

Charter House

October 2008

Chatter

Coordinator's Corner

This month's Coordinators Corner is brought to you by Andrea Moore, Janice Baker, and Rick Meyers. Stephanie Tighe is on vacation for the month of September in Alaska and New Mexico. Andrea, Janice and Rick have been coordinating and overseeing the daily operations of the clubhouse. Special thanks go out to Rob Davis for readily providing invaluable assistance with issues/questions that arose throughout the month. Thanks are also in order to the Program Secretary, Christofer Michaels, who consistently provided the expertise, guidance, and information needed to keep the coordination of things flowing smoothly.

On October 8th, Charter House will head to the steps of the capital building and participate in the annual PSR Power Day Rally. The rally brings political awareness and visibility to the human side of mental health services. Charter House has faithfully attended the rally and joined its voice with the hundreds of others who travel from near and far to support the cause of fair legislation for the mentally ill.

For a number of years now, Charter House has had the opportunity to benefit from utilizing the Social Work and Psychology Michigan State University students. Working at Charter House provides the student with an invaluable experience, as well as benefiting the

program. With the addition of the students, members and staff receive a fresh perspective, and are provided with some additional staff support and assistance. This year we have the pleasure of having Mary Kay Theis and Heather Sheldon join us. Welcome Mary Kay and Heather, we are pleased you are here.

In addition to new students, Charter House continues to undergo other changes as well. The remodeling and construction is at a very exciting stage. The second stage of remodeling is nearing completion. Charter House now has a beautiful new entranceway and waiting area, as well as an elevator that meets the proper codes. When entering the building, we have a sense of pride, and as a result, have been undergoing some in-house heavy duty cleaning. Thankyou to Jim Carter and his Crew, who upon request, picked up extra office furniture from the building. It is our goal that the membership feels special and want to be a part of Charter House and having a well organized beautiful place to work, is one step in that direction.

Another step is evaluating to determine the success and effectiveness of what you're currently doing. We decided to push through to another level... to expand our horizons. We developed a new program to acknowledge individuals who are willing to try doing something they have never done before on their units. Consistently, there are approximately five individuals per day that

Coordinator's Corner (continued)

are successfully trying something new. Congratulations to each Charter House member that despite their fear, has taken a step out of their comfort zones. Hats off to you, we admire you, and what you are accomplishing. As we improve and expand our vision, we will have more to share about our road to success!

By the time most of you read this newsletter, our coordinator, Stephanie Tighe will have returned from her exciting month long vacation. We would like to take this moment to say Welcome back to Stephanie. We look forward to hearing about your many adventures.

T. E. Program

The Charter House Transitional Employment Program continues to excel at providing, in program job training. John K. works very hard and sets a good example for the other workers in his position as team leader. Malcolm G. and Jamie C. are the remaining crew members. They do both vending and recycling and are always willing to do other tasks as needed, Drexel W. has moved to the ACT Program. He is now working as the program custodian, and is doing an excellent job. Drexel has also started detailing both CMH and staff vehicles.

The shredding team has added two new workers bringing their total number to twelve. Their productivity is on the rise. Thankyou Clark W., Albert R., Jamie C., Melissa T., Mary B., Stephen M., Linda H., Dick C., John K., John O., Seralee L., and Lynn L.

Nicole W. continues to work at ACT doing phones and other clerical duties. She has received much positive feedback from the staff at ACT who are pleased with her help in their program.

Lisa C. just received the Transitional Employee of the Month award for October. She has only been working for the finance department filing for 2 months, but already has received much

praise from her co-workers. They say that she is consciencious with her work and is also efficient. They also said that she now loves to drink coffee with them when they make it!

Hilliard D. continues to work as a custodian at Louisa Street. His attendance has been exemplary, and he has gotten comments about how he is always professional and does his job duties well.

