

# What's happening at Harry's!

Harry Meyering Center, Inc. Employee Newsletter

January 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR

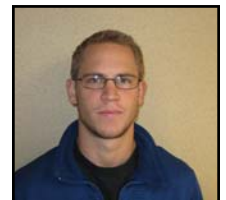
Value of the Month: Respectful Communication

There are certain times in a young man's life that leave him with long lasting perspectives, times that can change how he acts and feels about certain things as he grows and becomes his own person. For example, a young man shaving for the first time may, to some, be simple and unordinary. However, this is not just his first time shaving, it is a landmark time in his life, he has now matured to an age where it is his duty to well groom his own face and create the man he aspires to be. He is not shaving because it is just a necessity, he is shaving to represent himself and it is a part of growing up that can leave lasting impressions.

Situations like this one are reminders that it is very important to remember that sometimes the services HMC provides are much more than simply just care giving. In events like a young man's first time shaving, it can either make or break his impression on more than just shaving for the rest of his life. By providing a memorable and heart felt lesson on shaving you go past just simply finishing the task at hand. Instead you are allowing for him to not only learn how to shave, but to help him build a strong self image and confidence.

It is a privilege to help someone on such a personal and positive level, yet often times we are so busy doing what needs getting done that we overlook these opportunities to help improve someone's sense of self. Recognizing when there is this ability to make a large change can often times be difficult to recognize from the other busy things going on. To simply step back and make the decision to go the extra step and make certain situations meaningful is one that can make a huge difference.

Article submitted by Ethan Jacobsma.



Ethan is a DSP in our SLS program and joined us in September 2010.

Thank you Ethan for such a wonderful example of HMC values in practice. He has captured the essence of what it means to embrace the life changing opportunities a person in the job of DSP can create. Thanks to you Ethan, and to all of you who do the small and large things every day that bring growth and happiness to the people we serve. Carol Lee, Executive Director

We value respectful communication which promotes and protects the interests of individuals served, employees, and the agency.

At our most recent staff meeting, the staff from Homestead Center Unit talked about 'Respectful Communication' and what things they see that represent this Value in Action.

Here are some of their thoughts:

"I love how much staff praise the individuals and offer words of encouragement"

"Staff do a great job of using manners and role modeling this to the individuals"

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"Even though the individuals are non-verbal staff do a good job of talking through everything that is going on during their day"

"Trainers and other staff do a good job of sharing 'helpful hints' with new staff to help make the day go more smoothly"

"I appreciate the communication regarding changes with individuals, both in programming and medical".

These were just some of the many things that Center Unit staff are hearing. Thanks to the AMAZING staff on Center for your Respectful Communication!!

**Submitted by Amanda Vortherms and Steph Menke**

We value respectful communication which promotes and protects the interests of individuals served, employees, and the agency.

### **Value: Communication**

When you think about ways you communicate with other people the number one way most people would answer would be through talking. For Doug Wilder talking is not something he can do with his own voice, Doug was born with the inability to speak. Yet Doug calls home weekly and jokes around with staff and roommates. Doug has the ability to communicate through a device called a Dynavox. A Dynavox is a portable device that gives Doug the ability to communicate with others. It is like computer with a touch screen that has many different words and phrases that Doug uses on daily basics. It's Doug's form of talking. Through this device Doug is able to carry on conversations with family, friends, co-workers, staff, doctors the list is endless!! It gives Doug the tools to communicate his wants and needs and gives him independence. I asked Doug what he liked most about his device and this is what he answered. Doug said the he likes that he can call his mom and dad and other family members. He also said the he likes that his devise is new and has many more features that helps him to communicate. Doug's ending comment was that is Dynavox was GOOD!!!

**Submitted by Heather Duncanson & Melissa Bell**

### ***From the desk of Carol Lee, Executive Director:***

At the recent Dept. of Health exit meeting, the surveyors complimented the ICF staff for the meaningful and thoughtful communication they observed in the apartments. They were impressed with the calm way that staff talked to people directing them to and through tasks and diverting them from anticipated upsets. They were very impressed with the teaching that they saw. Respectful communication is contagious. The surveyors impressions reflect the careful selection of dedicated staff, staff training and the ongoing modeling.

***February Value of the Month: We value teaching and/or supporting individuals served in the accomplishment of their goals. Submit your stories by February 21st.***

## From the desk of Brenda Allen, HR Director

The new year brings a few good byes.

We extend congratulations and best wishes to Marcella Eiders. Marcella will be retiring on December 30th.

