

CHARTER HOUSE JOURNAL

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EXCITING NEWS FOR CHARTER HOUSE

We recently got some very good news for charter house. We had only been able to except people as a member if they had Medicaid insurance. Now we can except as a member anyone with a history of mental illness. We can now serve people with private insurance, people with Medicare, or people with no insurance.

Standard two from clubhouse international states that “the clubhouse has con-

trol over its acceptance of new members. Membership is open to anyone with a history of mental illness, unless that person poses a significant and current threat to the general safety of the clubhouse community.”

Until very recently Charterhouse was unable to comply with this standard because we could only accept persons with Medicaid. Now all of that is changed. Our community mental health

center (CEI CMHB) received a CCBHC Federal grant. This grant provides for the needs of persons who do not have Medicaid. A big thank you to Senator Debbie Stabenow for introducing legislation for this grant and also to Stacy Fox-Elster who spent long hours writing our grant proposal.

Please send us your referrals! We love new members!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Exciting News For CH*
- *Coffee Hour*
- *Charter Strong*
- *Training at Genesis*

I VOTED > JOHN H.

On the Big Day, November 6th, 2018, I casted my ballot for the very first time.

The government needed a change. I was told by Charter House colleagues that one more voice can count, so I decided to vote.

Some of us members got a ride to the polling station, then it was really simple. All I did at the polling station was show them my ID and sign a form. Then it was off to the voting booth.

Michigan had a lot on the

ballot. I chose Democrats. My Governor, my Senator, and the legalization of marijuana were all I voted for.

I voted yes for legalization of weed, to be taxed and regulated like alcohol. The final votes for that measure made history, Michigan now has legal pot as of December 6th, 2018.

I voted for incoming Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer, we needed a change from our former Republican Governor Rick

Snyder, who was not working for Michigan like he should of.

For our Senator, I voted for incumbent Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow. She did a lot to help the mental health community.

That’s my Election Day story. Remember, on the next Election Day, VOTE! Your voice does matter!

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IT FEELS LIKE FAMILY > DANIEL A.

I walked into Charter House today for the first time in many months. People were overjoyed to see me and Kim, a staff person, told me about the new Computer Lab I am writing you from right now. Wow. What a great time I am having today. Early in the morning, before 9:00am group, Kim began reading out loud my encouraging book, #Satisfied. I felt so special and valued. I miss you guys a lot and you are all so friendly.

Anyone who gets a referral from their CMH Case Worker can come to Charter House and be blessed. It is nice to have a family-like setting where every voice counts and everyone matters! Thank you Charter House for making my day.

SOCIALIZING > KATHRYN W.

It's good to socialize for good mental health, and is fun. Socializing at Charter House is good, plus meeting for social times after Charter House and at home is great.

Frankenmuth is coming up and so is the Thanksgiving Day celebration. Lots of good times to socialize!

HALLOWEEN PARTY > LYNN L.

We had a great party on Oct. 31. Aaron sang a song (heavy metal) that Stephanie got on [video](#). We were amazed it was him singing it. He is quite a guy. We played a game where you would eat a donut on a string without using our hands, it was very hard. I got 2 bites. Dan won, he was very fast eating his donut. Another person

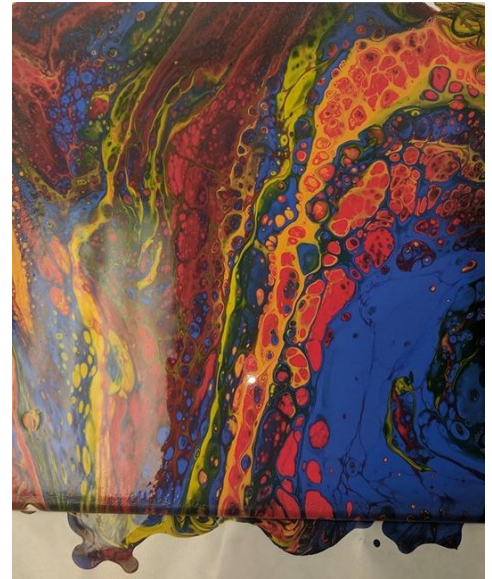
sang "The Way You Love Me" by Faith Hill. Another member sang too. We played a spider race; it was were you used straws to blow the spider off the table. We had Sloppy Joe's, veggies, and a choice of cake or cupcake. Stephanie made candy cane Jell-O.