We have several new transitional positions. Yantz W. has recently started working with Jim Carter on the grounds crew. After Yantz first day on the job, Jim Carter told Laura Curry "I want 10 more Yantz's!" Another new position is at OAS. Jenny B. (a long-time records room employee) has recently moved to OAS to help with clerical duties. Jenny has been such a good employee in the past, that OAS made a special request for Jenny to work for them. To replace Jenny B., Blanca O has started working in the records room. Blanca has such a positive attitude and will be a great addition to their team.

Cider Mill



by Kelly M.

I'm glad I'm going to Uncle John's Cider Mill on Tuesday October 7th. I can't wait! That's nice of them to take us to the Cider Mill. I'm gonna bring some money and I might get something at the Cider Mill. I would like to get some fudge if they have any there. I want a cinnamon donut, a powdered donut, and a half gallon of apple cider. I can't wait!

The Big Summer Trip 2008

Greenfield Village was a Huge Success!



by Blanca O.

It was Thursday morning; September 11th, thirty-five people were arriving early, at 7:30am, to Charter House. We had a continental breakfast at 8:00am. We had coffee, Danishes, bananas, yogurt, and juice that Charter House provided. Then we got bagged treat sacks with a can of pop and ready to load on the bus. The bus was a bit of a bumpy ride, but Sean put on DVDs for us to watch inside the bus so the members wouldn't get bored. The movies were Enchanted and Charlie's Angels. The Charter House members enjoyed the movies and were relaxed in the seats which were very comfortable.

As Charter House members entered the Village. There was a train, a carousel, a horse and buggy, and Model-T's. Everything in Greenfield Village history goes back to the 1800's. The town was very primitive and full of excitement. The people were very pleasant and friendly.

Finally, Charter House saw how people survived in the past by seeing how items were made, such as; pottery, blown glass products, and weaving in antique looms. By 11:30am we were headed to the Eagle Tavern for lunch.

Charter House members went to the Eagle Tavern and tried out their old country cuisine. The food was excellent, everything was freshly piping hot and homemade, just like old times. You

name it, we had it; muffins, biscuits, pickled cauliflower, beans, porkchops and gravy chicken pot pie, red baked potatoes, and green beans. Then we had chocolate cake with whipped cream for dessert which was very tasty.

The Big Summer Trip



by Jamie C.

We had a wonderful time at Greenfield Village. There was a lot of people there. We took a big Dean bus there. The staff all had a wonderful time there too. All of the members had a wonderful time too. We did a lot of neat things there. They had a lot of nice people there. We left around 8:00am and got back around 4:00pm. My point person was Rick. We would like to thank Stephanie Tighe and the staff for letting us go on The Big Summer Trip. We had a lot of good food there. I had a great time there at Greenfield Village. It was my first time there. We did a lot of awesome things there. They had horses, buses, and Model-T Ford cars there. We all watched some good movies. The weather was great. All of the staff did a fine job to help us with our trip.

Social Committee Reflections on the Big Summer Trip

John O. - "It was nice to go to that restaurant to eat, but what was that stuff they tried to feed us? Chicken? Is that what it was? Oh., well, I was not impressed with that, but the other stuff was good."

Mike E- "It was a good trip. I liked everything. Maybe it could have been longer. Yes, it should be longer next time."

Raina C. - "I didn't have a good time. My staff person told me I was on my own and I didn't know what to do on my own. I heard there was a train and carousel, but I didn't know where it was or how to get to it. I heard they had a gift shop, but I never saw it. It was the Big Summer Trip and I didn't get to enjoy it."

Jake W. - "I liked the Edison Building, the Wright Building, the Old Bicycle Shop and the place where you could get snacks. I got some coffee and drank it. It was Sir Benedict's. They had really big cookies there and candy. I like sitting with Janice on the bus and talking to her."

Melissa T. - "It was nice. I had fun. Jodi took me on the train. I liked it very much. I got to ride on the carousel. I don't think we need to change anything."