Marcella began her career at HMC in December 1986, as our Activity Coordinator. She moved into a Day Assistant position in 1989 and to ICF Building Manager in 1991. She held this position until October 2000, when she transferred to our SLS Program. During her time in the SLS program, she supported a gentleman through end of life. She then transferred back to ICF Homestead, before joining our SILS program in April of 2009.



Congratulations Marcella on your retirement!

Marcella's skill and expertise allowed her to work in all three of HMC's programs. She has touched the lives of many and will be greatly missed. Good luck Marcella!



We also say good bye to Mary Hale, office coordinator. I had the privilege of meeting Mary in 1985 when she was joined us as Secretary. She was HMC's secretary from 1985 until 1987. Mary and I became reacquainted again in 1992 when she joined our SILS program for a short time as Secretary. Mary was rehired again in August 2000 as a part-time Secretary, and was promoted to Office Coordinator in 2006.

Good luck Mary! We will miss seeing you in the office each day!

Mary's longevity, experience and commitment to HMC has been a tremendous benefit to our office. She will be greatly missed. Mary's last day is January 14<sup>th</sup>. Good luck Mary!

And I also bid you all farewell in 2011. I will be retiring on January 14th. I started my career at HMC when I was 19 years old! During my 31 years, I've had lots of opportunities to grow and learn, and many people, both consumers and staff, who have had a tremendous impact on my life. I was given a gift 31 years ago when I walked through the doors at HMC for which I will be forever grateful. I have a "bucket list" and I am fortunate that I can now start checking those items off my list. My immediate goal is to spend time with my family. My father passed away a couple months ago, and I'm looking forward to spending more time with my mom. And I'm very excited about spending time with my six grandchildren, all under the age of 7! Thank you to everyone at HMC, I will miss all of you! Brenda



Brenda and six reasons for retiring!

You are invited to a  
retirement celebration

honoring Marcella and Brenda  
Monday, January 3rd 2:30–4:00 p.m.  
Homestead conference room

Potluck honoring  
Mary Hale

Friday, January 14th Noon–1 p.m.  
Conference Room  
Bring a dish to pass

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE JOIN US!**



With all the snow we've had this month the men of **Apartment 1B** have found it very difficult to get around the town! But even with the snow, each of them were able to embrace the weather. **John** stayed warm by drinking caribou coffee and eating out at Mongolian Grill. He also found new scents he likes at bath and body works. **Louis** had a good time purchasing Christmas gift's for his family and is excited to spend the holidays with them. Louis also celebrated his birthday this month by getting a free meal at Mexican Village! **Rick** finally made it to see Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows Part one this month after having it postponed due to the snow! He hopes to attend the midnight showing in the summer! Rick also found gifts for his family and is excited to spend time with

them over the holidays. **Richard** was able to get in all his Dun Bros trips in before the snow came. He also celebrated Christmas with his family this year and enjoyed the time spent with them. The men of Apartment 1B wish you all a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

**Michelle Brunn and Melanie Anhorn Co-Leads**

### Happy Holidays!



The ladies in apartment three have been busy with the holiday and all the festivities!

Donna has been participating in all the holiday festivities and spending time with family. She loves all her presents and said she got exactly what she wanted. She really enjoyed making a gingerbread house, but doesn't want to get rid of it. She said she really enjoyed going to the Harry Potter movie with a friend, while enjoying some popcorn!

Monica also got to spend some time with a friend for the holiday! She enjoyed some coffee and played cards! Monica got to be pampered this month and went and got her nails done. She also went to the mall and did some walking while looking at all the Christmas decorations and lights.

Myra also got to go mall walking and look at all the pretty Christmas decorations. She got to enjoy all the Christmas shopping and the rush of the holidays. She even got a new romance novel to have read to her. She has been enjoying going to Cold stone and getting her special dessert.

**Ashley Beranek & Stephanie Miller**

The Guys in Apartment two have been busy this month getting ready for 2011!!!

Lon: Lon has had a fun filled month from going out to eat to helping direct the Christmas choir at church. Lon spent Christmas with his sister!

Doug: Doug has been enjoying going to BW3 to watch football on Sundays. He is still faithful to the Vikings. Doug spent Christmas at his parents with his family!

Clinton: Clinton has enjoyed the many of the different holiday activities! Clinton spent Christmas with his family.



**Heather Duncanson & Melissa Bell**

*(Continued on page 5)*

### ***A special message from Melissa Bell, Co-Lead***

Thank you to the guys in apartment two for letting me be a part of your lives. You have taught me so many life lessons!!