DECEMBER PARTY > KATHRYN W.

Saturday, December 15th was lots of fun at Charter House. We invited friends and family to a holiday party here at Charter House. We played lots of games and won prizes. We had a lot of yummy food and dessert. I think everyone had fun.

THE ART CLASS > KATHRYN W.

If you're interested in Art and good conversation come to the art class at Charter House. Right now we're doing a lot of painting and coloring projects. Share your project and get inspired by others, and relax.



CHARTER HOUSE BONFIRE > EVAN M.

Charter House had a bonfire on Friday October 26th at [Fenner Nature Center](#). We had a fire, we roasted marshmallows and hot dogs. We went for a hike in the woods and saw some deer. We saw butterflies at the nature center. We told scary stories. Our friend Jon F. stopped by to visit us. I had a really good time and I enjoyed seeing the deer, eating good food, and

sitting by the warm fire. We took lots of pictures, if you want to see them check out our Facebook page!



SOFIA'S PANCAKE HOUSE > MIKE E.

We went to [Sophia's House of Pancakes](#) in Grand Ledge. The food was great and the service was fantastic. The waitresses were excellent and the tables were clean. The dessert was fine. I had 4 pieces of chicken, french fries, and coleslaw. I had a New York cheesecake with chocolate sauce. I had several glasses of water and Coke.



FRANKENMUTH > JAMES R.

Charter House went to Frankenmuth. We stopped at [Birch Run](#), an outlet mall. Rita bought a sweater at the Guess store. I debated about buying some cookies at Pepperidge Farm. We stayed at Birch Run for an hour. Then we went to [Bronner's](#), where I bought a slice of carrot cake. The cake was really good. Then we went to the restaurant and had a chicken dinner. The chicken was kinda dry, but the mashed potatoes were

really good. We went to a Frankenmuth outlet mall where I bought chocolate peanut butter fudge. The

fudge was great. The trip, overall, was a blast. I would definitely go back there next year.



FRANKEMUTH > KATHRYN W.

Frankenmuth was fun. We started out by shopping at a mall. Some people bought clothes with the \$10.00 that Stephanie so graciously gave us for Christmas. Then we went to [Bronner's](#) a Christmas store. Then we went over a covered wooden bridge and went off to eat a chicken dinner at [Zender's](#). To top it all we drove around and saw the Christmas lights.



FRANKENMUTH > RYAN S.

We went to [Burch Run](#), where we shopped at stores. I hung out with Fallon, and we walked everywhere.

We went across the road, where we went to another store. Then we went to other stores. Then we went to [Bronner's](#), where we looked at ornaments and then headed to the [River Place Shops](#) mall

and we looked at even more stores there. There were food stores, book stores, and shoe stores at that mall. Then we went to dinner. Afterward we looked around. Then we looked at lights. Finally, we had to leave and we went back to Charter House.

CHARTER STRONG > JOSH K.

Wednesday morning after a long meeting I became somewhat concerned knowing we had limited staff on the lower level and an hour to prepare lunch. I admit I was somewhat pessimistic but got the gumption to go to the upper level and ask for help. I did no more than say what we needed help with when I was overwhelmed with the unselfish willingness of upper level colleagues to jump in and help get things done. Lon and Matt offered to help cook. Kathy and Andrew offered to help order take and serve. Mike E offered to do lunch sales. Matt came downstairs immediately to assist and Lon followed shortly after equipped with the shoes he kept with him for instances in which he was needed for help in the kitchen. I was thoroughly impressed! Mary worked on stuffing menus, rolling silverware and setting up trays. Tierra stepped in and asked if she could help in the kitchen. I let her know she was always welcome to help out. The four of us cooks, who had never worked together as a team in the kitchen, commenced to get things done. The dance was not always perfect, but the dance was beautiful. Everyone chipped in where they could. We shared the work making no one person's load too heavy. The meal was on time and delicious! Andrew