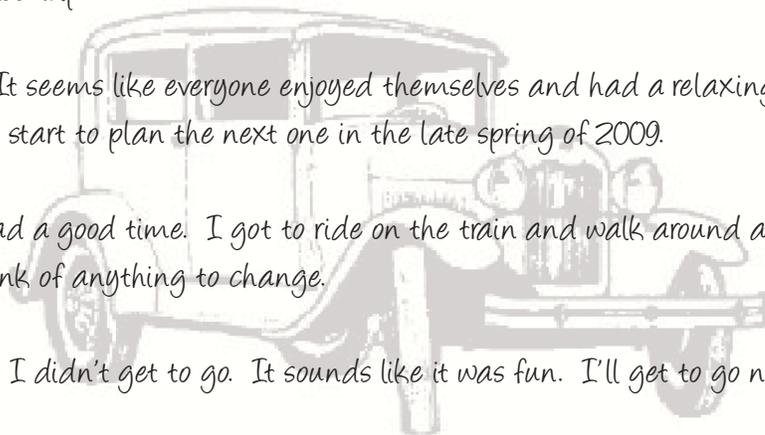
Keith H. - "Longer. The trip should have been longer. I didn't get to see everything. I liked the food at the Eagle Tavern. I had a good time."

MaryKay T. - "Everything seemed to go fine. Everyone seemed like they were having a good time. It was a nice trip."

Janice B. - "I agree. It seems like everyone enjoyed themselves and had a relaxing and fun outing. We'll start to plan the next one in the late spring of 2009."

Lynn L. - "I really had a good time. I got to ride on the train and walk around and see things. I can't think of anything to change."

Ryan S. - "I'm new, so I didn't get to go. It sounds like it was fun. I'll get to go next time."



Input

What did you like best about Greenfield Village?

Serralee L. The horses, I got to pet 6 horses, and I liked the snack bags.

Jamie C. I liked the whole thing, I really liked the bus ride.

Carolyn B. I liked all the history.

Christine G. I liked the rides, the lunch, and the friends.

Blanca O. I liked how everybody were in groups and how we learned a lot about history in the village.

Stephanie H. I liked the rides and the gift shop.

Melinda M. I liked the train, lunch, and the snack bag.

Bobby W. It was a nice place to go.

What do you think of the new clean "Member Lounge" area at Charter House?

Lyn L. I think it's good

Blanca O. I think it's a good idea for us to put more, new things in there.

Ryan S. I like it clean

Jamie C. I like the new clean area at Charter House.

Jodi T. It's nice to come to Charter House and not have clutter in the Member Lounge.

Kelly Mc. It's fun!

Steve B. Looks good! Hope we can work together to keep it looking good.

Activities

October 7th

Uncle John's Cider Mill 12:30-3:00
Ice Cream Joe's 4:00-6:00

October 14th

Lansing Mall 4:00-6:00

October 21st

Movie Night TBD

October 25th

Mooville (dairy store/petting farm) TBD

October 28th

Fire Mountain Grill 4:00-6:00

Starting Monday **October 6th**
Digital Photography
Workshop Mondays

Committee Reports

Social Committee Report

The Social Committee planned and executed the annual Big Summer Trip with the help of the entire clubhouse. Everyone pitched in to make this a very enjoyable event. Our destination this year was Greenfield Village in Dearborn MI. Members and staff planned out the trip, made the necessary reservations, shopped for the necessary items, make up snack bags for everyone, and voted on various items. We had a very nice time. A big thank you goes out to all involved.

Our next adventure will take us to Uncle John's Cider Mill in St. John's MI on Tuesday October 7. We hope to see a lot of smiling faces on this outing. This is one of our favorite outings and is usually well attended. Please join us!

Planning and Evaluation

The Planning and Evaluation Committee is designed as a think tank consisting of Charter House members to critique the way Charter House runs, addressing rules and expectations. Planning and Evaluation plans the Tuesday evening activities as well as the monthly weekend activity. The more members that attend Planning and Evaluation, the better insight into what does and what does not work at Charter House and the more ideas on how to correct issues that need to be corrected. All members are welcomed and invited to attend Planning and Evaluation on Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the Conference Room.