- Lon: I will always remember your grease and Elvis performances. You have the ability to put a smile on anyone's face... From you I learned kindness and unconditional love.
  - Doug: "You stink" I think you may be the only man who will ever be able to get away with telling girls they stink and that they need a hair cut. From you I learned humor and your contagious laugh.
  - Clinton: I could only wish I could dance as well as you! From you I learned how to dance as if no one is watching and live in the moment rather than worrying about what others think.
- I will miss you all to pieces, thanks for being such amazing men to work with!!!

Claudia- Thank you so much for being such a wonderful supervisor. I have learned so much from you!! Thank you for pushing me and for all the life lessons you have taught me.

Heather- Thank you for putting up with me as a co-lead.

Mo- Thank you for being such an amazing mentor and friend, thank you for all the great advice and life lessons you have given me.

Katie- Thank you for you always putting a smile on everyone's face and for all your support and great advise, it has been an honor to work with you!

Michelle- It was an honor to be a fellow lead with you. Thank you for all you support and advise.

**Melissa**



Mark Smith- Is really enjoying the Christmas season he got a package in the mail with Christmas gifts in it. The day after Christmas he went to his sister-in-laws for supper with his family.

Chris Diem- Left for vacation on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month and spent the week with his dad for Christmas. He came back very excited to show everyone his new clothes he got for Christmas.

Ben Johnson- Ben was so happy to get the new Madden 2011 from his sister for Christmas. Ben also spent Christmas Eve with Kelly Schiller and her family he said that he had lots of fun!

Jason Lauwagie- Jason has been loving Christmas time because of all the music especially all the music at Church they have been playing this month for Christmas!

Dan Bilek- Dan has been running around showing off all his new gifts from his sister he got he is especially excited to show off his new watch that lights up!

Bob Pabst- Bob has been in the hospital this month due to some health complications. He has been getting visitors almost everyday from staff. On Christmas the nurse Jennifer took his gifts up to him to open!

Mike Dreyer- Mike has been enjoying this Christmas season he loves to lay on his couch and stare at the Christmas tree all lit up!

**Heather Prokosch and Amanda Danberry DSP Co-Leads**

## *Goodbye and Good Luck*

Good Luck to you Mary...you will be missed!! - Melissa Steffensmeier

Brenda Congratulations on your retirement! HMC has been fortunate to have you here in your various capacities over the years. You have helped to build a strong workforce. Your skills and insight will be missed. Enjoy your grandma time!! Leslie

Marcella—I wish you the very best retirement! Let's get together for lunch (we could invite Claudia to join us, but she will probably have to work!!) Brenda

Mary, You have been the glue keeping us all together and organized for so many years. After working with you, I want you to know you just made things much easier in my life. I wish you well on your new endeavors and will think of you often. Best Wishes. Pauline

Brenda: What can I say, you are an amazing person. You have helped me through a lot of things as I went from job to job in this company. Thank you for your understanding, your enthusiasm, and your unbelievable kindness. HMC is not going to be with same without you and you will be thoroughly missed. Congrats on your retirement! Amanda Wilcox

Marcella, Congratulations on your retirement! I'm looking forward to going garage "sailing" with you. What bargains will we find? Connie

Mary Hale: Best wishes on wherever your talents and skills take you! You have so many to pick from! Thank you so much for the many ways you have helped me and all of us to keep moving forward! - Carol Lee

Mary, Thanks for all the work you have done for HMC!! Enjoy your next chapter! Leslie

Marcella, Congratulations on your retirement! It has been a pleasure to work with you. You have a made a real difference in the lives of many you worked with over the years. Enjoy!! Leslie

Brenda, you are a truly amazing person. You are very professional, gracious, understanding, knowledgeable, respectful and supportive person. You have touched many lives and I will forever be grateful to you in giving me a chance when I had no experience. I wish you all the good times, relaxation, and adventures you will have during your retirement. I hope you go for that Master Gardener certification. You will be nurturing plants and flowers with the loving care that you have shown us here. You will be missed! Connie Dirckx

Marcella: We are all grateful for the many roles you have played at HMC! I hope you have many great memories of your experiences. I am thrilled for you and the opportunities ahead.—Carol Lee

Brenda, your leaving is a sad time for everyone that knows you at HMC and a sad time for you as well. Focusing on the future, you've been given the rare gift of time to retire early and spend your valuable time with your family. You deserve it – enjoy everything. –Joey