came through with the menus and order forms just in time. Katherine jumped into the order taker/server roll with no hesitation. After cooking, Matthew volunteered to help Katherine order take/serve since we had 3 platters. Tier-ra, Lon and Myself kept the plates rolling out so that everyone was served fresh, tasty food in a timely manner.



Mike E took on the duty of lunch sales and did a great job. I'm guessing 20 or so colleagues ate that day including Dean from case management.

After lunch, our faithful colleagues Charlie and Mike jumped right into getting the dishes done. Those guys are awesome! Following our afternoon meeting, Richard helped with tables and chairs.

I was working alone on shut-down list. I had no one to help sweep and mop or finish some lingering dishes. I summoned colleagues through the intercom. Richard quickly

responded by helping me find people for different tasks. Sean helped find people as well and offered assistance after a busy day of his own. "Sam I Am" came down to see if we had things covered and to offer assistance. Aaron (whom we'll miss dearly!!) came quickly to help with sweeping and mopping, despite being extremely busy

wrapping up things in preparation for his departure from Charter House. James (aka Batman) swooped in to help like the superhero he is. Later, Lon and Batman came to our aid to help finish some leftover dishes. Miss Ryan was kind enough to help recruit volunteers despite being busy with her own tasks.

I'm proud to work with all of you my Charter House Family!

Thank you for being willing and excited to help. It's a beautiful thing when we all work together and have each other's backs. It helped me to know that I can and should fight against my propensity to not ask for help, or think that people do not want to help.

It also helped me to realize what I already like to believe. We're not two separate entities (upper and lower levels) but one powerful, living, breathing, super organism. We are Charter House. Together we are Strong!

THE MAKING OF A NEW SMILE > MAURICE S.

Hi, my name is Maurice and I'm a sales representative for Brilliant Smiles... I honestly can say going after what someone wants their smile to be like is life changing and replenishing a long lasting smile is what makes the world go around and gives that person that special prize. The gift that comes with having dedication for someone's future is very satisfying, making a close call before and after someone appears like they have no more hope in general ability to have self gratitude towards how they appear to someone during a conversation. When a tooth or a chip tooth that wonders and looks snail bitten is all part of the rebuilding that soft smile into a massive smile. I guess it was some years ago and I had gotten this patient the reminds me of "Romeo from the movie Juliet", well this person had gotten very over dressed when he stopped into my office, you know, he had all

sorts of good characteristics and all the long brown hair even the smell that the Lord would describe as oh "mango" but anyways he couldn't seem to open his mouth or wouldn't want the brace of teeth coming apart. The thing is he had got bitten by an animal and in a face to face match with one of the fiercest mammals on this planet...a tiger with black orange stripes running down and across his back. The story from Romeo was that he was on a stroll inside an amazing forest on a bright sunny afternoon, then he recalls looking at something that seem like similar to a wild forest cat that had been smaller then a miniature baby cat or an animal that seemed none exist able but he went on to say that he made it around this huge bear cat forest twice and seeing all sorts of beautiful parrots, colorful birds... this had all reminded me of living inside a water aquarium but he got back to the front of his destination

and then came across that orange and black Bengal. He said that he looked one way with the Bengal looking right at him with attentions on devouring his whole body into skeleton pieces. So he dashed into the road with the Bengal charging right at him looking like this would be it but all of a sudden he came to realize that he had a weapon that was more...

COFFEE HOUR > ANDREW M.



