

Transitions News!



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THE SOUNDS OF SPRING

By Michelle Sheren
Transitions St. Johns

As the springtime air starts to warm up, St. Johns gets back outside to enjoy some exciting activities. First, on April 11, a group went to the beautiful Frederick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids. Here we enjoyed seeing different sculptures, an array of multi-colored blown glass, and numerous different species of beautiful butterflies. Throughout a garden section of the park, butterflies were either high above, or on the plants. Most of us are familiar with only the monarch butterfly, but there are actually over forty different species of butterflies. Each has their own unique features.



This is a Blue Morpho, one of the beauties we saw that day.

Music filled the air on April 12th, when some attended a small concert at the Wharton Center. Here we learned about the many different sections of the orchestra. We saw how each instrument made its distinctive sound, and learned other amazing facts about it. Amazingly, the French horn - untangled - would be 15 feet long!

For its one, two, three strikes we're off to a Lugnuts game! In May members of the St. Johns Aktion Club joined other local Aktion Clubs in attending a Lugnuts game at Cooley Law Stadium. Despite the cold weather, fans stayed to watch the game. Unfortunately, the Lugnuts struck out - losing 2 - 1.

It has been a busy Spring so far and hopefully we will enjoy a sizzling summer!

TRANSITIONS GRAND LEDGE OPENS!

By Deb Voss
Transitions Grand Ledge Coordinator



The long awaited day finally arrived for everyone involved with Transitions Grand Ledge. The program opened the doors to the permanent location on South Bridge Street in Grand Ledge.

Tall windows allow the light to stream in accenting all of the smiling faces.

Furniture has been arranged and rearranged. Items have been unpacked and put in their place. Everyone is checking out the new restrooms constructed by the CMH carpenters. Even Karen and the Micro enterprise projects are making the most of all the available storage in the basement area.



Many thanks to Delta Presbyterian Church in Lansing for providing a place for the program to be since November of 2010. The pastor, church staff and members were very gracious.

401 South Bridge Street sat empty for quite a while but now there is new life and lots of activity going on. An Open House is set for July 12, 2011 1-4 p.m. to welcome friends and neighbors to take a look.

If you want to see the place before then, please call them to set up a tour at 517/627-7378.

EDRU SKATE-A-RAMA OPENS ITS DOORS TO US!

By Carol Kron
Transitions Charlotte

On Friday, June 24th, Edru Skate-a-Rama will begin a Fourth Friday Skate. The hours will be from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. The cost will be \$6.00 which includes entrance and roller skates. Roller blades or In Line skates are \$2.00 more! Laser Tag will be available for only \$4.00 per game. Buy a slice of pizza and a pop for a discounted price of \$3.00. An outside lane, designated by cones, will be available for people who use wheelchairs.

Edru is located at 1891 Cedar Street in Holt - just south of the intersection of Cedar and Holt Roads. Please come join in the fun on the Fourth Friday of each month!!!

This is open to everyone and community members are encouraged to join in on the fun.

TRANSITIONS PROGRAM CLOSINGS

Monday, July 4.....Independence Day
Friday, August 12.....Inservice Day

"THE FOOD CRITIC'S CORNER"

By Marie McCausey & Michael Robertson
Transitions Charlotte

In April, we took a trip to Grand Ledge and stopped to try some A & W food. It's a family style restaurant, nothing fancy, no gimmicks, just simple honest food. A & W is known for its Root Beer, Coney Dogs and Burgers. The prices are reasonable, nothing over \$8.00. We all had fun sampling a few appetizers. There were onion rings, cheese curds and chili fries. All were good, but we thought the cheese curds were the best! Our service was good and the restaurant had a nice, friendly feeling. It was very clean and comfortable. We will go back again and try the Root Beer Floats!!

TRANSITIONS NORTH CELEBRITY!!!!

By Laura Francis-Bohr
Transitions North



Transitions North has a billboard celebrity! Jennifer McGee's beautiful profile is a part of at least three billboards in the Lansing area. Although now an adult, Jennifer was eight years old when the original photo was taken. When staff took Jennifer out to one of the billboards to take her photo, she jumped out of the van and looked up at the board and got a huge smile on her face, immediately recognizing herself. Jennifer is not a photo shy gal. This angelic photo billboard is an advertisement for National Autism Month.