Best wishes to you Mary Hale as you move on to new things! Thanks for all you have done for all of us here at HMC!~Shyla



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Brenda, I will be so sad to see you go. Your patience and wisdom have been invaluable to me. I have learned to be a better professional throughout the time I have spent with you. Judy

Mary—you are a lady of many talents. Thanks for sharing them with everyone all these years. May your years ahead be full of love and laughter. Marcella

Congratulations, Brenda, on your retirement! It will be hard to imagine HMC without you! Thank you for all the excellent applicants you have sent my direction for interviews; you have an exceptional eye for quality! You will be missed! Joel Chindvall

Mary, your energy will be missed. I'm glad that we will still be seeing you as a volunteer. Thank you for your efforts over all these years. Judy

Thank you Brenda for all that you have done over the years at HMC! We are going to miss you greatly around here! Enjoy your retirement! Brooke Riley

Congratulations Marcella! Happy Retirement and a great big THANKS for all you have done over the years at HMC.~Shyla

Happy Retirement Marcella!!! - Melissa Steffensmeier

Mary Hale...Thank You for the creative energy and efficiency that you have brought to HMC for so many years! You truly will be missed...best wishes always as you follow your next dream...Karin Ambros-Ward, SILS



Marcella, How wonderful for you to be able to retire! It has been a great time working with you these 24 years. I do believe you have accomplished every direct care task there is to do. Thanks for your many dedicated years of service, your humor and your integrity. HMC and our consumers were so fortunate you are a part of our history. Best Wishes. Pauline

Brenda, Thanks for everything you have done for HMC, You had the ability to hire some of the best people out there! You will be a hard act to follow! Thanks for all you did to provide our clients with dedicated, caring staff for all these years! Katie Shabrack

Marcella, You are going to be greatly missed! No matter what kind of day you had.... You always are smiling!!!! Hard not to smile when you are around! Thanks for all you did for HMC, Enjoy your retirement! Katie Shabrack

Congratulations Brenda on your RETIREMENT! You will most certainly be missed by HMC! I appreciate all you have done over the years to help me do my job well and grow professionally. I have learned a great deal from you and have really enjoyed working with you. Enjoy your time with your family, your garden and your vacations! I wish you the very best and I will miss you! ~Shyla

Cella – Cella – Cella!! I can't believe you are retiring. How exciting!! Thank you for your years of service and dedication to the people you have supported. I certainly hope you enjoy yourself and that you will come back and visit! -- Judi Leibbrand

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Brenda, Congrats on your Retirement and I hope you have a lot of fun things planned! Thank you for all of your help in my supervisor training and getting me started in my current position. Take care!!  
Erica Stevenson

Mary Hale – My brain share!! You are about to begin the next chapter of your life and I can't wait to see where it takes you. I am so appreciative of the years of support and assistance – there are too things to say all that you have done for me. You know what needs to be done before I even ask and this is SOOO helpful. You have been a fixture at HMC for so many years and your presence will be missed more than you can imagine. You are not only a wonderful co-worker, but a great friend. I wish you the best of luck wherever life may lead you. -- Judi Leibbrand

Mary Hale, you have taught me a lot. You are a very patient, down-to-earth, talented and supportive person. Thank you for all of the life lessons you have shared with me. I am a better person for having worked with you. I wish you all the good times, relaxation and adventures you will have. I will probably see smoke in the sky from your sewing machine on overdrive. Watch out for your fingers. Your handy-work is very professional looking; you're very talented. I will miss you and the talks that we've had; especially the Green Mill and Pagliai's pizza! Take care, Connie Dirckx

Marcella, I'm glad I had the opportunity to work with you in SILS. The best to you. Steven

Brenda-- Thanks for all you have done over your time at HMC. You have been a great support to me and to others. You will be missed. I wish you the best of luck in the next chapter of your life!!!  
Amanda V.

Mary Hale---Thanks for all you have done over they years!!! I am sure we will be in touch when someone needs a pair of pants hemmed.--Amanda V.

