

Transitions News!

Volume 1 * Number 2

April 5, 2004

Getting to Know Transitions Programs...

“Part I”

Transitions Central

The Transitions Central team has evolved from the original “Project 20/20” and was formally established in 1997. The mission of T-C was to assist individuals in moving from facility based programs into community based inclusion sites in the Greater Lansing area. These community placements needed to match the expressed wishes of the individual, provide an environment that was supporting & nurturing and offer ample opportunity for interactions with non-handicapped peers. These primary characteristics of a sound community placement are still relevant today, in all of the community sites maintained through Transitions.

Transitions Central’s responsibilities include the establishing of community inclusion sites, clinical consultation, direct support of consumers involved with those sites (i.e. coaching) and the necessary follow-along support that may be required for success. This also means that the T-C team provides community outreach in an effort to better educate the public about the merits of community inclusion. Transitions Central strives to empower those individuals who wish to plan for and realize their wishes, hopes and dreams.

Transitions Central also directly operates the original Transitions Community Drop-In Center in partnership with Grace United Methodist Church in Lansing. The Drop-In Center offers the opportunity for peer interaction and support

to individuals who are actively involved in volunteer, paid employment, educational, leisure and recreation opportunities in the community. The Drop in Center functions are primarily supported by consumers involved with Transitions Central. Four (4) Community Consumer Aides are employed by the program with staff back-up available as needed.

The T-C team embodies the agency mission and was the recipient of the agency’s Myrtle Yoshinaga Award for Clinical Excellence in 2001. Given that history, the T-C team was used as the model for developing the other three Transitions Satellite Programs located in Charlotte, Mason, and St. Johns.

The Charlotte Satellite

The Charlotte Satellite began providing services within the Eaton County Counseling Center Building, in February of 2002. This was, in part due to the closing of BSI, the workshop program. The Charlotte Satellite began with fifteen consumers, participating in various activities such as lunch groups, walks in the park, and bowling. The Charlotte Satellite has served forty eight consumers over the past two years. Since its inception it has expanded services to include three bowling groups, four additional volunteer sites, a swimming group and a music therapy group, as well as many others. This has included community partnerships with the The Hen House, the CA Recycling Center, The Eagles

Club, Olivet College, and Eaton County Hospice. There are currently three mornings a week that no consumers are in the Drop In Center, because everyone is involved in community. The continued goal is to be responsive to consumer requests developing new community placements. Ideally the Drop In Center would be used very little because consumers are engaged in community activities. The staff and consumers of the Charlotte Satellite wish to thank all who have supported them over the past two years.

The Clinton County Satellite

Greetings from the Clinton County Satellite in St. Johns, Michigan! Since opening our doors nearly two years ago, thirty-two individuals from the Clinton County area have participated in a wide variety of activities in and around their local communities. Our goal, since the Satellite concept was adopted and the Clinton County Satellite was established within the Clinton County Counseling Center, has been to provide consumers with the opportunity to participate in activities for which they have an interest, and are available in their local communities. While participating in these activities consumers have had the opportunity to practice skills needed in the community. More importantly, consumers are connecting with their neighbors, beginning to be recognized as valuable, contributing members of their communities and feeling good about themselves.

The St. Johns community has played an important role in making opportunities possible for the consumers of the Clinton County Satellite. We have been fortunate during the past two years, to be able to develop partnerships with several organizations including the Clinton County Arts Council-Depot Center, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Downtown Management Board, as well as many local churches and businesses.

The Mason Satellite

Since moving into the location at 715 Curtis in August of 2001, The Mason Satellite has served 45 individuals. The initial consumers were transferred from BSI, the workshop program. The original group grew quickly as individuals from the community and school graduates began.

In the two and a half years since it's inception, over twenty (20) new community sites have been developed through the Mason Satellite. Consumers living in southern Ingham County have had many opportunities to participate in activities of their choosing, within their home communities. Volunteer opportunities have been developed at Mason Urgent Care, The Stockbridge Community Outreach Program, Rural Ingham County Meals on Wheels, and Ingham County Animal Control. Various recreational activities have been developed at locations such as The Trellis, The Stockbridge Town Hall, Bestsellers Book Store, The Mason Bowling Center, and Delphi Creativity Center.

The staff and consumers of the Mason Satellite are endlessly grateful for the support and opportunities that have been presented to them since the program began.

- i *Due to limited space only a few community partners have been specifically acknowledged, as the programs mentioned currently interface with over 180 community sites.*
- i *In our next edition we will be sharing about the current programming offered at Transitions North and Transitions South. So once again, please stay tuned...*