



The Charter House Journal

Volume 5, Issue 3

Coordinator's Corner

Greetings and Happy Spring to everyone. Normally when you think of spring you think of pretty flowers and new beginnings and happy baby birds. But, truthfully, this month I am a bit sad. The last few months has been a challenge. First, Christofer our secretary for the past 9 years left us. Then Janice, who had worked here for 27 years left. We are just recovering from that shock and now our interns, Allison, Amanda and Kelly are leaving us. Allison and Amanda are going to be getting their BSW degrees and Kelly is finishing up her first year of the MSW program.

But, I am going to think positive!! I know that we are going to find some awesome new staff and interns to join us. We already have one bit of great news, Jeramie Hall, a Peer Support Specialist, has been working here in a 10 hour a week position. He is now going to be a full time Peer with our program. Welcome Jeram-

ie!! One of Jeramie's areas of interest is fitness and I am hoping that with his support we can all lose some weight!!

A woman from Horizon House and Temple University co-wrote a book, "A Practical Guide for People with disabilities who want to go to college." Her name is Arlene Solomon and she will be coming to Lansing to do a workshop for Michigan clubhouse members on May 8th. We are so happy that we will be able to host the other Clubs in Michigan for this special event.

Other May events include the annual Walk A Mile event at the Capital which is also on May 8th. The agency will be buying T-Shirts for all members who participate so we can wear them and be proud of who we are!!

One of the most exciting May events is going to be the Clubhouse conference on May 20 and 21. We al-

ways look forward to attending this and learning and meeting friends from all over Michigan. But this year is very special because after the conference our friends from Independence Center in St. Louis, Missouri are coming to visit! They will be here on Wednesday and Thursday after the conference. But, that is not all... Jack Yatsko from Clubhouse International is also coming in for the conference and will also be coming over to Charter House to visit with us. He will be giving us pointers for becoming accredited!!

In other news, Members of Charter House have been busy writing to their legislators and urging them to support the Medicaid Expansion. We have heard back from 5 legislators and some of them are very supportive of it but some are not. We keep a notebook with the responses we get and monitor their actions.

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Meeting with State Rep Andy Schor

Nicole Wright

Julie T., Gary L., and myself met with State Representative Andy Schor at his office recently. Right away, State Representative Andy Schor put us at ease when he told us to call him Andy.

I told Andy that I had voted for him in the election.

We were excited and a little nervous to talk with him as we talked about our club-house, Charter House. We spoke about how the clubhouse has impacted our lives and it had given us friendships, social activities, and a purpose.

We told Andy that we were the faces of the mentally ill.

Andy Schor is a staunch advocate for the mentally ill.



Charter House Visits Opportunity Center

On April 22nd some of us went to Bay City to visit Opportunity Center club-house. It was a nice place, a bit smaller than Charter House, but they made good use of the space.

They had a nice kitchen and dining area. We had a good meal; ham, potatoes, and blueberry pie.

We shared some of the tasks, cooking, and cleaning

The people were very friendly and nice. We enjoyed what the clubhouse had to offer.



Walk A Mile 2013

Wednesday, May 8th, is the Walk a Mile Rally at the Capitol. Charter House, which is located only a few blocks away will be on the Capitol lawn, advocating for all who live with mental illness.

Charter House will also be welcoming fellow clubhouses that day. Charter House will be the host of a Supported Education seminar.

We wish all our fellow clubhouses safe journeys to Lansing for this rally and seminar.



Inga Johnson – CMH Finance Filer TE

My name is Inga Johnson. I work at Community Mental Health, 16 hours a week. Before getting this job, I had not worked in 10 years!

I'm a filing temp. I do filing for the finance and payroll department. I file time-cards and put them in alphabetical order and numerical order. I make and label files for the office.

What I like best about my job is learning new skills and meeting positive people.

At first, I had a hard time learning how they file, not knowing the order of filing at first.

To be working again, is both very positive and motivating.

Mike Endriss – Panera Dishwasher TE

My name is Mike Endriss. I work at Panera Bread Company in Frandor. I work 15 hours a week.

Before getting this job it had been 1 year, 1 week, and 3 days since I had any paid employment.

I wash silverware, pots, pans, trays, bowls, and I take out the trash when it gets filled.

I like being busy, talking to people, my paycheck, and friendly people.

The hardest part for me is keeping up with dishes at the lunch rush, my speed at lunch time.

It feels great to be working again.



Numbers

Since July 2012, 23 Employed Charter House Members Have:

- Worked 4736 Hours
- Earned \$36,766.61

Charter House currently has:

- 19 TE's (17 Auspice and 2 Community)
- 5 IE's (2 Auspice and 3 Community)

Last Month Comprehensive Earned Income:

- \$4,307.63

Charter House

Where Everyone Has A Voice!

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