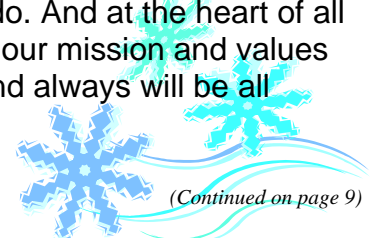
Mary – can we call you at home if (when) we can't find something?? Seriously, you will be missed on many different levels! Good luck and stop in often. Donna

Brenda, I truly can't believe you are leaving to be "Super Grandma," watch Dr.Oz, eat chocolate, and IRON!! You will be missed but not forgotten. You are leaving a legacy! Thank you for all that you have accomplished and given to HMC and to so many of us individually. Donna Drganc

Marcella – I can't even imagine you not being someplace within HMC. You have given so much to this organization. Thank you for the years, commitment, energy, and passion!! Donna

Brenda, It has all been good. I wish you the best in your next new adventure. Steven

Brenda Allen – And so the day you leave us draws near... soon you will be having days with your grandchild, time to play in your garden and to just enjoy. I am sure you will find lots of fun things to keep you busy. I have been honored to work with you over the years. You have always been so much more than a supervisor – you are a mentor, a supporter and a friend – and I am grateful for that. In your years at HMC you have made such a difference in all that we do. And at the heart of all you do is ensuring that we have the best workforce so that we can achieve our mission and values by providing the best supports and services possible – which is what it is and always will be all about. Know that you will be missed. -- Judi Leibbrand



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Brenda- Your achievements at HMC have been numerous! You have been there for us in so many ways through the years, from the old ICF days, SILS in Devonshire (memorable times!), the Downtown office days and our return to the new ICF. You were the driver of progress in the technological realm. Your wisdom and ethics have been a rock we could all depend on; your understanding of HR issues is phenomenal. We will miss you!! Wishing you the very Best wherever your path takes you. Mary Bloodgood.

Brenda, Congratulations on your retirement...very well DESERVED!! You will be missed at HMC as you have been instrumental in the success and growth of HMC. I personally will miss your expertise and knowledge and the stories of your winter vacations!!! Enjoy your retirement to the fullest!!! :) - Melissa Steffensmeier

Mary –Thank you for sharing your many talents with us during your time at HMC. I admire your dedication to helping improve people’s lives and adhering to high standards. Best Wishes for the future. Mary Bloodgood.

Marcella, have fun in your retirement. I just can’t see you sitting still for long. Keep in touch with us. It’s been wonderful working with you. Judy

MARCELLA EILDERS, SILS-DSP and FRIEND; You have brought such passion, kindness, caring and energy to this job every day, it has been a joy to work with you. Your creative nature and generous spirit have touched the lives of many everyday and will not be forgotten. Thank you for all you have done...now it’s truly your turn to enjoy yourself! Warmest wishes, Karin Ambros-Ward

Mary, thank you for all that you have done for the Harry Meyering Center over the years! We will miss you! Brooke Riley

Brenda I hope your retirement is as fulfilling and creative as your time at HMC has been. You deserve a wonderful 50 years of fun for all your hard work here. Claudia

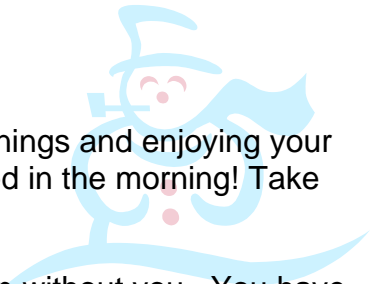
Marcella, thank you for all of your teamwork and kind words since you have been a part of the SILS team. We will miss you greatly! It has been nice to get kind notes of encouragement, thoughtfulness when giving things to my son, and all of the treats that you have brought in to help keep us going! I wish you the best in the years to come and will truly miss you! Brooke Riley

Marcella – Best Wishes for a Happy and fulfilling retirement. We have all benefited from your dedication to HMC. I am especially grateful for all you have shared with us at SILS. The relationships you have built with the people you serve have been excellent. You will be missed by many! Mary Bloodgood

Oh Brenda,  
You have been so very special to this agency and to me. After 31 years of working together, I can’t even describe what it will feel like on your last day. You have worked in many positions and started so many systems for us, you are just amazing. Your integrity, commitment, and doing everything in a class act manner leaves your legacy at HMC. I wish you the very best. I know you will enjoy every moment of retirement. Pauline



*(Continued on page 10)*



Congratulations, Marcella, on your retirement! I miss seeing you in the mornings and enjoying your delicious treats! I was spoiled doing overnights at House 6 when you worked in the morning! Take care and keep in touch! Don't be a stranger! Joel Chindvall

Brenda: It doesn't seem possible that after 31 years HMC will be moving on without you. You have done so much to prepare HMC for the future challenges that will need to be faced. You have been a pivotal force in the sustaining of our values and our culture and taught us all a great deal. I am excited for all the plans you have made to continue to share your energy and wisdom with others and to have some great fun.—Carol Lee