Charter House went to meet our new local state representative Sarah Anthony for her first coffee hour on Monday January 14th. One of discussions from a constituent was a concern about minimum wage increase affecting her healthy Michigan insurance. There was a gentleman who discussed his concern about having to pay more for

his car insurance because he turned 65 years old. Charter House members were concerned with the food stamps being cut off in February because of the government shut down. The representative was very informative about all of the subjects and she will do the best she can to help. I gave Rep Anthony a packet of information about Charter

House before we left. I enjoyed going to this event and it was very informative. I look forward to going to the next one.

CLUBHOUSE TRAINING AT GENESIS CLUB > GEORGE H. & DIANE M.

I went to train at [Genesis Club](#) in Worcester Massachusetts for two weeks, from July 9 – July 20. George and I flew from Lansing to Chicago. It was cool to fly over Lake Michigan and to see Chicago from the air. Then we flew from Chicago to Boston. It was cool to see Lake Erie and then the Atlantic Ocean just before we landed. I really enjoyed flying, most of the time, because I got to sit next to the window and see everything.

Genesis Club put us up in a old Victorian style home built in 1897 that was called Chandler House. We stayed there with people from four other clubhouses and there were 10 of us in the house for the first week and a half and then three more joined us for the last three days.

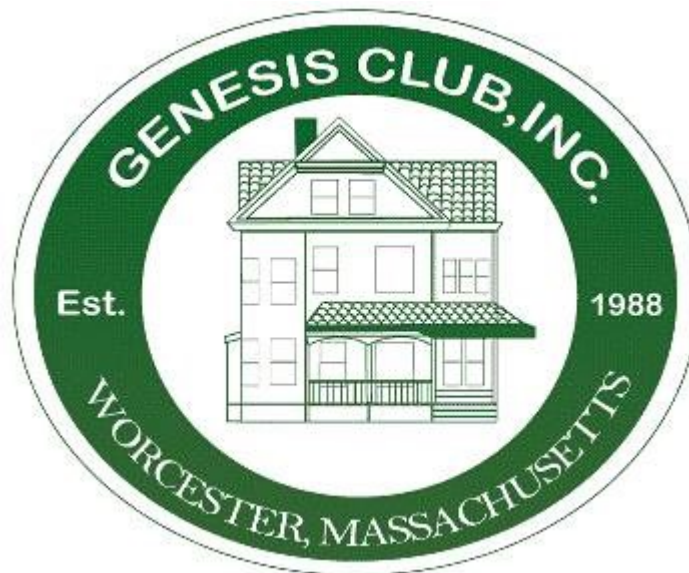
During the week, we spent our days at Genesis Club. They had me work on the Business Unit. At first, I was scared because I had never done any business like work before. The first day I was there, they had me act as the clerk and I had to count all the money. I liked it so much, I volunteered to do it three other times. I also did filing, edited the twice weekly news and views video that they do there, and helped with billing. I didn't think I could do that stuff, but became more confident the more I did it and plan to work on the Upper Level Unit some times when I get back

to Charter House. I liked how they split up the receptionist task into shifts to give several people a chance to do the task.

Genesis Club really emphasized members and staff to work together. They really liked to have jobs be done by two people. Genesis Club said that they have an average of about 90 people come every day. Some people just

during that trip and then another mile when we went out for dinner that night! In Boston we saw, the Boston Harbor, Paul Revere's house, we walked along the Freedom Trail, and ate Boston Cream Pie at the Black Rose Tavern.

On my trip, I tried several things that I have never eaten before. I tried: calamari, mussels, lobster, sword fish, scallops, clam chowder, sashi-



come for lunch or just for the afternoon, while the majority of people stayed all day. They were really nice and accepting of having us come into their club every day. They had us go to a class every day where we looked at the International Clubhouse standards and we had a discussion after reviewing each one.

One day, they took us on a site seeing tour into Boston. I ended up walking 6 ½ miles

mi, and sushi. I wasn't sure if I would like them, but George encouraged me to try things I've never heard of or would even think to try. I like everything but the sushi.

