

Volunteers Engulf Chosen Vision

We are "Pruned" too! by Joann Gould, House Administrator



Every year most homeowners perform what is known as Spring Cleaning. It may be inside your home, out in the yard, or both. It is no different at Chosen Vision.

To help Chosen Vision with our "spring cleaning" this season, we had a group of volunteers from "Imagine This" Church (which had set a goal this year to do a thousand hours of volunteer work), Lansing South Church and Trinity Church on Dunkel Road. We had people here of all ages and all walks of life and they



all came to make our home beautiful.

We had interior painting done, windows vans and the A special Woodman for posts which



were washed, both car were cleaned. thank you to Mr. the new parking replaced the exist-



ing ones that took a beating over the winter from the snow plow, leaves were raked and flower beds were cleaned, broken branches removed, shrubbery trimmed and Ayles Tree Service (Jack and his crew) donated nearly 10 yards of fresh wood chips that was spread in many



different areas of the yard. People everywhere had a rake, broom, dust pan or shovel, window cleaner, paper towels or an old rag in their hands and bag after bag of accumulated debris started piling up in the garage. Everyone wanted to help and no one wanted to be left out.

My contribution to the "spring cleaning" found me in the flower back some plantings or "pruning" as it's often referred to. I be- when some of the weeds would not come out by their roots be- back and be very unattractive next spring. It also brought this the developmentally disabled I am reminded how people are be impatient, lack empathy, don't listen carefully or as I find my- on them and not considering them and what they might feel. AND the list goes on and on. Living this way produces no spiritual fruit.



beds pulling weeds and cutting came a little frustrated, at times, cause I knew they would grow thought to mind: Working with treated or perceived. People can self doing - imposing what I feel

To prune

John 15:2 (New International Version)

2He cuts off every branch in me that bears fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

How is this? By working side by side with replaced with patience, they prune out our because you cannot rush the Disabled for place it with compassion and empathy and to their eyes and opens our hearts to their grow through every action we do to assist through these beautiful women to prune us



no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he

each lady - they prune out the impatient and it is fast pace life style and replace it with "slow down" various reasons. To prune out selfishness and re- consider their feelings, makes us look at life through needs which hopefully will spread, branch out and our ladies through their lives. Each day God works so that we may become more like him.



If you build it they will come.....

On June 23rd, Chosen Vision held their first informational meeting on preliminary plans to build a second 6 bedroom home. Attendees were provided with an overview of Chosen Vision's existing operation, parents/guardians shared experiences, the application and admission process for placement, the financial needs of the operation and how those financial needs are met were discussed.

The plans are in the preliminary stages but we're very excited on moving from the "goal" stage to "reality". A site plan and schematic drawing was provided on how the home might look, a donated parcel of property was identified in Dewitt, contractors were identified that would contribute significantly to the project as well as Foundations that might provide matching grants.

As we move forward, additional meetings will be held for all applicants and parties that may be interested in our expansion plans. Please contact Joann Gould, Administrator at 517-622-0574 or e-mail her at chosenvision@comcast.net if you wish to participate or learn more.



A parents interesting and informational observation by Robert Tallian

Just a while ago, Sandy and I were out at CV for a couple days taking Holly to some Dr. Appointments. Lacey attended both these appointments as well and you could really see the importance of having patient, parent/ guardian, caretaker and Doctor all in one room. Equally important is having everybody on the same page as it pertains to treatment and care.



Nevertheless, what really hit me was when we returned to CV. You see, the Dr. made a few changes to Holly's prescriptions - Reduced one, removed one, added one and changed one. What's the big deal right? Well, it got me thinking, **HOW DOES STAFF KNOW ABOUT THESE CHANGES AND, YOU HAVE TO DO THIS FOR SIX RESIDENTS!!** This has got to be a major undertaking and probably one of the most important functions for the Direct Care personnel. God forbid we make errors in administering prescription drugs - this could have a very serious side effect.....

My next "big mistake" was asking Lacey what the check and balances were for dispensing meds and more importantly, updating changes that the Doctor might make. I have to say, I was not treated like a Board Member rather a concerned parent and Lacey wanted to make sure I understood this process. She must have spent an hour with me. I almost felt like a new hire and was being trained and there would be a test on this at the end of the day. What I really observed was the amount of work, detail and administration that goes into this process and Lacey did an outstanding job explaining everything they have to do..