Mary, We are going to miss your organization, your willingness to always go out of the way to help everyone and your kind heart! Thanks for all you did for HMC! Katie Shabrack

Cella – You also gave HMC so much for so long, inspiring and cheering many of us up along the way. Thanks for your time. John Ganey

Best wishes to Brenda Allen and Marcella Eiders on your retirement from HMC. One never regrets time spent with family. Also, good luck to Mary Hale and thank you for all you've done for HMC staff and consumers alike. Tom Frisk

Brenda...I can't believe I'm wishing you well on YOUR retirement...life has moved along too quickly, and your contributions have been too numerous to count. We can measure things by the files you have created, the policies and manuals you have helped develop and the committees you have been a part of. The most important factor has been the number of people you have welcomed to our agency and screened so carefully, so they could move forward and contribute their talents to our workforce. THANK YOU for touching so many lives and being such a positive influence to so many. Now go and have all the time you need to hug and kiss those precious grandchildren....best wishes, Karin Ambros-Ward

Mary – You have always been helpful in your varied stints with us at HMC. I've enjoyed your company and thoughts, and you've generally been a cheerful and happy co-worker. Thanks for your time and efforts. John Ganey

Mary - I have really enjoyed working with you all these years. You have done a wonderful job and will be greatly missed! Enjoy spending time with your grandchildren and sewing. Keep us updated on all your fun projects! - Shirley

Brenda - Have you changed your mind yet? Are ya sure? j/k Congratulations! Thanks for being such a WONDERFUL supervisor and friend. Your support and encouragement have been awesome. You have taught me so much in 13 years that I have been working at HMC. I'm still trying to figure how you get everything done. You're like Wonder Woman, balancing work and home life. I will miss tremendously! Hope that your retirement is all that you dreamed of! - Shirley

Marcella – Congratulations on your retirement! We will miss you! Enjoy! - Shirley

Brenda – you have been fun and professional to work with. We have been beneficiaries of your career. Enjoy what is next for you, and thank you so very much for all you have given to HMC. John Ganey

The SILS/SLS Annual Christmas Party was held at First Presbyterian Church December 16th on one of our many "snow advisory" days. Thank you to Julie and Becky who graciously transported food and equipment to serve a delicious Turkey with the trimmings dinner to all who attended (50+). The Singing Cowboy provided entertainment and several "lucky people" won very nice door prizes. Thank you to Katie and Leslie for organizing the party and Jessica and Katie for decorating for the festivities. Thanks to all who transported people through the snow to the event and assisted them to safely traverse the snowy/icy sidewalks. It was a lot of effort from a lot of people and it was a success! Mary Bloodgood



Myron visits with the Singing Cowboy's friend, the Grinch.

## *Holiday Celebrations!*

Rosemary enjoys a laugh at the Christmas party.



## *Employee Holiday Party*



Judi, Brenda and Shirley

Thanks to everyone who baked and bought at the Bake Sale on December 10!! We made \$195.50!!!

The employee holiday party was held on December 10th. Thanks to the holiday party committee and everyone who helped prior to and after the party to set up. Special thanks to our kitchen staff for the delicious treats, to Donna Drganc for organizing the bake sale and to the Board of Directors, Carol Lee, and our finance department for the holiday gift check!



Our dietary department made the treats!



Carol and Donna enjoy a game of Wii.



Employees enjoyed an opportunity to visit with one another and pick up their holiday gift

## *That's Teamwork!*

To: Joey Freyberg

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! I can't tell you how much I appreciate your assistance and willing to teach Rule 40 at the last minute. I appreciate your willingness to drop what you were doing to help out.

From: Judi Leibbrand

THANK YOU to all the wonderful and caring staff from the ICF Center Unit Apt. #5; especially the leadership of Amanda Vortherms; the thorough and attentive care provided by the nurses and the Apartment staff, who provided encouragement and support, to a person from SILS during a post-op recovery period. KUDOS also to the dietary and activities staff for fulfilling the person's additional needs. It was an amazing arrangement and to have this support continues to validate the quality of services throughout the HMC organization. Thanks again for everything that you do so well... Karin Ambros-Ward, SILS

From Claudia Cooper:

- Stephanie, Katie, and Faith - stepping up and stepping forward! Thanks for joining the Building Charge team!
- Congrats to Jen W. the new lead for the men in 1A - looking forward to working with you to help them reach their goals.
- Thanks to everyone for weathering the weather to help people get their Holiday shopping done.
- Good Luck to Melissa and Ashley on the next steps in their career building.

