

Summer 2009



www.chosenvision.com



The View

Meet Judy Winter, Chosen Vision's guest speaker at our 7th Annual Banquet on October 17th.

JUDY WINTER

author. speaker. advocate.



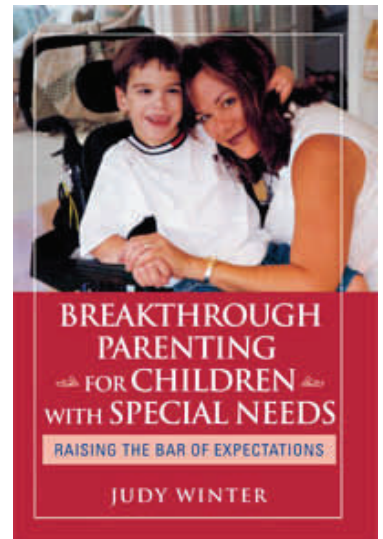
Judy Winter is an award-winning writer, national speaker, advocate and the author of **Breakthrough Parenting for Children with Special Needs: Raising the Bar of Expectations**. She is the recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Alumni Award from the College of Communication Arts & Sciences at Michigan State University, the 2006 Chief Everything Officer Award (CEO) in Community Outreach from AOL and Dove, and the 2002 Exceptional Parent Award from the Michigan Federated Chapters of the Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC). Judy is a member of the 2007-08 *Lansing State Journal* (Gannett) Com-

munity Advisory Panel and co-chair of the Eric 'RicStar' Winter Music Therapy Summer Camp at Michigan State University.

The author is featured in the 2007 documentary 'The Sandwich Kid,' a powerful film about the challenging roles of siblings in special needs families. Judy's work also appears in the book 'A Special Kind of Love: For Those Who Love Children with Special Needs,' and 'Enabled in Words: The Real Lives, Real Victories of People with Disabilities.' Judy has been interviewed by major media across the country, including ABC, AOL, Fox Radio News, CBN, NBC, WGN-Chicago, and KPBS-Radio. **Judy Winter** has published dozens of feature articles and columns on special needs, including for *Writer's Digest*, the *Lansing State Journal* and in publications for the Center for Educational Networking (CEN), an outreach effort of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Her work has been recognized by the Association of Educational Publishers with Distinguished Achievements Awards for Excellence in Educational Publishing. She is included in *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who of American Women*.

In addition to hosting live call-in programs while employed at PBS station WKAR-TV in East Lansing, Judy produced/hosted a weekly radio program on parenting for Michigan State University's Radio Talking Book program for people with visual impairments. The experienced volunteer children's grief facilitator and assistant hospital chaplain parented a musically talented child with cerebral palsy for nearly thirteen years. To learn more about Judy Winter's work visit judywinter.com

Judy Winter brings passion—and a healthy dose of humor, to all she undertakes.



Your attendance is requested.....

Who? All Chosen Vision Supporters

What? 7th Annual Banquet and Silent Auction

When? Saturday, October 17, 2009 from 6:00—10:00 p.m.

Where? Country Club of Lansing

Why? To help maintain a quality group home for developmentally disabled adults.

How much? \$50 per person

What to look for?

- Your invitation should arrive in your mailbox in early September or, send your check to Chosen Vision at any time and mark “Banquet Ticket” on your donation envelope or memo section of your check.
- Look for raffle tickets to arrive in your mailbox for your chance to win:
 - 2010 vacation week in Florida, Tennessee or Virginia
 - Red Wing Hockey game and UofM Football tickets
- **CV Corporate Special**—interested in purchasing a corporate table and marketing your business? Contact Linda Zylstra @517-393-8338 or email zsway@aol.com or call Melanie Dart @ 517-622-3278 ext 207.
- **Auction Items of Interest**—if you have an item of interest to donate for the silent auction, please contact Sandy Tallian 989-257-2269 or email rtallian@centurytel.net

Please help us make this year’s Banquet and Silent Auction a success. Like all non profits, Chosen Vision has been significantly impacted by our weakening economy. We have seen a reduction of nearly 25% in both donators and donations and this has taken a toll on our operating budget. This is our only major fundraiser—your support to this year’s event is more important than ever.



The Country Club of Lansing is located at 2200 Moores River Drive. Moores River Drive is located east of S Waverly Road and South of 496

Hearts For Lansing Bless Our Home

Hearts for Lansing, a Trinity Church outreach to the Greater Lansing area, was established February, 2001. Their goal was to inspire Trinity members and attendees to engage with the Lansing area and get involved in service to others and they hoped that the **Hearts for Lansing** efforts would become year-round involvements for many.

For two weeks in a row, 17 ministries and charities presented information and opportunities for service at tables in the Church’s Atrium - organizations like the Greater Lansing Food Bank, Rescue Mission, Hannah’s House, Family & Child Services, just to name a few. Ministries ranged from serving families, the elderly, serving children and youth, to



Cheryl Veresh and Bob Underhill busy at work

...serving men and serving women (like the **Chosen Vision** residents!)

