

# Transitions News!

Volume 7 \* Number 4

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## PLEASE VOTE – AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>

Transitions relies upon public transportation to assist consumers with achieving goals. Your help is needed to maintain and expand those opportunities! VOTE YES!!!

Eaton County's public transportation provider seeks a millage increase - the first one in Eaton's 30 year history! The increase would cost the homeowner, of a home valued at \$75,000, approximately \$58.00 for the year. This is a .75 mills increase. In exchange for the modest increase, longer service hours and days would be added plus more fixed routes would connect Charlotte, Grand Ledge, Eaton Rapids and Delta Township. Additionally, Delta Township fixed routes will increase thereby linking Eaton County residents to the larger capitol region through CATA.

Ingham County's public transportation provider (CATA) is also asking voters to pass a millage of 3.0007 mills for five years (2011 - 2015). It renews and combines 2 previously approved millages and restores 0.0362 mills which had been reduced by the Headlee Act Provision. This means that your CATA millage taxes would remain the same except for a Headlee adjustment that would equal \$1.81 for a home valued at \$100,000. This millage will be used to maintain existing CATA Service. The funding is used for operational expenses.

### ~ CATA QUICK FACTS ~

- In 2009, people took a record 11.4 million rides on CATA buses.
- Last year, persons with disabilities took more than 341,000 Spec-Tran rides.
- Local millage funding contributes 42% of CATA's operating budget - the single largest source.
- Thousands of people depend on CATA to get to work, shopping, school, and medical appointments every day.
- CATA has been recognized as an environmental

leader in commuting options, recycling, and use of energy-efficient, clean hybrid vehicles.

- CATA ridership more than doubled over the past 10 years.

Transitions programs support passage of both millage requests. Please vote in support of public transportation.

## FAREWELL FRIENDS.....

By the time you read this I will have retired.

For over thirty-six years, I had the honor of working with and for the most wonderful people imaginable. In my hear are memories of countless moments that took my breath away, of life transformations that were once unthinkable, and of the resilient spirit of loving people who never, never, never gave up.

Thanks to all your collective efforts this corner of the world is forever changed --- as is my life. There is no way I can ever repay you for the profound impact I experienced in being a part of something truly magical.

I leave you with the joy of believing the best is yet to be.....Daniel DeVaney



## AKTION CLUB HELPS ANGEL HOUSE

By Elizabeth Putnam

Members of the Aktion Club swung into action making money! At the monthly club meeting members awarded \$126 to Angel House representative, Lynn Smith. The funds were earned by growing seedlings and selling them in May, the prime time to plant gardens. Tomato plants, herbs, cucumber plants and morning glories were hot sellers at the event which was scheduled for 2 days

but inventory sold out in only one day! Small seed trays were planted and urged to sprout under artificial light while spring was turning to summer.

Angel House serves the needs of teen mothers and their infants who find themselves in the foster care system. The program teaches parenting skills and meets the emotional needs of the mothers. They have a large residential program on Kerns Road in Mason.

Jack and Darlene Cook are club sponsors who help the Aktion Club members to run meetings and be involved in Kiwanis. Their support of the group is essential to the success of the Transitions Mason club. The proceeds from the next fundraiser will again be directed to Angel House since Kiwanis clubs focus on assisting children.

**TRANSITIONS PROGRAM CLOSINGS**

Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> .....Inservice Day  
 Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> .....Labor Day  
 Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> .....Inservice Day

2. Red Worms, an exceptional fishing worm, can be purchased for \$3.00 per 3 dozen worms (local price \$3.60).
3. Worm/compost tea can be purchased for \$2.00 a gallon.
4. Buy your supply by contacting Transitions North Micro Enterprise Representative, Pam Marietta at (517) 323-9558 ext. 141. A special thanks goes to Jim Meyerle, formerly of Urban Options, Kelli Quinn and Pam Marietta for their guidance, patience and wisdom. They are the worm gurus and have rescued the worms from the brink of death more than once.
5. If you would like more information related to composting and worms, check out these reference books. *Worms Eat Our Garbage: Classroom Activities for a Better Environment*, 1993 by Mary Appelhof; and *Wonderful Worms*, 1992 by Linda Glaser. These two books are excellent resources for starting your own worm bin or for simply learning how beneficial worms are to Mother Earth.

## TLC REALLY PAYS OFF AT T-NORTH

By Dennis Hall



After two seasons of tender loving care, the Transitions North Worm Bin pays off big! As most of the readers know, in the fall of 2008, we at Transitions North, in the spirit of going green and providing micro-business opportunities for our consumers' started our own Worm Bin. **The Worm Bin** provides micro business opportunities for five Transitions North consumers, ranging from collecting food items for the worm bin, shredding newspaper for worm bedding, collecting worm tea/compost tea and composting worm castings. Three different products are for sale, related to the bin.

1. Worm Casting Compost (sometimes referred to as Black Gold) can be purchased for \$10.00 for 4.5 pounds (internet price \$13.99 plus shipping and handling).

## A FUN FILLED SUMMER WITH TRANSITIONS CENTRAL

By Kristin Emerick

For the past four summers, Transitions Central has provided community inclusion opportunities for a specific group of school age consumers while they are on summer break. This was begun in order to offer structured daytime activities. Blending their wishes with other Transitions Central consumers affords them a variety of activities as well as the opportunity to meet new people. One gentleman has joined Transitions Central for the past four summers. He works at one of the dorms at Michigan State University and is off during the summer months while the majority of the students are away.

