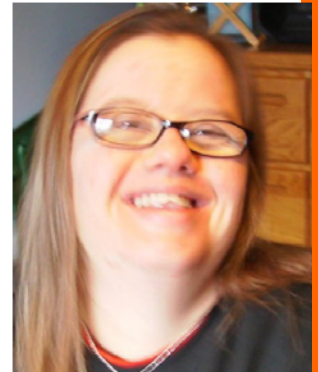


# The View



Winter 2010



Welcome  
2010

Thank you to  
all of our  
family and  
friends who  
made our  
Thanksgiving  
and our  
Christmas  
Joyous.



We are  
blessed by  
you and may  
God bless  
you in  
return



## Ah, ah, choo!!! by Joann Gould

Sniff, sniff, cough, cough, sneeze, sneeze, “, “Laura’s not feeling good”, “I think we need to keep Val home from workshop”, “let’s get Kathy to the Doctors”, “Holly, has to go to the bathroom” “I think Kim might be running a fever”, “is Amy OK?”. All were familiar sounds over the last couple months as the Chosen Vision home got hit with a variety of illnesses including, head colds, sinus infections and stomach flu. And there is more – our staff wasn’t immune to the same problems. “Lacey, some staff called in sick this morning”, “Joann, I’m not feeling to well, I think I need to go home”, “Lacey, my kids are sick with the flu, I will not be in to work today”.

Talk about difficult times taking care of the residents and scheduling staff when so many are ill. It’s not that we haven’t dealt with these inconveniences before, it’s just this one was escalated. On a scale of one to ten, probably near the 10 number.

This is a huge overwhelming responsibility caring for 6 residents with a variety of developmentally disabilities and what makes it even more difficult is they often cannot provide for themselves or, help communicate to us with what ails them. This is where the experience of our staff and the dedication they have to the well being of each resident comes into play.

Just to give you an idea how busy we were the last couple months:

- 12 Doctor Visits
- 10 visits to the Pharmacy
- 7 new prescriptions filled
- 3 trips to the emergency
- Washing machine and dryer running nearly 24/7
- Emergency staff re-scheduling
- Double preparation of homemade soup
- Extra dosages of vitamin C and fluids
- Numerous bed checks
- Nearly a hundred temperatures taken and vitals checked
- and too much more to mention



All that said, at no time was Chosen Vision understaffed. The “well” staff worked double shifts, the “ill” made sure someone else could work for them and the management often wore multiple hats. Our mission statement states “Chosen Vision is committed to enabling developmentally disabled adults to live in a safe, secure, Christian environment.” Those words “safe” and “secure” also mean “health” and “well being” will be provided with the utmost priority. I commend our staff during these difficult times as they are the true stewards as shown by their dedication to this service.

## Three different ways you can support Chosen Vision by Sandy Tallian

### WISH LIST

The Chosen Vision website has a “**Wish List**” that informs our supporters of items that are needed to help maintain our home and items that would allow our residents to enjoy different activities & outings. Perhaps something on the “wish list” will hit your eye and you would like to donate to CV. The girls love to go out to eat or to the movies, staff could really use new pots and pans, linens are always needed especially with the cold winter we are experiencing, and we’re always in need of a laptop computer. Please take a minute to visit our website: [www.chosenvision.org](http://www.chosenvision.org). and click on the **Wish List** tab to see what you may be interested in donating to CV.

### iGive

Also, please remember “**iGive**” when you do any on-line shopping. Since we informed our supporters about [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and how a % of on-line purchases benefit CV, we have received a total of \$560.40. If you need anything: office supplies, vitamins, hair products, jewelry, airplane tickets, hotel reservations, car rental - anything at all, please remember to shop through **iGive** as CV will receive a % of your purchases. There are over 700 stores to choose from and it’s a GREAT and easy way to help support CV. Please visit our website and click on the **iGive** icon to sign up. We always need your help.

### VOLUNTEER FORM

Our CV website also has a “**Volunteer**” form that you can fill out. There is a great need for people with experience in different areas: electrical, plumbing or vehicle maintenance to name a few. We always need volunteers in the spring and fall for yard clean up, cleaning out the eaves, cleaning up the flower beds and replacing outside light bulbs. Painting inside and out is always welcome & there is always MORE we can think of. Please visit our website and click on the **Volunteer** tab, print and fill out the form and submit to Joann. There is always something to do and you would be **GREATLY** appreciated.

## CRAFTY TIMES AT CHOSEN VISION by Rev. Rae Franke

Little did I know all the joy and fun I would have with the Chosen View girls and staff when my husband, Chuck began to help Ellie Tobey find the perfect home for her dream of a Christian home for disabled people! Since the beginning of this special family, I have volunteered to help the girls at CV to feel accepted, creative, and appreciated. I have been their pastoral counselor when they have had a problem or loss with my professional skills in grief and loss.