Erica- Thanks for all the hard work with the team you supervise! Things look great!--Amanda

Cassi- Keep up the great work!! You are doing a great job at PE!--Amanda

Thanks to the Amazing staff at PE, Alyssa, Brittany, and Tammy who worked the blizzard of December and lived at the house for the weekend. thanks for stepping up and doing an amazing job serving the individuals.--Amanda!!

From: Michelle Brunn DSP/LEAD

- Thank you to all of the staff who helped with holiday plans this year. The men as well as Melanie and I appreciate all your help.
- Thank you Melanie for all that you do not only for the men we serve but for me as well. You are always there when I need you most. I do not know what I would do with out you! I look forward to the years to come J
- Melissa- You are truly an amazing person and have done so much for the men in apt 2. It will be sad not to have you with us, but I wish you the best of luck in your new adventure!
- Claudia- I have been so fortunate to be able to work with you the past year. I have learned so much from you already and know that I will continue to learn. I appreciate your sense of humor and how you help me see things in a different light.
- Marissa- Thank you for helping any time it is needed. You are a great role model for staff and are always acting in a professional manner.

## Wonderful News!



Thank you to my friend, John, for the very special surprise! The puzzle of our picture is wonderful. It will hang proudly in my home! You are a very special person and you have touched my life warmly and genuinely. You have made me feel really happy! I will always cherish this picture! Thank you! Connie

HMC...Board of Directors...Financial Department: THANK YOU all for the Holiday Bonus...it is very much appreciated!! --Karin Ambros-Ward, SILS

THANK YOU to the wonderful Dietary Staff, Julie Erdman and Becky Rannow for the delicious Holiday Dinner you prepared for the SILS Annual event! We all look forward to it every year! Thanks, SILS Program

Welcome to the night shift Dan, Doug and Sabrina! I look forward to working with you. Erica Stevenson

Congratulations Joyce Anderson! Joyce and Mark are the proud parents of Lillian Rebecca, born December 13th.

### Community Day @ Herbergers

We earned a bonus check by meeting the three requirements of selling 50 books prior to the sale, selling books in the store, and returning unused books. We sold 94 books total and earned an additional \$202.75 in bonus for a total of \$675.75!!

Thank you to Amanda Vortherms, Mary Bloodgood, Claudia Cooper, Judy Ehmk, Mary Kay Foley, Ashley Carter and especially Karin Ambros-Ward for their help selling books and standing at entrance doors of the store. And thank you to everyone who bought a book!

Donna Drganc

TO: Joey – David – Melanie – Jill – Amanda V – Laura J – John – Steven – Abby – Claudia – Donna – Shyla – Judy A – Brenda - JoAnn – Jessica – Kelly – Jennifer – Melinda – Stacy – Valerie – Amy Jo – Lisa – Linda – Brittany  
FROM: Judi Leibbrand, Staff Development Director

We Value a well-trained, diverse work-force committed to person-centered services and the contributions they make as team members.

I want to say THANK YOU for your all of your efforts in teaching inservices, day 2 orientation, supervisor training and volunteer training!! It is because of your efforts and commitment that we are able to live up to the standards of our workforce value. I appreciate your commitment to ensuring that HMC has the best trained employees possible!

We will be adding new trainers next year and I look forward to working with all of you as we move forward.

## Job Openings

For a current list of openings, contact HR Dept, or check out on-line at [www.harrymeyercenter.org](http://www.harrymeyercenter.org)

Go to “employee only” tab. Enter your first and last name, and your password is the last four digits of your social security number. You’ll find current job openings on the bottom right column.

## Welcome new employees

Douglas Pearson	DSP Night
Anna Potz	DSP
Jennifer Schaffer	Human Resources Director
Antonio Conda	DSP
Nate Dudgeon	DSP
Omar Enriquez	DSP
Wade French	DSP
Sabrina Hershberger	DSP Night
Tessa Huber	DSP
David Meyer	DSP
Keith Peterson	DSP
Holly Willson	Supportive Living Coordinator

## Website Launched to Help People with Disabilities

### Explore Work

DHS has recently partnered in the launch of a comprehensive benefits and work planning website created for Minnesotans with disabilities, their families and professionals.

Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) — [www.db101.org](http://www.db101.org) — provides easy access to facts, tools and resources needed to help people understand benefits, explore work as an option and set goals. More information about the website is online.