Administrator Joann Gould and Board Member Melanie Dart were on hand for the 2009 **Hearts for Lansing** to answer questions about **Chosen Vision** and add interested people to the mailing list. The event gave Joann and Melanie opportunities to explain the work of Chosen Vision to people who had never heard of it and people volunteered to paint rooms and help with landscape maintenance. Joann was enthusiastic about **Hearts for Lansing**, “We had more people stop by our table this year, and those who volunteered just blessed our hearts so much. They just took hold of the tasks they signed up for, and worked from start to finish with minimal supervision,”

she said.

Melanie and Joann are looking for



Hearts for Lansing volunteer Bruce Maynard painting the living room

ward to further expanding their resources through events like **Hearts for Lansing**. Needs are great in ongoing lawn maintenance and grant-writing. The Chosen Vision residents also enjoy participating in new activities led by interested people. Call Joann Gould at (517) 622-0574 if you would like to help or donate supplies.

A one of a kind special gift from someone special

We often are surprised by the generosity of others when it comes to our residents. It may be in a helping hand with baking cookies, time spent painting a bedroom, being taken out to dinner or a show, the purchase of a gift or helping with an art and craft project.

Recently, one of our residents was a recipient of a gift that you could consider “priceless”.

Audrey Magnan from Hale, Michigan, and a long time sup-

porter of Chosen Vision, gifted our resident ,Holly, with a handmade bed quilt that not only brightens her room but created an “awe” among all the staff and residents.

We asked Audrey how long it took to make and her reply was “it doesn’t matter”. We asked her how she found all the special material to make it and her answer was “it found me”.

We asked her why and she said “I had a sister who was dis-

abled & passed away long ago and I did it with her in mind”. “I have been extremely fortunate and it does my heart good to create something for someone that may not be as fortunate”. The excitement on Holly’s face was “priceless”.

Thank you Audrey for what you do and who you are.



A FORMER BOARD MEMBER’S PERSPECTIVE by Harold Gazan

I appreciated the invitation to share my perspectives as a former board member. I want to say at the outset that I find it very heartwarming to read the newsletters and to see the progress that continues to be made in the development of Chosen Vision. My wife and I are encouraged with the joy and pleasure that we see on the faces of the residents whose photographs are shown in the newsletters.

When one accepts the position of becoming a member of a governing board of an organization, one is assuming both a shared responsibility for its activities and a shared liability for its outcomes. This description, however, does not convey the joy of service that really is at the bottom of why most board members are willing to serve. While I was sensitive to the responsibility and liability aspect of board membership, my focus was to see Chosen Vision become the best provider of care to disabled women that it could possibly be. It is my belief that boards set the tone for an organization. Boards identify the core values that are to guide in the selection of staff, in the development of policies and programs, and in the kind of support that is provided to its administrator.

In my initial years on the

board, it was necessary to become involved in certain financial management related matters. I spent many hours each week paying bills, developing policies, and helping the administrator in problem solving. We were constantly challenged by the need for fund-raising and as we endeavored to encourage people to see Chosen Vision as a ministry truly worthy of their support.

A new program always requires a lot of attention to details. Because the organization is new, there are no precedents; the demands, therefore, on the personal time of board members were considerable during the first few years of the actual operation of the home. But, the satisfaction of those efforts was received by the happy greetings from the residents whenever I stepped into the living area, and I loved seeing their happy smiles and their excitement about an activity they had recently enjoyed.

There is satisfaction in seeing the maturation of the organization and knowing that you had a part in it. I was often called upon to work with local and state officials. There is the satisfaction in knowing that Chosen Vision has now developed an excellent reputation among state officials because of its administrator and staff, the cleanliness and ambiance of the facility, and because of

its beautiful setting. Chosen Vision has demonstrated through its operations and actions that it lives up to its stated values by having achieved and maintained a high standard of excellence. It has earned the trust of the relatives of its residents. Chosen Vision has been able to achieve all of this because of its board members, its administrator, and its sensitive and caring staff. It is the board that must always maintain a forward-looking perspective and commitment to value-oriented goals. My seven years of board membership were years I will treasure because of what we collectively were able to do to provide a permanent, secure, and affirming environment for six wonderful ladies.



Harold and his wife Nancy



13279 Audrey Lane
Grand Ledge, MI 48837-9334
chosenvision@comcast.net
517-622-0574

Label

Chairman's Corner



Each year at the end of June our Chosen Vision Board conducts a performance evaluation of our Administrator. We review the goals and performance criteria set for the year to determine if they have been met, and set new goals for the upcoming year. The goals vary from year to year depending on the challenges we face and the evolving priorities of the Board. However, from year to year, our first goal has remained constant: "Continue Chosen Vision priority of putting Christ first in the home." This first goal is the priority of our home and the foundation for all we do. We believe Christ is the reason we have been able to establish a loving and caring home that has allowed our special ladies to live full and meaningful lives.

We are very fortunate to have Joann Gould as our Administrator. She is a true servant for Christ in her dedication to the ladies of Chosen Vision. She lives our goal of putting Christ first in the home. When I think about Joann's dedication, I think of a wonderful hymn by Charles Wesley. The first two verses are as follows: "A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify; a never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will." Joann is serving the present age through her ministry at Chosen Vision. She has a charge to keep - the beautiful ladies of Chosen Vision. Her powers are fully engaged and she is truly doing the Master's will. We are blessed to have Joann Gould as our Administrator and we hope that Joann will continue to bless us and the ladies of Chosen Vision for a long time.



Kalmin Smith
Chairman