Imagine this and multiply by six: Some of the drug companies provide monthly bubble wrap daily medicine dispensers. The medicines are color coded and further broken down by a.m dispense and p.m dispense. This is done so staff shift/changes do not get confused. Guess what happens if there is a change in medicines prescribed by a Doctor. They have to snap/break open all the bubble wrap packages, remove the old and insert the new. This can happen on the first day of the month or the last day. Imagine the same if the meds are packaged in the plastic twist cap bottles - the same applies.

No, we're not done yet. How do you know this is being done? There is another check and balance process. THE LOG. The log is maintained for each resident and like the removal and replacement of the drug in the bubble wrap, it has to be moved, changed or added to THE LOG. Well, how do you know that is being done? They have a posted bulletin board that alerts staff of all Dr. Appointments and the results of those Dr. Appointments. How do we know that is being done? Because the House Manager polices this process on a daily basis.

Not done yet. Each resident has three containers: a prescription container, a non-prescription container and an "as needed" or other necessity container. Most of these are required to be maintained in the same fashion. Doctors often prescribe over the counter meds such as vitamins but they will often change those as well. Same process over again. Let's not forget the "take before breakfast", "take with meal", "take before bedtime", "take with water", "take with food" and "take after sitting upright for one hour". I bet they sometimes want to say "take this"..... never mind, I take that back..... Oh yeah, what do you do with all the old meds or ones that might just be discontinued for awhile. That's another process in its own and there are procedures in place to cover that area as well.

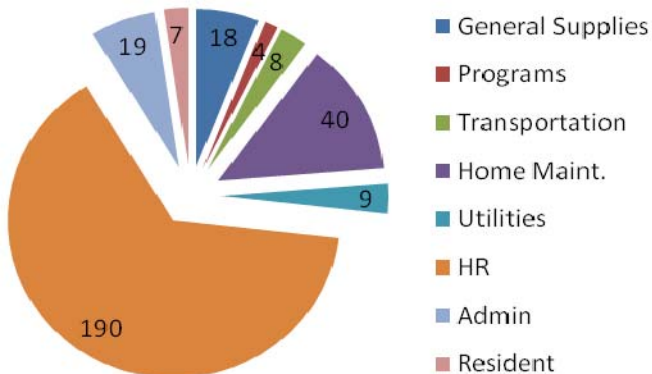
If we were in a perfect world this would probably not be that big of a deal. There would be a bubble wrap dispenser for every day of the month, color coded meds, and dispensed day and night. We're not in that perfect world. There probably isn't a day or week that goes by that someone is not being taken to the Doctor for a well or a not well visit. And as such, you can bet that a medicine is being changed, modified, added or discontinued. WOW.....

We really do have a first class operation. Our Administrator Joann, House Manager Lacy and the supervision they provide to all of the Direct Care workers is first class, top of the line, extraordinary. Please, when you get a chance, let them know how appreciative you are for what they do and the care they provide to all of our special residents.

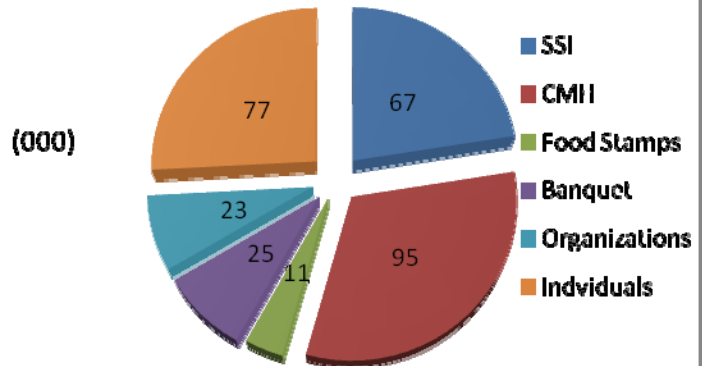
DID YOU KNOW?