**Welcome  
to all of you!**



We extend our sympathy to Molly Cook and family. Molly’s grandfather passed away this month.

## Volunteers



Twice a month, Jane Horton volunteers to work with consumers at HMC’s Craft Club. Jane is a local artist and recently had several of her art works highlighted in an art show at Twin Rivers Center for the Arts.

Jane is now looking forward to assisting our HMC artists with a creative and fun painting activity in January. She has been kind enough to donate several table easels to the HMC Activities Department to make painting easier for those artists.

The individuals Jane works with enjoy her enthusiasm and have gained new art skills through these enhancing opportunities. Thank you Jane!

# Staff Recognition

*This month we recognize DSP's working at ICF-Homestead!*

## **DSP**

Mary Baldwin  
Caitlin Bassett  
Sarah Bedore  
Brittan Bezdicek  
Hilary Bobier  
Elizabeth Braun  
Brittany Butler  
Elizabeth Cannaday  
Joshua Carstens  
Molly Cook  
Ashley Crane  
Calla Duncan  
Emily Fisher  
Alec Ganske  
Katie Hanson  
Heidi Heuer  
Tessa Huber  
Faith Jorud  
Mohamed Kamara

Rojeena Kayastha  
Kalpana Koju  
Kelsey Leverty  
Kelsey Ling  
Hanna Massey  
Erin McKee  
Connor Murphy  
Lynnae Nelson  
Megan O'Brien  
Dianna Payne  
Keith Peterson  
Jeffrey Plath  
Jason Ross  
Marie Schmidt  
Manoj Shah  
Jill Sohre  
Kara Vollmer  
Caitlyn Von Bokern  
Angela Wallerich

## **DSP Lead**

Melanie Anhorn  
Jessica Baer  
Michelle Brunn  
Amanda Danberry  
Heather Duncanson  
Stephanie Miller  
Heather Prokosch  
Jessica Raymond  
Jennifer Worrall

## **DSP Mentor**

Ashley Mattice



Thanks to those who helped shovel snow from our rooftop! Shown here: Joey, DeAnn, John



## *January Anniversaries*

### 31 Years

Brenda Allen                      January 14, 1980

### 24 Years

Thomas Frisk                      January 26, 1987

### 23 Years

Karla VanRossum                      January 4, 1988

### 22 Years

Richard Bernardy                      January 4, 1989

### 16 Years

Mohamed Kamara                      January 20, 1995

Deborah Schoener                      January 26, 1995

### 11 Years

John Terhurne                      January 3, 2000

### 6 Years

Melinda Neubert                      January 7, 2005

### 5 Years

Katie Arnold                      January 20, 2006

### 3 Years

Laura Jordan                      January 11, 2008

Stephanie Menke                      January 25, 2008

Erin Trytten                      January 25, 2008

### 2 Years

Mandy Eidem                      January 6, 2009

Amanda Wilson                      January 10, 2009

Raeann Mortimer-Mulcahy                      January 15, 2009

Charlene Tryhus                      January 15, 2009

Joshua Wegner                      January 20, 2009

Kelsey Dale                      January 23, 2009

Stephanie Duffy                      January 23, 2009

Karissa Krenke                      January 23, 2009

### 1 Year

Tina Cowan                      January 7, 2010

Chelsi Johnson                      January 7, 2010

Jane Mueller                      January 22, 2010

Emily Myers                      January 22, 2010

Kristine Rude                      January 22, 2010

Jessica Cassem                      January 26, 2010



## *January Birthdays*

Kristal Miller                      January 1

Keith Peterson                      January 2

Jeffrey Menk                      January 3

Blake Rod                      January 4

Adeline Ngum                      January 5

Tracey Truebenbach                      January 7

Jami George                      January 8

Sheila Noska                      January 8

Laura Jordan                      January 9

Marcella Eilders                      January 10

David McCullough                      January 10

Rebekah Utz                      January 11

Caitlyn Von Bokern                      January 12

Heather Hulke                      January 14

Dianna Payne                      January 14

Hilary Bobier                      January 17

Kelsey Leverty                      January 18

Kelly Altenburg                      January 19

Michael Hollibush                      January 20

Ashley Hauge                      January 20

Leslie Bohnert                      January 21

Amanda Wedel                      January 21

Molly Cook                      January 21

Heather Duncanson                      January 24

Molly Barnett                      January 24

Ashley Mattice                      January 27

Erin McKee                      January 27

Jennifer Hunter                      January 28

Kirbie Mayer                      January 28

Leticia Johnson                      January 31

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