

A FRIENDLY WAGER..... A THOUGHTFUL DONATION



Bill and Bob have been friends and golf competitors for over 15 years. Throughout those years they have determined their similarities to be uncanny. They share the same sports

interest in hockey, golf / golf handicaps and skiing. They are the same age; they even have the same gray hair. They share the same family values, they both have a need to volunteer their time and they share the same faith and belief in God.

As competitive as the two are, there has always been a friendly wager made when they play golf. For several years, someone would walk off the 18th hole and dig deep into their pocket to pay the other. One sad face and one happy face. The ironic thing was, usually the winner one time would be the loser the next time. Back and forth, back and forth, the money would exchange hands and neither one of them would come out ahead at the end of the golf season, that's how close the scores were.



They came up with an idea: Let's just keep track of this on a notepad and at the end of the year will divvy up. Interesting how that concluded. Several dollars were exchanged but at the end of the year, only \$5-10 dollars was won by one of them.

That being said, they came up with another great idea. After determining how closely competitive they were in golf, and only a few dollars were exchanged at the end of the year; How about the winner electing a charity of their choice? The loser at the end of the year makes a donation to the others charity. Here's the catch. A zero is added to the final tally i.e., losing \$50 becomes a \$500 donation; losing \$100 becomes a \$1000 donation. For many years, Bill would make a wonderful donation to Bob's charity, Chosen Vision. He would often ask Bob if they have named a wing after him yet. Now, Bill had several charities of his own and couldn't wait to come out ahead and have Bob donate to one of them. The tables turned & just like they did before, Bob was asking Bill "what charity do you want me to write the check to?" Bill said, my charity involves taking care of individuals that are not as fortunate as we are, an organization that I know, for a fact, is dedicated to that care because I have seen it first hand, my charity is: Chosen Vision. Needless to say, Bob was quite taken back from Bill's gesture. To think how Chosen Vision has benefitted so much from just a friendly wager and solidified their friendship and uncanny similarities is really amazing to both of them. Thank you Bill and Bob for your generous gifts over the last several years. And Bill, if that time ever comes, YES, CV will name a wing after you.

»» COMING SOON! ««

OCTOBER 22, 2011

Chosen Vision will be hosting our
9th Annual Banquet and Silent Auction
at the Country Club of Lansing.

*Look for your reservations to arrive in September.
You don't want to miss out on this year's entertainment*

"THREE MEN AND A TENOR"

Staff Article *by Arieal*

First, I thank God everyday for Chosen Vision. God definitely did his work through Joann (CV Administrator) with her kind heart and her goal to help people in need. I have made a relationship with all six of these women & find that they are all amazing in their own ways. Every day that I work is different and some days are harder than others.



Val is the biggest sweetheart ever & when I tell her I love her, she doesn't hesitate to say it right back. She has a sense of humor that will make you laugh so hard - tears will roll down your face. She can pretty much sing any song on the radio and with her deep voice, it is something to behold. We can't forget to mention that Val LOVES to shop - but what girl doesn't, right?

Holly reminds me so much of my daughter. She'll tell you anything you want to hear to get what she wants. She also has a lot of intuition and can sense things and when I'm sad or having a rough day, she'll tell me I'm beautiful or that she loves me and it makes me smile.

Amy is a beautiful lady who loves everything done in a specific way - no changing the routine. Every morning Amy has to have her juice in a certain cup - that's just Amy. She enjoys life in everything she does & makes

the staff and residents laugh every day. She loves to be around people, has a genuinely kind heart and has a lot of love to share. I'm just glad to be a part of it.

Kathy is like the grandma of the group. She loves to sew, put curlers in her hair and do laundry. For some reason, everyone's clothes seem to end up in her room! Kathy is the strongest woman I know & I know I've done something right when I put a smile on her face.



Laura is unable to communicate and when I first started working at Chosen Vision, I found the CV staff was working with Laura using a communication book to point to pictures showing staff her wants or needs which opened up communication. I've learned, from observing her, that Laura is capable of doing a lot more than people give her credit

for. She is extremely smart and she knows a lot more than what she is able to communicate. As I see Laura progress, it puts a huge smile on my face.

Kim is the biggest hugger I know & loves affection. The first thing Kim does when she gets off the bus is ask for a huge hug & it always lasts about ten minutes, but I love it. It shows that she has a huge heart and the ability to love. In this world - love is a huge commodity.

At CV, I have found six people that give that to me and I cherish it more than you know.

Chosen Vision - DeWitt is Under Way!

On the morning of July 25, 2011, in DeWitt, MI, shovels were lined up at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for Chosen Vision's future site of their new home for six developmentally disabled women.

Residents, parents, board members and city officials were in attendance to celebrate Chosen Vision's commitment to build and operate their second home for six additional residents.

Adrienne Motz and Amy Russell, who will be the first residents of Chosen Vision - DeWitt, smiled with joy as they watched the morning's activities with great anticipation.

The Mayor of Dewitt, Jim Rundborg, welcomed CV to the city of Dewitt. Kalmin Smith, Chairman of CV's board, expressed sincere appreciation and continued support to our faithful donors.