Excerpts from Raymond Bowen's 101 Faves



TV Movies - *Necessity*, *Perry Mason*
Movies - *Black Sunday*, *The Godfather*, *The Bourne Identity*
TV Shows - *Wait Till Your Father Comes Home*, *Ironside*, *Mission: Impossible*
Musicals - *The Sound of Music*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*
Actor - *Raymond Burr*
Actress - *Julie Andrews*
Entertainer - *Barabara Streisand*
Entertainment Channels - *NHL Network* and *Sleuth*
Music - *Rare '50's, '60's, '70's, '80's, and '90's*
Singer - *Elvis Presley*
Group - *The Beatles*
Duet - *Donny and Marie Osmond*
Songs - *Touch and Go* by *Ecstasy*, *Passion & Pain* and *Give by Missing Persons*
Album - *Love, Luck N' Lollipops* by *The Bells*
Soft Drink - *Coca-Cola Classic*
Snack Food - *Popcorn*
Junk Food - *Pizza with extra cheese and ground beef*
Cereals - *Fruit Loops* and *Cookie Crisp*
Breakfast Food - *Strawberry and Cherry Pop Tarts*
Foods to Cook - *Fried chicken thighs* and *Lasagne Hamburger Helper*
Comfort Foods - *Crab Legs*, *Lobster Tails*, *Ocean Perch*, and *Shrimp*
Restaurants - *Red Lobster*, *Tony's I-75 Restaurant*, and *Armando's*
Pie - *Strawberry*
Minor League Baseball - *Lansing Lugnuts*
Major League Baseball - *New York Yankees*
College Football - *Southern California*
NFL - *Washington Redskins*
Men's College Basketball - *Indiana*
NBA - *Detroit Pistons*
Minor Junior Hockey - *Canada*
Major Junior Hockey - *Plymouth Whalers*
NHL - *Montreal Canadiens*
Men's Soccer - *Brazil*
Women's Soccer - *United States*
Major League Soccer - *D.C. United*
Other Sports - *Auto Racing* and *Tennis*
Subject - *Algebra*
Period in History - *Rock N' Roll Era (1955 - Present)*
Historical Character - *Ronald Reagan*

T.E. of the Month

Lisa C.



I work at CMH in the finance department, doing their filing. For me to have this job, I had to learn how to use the CATA bus system. I arrive at work around 9:15am and work a 4 hour shift, 4 days a week. I file for four different women; a different one each day. They are all very nice and I enjoy working with them all. I love my job and LOVE earning a living.

Lisa has been a life saver in finance. She has been filing the accounts payable each week and also files the payee paperwork. She is always on time, is efficient, conscientious and works hard. She saves us a lot of time in finance by doing this filing. At year end, I helped her box up the files from FY07/08 and she made new files for FY08/09. This was a big job and was a lot of work and she did great job.

~Marian Klasko, Finance



Member of the Month

MELISSA T.



Why do you think Melissa was voted Member of the Month?

John K. - She does a wonderful job. She cleans the coffee mugs.

Mike E. - She's a cheerful lady.

Kelly M. - Because she's a very hard worker.

Ryan S. - Because she's a very hard worker.

Drexel W. - Because she is nice and kind.

Kathy Mc. - She's kind.

Christine G. - Because she always works and does extra work.

Jake W. - She's a good worker and she's dependable.

Dick C. - She does all her tasks and is punctual.

Although Melissa may be quiet, she is very thorough in her daily tasks. Melissa attends weekly committees. Every morning that she attends Charter House, Melissa gets it off to a good start, by cleaning coffee mugs and helping to get coffee started. Melissa has been a member of Charter House for just over five years. Melissa also has a T.E. position as a shredder at Charter House. Melissa is a friendly face and is truly an asset to Charter House. Congratulations Melissa!