The people I stayed with were very friendly, sociable, encouraging, and we had fun going out to dinner together most nights. We walked about a mile every evening to and from a restaurant to get dinner. Over all, I really had a good time.

CHARTER HOUSE

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A VOICE!

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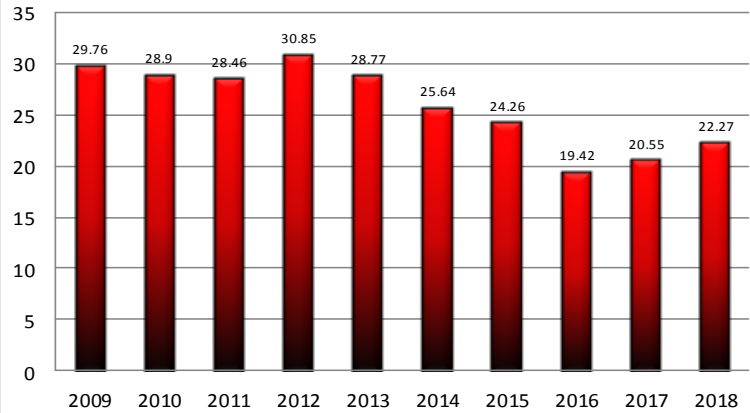
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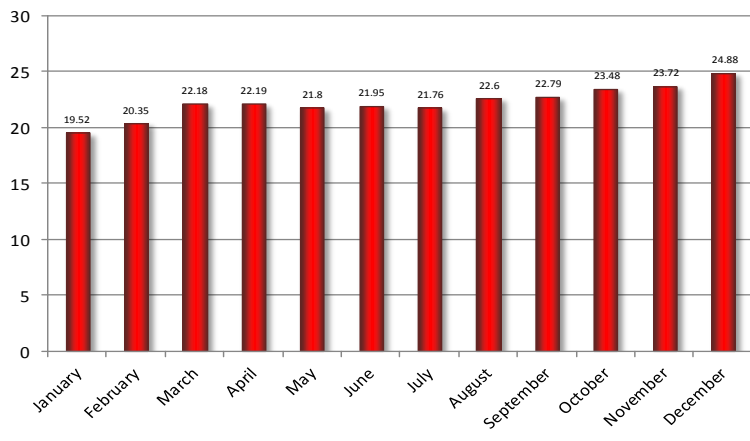


AVG Daily Attendance: 24
of Members Tutored: 8
of Members Employed:
TE: 5
SE: 1
IE: 9

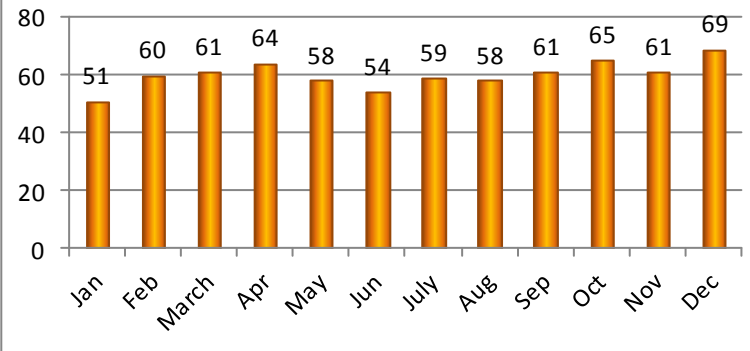
Daily Average By Year



2018 Avg Daily Attendance



2018 Unduplicated Members by Month



OUTREACH VISITS > SEAN H.

Mike E., Ryan S., and Sean went to visit Stephen M. and Jake W. on Wednesday January 16th. It was great to see these guys. They both asked about Charter House as it had been a few years since either of them have stepped foot inside Charter House. Stephen M. mentioned getting a Christmas card from Charter House and was thankful. Both guys, although doing well, really appreciated the visit. Even though some of us may live in a group home setting, these guys live in a more confining environment and it felt like our visit really made their day.