Even more important has been the crafty side of me! I love to do crafts of almost any kind and during the years we have experienced many kinds of crafts. We have dyed T skirts, made quilts, make lots of different kinds of cards including rubber stamped ones. We have made wreaths for the front door, centerpieces for the table, decorations for holidays, painted hats to wear for group travel, fun toys, door hangers for their bedroom doors and lots more! We have played with beads, clay,

paint, stickers, fabric, a parachute, bean bags, and paper of many kinds! We even decorated toilet paper rolls so they looked like pumpkins!!! We have made peanut butter and birdseed covered pine cones for the birds to enjoy in the winter. The girls have used a sewing machine to sew squares of fabric together to make a quilt. They have played with a lap harp, card making tools, paints, and professional fabric dyes. We have used crayons, markers, glue, staples, glue guns, yarn, seeds, dye, wall paper, tape, masking tape, and cardboard! If I have it, they have played with it!!

All the girls are usually sitting around the table waiting for me to reveal what I have brought for that evenings craft project. Every girl is encouraged to do what she is able to do. The end result is that in every craft session each girl has made something for herself or we have worked together on a project for the house. Very creative things



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get made with the tools and supplies and lots of encouragement and laughter at the table.

I enjoy coming to the house twice a month to encourage each person, residents and staff alike, to do what they can and be as creative as they wish. The house has things that the group has to play with as well as created to decorate and make their home comfortable and warm. What a joy for me and what a positive, loving and growing experience for each person at Chosen View as we play together.

## A Saturday visit to Chosen Vision by Jenny Wieland

Ever wonder what life's like on a typical Saturday at CV? Well, it's probably a lot like your house. Last Saturday I picked up Kim around 10:30 for a little shopping at Meijer's and lunch. My husband Craig came along with us to make sure Kim got her share of teasing. Those two can really go at it.

Brooke, a staff member, cheerfully met us at the door. As soon as we entered we were impressed, as always, by the neat and orderly way everything was cared for. Val, (you will remember her from the great job she did singing at the last Benefit) was watching an old movie and was eager to tell me of her outing to "Sally's Beauty Supply". Brooke helped me translate and informed me that she was going to give Val a hair treatment later in the afternoon.

Holly was sitting at the dinning room table and stacking building blocks into interesting shapes. She looked up at us with her smile and commented on how we were dressed. She loved Craig's Detroit Tigers ball cap.



Laura and Amy were away visiting family and Kathy was busy in the laundry room washing clothes.

On our way to Meijer's , Kim told us she was looking for either a Michael Bolton CD or something by In Sync. Craig immediately started singing..."When a man loves a woman" and the teasing began. Kim wasn't sure of how the rest of the song went but she knew the next line was not..."he'll be broke for the rest of his life"! Unfortunately, Meijer's

didn't have either one of the artist's so she settled for Miley Cyrus.

At lunch Kim asked me about my kids and grandkids. She is a great conversationalist. She's also pretty good at pinball. If you ever want a great grinder and have an urge to play pinball, the Grand Ledge Mancino's is for you. Kim and Craig fed the pinball machine quarters until they finally declared themselves "Top Scorers" and we left for CV.

On the way home, Kim sang along with Miley Cyrus, and Craig was humming "Pinball Wizard" with a smile on his face.

We arrived back at CV to see Val helping to serve lunch and Holly eagerly waiting to sit outside, as it was a beautiful day.



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**Special note:** Mark your calendars for Saturday, **October 16, 2010** as Chosen Vision will be hosting our **8th Annual Banquet and Silent Auction** at the Country Club of Lansing. More information to follow.

## Chairman's Corner

I believe in government. It is one of three primary institutions (Family, Religion, Government) that shape our lives by establishing priorities and boundaries. Regulation to protect our health and safety is an important responsibility of government. I'm all for it. The ladies of Chosen Vision certainly benefit from government. Some receive financial support from social security or Community Mental Health. Government agents visit Chosen Vision on a monthly basis to ensure that our ladies receive proper nutrition, health care, and state mandated staff-resident ratios. Our staff submit to extensive background checks when hired and must meet standardized requirements for education and training, all required by government. State auditors insure that government funding for residents is spent appropriately, and our beautiful home must meet high standards for construction, safety and comfort. This is good for our special ladies and reassuring to their loved ones.

However, it is a mistake to depend on government. In fact, the more we depend on government, the more vulnerable we become. Like all human institutions, government can lose perspective and become part of the problem rather

than part of the solution. The State of Michigan is floundering in serious economic malaise and it is affecting all of us. Programs impacting the health and safety of our residents have been reduced. The Department of Human Services no longer pays for needed dental care, vision, podiatry or other special medical services for our residents. The government forces Chosen Vision to pay Community Mental Health for training for our staff but the mandated classes have deteriorated to the extent that we must pay again to receive adequate training from the private sector. Despite its failure to meet its obligations, the state continues to insist that we meet ours. And we do. All of this puts more financial pressure on the Board.

Our Board has willingly complied with all government requirements and made every effort to exceed government standards in the operation of our facility and programs. We want our special ladies to live full and rich lives. We keep the ladies busy attending classes, working, volunteering in the community and playing. They engage in all kinds of recreation including bowling, dancing, eating out and travel. Just recently, courtesy of a good friend, our ladies and staff at-

tended a Red Wings hockey game in Detroit and had quite a time for themselves eating, laughing, socializing and watching the match from a private box. We will continue to help our residents to become the best they can be. But, you can see that we need your help more than ever. Rather than rely on government, we rely on THE ONE who will never let us down. We trust in God who is our refuge and our strength. And we trust in you

Kalmin D. Smith, Ph.D.  
Chairman

