happening that week was the Color Cruise in Grand Ledge, which is always an October highlight and the group enjoyed the cruise down the river to see the beautiful fall colors. Next up- a trip to Frankenmuth for some fun at a corn maze and a hay ride! Everyone really enjoyed this trip and were impressed by the warm welcome they all received at this location!!

One last stop for this month—The Chelsea Teddy Bear Factory where we had a short tour of the factory, learned some important information about teddy bears and almost everyone came away with a new pal from the shop located there!! It was a lot of fun for everyone to have their pictures taken with the World's Largest Teddy Bear!

Phew!! Time for a rest!!



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## WELCOME BRUCE CRAIG TO TRANSITIONS CENTRAL

By Linda Kimball  
Transitions Central



The consumers and staff at Transitions Central are happy to announce and welcome the newest member of the team, Bruce Craig. Just after Labor Day, Bruce joined Kristin Emerick and Linda Kimball, as the newest DDC. Consumers and staff alike are very pleased to have his wonderful support.

Many already knew Bruce, from him having worked for Community Mental Health since 1986. He started as a new hire with Older Adult Services, and has worked since with the programs located in Holt.

Bruce is quickly learning about Transitions Central having his office located at the Drop In Center. This change has created many positive outcomes thanks to Bruce's gentle presence and years of experience.

Be sure to welcome Bruce by stopping in to say hello next time you are at Transitions Central.

### TRANSITIONS PROGRAM CLOSINGS

Thursday, Nov. 22.....Thanksgiving  
Friday, Nov. 23.....Day after Thanksgiving  
Winter Holiday Break.....Monday, Dec. 24, 2012  
through Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Transitions Programs & Dean Transportation  
resume services Wednesday, January 2, 2013

*See 2013 Program Calendar at the end of this  
newsletter edition.*

### COMMUNITY PLACEMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

By Susan Mahoney  
Employment Solutions & Micro Enterprises

The Transitions Employment Solutions unit has

completed the 2011-12 year for community job placements, with a significant number of placements and closures for the year. This team is a great example of a collaborative effort between CEI-CMHA, Peckham Vocational Industries and Michigan Rehabilitation Services. The team members, comprised of PVI Job Developers, CEI Transitions Vocational Counselors and MRS counselors meet at Michigan Works on Monday afternoons to collectively plan assistance for people in getting community job placements in the Tri-County area.

This year the team met its' annual goal of 45 placements. People are referred, assessed and placed using this team approach. Supports may include interview training, resume development, on the job evaluation (OJE), clothing purchase, adaptive equipment purchase, transportation, vocational evaluations, job coaching and other things the team finds necessary for the individual to successfully maintain a community job. People obtained jobs in food service, janitorial, mail room, inspection, retail clerk, housekeeping, laundry and utility worker. Wages ranged from \$7.40 to \$11.01, with work hours of 4 to 30 hours per week.

The 2012-13 year will be an interesting one for this team. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, CSDD welcomed a new Vocational Counselor, Iman Abdullah to the Employment Solutions team. She can be reached at 517-346-9568. MRS has now become part of the Department of Community Health, leading to staff and management changes. There are new definitions related to what constitutes a community placement. There are always new goals and new businesses for job developers to approach. We expect another successful year!!

If you would like more information about Supported Employment or have a job lead to share with the team, please contact Susan Mahoney at 346-9558.

### WORK, THE ART OF CREATION

By Dennis Hall  
Transitions North

At Transitions North, people have the opportunity to work, to "grow". People learn work skills in a safe and supportive work environment. Practicing "social skills" that are used while doing community activities is another goal.

People are currently working on 4 jobs which are sub contracted through 3 local corporations and one located in West Bloomfield, a suburb of Detroit. Additionally the BSI toothbrush company is an

international business offering custom imprinting and bristling for toothbrushes, which are packaged and shipped to various locations around the globe.

Neogen Corporation, a Lansing owned business is the largest contractor, for whom we assemble sample cups, extraction tubes and cap(s) filter syringes, which are used in experimental agriculture; also stomacher bags, bulb droppers and sample collection tubes plus caps. Michigan State University hires people to build boxes and collate them. They are used for specimens collected at veterinary clinics and are shipped back to MSU.

With the Bottle Crew operation, people working on this job place a label on an empty brake fluid bottle. Sewing kits are also labeled for this company, which are then shipped to North Carolina for distribution.

Wolverton Corporation has sub contracted with Transitions North for many years. Currently people package assorted dog chews which are sold locally at pet food stores.

Transitions North takes pride in fostering an atmosphere of fun and friendship offering people the support that they need to be successful on the job. Attention to detail yielding excellent quality in a timely manner is a priority for everyone working in the program. The results are reinforced when paychecks are distributed. Typically, the act of receiving the check is more important than the money. They are a part of something.....

## SPOTLIGHT ON RELIEF STAFF



**Kyle Lawrence** worked at the Grand Ledge AFC for four years before coming to Transitions North. He has now been here for over five years. He learned about Transitions North by transporting people from Grand Ledge AFC to T-North. He applied in 2006 and started on April 2, 2007.

Kyle provides support to people so they can have coffee in the community, attend bingo, bowl, swim at the MAC, work in Neogen, go to the libraries and museums, and attend yoga and special events. He enjoys the long-term sub assignments the best.

