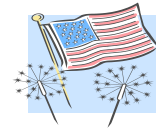


Transitions News!



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Transitions Grand Ledge **“Community at Its Best!”**

by: Erin Parcell



At Transitions Grand Ledge, we take the idea of people having fun very seriously. A shining example of this is the recent Karaoke at the Park held at Bennett Park in Charlotte. Lisa Cooper, a staff and her husband Jim, a regular volunteer, host karaoke for us every Thursday afternoon at “Imagine”, a local Church. Singing draws a crowd from the other sites and is a big request at holiday parties and dances. It made sense when they came up with the idea of Karaoke in the Park. Folks came from Transitions North, T-Charlotte, T-St. Johns and T-Grand Ledge (about 50 people!!) and had a blast. Ladder golf, Frisbee and bean bags were set up so people had a great time pairing up to challenge each other. 😊 Everyone brought a lunch and relaxed. People were

singing and dancing –some families and a day care class joined us for the music and dancing. More dates are planned for August!

Transitions Central **“New Location is a Hit”**

by: Linda Kimball

Transitions Central has moved to 3500 S. Cedar, in Lansing next door to the Capital Area District Library branch. The program opened at this location on Monday, July 15, 2013. An open House is planned for August or September. The space allows all of the staff to be united with the people supported by Transitions Central. It has lots of open space and rooms for meetings or activities. Please stop by to look around!

“How We Learn Differently: **Helping vs. Hurting the** **Handicapped”**

by: Emily R.

If everyone in the world were perfect - straight A's in school, never had the flu or a broken bone, had perfectly straight teeth, and had an excellent sense of direction,

there would not be a need for tutors, doctors, orthodontists, or tour guides. Consequently, there are those of us who need a little more help and those of us, with a handicap or learning disability.

A person with a disability, such as me, is a person who has an inborn mental or physical deficit that interferes with normal functions of the body.

My name is Emily Romblom. Although I have congenital hydrocephalus, meaning I was born with it - I was not officially diagnosed until I was three months old. Hydrocephalus is an increased accumulation of the cerebrospinal fluid that surrounds the brain - and is thus often referred to as "water on the brain." I have learned to deal with all the hardships of my life.

An issue we handicapped people face day after day is discrimination. We may have deficits in our types of behavior, our learning styles, our types of behavior, or even our looks. But that doesn't mean that we have to be treated differently than another. We can do almost all of the same things that non-handicapped people can do. We may need a little help

and encouragement. Just remember this; we all have our own ways of learning differently.

Micro Enterprise
"Michelle's Journey"

by: Leanna Wood



Michelle is an energetic, positive young woman. She brightens the room with her smile and is always willing to pitch in a helping hand. She has been attending Transitions programs for almost 5 years. Michelle has always been an animal lover. She volunteers at the Ingham County Animal Control where she gets an opportunity to play with the animals and give them some TLC. Michelle also has a pet cat named Blackie. Her love for animals and desire to earn some extra money brought her to the micro-enterprise program. Michelle has had an active micro-enterprise since 2010, making pet beds in various sizes and designs. The pet beds range in price from \$10.00-\$35.00, depending on size. Michelle is very quick and efficient

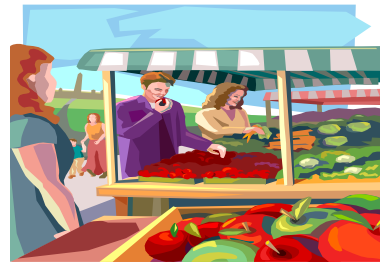
when making her products. Michelle's outgoing personality makes her a great salesperson. Often times she will take her pet beds around Transitions South to show off her latest creation to the staff and her peers, asking if anyone would like to buy one. Currently, her products can be found at the Mega Mall, the T-North Micro-enterprise display room, and the CMH website. Michelle's next goal for her business is to market her pet beds at local pet supply stores and veterinarian clinics.

Transitions Micro-Enterprises
"The Farmer's Market"

by: Susan Mahoney

One of my favorite things is shopping at a local farmers market on a beautiful summer day!! There are always new things to see and individuals who enjoy talking about the produce, craft items or food they are featuring. This year Transitions Micro-Enterprise group is selling their wares at the South Lansing Community Farmers Market on Boston Blvd -Grace Methodist Church parking lot. It features a good variety of items and has activities for children, music and information about healthy living. It is open on Thursdays from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. The Micro-Enterprise group will be there on July 18, August 15, September 19 and Oct. 17.

The Transitions booth will feature a variety of products the Micro-Business Owners have developed. Popular items include Worm Casting Compost and Worm Tea (a fertilizer type solution drawn from the worm bin). Other items for sale will include pillows, pet beds, pet items, dog treats, blankets, decorative items and jewelry. Business owners will be present to sell the items and answer any questions. It is a great opportunity to be part of the local community and meet other small business owners. A great way to spend a Summer Day! We hope to see you there too!!



