

# Marion County Services for the Developmentally Disabled Newsletter



September-October 2011 Newsletter



## CHALLENGING STAFF AT RETREAT!



On Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at Pasa Park in Barry, Illinois, Marion County Services staff strengthened their teamwork skills when challenged with "Minute To Win It" activities at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Staff Retreat.

Upon arrival staff was treated to a continental breakfast and was able to visit with each other. Then they were teamed off to participate in competition against each other with fun filled and hilarious activities, facilitated by Mark Morton from Bowling Green, Missouri.

The Board of Directors sponsors an annual retreat for employees to have the opportunity to strengthen work relationships through teambuilding activities.

Also provided was a catered lunch, plus prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams and a grand prize for the finalist.

It was a GREAT DAY!



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

If you treat Thanksgiving Day as a mere custom, then you are missing out on the true meaning of the holiday. As much as we enjoy Thanksgiving for the dinner and the festivities, we must also rejoice for our good fortune. So, have fun with your family this Thanksgiving, but don't forget to say 'thank you.'



## Merry Christmas

"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."  
Christmas is the time to spread the message of love, harmony, and peace. Of course, it is a time to get showered with gifts and wishes, but in the midst of all the commercialism, we should not forget the real spirit of Christmas.



"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"



Marion County Services would like to wish all of you a **SAFE** and **HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**



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## What's in the Newsletter?

**Page 1:** Note from the  
Executive Director

**Page 2-5:** Reports and  
Activities on Programs  
and Homes  
& Announcements

**Page 6:** Calendar of  
Events

## **BRIDGES NEWS-Cindy Cates**

The past couple of months we at Bridges have been enjoying the last of the warm fall days!

On one of those nice days the consumers were treated to a pleasant surprise when Chloe Anderson brought two horses into Bridges' back yard. It was a real treat for the consumers who got to pet and groom the beautiful animals. We are looking forward to a return visit.



**Richard gives the horse a pat on the back.**



**Amber comes face to face with one of the horses.**



**Chloe Anderson holds onto one of two horses she brought for Bridges consumers to see, while Shaun and Gary pet it.**

Our sights have now turned toward the holiday season. In October we had our annual Halloween party, which was a lot of fun. We played games, ate some sweets, had a costume contest, and even danced the "Monster Mash" a few times.



**Bridges consumers participate in a Halloween costume contest.**

At this time, we are celebrating the season of thankfulness with an early Thanksgiving Day dinner/carry in. One of the things that we are grateful for this year is that much of the dinner will be prepared in our newly-remodeled kitchen.

Also during the Christmas season, MCSDD as an agency is adopting a family. One way Bridges is participating is by helping collect food for the family. Consumers are welcome to bring a can of food if they wish to donate. We will be collecting through mid-December.

**Happy Holidays!**

## **COMMUNITY INTEGRATION-Kathy Butler**

### **Bowling**

Our bowling league is going well. Between 30-40 bowlers come out each week to bowl at Ten Pen Ally. Everyone is getting really good scores and having a great time being with friends.

### **Special Olympics Bowling**

Special Olympic bowlers are working very hard. Our 13 athletes competed November 6th at Kirksville. Thanks to Adam, Mike, and Ali for helping coach this year! The Hannibal Hawks brought home 5 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze.

### **Special Olympics Basketball**

Basketball started the beginning of November. Over 25 athletes will compete this year from Hannibal. During the month of November we will be learning the basic rules of three on three basketball. One night will be playing Jeopardy to see how much we have learned. We will put our basic skills to practice beginning the first Wednesday in December at the Admiral Coontz

Armory from 4:30-6pm. If you should have any questions please contact Kathy at 248-1077 ext. 203.

## CNO

In October we had a Halloween party. Over 90 consumers came out for a night of frightful fun. We had a haunted house put on by our consumer council, games and snacks. Everyone seemed to leave early so they could watch the CARDINALS win the World Series.

Our next CNO night will be card making at the Bridges building November 29th from 6pm-8pm. To RSVP call Kathy at 248-1077 ext 203. Staff must stay with their consumers at all times. This event is for ages 18 and older.

## Camp Yagattawanna



Twenty five campers met at Marion County Bridges building on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to leave for Camp Y. Once at camp, they unloaded, put their items away and enjoyed an easy meal prepared by our wonderful scouts. We then played the annual welcome game. This year the campers made lanyards for their name tags. After that, several campers were ready to go to the cabins and get ready for a good night's sleep.

