

# What's happening at Harry's!

Harry Meyering Center, Inc. Employee Newsletter

March 2011

Value of the Month: Emotionally-Safe Environment



When Lowell came to visit house 5 on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 he was terrified. He was afraid his sister was going to just drop him off and leave him here. Upon arriving he didn't want to get out of the car and kept telling his sister Mary he wanted to go home. This presented us with a difficult challenge. We were already aware Lowell moving here would be his third move in less than a year. Upon walking into the house Lowell looked down at the ground as everyone approached him to say hello and welcome. One of the guys from house 5 waltzed right up to him, shook his hand and patted him on the back.

Lowell then walked to the living room with everyone and reluctantly sat down on the couch. Staff began to ask him questions about what he liked to do. Lowell began to cry. He looked at his sister and kept repeating, "I want to go home. I don't want to stay here." Lowell's sister and case manager tried to explain to him moving to HMC would be much better in accommodating him in what he wants to do; along with HMC's staff we explained he would get to go places with just "he and staff." He would be able to go places he wanted to go to and do activities he wanted to participate in. Lowell kept crying and telling his sister "I want to go home, I don't want to stay here."

As reluctant as he was Lowell did manage to get up and walk down the hallway to see where his potential room might be. He peaked around the door frame but didn't dare walk into the room. Staff told him he could paint his room any color he liked and he could decorate it however he wanted to. Lowell still didn't want to go into the bedroom. He looked at Mary and asked if they could go home.



Lowell then returned to living room to say goodbye to the staff and to the guys. As Lowell was getting ready to leave Melissa helped him put his coat on. She zipped the jacket about ¼ of the way and said "Now you do the rest." Lowell hesitated for a minute and then zipped it the rest of the way. He then looked up at Melissa with tear filled eyes and said, "I can live here." Everyone was a little taken aback by that statement and asked him to repeat it. He looked at his sister and said, "I want to live here." After being so terrified about coming to visit, Lowell then understood his sister and case manager only wanted what was best for him and to make sure he had the most emotionally safe environment possible. Lowell left with his sister in a great mood, but not before making sure that all of his CD's could come with him.

*We Value an emotionally-safe environment which promotes security and a sense of well-being for all.*

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



## Value of the Month: Emotionally-Safe Environment



Jerry has a diagnosis of Autism. When his mother, also a traveling companion and guardian, had a stroke and was not doing well Jerry's team knew much work needed to be accomplished. Jerry denied being sad. His performance on program areas was suffering. Jerry's family and the staff at # 1, led by Samantha Rosevold, remained in close touch. Gently, everyone helped Jerry talk as much as he could at any given time.

Jerry's mom passed away over his Christmas break. When the family tried to tell Jerry his mom had passed away, he excused himself and said he needed to go check the Weather Channel. Understandingly, the family let him go. He came back much later for the rest of the news.

Jerry called the house to inform Samantha, the staff, and his roommates about his mom passing. Soon after that he called back again to relay the plans for her memorial. These were huge phone calls for Jerry to make and he did great with the help of his brother Scott. Samantha accepted the news and told Jerry she would share it with the staff and his housemates. She also informed Jerry they would all see him soon at the memorial.

Jerry told his brother 'she's in heaven....by the stars.' This was a great admission for Jerry to make. The family put Jerry's words, along with his name, on the back page of his mom's memorial booklet. When staff and housemates arrived at the memorial service, Jerry rushed to see everyone. He was subdued but doing well. He showed them the booklet and his words on the back.

Jerry is back home at his house now. He tells everyone he meets about his mother and the changes in his life, which is a very positive thing. Despite it being an overall team effort, Jerry's family was put in the position to do the brunt of the work. Strong indicators of teamwork and good teaching that are going on can be seen by the open and positive communication between family and staff, Jerry's trust in both Samantha and the staff, as well as how quickly he integrated his return into an atmosphere of concern and support.

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### **Our year-end appeal letter brought in \$5,300!**

The appeal was based on the creation of a **Dental Fund** for consumers who are having trouble paying dental bills because of the cuts to what and how often procedures are paid for by MA.

Please remember that this money is available to any consumer. Simply fill out a request form and submit to Donna Drganc.

Request forms can be picked up from any Program Director or from Donna.