Transitions Mason
"Lots of Aktion"

by: Elizabeth Putnam



What do a Giant Cockroach, a Hairy Red Tarantula, a Boa Constrictor and a three foot American Alligator all have in common? They visited Transitions-Mason recently during Aktion Club! Sponsor Darlene Cook, provided another amazing

program. Bryan “The Reptile Man” told us he rescues these animals from people who buy them as pets, but don’t know how to take care of them. Bryan explained when the alligator he calls “Big Guy”, got big enough to go after the family dog, the people who owned “Big Guy” called him. Bryan’s goal is to re-home the alligator to an appropriate environment. He talked about how important it is not to release these animals and discussed the problems in Florida with non-native species being introduced into the wild. In other Aktion Club news, the members sent a donation to The Eliminate Project , a global campaign through Kiwanis International and UNICEF, whose purpose is to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. T-Mason Aktion Club member’s rock!

Transitions Charlotte
“Big Changes at Transitions
Charlotte”

by: Andrea Manchip

Folks at Transitions–Charlotte have been anxiously awaiting a couple of big changes to happen at their site for months now. The drop in center was moving and a new lead staff was being hired. We are excited to say that, although it’s been a whirlwind of activity, both have been recently completed.

The Transitions-Charlotte Drop-In-Center is now located in the old

Galewood Elementary building in Charlotte at 512 E Lovett St, Charlotte, in rooms 101 and 103. Our new phone numbers are 517-541-8989 (staff) and 517-541-8715 (DIC). We share the building with staff and students from Eaton RESA and Relevant Academy and hope for many opportunities to interact with our new building-mates.

Andrea Manchip has been hired as the new professional staff for Transitions – Charlotte. Andrea has worked for CMH for 20 years and has most recently been a case manager for people with disabilities. She comes to us with some great ideas about how to help folks continue to make life long connections in their community.

Mark your calendars - we are anxiously planning our open house for October 4 from 11am – 2pm and are VERY excited to show off our new space! More details to come. We hope to see everyone there.

Transitions Leslie
“Picnic Success!”
by: Carol Carpenter

July 16th had record heat which caused the outdoor picnic and concert to relocate inside the church. Several people from Leslie came for the delicious food and to hear music selections by “Martin and Company.” Grace

Lutheran allowed the band to set up and play in the sanctuary which provided ample seating for all. A few practiced up their dance moves while the band encouraged all to join them in song. It was clear that music is a universal language.



Transitions North
“Titans Take All!”
by: Travis Neller

“Travis, you coach basketball? Yes, Michael I do. What’s your guys’ record? Did you win? When are your practices? Can I come to a game? This was a typical conversation between Michael L. and me. Next think I know Michael tells me he’s starting a basketball team here at Transitions North. I thought maybe Michael was making it up. Michael received permission from Transitions North coordinator, Dorothy Archambeau to go ahead with his proposal. Beginning in late January the Transitions North Titan basketball team started.

Patti Bruinsma, who coordinated the team and basketball game, wanted the people of Transitions North to have a basketball team, learning basic basketball fundamentals, and ultimately to having fun were the goals.

After months of preparation everyone was very excited. Teams were selected with the Blue team coached by Carol Fisher and the Red team coached by Patti. Red and blue T-shirts were handed out to the players. For some, this was the first team they had ever been a part of and their broad smiles showed satisfaction.

At game time it was a tough battle for both teams to score their first basket. The Red team struck first but the Blue team came back fighting. At the end of the first quarter the Red team was winning 8 to 6. The second quarter started with the Red team scoring on a lot of fast break baskets. Even for the Red team, along with Michael looked unstoppable! But the Blue team with the one-two punch of Tom M. and Lorenzo D. came back strong to tie the game. At half-time the Red team was up 16 to 14. The second half was a time where all players from both respective teams got their time to shine. By the middle of the 4th quarter, every player from both teams had scored a basket. After that the game was still competitive but everyone was

having fun. The game turned out to be a 28 to 28 tie.

The fans packed the bleachers while the cheerleaders for each team kept the pressure on. Pom Poms were wiggling as the shouting cheerleaders screamed for Red or Blue. Great job to the Titans of Transitions North!

The game was played at Gier Community Center. Janice Bowser-Glew along with Wanda Pierce did a great job of coaching the cheerleaders and Jan DeMarco helped a lot in getting Dean Transportation to coordinate bus rides for the people and staff to get to the game. Jeff Hibbs videotaped the game and Jhmarr Rogers was our DJ for the game. A special thanks to all who helped.