Saturday morning campers started getting up at 4am to start the day (staff cannot figure out why they wanted to get up so early!). After breakfast the guys went fishing with help from staff and scouts. The girls stayed and made sun catchers and painted wooden cars for a race to be held in the evening. After the men returned, the women had their chance to fish and the guys do the crafts. Several sunfish were hooked and were happy to be released back to their pond.



The afternoon was spent hiking, playing volleyball and making crafts, with a few naps in between. The

campers made almost 40 cards to send overseas to the troops. They will be given to the American Legion to be mailed. Rain also came in the afternoon, but it didn't stop campers from having fun! Some played football with the scouts in the rain, while others did more craft (fuse beads are the hit!).

Six day campers and their staff arrived in the late morning to enjoy the day of camping. They mingled with the other campers and got a little taste of what camp is like. They went home tired and worn out, but had a great time.

Supper was cooked by the scouts. They do such a wonderful job keeping us fed. Entertainment for the supper hour included Scout Leader Chris Doyle attaching a fake spider to fishing line and dangling it over Kathy Butler's supper. Also Kathy Butler got a plate full of sour cream smashed into her face (paybacks will be handed out next year!!!!).

After supper, the scouts organized the car races while some of the staff gathered the craft items into sacks with the campers name's on them. After that it was KARAOKE TIME! Several sang songs such as "Crazy", "Wabash Cannonball", "Don't Cha" and "Soul Man". The scout leaders made smores for the evening snack. Everyone headed down to the cabins for bed.

Sunday morning is always the hardest to get moving, but our campers did a great job this year. They were up, dressed, and bags packed and by the trailer before 8:00 a.m. As soon as breakfast was over, everyone cleaned up the dining hall while the scouts helped with the kitchen, cabins, and admin buildings. At 9:00am we came together to pay tribute to the 9/11 heroes. We thanked the service men and women who were there at camp, Mike and Mary Cameron and Dennis McAfee. One scout had painted a police car for Mr. McAfee. After the short service everyone finished getting the grounds ready for the park ranger to do his inspection. About 10:15 the campers loaded up in the bus and van and made their way back home! Thanks to all the staff, volunteers, and scouts who made this camp a success.



**Thank you for your service!**

## **Aktion Club**

Aktion club met in both September and October. They plan on meeting with the Kiwanis group for a Christmas party sometime in December.

## **Consumer Council**

Consumer Council meets the third Tuesday of every month. They discuss ideas for CNO night, take Consumer first nominations, and find volunteer ideas to do in the area. They recently sponsored the haunted house at the Halloween party. They will be having their next meeting December 6<sup>th</sup> so that they can have a Christmas party.

## **PARIS AVE. ISL– Angela Wallace**

One of the gentleman celebrated his birthday in October with family and friends. He has also enjoyed decorating for the holidays, shopping, and listening to music.

Another has enjoyed yard sales, farmers market, shopping, and decorating for the holidays.

The other man has enjoyed woodworking, shopping, and bowling.

All of the men enjoyed the Halloween party and are looking forward to the holiday season.

## **WILDROSE ISL & WYACONDA ISL**

The ladies at Wildrose and Wyaconda enjoyed Halloween and the nice fall weather. They are looking forward to the holiday season.

## **SUNBURST ISL– Sarah Bell**

Hello my name is Sarah and I am the new home manager at Sunburst ISL. I have worked in the home before and I am very familiar with the men. I am glad to be back at sunburst and though I will have a lot to learn I am very excited to transition into the role of home manager.

The men are doing well and enjoying the fall, they both enjoyed a CNO Halloween party. One of the men started going to Bridges a few days a week, he has goals that the day program will be able to work on with him. We are all looking forward to the upcoming holidays, and all the events that surround them.

## **People First**

People first have been working on cookbook fundraiser and finishing it up. They have been working on the roles of officers. At their last meeting they had a Thanksgiving dinner potluck.