A note from Jennifer Worrall:

**David** has been in the competitive spirit this month, playing various games with roommates and visitors. He even challenged some of the nursing staff to a few games of dominoes. He has also enjoyed watching a few movies at home and reading, reading and more reading.

**Steve Platt** has enjoyed many visits and phone calls from various family members this month. Steve and his family have enjoyed relaxing in the apartment talking and catching up. Also this month he went out and visited a friend from work to help celebrate his birthday. In addition to his outings and visits, Steve has enjoyed playing dominoes with his fellow roommates and visitors to the apartment.

**Richard** has been very busy this month. He has enjoyed snapping photos of friends and staff around the apartment and showing his photography skills off after getting his pictures developed. He has also enjoyed working on his latch hooking projects and playing dominoes with his fellow roommates and visitors to the apartment.

**Steve Prichard** has continued to enjoy his relaxing time at home and playing various games, such as Let's Go Fishing. (Keeping his fishing skills sharp for any possible fishing trips in the future) Steve is also working on reading a Harry Potter novel with his staff.

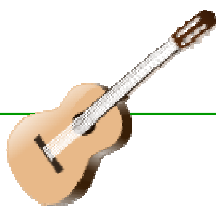
#### Hello from Apartment 2!

The guys in Apartment 2 spent this "month of love" doing things that they love.

**Doug** got in a lot of game time with his staff and roommates. Some of his favorite games are Skip-Bo, Crazy 8's and UNO. He also got to spend Super Bowl Sunday at Buffalo Wild Wings watching the game. He decided to put his usual dislike for the Packers aside and cheer them on for the win! Doug has also been trying to use up all of his Wal-Mart gift cards he got for the holidays by purchasing movies and other goodies.

**Lon** could hardly wait for the Super bowl to come. He went to his sisters for a 3 day stay and even got to skip a day of work to rest up after the big game! It was impossible to spot him the whole week prior to the game with anything on but Packers apparel. He even pretended to be the coach and made up a cheer for the team! Lon also went bowling this month and ran into some guys from his old bowling league. He is excited to start the league again soon!

**Clinton** has been spending a lot of time this month developing his music hobby. He has been making his weekly trips to the thrift store, where he usually gets cds or tapes. He has been loving his guitar that he got for Christmas. He plays it daily and loves when staff plays and sings along

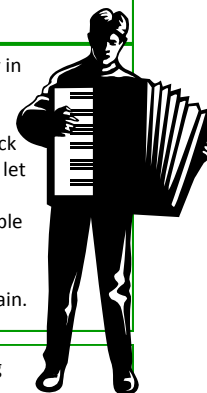


A note from Michelle Brunn and Melanie Anhorn  
Co-Leads:

The men of Apartment 1B have had an exciting month of February. Love was sure in the air in this apartment on Valentines Day as they baked heart shaped cookies. Richard L went to see a basketball game at Bethany Lutheran College this month and had a great time cheering the team on! He also went to pub 500 and critiqued music on Sunday afternoon. John has enjoyed walking at the mall and going to bath and body works. He also has tested his taste buds at Chinese restaurants in the Mankato area. Rick went to cheer on the Maverick men's basketball team, he meet a few players from the women's team and hopes to head to their games. He also went and listened to Dave Ross's band at the Savoy. Rick enjoyed the music and even got to bang on the drums! Louis listened to music at the wine café a few Friday afternoon's this month. He has been able to attend church more this month due to the nicer weather and has a great time being involved there. We are hoping for warmer weather soon! Spring fever is fast approaching!

Rick recently went to see Dave Ross's band perform at the Savoy in Mankato, MN and here is what he thought:

I had a really great time listening to their music and having a snack at the Savoy. I was pleasantly suppressed when I meet Norm; he let me play the drums with the band. I sure rocked down the house with my talent. I enjoyed their beat and sound, I think more people should check out the band, they are great! I also think that Dave should let me join the band; I sure can add some pizzazz to the band! I wish the band luck and can't wait until I can see them again.



Apartment 3—The ladies are definitely looking forward to spring after that couple of days of nice weather.

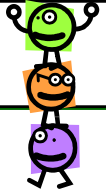
**Donna** has been enjoying herself. She has been visited every week by a dental hygiene student from MSU and loves talking to her and doing puzzles. She also has been enjoying bowling, swimming, and going to visit family each week. Donna has also showed interest in going to see some art galleries or museums, so she is looking for some good ones in the area.