In the summer of 2007, Transitions Central received five referrals for summer programming. All were seeking recreational activities for the summer months. Since this was the first time that Transitions Central was providing temporary activities, it was a learning experience for everyone involved. Four consumers participated in a variety of recreational activities such as bowling, mall walking, a sign language group, YMCA group and attending the Drop-In Center. The following summer in 2008, Transitions Central received four referrals for summer programming, two

of which were "repeats" from 2007. Everyone got involved in bowling, mall walking, going to the movies, a community group, a coffee group and attending the Drop-In Center.

Last summer in 2009, Transitions Central saw an increase in demand for services. A total of seven consumers were served, three who had previously been involved with the program. They went bowling, mall walking, swimming at the YMCA, to the movies, spent some time at the Drop-In Center and volunteered at the Humane Society.

Currently, Transitions Central is working with five consumers for the summer months. All have returned for more summer fun so Transitions Central staff are very familiar with them. There continues to be a total of ninety consumers involved with Transitions Central plus the five summer guests. Many of Transitions Central's group activities are at capacity. However, it ended up working out that each of the summer consumers were able to create a weekly schedule of activities they really enjoy as well as made the scheduling of staff in their homes easier. The five guys are involved with bowling, mall walking, volunteering at Child Health Services, going to coffee group, attending the Drop-In Center, visiting with animals at the Humane Society and playing basketball.

It isn't known yet if summer programming will be offered by Transitions Central in 2011. If it is, the same consumers that are currently participating are expected to return in addition to some new faces. A positive result of Transitions Central's summer programming is having the consumers finish school and decide to join the program on a permanent basis. Everyone knows each other which makes the transition much smoother.

## SPOTLIGHT ON RELIEF STAFF

Many of the Transitions Staff started their CMH careers as a relief staff person. It is one of the most challenging positions because they are required to know all of the consumers for their sub pool. There are only 2 sub pools: one at Transitions North and the other at Transitions South. These 2 pools provide coverage for all 7 Transitions locations. Subs have to know several different communities and programs. They have to

know how to drive full sized vans and operate a variety of wheelchair lifts. The amount of knowledge is endless while the job offers erratic schedules and no guaranteed hours. This regular feature of the newsletter introduces the relief staff from both Transitions North and South.



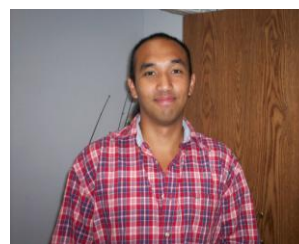
If you think you are seeing double as you walk the hallway of Transitions North, it may be because you have passed both members of the set of twins working

here. Upon the recommendation of Laura Francis-Bohr, DDS at T- N, her twin sister Linda Thom applied for a relief position. Laura and Linda are both Social Workers and are both very good at their jobs and co-workers enjoy working with them.

Linda is married to Kevin, a Major with the Michigan National Guard. She occasionally takes breaks from her job to travel with him to exotic places that the Guard requires. She has three children and has done social work elsewhere, mainly working with adolescents. Linda has also worked assisting many families in foreign adoptions.

Linda is a joy at work and her positive attitude helps people to feel better about themselves. Her sense of humor gets others laughing and feeling positive about life. Thank you Linda for all your efforts at T-North!!

Transitions South welcomes Randy Vue to the relief



pool. Mr. Vue began his CMH career in December 2009. He had been working in a group home while going to LCC for fire fighter training. He recently finished his schooling and will enjoy his

summer.

Randy regularly takes the gentlemen swimming and he often staffs a basketball group. He has assisted with providing services to some summer time school aged guests in Mason. He is a quiet fellow that consumers enjoy spending time with.

MAKE

# WISE CONNECTIONS



Are you (or someone you know) receiving Social Security disability benefits and interested in exploring your work options?

Do you have questions about work like these...

- Can I work and still keep my Social Security benefits?
- Can I work and keep my healthcare benefits?
- Who can help me understand how working will affect my benefits?
- Who can help me find a job?

If you or someone you know is on Social Security and wants to work but isn't sure how to get started, the WISE (Work Incentive Seminar Event) is the place to be!

Space is limited, so please call our toll free number or register online today!



Please ask for a sign language interpreter or materials in alternate formats five days in advance, either by phone or at the online registration site.

**August 24, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at:**

**Capital Area Michigan Works!  
2110 S. Cedar Street  
Lansing, MI 48910**

Ticket to Work  
Work Incentives

1-877-743-8237 (voice or TTY)

[www.socialsecurity.gov/work/wise.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/wise.html)



Pet Pantry Etc.  
home of the  
"PUP TART"

989-224-7810  
petpantry@ceicmh.org  
315 Clinton St. • St. Johns MI 48879



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(517)323-9558, ext. 141

## MICRO ENTERPRISE NOW AT THE MEGA MALL

The Micro Enterprise Committee of Transitions is excited that we are expanding our sales opportunities to the Mega Mall Store. As of April 1, we are the proud occupants of booth B-8 at this 300 booth Store. Products will be displayed 7 days per week with the Mega Mall handling the sales. Consumers will volunteer twice per month at the store as helpers, along with the other volunteers for 3 hour shifts. This will provide a meaningful experience for consumers to explore work in a retail setting. Consumers who have micro-enterprise products on display will be able to go to the Mega Mall to check inventory, re-stock, decorate and re-arrange the display. They will be able to tell their family and friends where their items can be purchased and be able to show them to others 7 days per week. The site is handicap accessible and all on one level.

We look forward to this new venture and hope you will look for the display when you visit. The Mega Mall is located at 15487 Old 27, 2 miles South of I-69, exit 87. It is open every day from 11 am to 6 pm.

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