Jennifer graduated from Heartwood School in 2007 and has been attending Transitions North since her graduation. Jennifer loves music and will often break out into song when hearing a familiar tune on the radio. Her favorite song is Sweet Home Alabama. Jennifer enjoys many activities including recycling, making art projects, baking, mall walking and shopping. The most important thing in the world to Jennifer is her parents, Mae and Bob. She visits them often and looks forward to eating out when home for the weekend. Jennifer has a great sense of humor and is a valued member in team six. Congratulations Jennifer for being a representative of Autism Month.

"JOHN THE ELDER"

Written for John Root's Retirement Recognition
(May 17, 2011) by M.E.M.

John, what an honor it is to acknowledge you this day. After 27 years of bolstering our agency's mission, you're mellow to try another way. Part of this memorable recognition is to look back and reflect, which is not an easy task given there is so much to consider and respect. Your family, college and then the war (Vietnam) motivating you to some greater cause. The moments that you feared, the realities you encountered understandably gave you reasons to pause. They exposed you to and coached you to realize that life can be more than just living. That meant "giving a damn, making a difference and genuinely preparing to start giving." You valued your experiences and truly took them to heart. By maturing your inherent work ethic into helping others earn an unfamiliar start into the World of Work...which is natural and expected, but

remains more of a challenge for people who may be undervalued or (by some) disrespected. You were drawn to those potential workers for all of the relevant reasons, and have continued to facilitate their chances for success for the past 108 Seasons. It's not been by chance, or fate or the luck of the draw...but visions from your soul that sparked glimmers of what you saw...In each and every person that could be empowered and enhanced, until their greater realization of self-worth had been afforded the opportunity to advance. "You gave them root, John" and searched out opportunities for them to grow, carefully cultivating each step along the way until their true potential began to show. There's been no challenge too great or task too small. You've just rolled up your sleeves and your ego and attended to it all. For consumers, colleagues, community partners and almost anyone you meet, because That's Truly Who You Are and it positively helps you complete your callings in this life. Now with new horizons ahead, how so very fortunate we all are to have shared the paths that you've tread. We've gained so much from your presence John, your spirit will truly remain...in the ongoing successes of all those you've touched our human spirit will sustain. In a large part because of "Grandpa John" now may you teach the "wee one" well, sharing all that you've learned and accomplished with countless stories yet to tell.

HI HO THE DAIRY-O!

By Dorothy Archambeau
Transitions Grand Ledge

Grand Ledge's Neighborhood Center went to visit the Broadbeck Farm in April. The farm is located near Woodbury, in Eaton County. We were able to see and touch many farm animals, including sheep, goats and cows.



The highlight of the visit was petting the baby animals and being able to bottle feed the kids and lambs, as well as taking turns milking the momma goat. Almost everyone tasted the warm goat's milk, and many people liked the taste!

We also were able to see the farm's many chickens, and see where they laid their eggs. Everyone was able to take a fresh egg home to make for breakfast the next day. This beautiful day ended with a picnic lunch by the pond.

SPOTLIGHT ON RELIEF STAFF



Ashleh Worden is a part of the relief staff at Transitions South. She has worked for Transitions South since June of 2008. In the fall of 2010, Ashleh transferred from

Lansing Community College and began attending Grand Valley State University. She will graduate with a Bachelors of Science in Psychology and a minor in studio art in the summer of 2012. Upon graduating, she hopes to move out of the state and attend graduate school in pursuit of becoming an Art Therapist. Ashleh's favorite outings include Nature Study and Walking Group. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her dog, "Moe", watching live music and working on artistic projects.



Rick Allen, a relief CST at Transitions North first worked at Remy Drive during the 1990's. Rick started with the Adult Daily Living program and worked in the team spaces for

several years. He left this position to work for Sparrow Hospital, where he is still employed. Occasionally Rick would stop in to Remy Drive to say hello to people.

In January of 2009, he asked about working as a relief staff at Transitions North. Experienced people are always welcomed in the relief positions, so he was rehired! Rick works in the teams, classrooms, workshop and community activities with the Transitions North consumers and is a popular person to work in all settings. Rick lives in Lansing and is a proud parent of a teenage son. We are glad he kept up his relationship with the program and decided to come back to work!



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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.



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