



Adult Learning Systems

LOWER MICHIGAN



FUTURE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

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CEO Corner

Hello everyone!

After reaching my 14th year anniversary this past month, it made me reflect on the many reasons that not only brought me to ALS-LM but also why I've stayed. Without question, it's definitely the people. The people's lives that I've seen changed with our services and the people who made it possible.

I know we don't have an easy job, but let me take this opportunity to say "Thank You". In this world of economic turmoil ALS-LM know the tremendous impact these things have on our abilities & resources. I challenge each of you to continue to focus on making a difference in our participants lives. It doesn't go un-noticed!

Tax Exempt Purchases

As a not-for-profit organization, ALS-LM is entitled to make all purchases without paying state sales tax. It is essential that all employees utilize the Tax Identification Number, and use for each and every corporate purchase. The tax paid on each receipt may be small amounts, but it adds up! Our contracts require that we maintain not-for-profit status, and that we not pay tax. On the flip side, use of the tax exempt forms to make personal purchases is a violation of the law and could put our exemption status in jeopardy. Please use responsibly.

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8170 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 • 734-668-7447

Editor: Phyllis Wagner - CEO: Sherri Turner

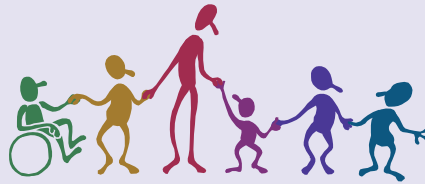
Some Good Deeds

→ On December 11, 2009, Craig F, a TIP participant, found a wallet in his apartment hallway. The wallet contained over four hundred dollars and some credit cards. Craig immediately brought his finding to the program office and asked for help in locating the owner. The person was contacted and came to the office that day to pick up his wallet. Craig F. deserves congratulations for his honesty and giving spirit. He helped that family have a much better holiday season! Great job!!!!

→ Recently, two of Macomb Whole Life staff surprised me with a car wash. I was meeting with the site coordinator, and Jason and Bryan took buckets out to the parking lot and made my car shine. Thanks, guys! It really made my day!



Direct Care Worker of the Quarter



Danielle Foster (Macomb County)

Danielle has a very positive attitude and serves as a good role model for participants and staff. She is well liked and respected by the participants and her co-workers. She has never been late for work and is always available to cover extra shifts at a moments notice. Danielle is willing to do any extra tasks around the home. She has handled two emergency room situations and remained calm and professional. Danielle is a valuable member of the team at New Port.

Amy Liechti (Monroe County)

Amy is an outstanding employee at Grove home. She has many duties that she does well. She takes participants on outings such as ARC dances, Frankenmuth shopping trips. All making their lives more fun. Amy helps with decorations for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas; creating a festive atmosphere for the guys. She worked on special gift calendars from participants to their guardians, which they enjoyed at Grove's holiday party. She puts the participants first, including all of them in activities. Amy is a positive team leader, making her a real asset at Grove.



Direct Care Worker of the Year

Jennifer Erickson (Macomb County)

Jennifer has recently been promoted to Caseworker of Trombley Home, and what a well deserved promotion it is! She has been named DCW of the year, because of her dedication to the ladies at Trombley. As Medical Instructor, she made her goal to gain all medical knowledge necessary for the treatment of participants. She created a training system of self-medication programs, affording them the opportunity to play a key role in their own treatment plan and goals.



Volunteer of the Year

John Wilt

When Mr. Wilt found out that the group home had to pay for home repairs, he showed up with his tools and asked "What needs fixing?" Not only has he helped Trombley Home, he also made needed repairs at Macomb TLH. Overall, Mr. Wilt has saved our company hundreds of dollars, which freed up more funds to be spent directly on participants. He always has a smile on his face, and makes jokes. When asked why he is so happy, he says he doesn't mind "doing God's work". Mr. Wilt was honored for his service at our Winterfest in January. A big thank you to John Wilt!!!!

GOING GREEN



Keep It Simple

The best way to 'go green', regardless of where you are, is to start small. Recycling is not very electrifying, but it moves mountains.

Though this concept seems simple enough, recycling at work can be a bit more complicated, yet effective. The average office worker in the U.S. uses 10,000 sheets of copy paper each year. That's four million tons of paper used annually.



Cell Phone/Laptop Usage

A reminder to all employees: cell phones should not interfere with your care of the participants. Cell phones and texting should be used for emergency situations only. Phone calls and text messages are not to be conducted while driving at any time. It is a privilege to carry a cell phone at the workplace, so please use it wisely. Employees are not permitted to bring laptops to the workplace. Any person bring a laptop will be disciplined accordingly. We want to ensure participant care is the number one priority.

Sleep Deprivation

We all experience sleep loss, at one time or another. A few of the signs can be rather surprising. Having difficulty making simple decisions, still hungry after eating all day, catching colds and viruses, sudden weepiness or emotional volatility, and becoming accident prone or clumsy, are ways the body exhibits the need for more restorative sleep. Ways to combat this is to aim for seven to eight hours of sleep each night, exercise, follow routines, keep busy with interesting activities, eat healthy, and limit caffeine intake. We can use this information to make sure our participants get a good night's rest, and be a little more understanding when they are having some of these symptoms.

What's Been Going On ALS-LM?

► Winterfest

On January 17, 2010, ALS-LM held the Annual Winterfest Party. We had a terrific buffet lunch, great music, dancing and a lot of fun!!! The event was attended by staff, board members and participants from all sites. It was a nice afternoon of renewing friendships and celebrating all the great people affiliated with this company.



► Valentine's Day



Macomb DD celebrated the holiday with a brunch at the office. Eight participants watched a movie and made a special craft.

Sugarbush Home hosted several Macomb group homes on the evening of February 12th. They provided pizza and snacks. The house was decorated with red and pink everywhere. Terry made some gorgeous pink cupcakes. Yum!!!

Adult Learning System Lower Michigan Inc.

1954 S. Industrial Suite A
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

