

Progressive *Thinking*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bowl-A-Thon

Date TBA

300 Bowl

100 S. Cass Lake Road

Space is limited. If your folks are interested in bowling please register with Cortney Fortin or Laura Austin.

Congrats

Congratulations to our new Managers, Assistant Managers and Administrative Assistant.

- Ajeenah Kalimah
- Emily Allen
- Meghan Percival
- Jennifer Williams

News

The newsletter staff is always looking for more good things to report. Please submit ideas and suggestions to news@progressivelifestyle.sinc.org

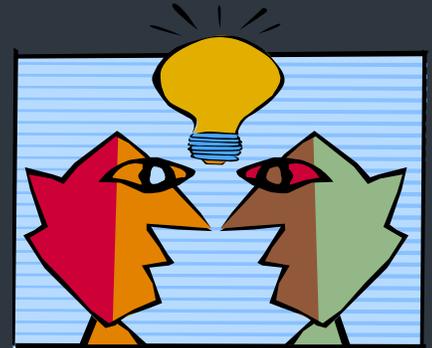
If you would like to be added to our mailing list please send an email to news@progressivelifestyle.sinc.org subject line should read "subscribe"



A Message from John Williams

Another year is getting ready to close out and there is much to celebrate, as well as some things to sadden us. First, the good stuff. The annual Progressive picnic was very successful this year, even the weather cut us a break. There was good food, games, crafts, and prizes that were the best yet. All of the folks that worked on the picnic deserve our gratitude- Annie, Kerri, Courtney, Brenda, Amy, Lisa, Deanna, Rick, Phil, Heather and Ruth. Believe it or not folks are already busy working on next year's event! The pictures of me in this newsletter have been doctored and have no relationship whatsoever to reality.

The company finished the year out in good shape financially, and we anticipate that we will be paying year-end bonuses to our staff. All of you have worked very hard to help us achieve this success and we want to say THANK-YOU. The financial picture is always a challenge as funding continues to be increasingly hard to sustain. Hopefully, the reorganization of the public mental health system envisioned by the state will lead to an improved funding situation for non-profits such as Progressive. We are also proud to report that a number of improvements have been made to our



Innovative Support Services for People with Disabilities

health insurance package. If you were not able to attend our annual health care day, please ask either Deanna or I, and we will fill you in on the changes.

Unfortunately, I have to report a couple of sad events as well. Long time board member Colleen Brayton passed away this fall, I feel her loss already at the many meetings that we regularly attended together. She was very proud to be associated with Progressive and the corporation benefited from her years of business experience. The other loss we have to report is of our friend of over (25) years, Dr. John McGee. Dr. McGee was one of the primary authors of the "Gentle Teaching" approach. The influence of this caregiving approach on Progressive is immeasurable as it guides all of our operations daily. We were very fortunate to have his expertise, he gave very generously of himself to the disability community, and I am proud to say that Progressive was one of his favorite projects. To this day, I have not met another professional that actually can work directly with the individuals we support, or possess the insight into the heart of people as he did-we will miss him each day very much.

Progressive Thinking

Andy's Entertainment Andrew Slezinski

Comedian Andy Griffith recently passed away. A stand-up comedian and motion picture actor of the late fifties and early sixties. One of his best known movies is *A Face in the Crowd* Co-starring Patricia Neal. I have always liked Patricia Neal. Andy had 1 hit recording. A commercial recording about the game of football. Radio across the country plays it every September. It is a classic! Andy's real break came when he was asked to play a small town North Carolina Sheriff, Andy Taylor, on CBS. The show had one of the best themes, a whistling theme. [He was] a widower with a young son, Opie. Andy's Aunt Bea lived with them. Kind of a second mom to Opie. Andy and Opie really liked Aunt Bea's home made cooking. Being a small town sheriff isn't easy. You have to deal with all types of characters. Sheriff Andy Taylor had one of those goofy people as his deputy, Barney Fife played by comedian Don Knotts. [He was] a regular on the old Steve Allen Show. Barney was the nervous type. Always quivering when he spoke. Most of the time Andy and Barney disagreed on almost everything. Their discussions in that jailhouse around Andy's desk were hilarious.