Unlike some other non-profits, Chosen Vision does not pay for, or use, outside administration for our operation. 100% of your donation goes directly to the security we provide to six developmentally disabled adults. We have two full time employees and six part time direct care workers. Individual, corporate and banquet donations make up nearly 42% of our revenue base. As you can see, our excess operating working capital is limited but our plans and goals have not changed. There is a great demand for quality group homes for both men and women but very limited resources. Declining donations, grant reductions and available adaptable homes have made our expansion plans challenging. Nevertheless, our goals have not changed. With your continued help and support, we will provide exceptional care for our residents and expand these services to a larger population.

2010 Annual Operating Budget \$295,000



2009 Revenues \$298,000



SOME THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

- Our website was developed by a donor at no charge and is maintained by a board member on a volunteer basis
- Our video presentation was created and produced by a Communication Company in Plymouth and donated
- Our board members are entirely heart driven, extremely active and receive no compensation whatsoever
- A large percentage of our printing costs are donated by a small printing company in Royal Oak
- The mortgage on our 6,000 sq. ft. home, located on 2.5 acres of property, was paid off by an anonymous donor in 2006
- We issue quarterly Newsletters. We do not send nor incur the additional cost for mailing special Thank You Certificates, mailing labels, lapel pins, dimes or postage
- We do not bombard our donors with numerous special appeals, solicitations or by phone
- 100% of all donations goes entirely to Chosen Vision's operation

Just another reminder to mark your calendar

October 16, 2010 Chosen Vision will be hosting our 8th Annual Banquet and Silent Auction at the Country of Lansing.. Kirsten Haglund, Miss America 2008, will be our guest speaker and you don't want to miss the entertainment she will provide. We promise this will be a very special evening.

We hope you can see from the above charts the importance of your attendance, participation and impact you make to the success of Chosen Vision's operation and service we provide to the developmentally disabled.

For more Banquet information or, if you're interested in donating an item to our Silent Auction, contact Joann Gould 517-622-0574 or e-mail chosenvision@comcast.net





13279 Audrey Lane
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Ph: 517-622-0574
E-mail: chosenvision@comcast.net

“Empowering developmentally disabled adults to live life as it should be”

Chairman's Corner

This column has often focused on the benefits of Chosen Vision to its residents, our Special Ladies. But Chosen Vision is also a God send to the families of our residents. Many years ago my wife, Marsha, and I became parents to a child born with severe heart and lung problems. This was frightening and stressful. At Marsha's insistence, I joined her in a newly formed support group for parents of children with heart problems. Participation in the group was instructive. One thing we learned was that most families that include a child with a severe chronic illness suffer great stress. To our shock and dismay, we observed that the majority of the couples in our group separated or divorced over a relatively short period of time. Eventually I became Chair of the American Heart Association of Michigan and during my tenure, efforts were initiated to direct some of the association's resources toward programs to support the families of chronically ill children.

We know this stress impacts parents of children with developmental disabilities just as it does parents of children with physical disabilities. Recently a university study compared thirty pairs of fathers and mothers who had children with mental retardation and other disabilities with pairs of parents of children without disabilities. The study found that fathers and mothers of children with developmental disabilities did not differ from each other nor from fathers and mothers of children without disabilities in parental stress, family social support, or family functioning. However, parents of children with disabilities experienced a disproportionately greater level of stress relating to their children than did those parents of children without disabilities. Fathers' and mothers' stress was associated with aspects of family functioning as perceived by themselves and their spouses.

Chosen Vision is a place for families. First, it provides an immediate family for our residents who eat, play, pray and worship together with the support of loving Christian caregivers. Just as important, Chosen Vision relieves stress on the families of our Special Ladies by providing a safe harbor for their loved ones to live and grow. It allows parents the opportunity to adequately parent their other children and grandchildren and live normal lives without guilt. I have seen stress and fear in the faces of parents who are desperate to find a safe place for their loved child before they are no longer able to care for them. And, I have seen the expression of relief and peace in the faces of parents who have secured placement for their child at Chosen Vision. The Chosen Vision Board of Directors is exploring the possibility of building a second home to provide an additional six women the security they and their families so desperately need. The Book of Proverbs tells us that "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." We pray that the Lord will delight in our course and make our steps firm.

Kalmin D. Smith, Ph.D.
Chairman