He is working toward a bachelor in Health Services Administration, something he might use to further his

career at CMH. On his own time, he enjoys his friends, movies, reading, outdoor physical activities and loves to travel - having been to two Rose Bowls. "And probably my favorite thing of all is to ride roller coasters. I'm a self-ascribed coaster freak!" he states.

When asked what he would recommend to others seeking to work in this field, he states: "You need patience, compassion, and understanding and enjoy being around some of the most awesome people you will ever meet."

**Mary Betterly** has been working at Transitions South since November of 2009, as a relief Community Support Technician. Before starting Transitions South, Mary was a home manager at Waverly Road group home for 15 plus years.



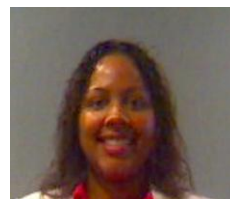
Mary is known for her caring and giving spirit. Mary is the resident gardener having beautified the ground of the building (with the help of the Gardening group). The group even decorated the outdoors for Halloween.

Mary is also responsible for beautifying the inside of the building with her grooming class which she started with Xue Vue, another Transitions South relief staff. Everyone really enjoys getting their makeup and nails done for going out in the community.

Mary is a mother and grandmother, who enjoys spoiling her grandkids, spending time outdoors, and gardening in her own "spare" time.

We are happy Mary is working here, making our world a more beautiful place!

## INTRODUCING MSU STUDENT INTERN



Transitions Employment Solutions and Transitions North

My name is Cassandra Freeman from Kalamazoo, Michigan. I am studying social work at Michigan State University. I have attended a couple of colleges and switched majors several times, although I feel that's becoming the norm for most college students. I came into the Social Work field with a mindset to help

people that were similar to myself. Based upon my experience I have already found it's preferable to work with people who are different. I am shifting pathways a little to Occupational therapy for a Master's Degree, but Social Work is a field that is versatile for any pathway.

I am currently completing my field placements at two Transitions Sites - Transitions North primarily with Team 5, running exercise and music groups. I also work with Susan and Terri in Transitions Employment Solutions. I am working with Terri on finding consumers employment in the community. I like working at both locations and enjoy interacting with consumers.

## **MICRO ENTERPRISE INSPIRATION**

By Susan Mahoney

Employment Solutions & Micro Enterprises

Transitions Employment Solutions has assisted over 100 individuals in exploring, developing and working in their own micro enterprise ventures. Some have been long term and successful, while others have been of short duration, with people deciding they did not enjoy the activities. In each case, a person's interests have been explored and opportunities have been facilitated related to participating in creative or service activities, with the end goal of making money. Each venture has been a positive and learning experience for the people involved.

Keeping activities interesting and "fresh" for individuals is challenging for all the Transitions Staff. The leadership group of Transitions recently was able to host a presentation related to a successful and local artist - Scott Yukio Fergus. Scott is a unique and creative individual who has developed his talents into a business venture. He has followed his path of becoming a respected member of the art community and has items available for sale at local galleries and shops. You can view his story and his works at his web site [www.scottyukiocreations.com](http://www.scottyukiocreations.com).

Esther Onaga, Scott's mother, gave an interesting and motivating presentation to about 20 Transitions leadership staff. She shared the history of her son's development into an artist, which started at an early age. Esther shared both positive and challenging experiences related to encouraging an individual's talents while seeking needed resources from the community to develop marketable products. She also spoke of the different identities that a person sees in their life and the importance of being able to see one's

self in a variety of roles.

Currently, CSDD and Transitions staff are participating in a variety of training activities related to treating individuals in a truly Person Centered manner. This includes a focus on the person's relationships, hobbies, physical needs, mental health, and desire to be productive while developing the supports needed to make things happen. A micro enterprise can be an important vehicle for community integration, productivity, self-esteem and creative expression. After this presentation the attendees were motivated to continue to develop and market creative and service outlets for the individuals we serve.

If you have interest in participating in micro enterprise opportunities, please contact Susan Mahoney, Transitions Micro Enterprise Coordinator at 517-346-9550.

Micro Enterprise products are also available at:



## **MICRO 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.

# TRANSITIONS

## 2013 - 2014 Program Closing Schedule

Winter Holiday Break.....Monday, December 24, 2012  
through Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Transitions Programs & Dean Transportation resume services Wednesday, January 2, 2013

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Martin Luther King Day.....Monday, January 21, 2013

Presidents' Day.....Monday, February 18, 2013

Inservice Day.....Friday, March 8, 2013

Memorial Day.....Monday, May 27, 2013

Inservice Day.....Friday, June 7, 2013

Independence Day.....Thursday, July 4, 2013

Inservice Day.....Friday, August 16, 2013

Labor Day.....Monday, September 2, 2013

Inservice Day.....Friday, November 8, 2013

Veterans' Day.....Monday, November 11, 2013

Thanksgiving.....Thursday, November 28, 2013

Day After Thanksgiving.....Friday, November 29, 2013

Winter Holiday Break.....Monday, December 23, 2013  
through Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Transitions Programs & Dean Transportation resume services Thursday, January 2, 2014