In September Progressive Lifestyles lost one of our dear friends, Colleen Ann O'Neill-Brayton. Colleen served as President and CEO of New Gateways a community day program serving individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. In addition to her work at New Gateways, Colleen also served as the President of the Macomb Oakland guardianship Association, Vice President of the Fowler Center for Outdoor Learning, Board of Directors for the Oakland County ARC, Board Member of Progressive Lifestyles, member of the MORC Quality Assurance team, member of the Oakland Regional Inclusive Coalition, member of the Advisory Board for Angel's Place, and member of the Oakland County Providers Steering Committee. She received the Dove Award for outstanding Provider in 2009.

Her dedication and hard work on behalf those we serve will truly be missed.



Company picnic

Despite having to be rescheduled due to the rain, this year's company picnic was one of our best yet. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the generosity of our families and donors, we were able to raise a record amount of donations to our event this year. Thank you to everyone that participated!

Volunteers

We have volunteer opportunities available. We are looking for more folks who are interested in joining the picnic



On Monday November 12, another dear friend of Progressive Lifestyles passed away. Dr. John McGee, the primary founder of Gentle Teaching was a tireless advocate for so many in our community. He taught us that all individuals deserve to feel safe and loved. He dedicated his life to helping those in need and spreading a message that all people deserved to be treated with dignity and respect.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. McGee's family. The world was truly a better place because of him and his loss has deeply saddened us all.

~Author Unknown~

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

committee. We are also looking for individuals who are interested in joining the newsletter team. If you are interested in participating in either one of these activities, please contact Annie Turpin at (248) 666-4136.

Reminder from the Maintenance Supervisor

Just a friendly reminder as the winter months are upon us to please make sure all walkways are clear and salted at all times. If your home is in need of salt please pick some up at Allan Ct, Church or Oakwood.

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**Congratulations to this Years
Award Winners:**

Yard Beautification
Golf Lane

Home Beautification
Church Home

Morale Booster
Cortney Fortin

Super Assistant
Nicole Ruggles

Super Weekend Supervisor
Jennifer Masonbrink

Super Direct Care Staff
James Kipila

Above And Beyond The Call Of
Duty
Heather Hannahan

Gentle Teacher
Callen Greer

Team Work
Springfield Oaks

Cetificates of Excellence

- Heather Harroun
- Rick O'toole
- Phil Patterson

Years of Service
10 Years

Elizabeth Parks
Cynthia Wright
Sabrina Nunes
Jennifer Williams

5 Years

Paris Harris
Joseph Combs
Sarah Sovereign
Callen Greer
Theresa Percival
Dedri Jackson
Kara Noell
Song Chang
Cheryl Yovich
Keila Adkins
Patrice Damiani-Peters
Heather Clark
Cortney Fortin



PICNIC MEMORIES

It was an Honor to be nominated

Please join us in congratulating our nominees who did not win awards this year but were nominated!

Morale Booster: Joseph Combs, Carla Bourgeois, Ron Nelson, Chris Bufka, Nicole Ruggles, Penny Dickenson, Laura Austin, John Turpin, Rick Everett. Super Assistant: Carla Bourgeois, Holly Whaley, Jessica Domin. Super Weekend Supervisor: Joel Cary, Penny Dickenson, John Turpin, Chris Bufka. Super Direct Care Staff: Melissa Sleight, Cortney Fortin, Maria Bruce. Above and Beyond the Call of Duty: Jim Kipila, Amy Kadera, Penny Dickenson, Carla Bourgeois, Cortney Fortin, Danielle Burger, Ron Nelson. Gentle Teacher: Ron Nelson, Chris Bufka, Cortney Fortin, Penny Dickenson, Carla Bourgeois. Teamwork: Highmeadow, Hawkes, Potter. In Home Beautification: Highmeadow

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Please visit our website at:

www.progressivelifestylesinc.org

Please join us in thanking the following family members, friends and businesses for providing donations for our fourth annual company picnic.

Thank You

Robert & Ann Sanderson

Jim and Laura Rozell

Jerry Clanton

Anne Tody

Annette Mueller

Phyllis Blumenschien

Annie Lehmann

Barbar Reider

Joanne Robinson

Julie Mollicone

Matthew Fournier

Rosemary Rangi

Faye Gorback

Rose-Marie Venier

Thank You

Custom Results Corporate Counseling

Compuware Arena

Expressions Salon

Independence Investment Advisory Services, Inc.

Meadow Brook Theater

Waterford Big Boy

Lakeview Food Basket

New Beginnings III LLC

Fit Zone

Toledo Mudhens

Detroit Redwings