**Myra** has been watching some movies, since the weather has been so cold, but still getting to enjoy her shopping and eating ice cream. Myra will soon get to start getting pampered and going to get her nails done every other month, which she will love.

**Monica** seemed excited when she found out that she also will be getting pampered and getting a pedicures. She is enjoying her Mocha floats every week and her coffee here at home. She recently just bought a new bedspread and will be getting her room redone!



# That's Teamwork!



A note from Lisa Barker:

A HUGE thanks to all of the staff at SLS 7: Danica, Sara, Tina, Emily, Alishia, Jaci, and Kathy for picking up extra shifts, problem solving when "un-expecteds" occurred, and for everything you always do for the gals! You allowed me to have a worry-free vacation knowing everything and everyone was in good hands! :)

Nicole ~Thank you for all of your help while I was on vacation; my to-do pile would have been twice as high without you! :)

Stacy ~ THANK YOU (that is all I can say, you did so much I do not even know where I would start)!!!! :)

Thank you # 26 staff for the wonderful job you do! It's been a crazy month with the new changes going on in the house and you guys always seem to stay on top of things! YOU GUYS ROCK! THANK YOU!  
Nicole



Kara- Welcome to the lead team! I'm really excited to begin working as a co-lead with you!  
Heather Duncanson

THANK YOU to Melinda Neubert, Melanie Woller, JoAnn Doyscher for all of the help, consultation and follow-through. THANK YOU to all the staff at SLS #6 and Prairie's Edge for the extra work with cleaning and laundry and everything else. THANK YOU to Chris Korn and Jeff Menke for cutting checks so quickly and Pauline Rose who came in Saturday night for "Financial Emergency". THANK YOU to John Terhurne, Rick Bernardy, Dave McCulloch and DeeAnn Weaver for the extra running, cleaning and supply shopping. THANK YOU to Carol Lee and Jen Schaffer for assistance and consultation. This is what team work is all about!! I want you all to know that I appreciate ALL that you have done and continue to do as we move forward with this health situation. THANKS!! Judi Leibbrand!



Sam (SLS#1) --- Thanks for your help with the Walk n Talk! I really appreciated your effort! Katie S.

SILS staff-- Thanks for the very warm welcome back to the SILS space!!! It feels like I never left! It's great seeing all of your smiles every day!  
Stop over and say hello anytime ;-)  
Katie S.

Welcome Nadeen, Travis, and Jessica S to Center Unit! We are excited to have you!

Thank you Judi L for always answering any questions I have :)

Marissa and Amanda S, thanks for being so accommodating with our office space, I know it can get tricky when all three of us have to meet with someone at the same time, and I appreciate both of your flexibility.

Connor- Thank you for switching shifts to help ensure CD got to his visit this past weekend!

Hanna, Jessica R, and Amanda D- AWESOME job with the mealtime routine in Apartment 4 lately! Keep up the hard work!





# ARRM Day at the Capitol

On February 8, seven HMC staff, six individuals served, and one intern attended ARRM Day at the Capitol. While most people took a guided tour through the capitol, Carol met with Representatives Morrow and Brynaert as well as Senator Sheran. Everyone then attended the ARRM rally in the Capitol Rotunda.

While all legislators warned us of upcoming state budget cuts, consumer and staff issues did receive positive responses. Information was also left at the office of Representative Cornish as we were unable to meet with him personally.

Those attending included: Myron K, Pam R, and Abby H from SILS; Steve G, Timothy A, Aaron L, Adam M, Jennifer G, Callie U, and Joey F from SLS; Amber S, an ICF intern; and Carol L and Judy A.



# Staff Recognition

This month we recognize the Board of Directors

Judy Ehmke  
Gordon Larson  
Dan Hoehn  
Charles Johnson  
Elaine Meyer  
Pastor Andy Ritchie  
Victoria Hanson



Nancy Fitzsimons  
Karen Hopkins  
Lynnette Engeswick  
Pam Year  
Richard Ringler  
Claudia Johnson  
Pam Rhiger

We also recognize the  
Executive Director, Director of Program Services, Program Directors

Carol Lee  
Judy Arzdorf  
Mary Bloodgood  
Joey Freyberg  
David Ross



We need books for the bookshelf located opposite the mailboxes in the business office.