## **TCM-Service Coordination**

Service Coordination is very excited to introduce a new member to our team, Jennifer Cooper! Here is some information about Jennifer:

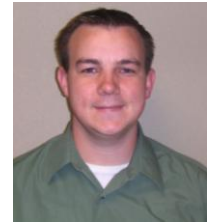
She has a B.S in Elementary Education and finished her Master's recently in Special Education. She has two children, a son who is twenty, and a daughter who will be 13 in December. She previously worked at Beth Haven Group Homes as a QDDP for 1 1/2 years. She also substituted for Quincy Public Schools a couple times a week. She also was a special education teacher for a couple of years for 5th and 6th graders for learning disabled students. She loves to read good fiction books and to reduce stress, she enjoys walking. Jennifer is excited about being a part of MCSDD.

**Welcome to Service Coordination Jennifer!**

### **Our new Service Coordinators:**



**Jennifer Cooper**



**Adam Retherford**

### **Head Injury Support Group:**

We want to remind everyone of the next Head Injury Support Group meeting which is December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, located at Marion County Services – Bridges Day Program (3175 Palmyra Rd, Hannibal). This group is for anyone with any type of head injury or a family member, support person, etc. You are welcome to bring snacks to share. There will also be Christmas games and discussion for topics and activities for 2012. Everyone is welcome to come! For more information you can call Laura at 822-2963 or Barb at 248-1077 ext 111.

### **Autism Support Group:**

Do too busy schedules and the holidays right around the corner, the Autism Support group, at this time, does not have a set meeting date. However, Shannon will be e-mailing the regular members to set up a time. This is for anyone with autism or a loved one with autism. Anyone interested is welcome to come! The meeting times, location, and activities may vary so if you are interested please call Shannon at 248-1077 ext 106.

**All of us here in TCM wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season!!**

## ***Congratulations to the Employee of the Quarter!***

Congratulations to **Sarah Stolte, David Ferguson, and Cathy Arrowsmith** for receiving the Employee of the Quarter Awards!

CNO  
Card Making Night  
Marion County Services  
3175 Palmyra Road  
November 29, 2011  
6-8pm



Come out for an evening of card making. If you have scissors or anything else you would like to use, please bring it.

***This event is for consumers 18 and older. Staff must stay with consumers at all times!***

***Space is limited so RSVP by November 28<sup>th</sup>. Call Kathy at 248-1077 ext. 203. Please leave a voicemail with your name and number.***

***Refreshments will not be served.***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November</b> 20	21	22	23 <b>Basketball-</b> Palmyra Road 4:30-6:00pm	24 MCSDD closed 	25 MCSDD closed	26
27	28	29 <b>CNO-</b> Palmyra Road 6:00-8:00pm <b>Autism Support Group-</b> 12 Northport 6:00pm	30 <b>Basketball-</b> Palmyra Road 4:30-6:00pm	<b>December</b> 1	2	3
4	5	<b>6 Consumer Council-</b> Palmyra Road 3:00pm	<b>7 Basketball-</b> Admiral Coontz Armory 4:30-6:00pm	8	9	10
11	<b>12 Aktion Club-</b> Nutrition Center 6:00pm	<b>13 Board Meeting-</b> 12 Northport 6:30pm <b>Head Injury Support Group-</b> Palmyra Road 6:30pm	14 <b>Basketball-</b> Admiral Coontz Armory 4:30-6:00pm	15	16	17
18	19	<b>20 People First-</b> Palmyra Road 6:30pm	21 <b>Basketball-</b> Admiral Coontz Armory 4:30-6:00pm	22 MCSDD will close at <b>12:30 p.m.</b>	23 MCSDD closed	24
25 	26 MCSDD closed	27	28 <b>Basketball-</b> Admiral Coontz Armory 4:30-6:00pm	29	30	31
<b>January</b> 1 	2 MCSDD closed	<b>3 Aktion Club-</b> Palmyra Road 6:00pm	<b>4 Basketball-</b> Admiral Coontz Armory 4:30-6:00pm	5	6	7
8	9	<b>10 Board Meeting-</b> 12 Northport 6:30pm <b>Head Injury Support Group-</b> Palmyra Road 6:30pm	<b>10 Basketball-</b> Admiral Coontz Armory 4:30-6:00pm	11	12	13
14	15	<b>16 Consumer Council-</b> Palmyra Road 3:00pm <b>People First-</b> Palmyra Road 6:30pm	17 <b>Basketball-</b> Admiral Coontz Armory 4:30-6:00pm	18	19	20



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