A Groundbreaking Responsive Reading was led by board member Jim Russell. The responsive reading asked for God's Blessing on our new home and to show good stewardship for all that is entrusted to us.

The new home will be located at 1107 Turner Road on a beautiful half-acre lot overlooking a golf course which was donated by Tom and Melinda Motz. When completed, the home will be approximately 3800 square feet and will house six developmentally disabled women with their own bedroom and bathroom as well as living quarters for staff and caregivers.

After much prayer and due diligence, the board of Chosen Vision decided to move forward with its plans to build the six-resident home with \$180,000 yet to be raised. We have secured enough funding to begin and fully complete the home's exterior through drywall stage.

Emergency 911

by Joanne Gould, Administrator

One of our residents', who is unable to communicate, went home for a weekend visit recently and had a wonderful time with her family. On the following Tuesday morning, she woke up not feeling well, pale and very lethargic and didn't want to get out of bed and the staff knew something was wrong because she never has a problem getting out of bed in the morning. Staff called Lacey & I, as we were on our way to a training seminar in Grand Rapids, and we decided that they should call her doctor. The staff had to leave a message. They also determined that they should call the parents to let them know that their daughter was not feeling well and to see if anything happened over the weekend. Staff took her vitals, everything was normal & the consensus was that maybe she had the flu.

A little later, Lacey & I received another phone call that our resident was very ill and that her mother had called back to check on her and was becoming very concerned because she could hear her daughter being very loud in the background. We turned right around and headed back to Chosen Vision. When we arrived home, her mother was there and was requesting that we get ahold of her doctor. Doctor still had not returned our call and Lacey decided to take her to the ER. They arrived at the hospital at 2:00 that afternoon. Our resident was admitted to the hospital by 6:00 that evening.

I came to the hospital that evening to relieve Lacey who had been there since 2:00. Mom remained at the hospital with me until 1:00 am. Mom was back bright and early the next morning to relieve me and to be with her daughter. That day all 3 of us worked out a schedule so that one of us would remain with our resident for the remainder of her stay, however long that would be.

She had to undergo a battery of tests trying to discover what was wrong. Many questions were asked by doctors and nurses and this was a very challenging time for us as our resident is not able to communicate. It was left solely to Mom, Lacey and I to be strong advocates for her. If she was able to communicate, it would have made everything a whole lot easier for her and for us. Can you imagine one of your loved ones not being able to let anyone know what is wrong with them and how they feel? And, think about the doctor & nurses, what do they have to go on, how do they know what's wrong and what to do?

Our resident spent 5 days in the hospital and Lacey and her mother were with her at all times. A diagnosis was subsequently identified and treated and she is on the road to recovery. It was a long week for all of us and it's wonderful to see her getting better.

In sharing this story, I just want to say that Chosen Vision is a quality place to live and without strong leadership and quality staff and one awesome mother who loves her daughter, who knows what could have happened to our resident. Chosen Vision is not just about 3 meals a day and a roof over our residents' heads; it's about quality of life. Our staff is trained to engage and to build a relationship with each of our ladies and they are the first to notice when something is wrong. Without this engagement and relationship, they may have not been able to notice anything out of the ordinary.

I want to say "Thank you" to our direct care staff Jaime and Maryam, who played such an important role on that day in advocating for the best interest of our resident.

Great Teamwork everyone!!!!



Attending the July 26 Ground Breaking for the new CV DeWitt home include DeWitt Mayor Jim Rundborg, resident Amy Russell, board member Jenny Wieland, resident Adrienne Motz, CV Administrator Joanne Gould, and CV Board Chair Kalmin Smith.



Adrienne Motz and Amy Russell take out the first shovels of dirt for the construction of the new Chosen Vision DeWitt home.

As we continue to seek funding through grants from applicable foundations, we will continue to solicit funding for Chosen Vision - DeWitt one room at a time.

If you would like to donate toward this project please call Joanne Gould at 517-622-0574.



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Chairman's Corner

Carl Sandburg once said, "Nothing happens unless first a dream." The Chosen Vision Board of Directors had a dream. That dream is to increase the number of special ladies served in Christian love through the erection of a second adult foster care home. That dream is on the verge of becoming reality.

On July 25 2011 a small group of Board Members and friends of Chosen Vision, including the Mayor of Dewitt, met at an empty lot on 1107 Turner Street in Dewitt to break ground for a new group home

for women with developmental disabilities. The new home is to be a twin to Chosen Vision of Grand Ledge, sharing administration and staff and serving six additional women in need of the opportunity to grow together in the spirit of Christian love and compassion.

The lot was donated. More than half of the necessary funds have been raised. We are proceeding with faith and trust that the additional funds will be raised and the project completed on schedule. We know and are relying on God's word through Jeremiah (29:11): "For I know the plans I have for

you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We are asking you to help six additional special ladies "prosper" by your donations to construct our new group home. And we are also asking you to remember the ongoing operational needs of Chosen Vision as we continue to serve the special ladies in our existing home. In addition to financial donations, we ask that you remember the mission of Chosen Vision in your prayers.

Kalmin D. Smith, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Board