Please donate any books you may not have a use for and feel free to borrow books often!



## A ST. PATRICK'S DAY WISH FOR YOU!

May your life be long,  
May your heart be true,  
May your path be clear  
And your skies be blue.

May your soul be happy  
And your spirit light.  
May you know deep joy,  
May your dreams take flight.

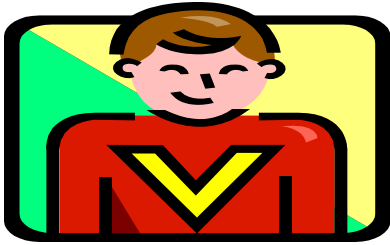
# Welcome new employees

Erin Arnett	SILS
Ajibike Ayinla	ICF HOMESTEAD
William Hawkins	SLS 27
Stephanie Ibarra	ICF HOMESTEAD
Andrea Joy	SLS 02
Nancy Leiferman	SLS 18
Nadeen Mathistad	ICF HOMESTEAD
Robert McCulloch	SLS 01



Yulia Melian	SLS 21
Travis Mrkvicka	ICF HOMESTEAD
Kristin Renner	ICF HOMESTEAD
Abby Schrandt	SLS 11
Laura Schroeder	ICF HOMESTEAD
Jessica Sosebee	ICF HOMESTEAD
Katlyn Utzman	SLS 10
Brianna Wall	ICF HOMESTEAD

# WELCOME



## Volunteer Services



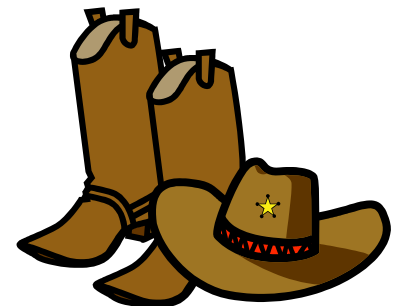
Janet Pitts is our featured volunteer of the month. Janet was an employee here at HMC for 18 years until she retired in 2009.

She enjoys volunteering, she missed seeing our clients and so she joins us now from a new position, on-going volunteer! We enjoy having Janet with us and she has been a very big help at several larger party activities over the last year or so specifically at our Hoe-down, Mardi Gras and Hawaiian Luau just to name a few...



Most recently over the last year she has been reading 2-3 times a month for our reading nights. She is great at getting people down to our activities with her warm smile and encouragement. Her soft and caring reading voice brings down a nice group to these events, and it's definitely nice for our clients to see a familiar face!

Thanks Janet for all the time and dedication you have for HMC clients and activities!



## March Anniversaries

### 37 Years

Carol Lee March 18, 1974

### 23 Years

Donna Drganc March 2, 1988  
Tracey Truebenbach March 14, 1988

### 13 Years

Rebekah Utz March 26, 1998

### 10 Years

Frederick Jensen March 5, 2001

### 9 Years

Dimitri Rain March 4, 2002

### 4 Years

Laura Grau March 30, 2007

### 3 Years

Seth Hughes March 21, 2008  
Amanda Deslauriers March 21, 2008

### 2 Years

Christine Henke March 20, 2009

### 1 Year

Kelly Altenburg March 5, 2010  
Amanda Walkingstick March 10, 2010  
David McCullough March 24, 2010



## March Birthdays

Timothy Schultz March 1  
Sharon Rohde March 3  
DeMaris Dittrich March 3  
Charlene Tryhus March 4  
Karin Ambros-Ward March 4  
Jill Rollenhagen March 5  
Angela Wallerich March 6  
DeAnn Weaver March 8  
Stephanie Menke March 8  
Sarah Bedore March 9  
Jill Sohre March 11  
Jordan Quinlan March 12  
Ajibike Ayinla March 12  
Jordan Myhre March 13  
Ashley Beranek March 14



Faith Jorud March 15  
Abby Schrandt March 15  
Hannah Dolloff March 16  
Amy Halverson March 17  
Amanda Vortherms March 18  
Amanda Walkingstick March 23  
Melissa Steffensmeier March 24  
Kathy VanOtterloo March 25  
Wade French March 26  
Kara Vollmer March 26  
Sean Jost March 28  
John Terhurne March 29  
Megan O'Brien March 29  
April Houge March 31

