



# Adult Learning Systems

LOWER MICHIGAN

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**FUTURE FOCUS NEWSLETTER**

**Issue 1**

**• Winter 2017**



## Awards:

Please don't forget to nominate your favorite Direct Care Worker of the quarter. We do this each quarter and need your help in choosing our winners. Anyone, not just managers, can nominate a worker. One nominee will be selected from Macomb County and one will be selected from the rest of counties combined.

### Who qualifies:

- Must be a DCW or med instructor
- Employed a minimum of 3 months
- Have ZERO discipline for the quarter
- Max of 2 nominees per site

### Areas to consider when choosing:

- Documentation
- Interaction with participants
- Specific acts that required person initiative
- Performance above and beyond normal job duties and responsibilities

### DCW of the 4th Quarter 15-16 (October 2016 – December 2016)

#### James Mitchell (Livingston)



Jim has been a dedicated employee for many years. He comes in early, stays over and covers call off with a minute's notice. He is a great team player. Briarwood has been without a med instructor and he brings all medical issues to management's attention as they arise. He has a great rapport with the participants he serves. He does many activities and has even come in to do one on one activity and has bought participants gifts for their birthdays and takes them out. He puts the needs of the participant first and foremost and has great patience with everyone. He always completes his documentation before leaving shift.

#### Maranda Wilson (Macomb)



Maranda is always on time for her shift and always has a positive attitude when she walks in. She has not called in for any of her shifts and has helped cover other shift openings in the home. Maranda completes all her training in a timely matter. She always put the consumers' needs first and assists them with their goals.

#### Devin Brewer (Monroe)

While Devin is no longer with our company, he was a very hard worker. He trained staff on all medications and helped cover missed shifts when needed. He has also helped cover another group home shifts when there have been call offs. We appreciated everything he did for ALS-LM and we wish him nothing but success in his future endeavors.



## Great Job!

Congratulations go out to Erica Frost for receiving the award for Manager of the 2nd Quarter. Erica has worked for ALS-LM for 15 years and in multiple counties. She is a residential supervisor at our Meadowlane group home. Erica always has a smile on her face; she has great follow through, a positive attitude and always treats the consumers with respect and dignity. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to ALS-LM.

# All Around ALS-LM

Congratulations to Sally Armstrong (Sugarbush) on the birth of her new great granddaughter. Melonie Rose made her debut on March 2, 2017 and was a 7 pound 11oz, 20" long little bundle of joy.



At no cost to ALS-LM the Macomb County group homes have been approved for gardening supplies. Each site will receive a raised garden bed (three homes with consumers who have limited mobility received an elevated garden bed), garden hoses, garden gloves, sprayer nozzles and garden hand tools. In addition to that, each site will be able to get plants, seeds and soil from the Farmers Market in Mt. Clemens MI. This project is sponsored through a grant with the Integrated Health Care Project through MCCMH. The goal is to have the gardens produce vegetables for the homes to add fresh home grown produce to daily menu plans for healthy alternatives at meals.



Jodi Schafer from Human Resources Mgt. Services was our guest speaker for the Supervisors Professional Development Day. She spoke to our supervisors on Leadership, Communication and Coaching. The title of her session was Fundamentals of Influential Leadership.



Oakdale hosted a Valentine's Day party at the Main Office. Everyone had a fun time making crafts, eating good food and enjoying time spent together.



Staff from Macomb DD WLII held a tax class for their participants.

Spring is in the air with beautiful tulips at the Bayridge home.



The Vivian home enjoyed going out for the evening to dinner at The China Buffet.

## Monthly Drawing Winners

The staff from Cherrywood were our January drawing winners and each of them received a gas card.



The staff from Leelane were our March drawing winners and all received a Speedway gift card.

The staff from Macomb Whole Life were our February drawing winners and each of them received a Speedway gift card.



# Winterfest 2017

Everyone gathered together at Decarlo's Banquet & Convention for ALS-LM's Annual Winterfest, where they enjoyed wonderful food, good company and danced the night away.



## Cell Phone Discounts

As an employee of ALS-LM, we are excited for you to take advantage of this great offer through Verizon Wireless. You are eligible to get an 18% discount on your Verizon plan amount (NOT the total bill) and a 25% discount on all of your phone accessories. In order to take advantage of the discount, start by typing [www.verizonwireless.com/discounts](http://www.verizonwireless.com/discounts) into your computer browser. Scroll down to input your work email address. You will then need to log into your email and click on the link that Verizon sends to you in order for the discount to be completed. It will take 1 to 2 billing cycles for the discount to show on your bill.





## Memories of Loved Ones

Linda will be missed in many ways. She had such a great sense of humor always making people laugh and smile. Her sense of humor stayed with her until the end. She could take a dark stormy day and turn it into a ray of bright sunshine. Along with her sense of humor, Linda always had to be dressed to the nines even when not feeling well!  
~ Written by Craig Perkins (Bayridge)



Our sympathy and prayers go out to Janet Ball (Trombley) who lost her dear husband, Joseph Ball, on March 16, 2017.

On March 20, 2017 the staff and consumers from Cherrywood gathered together at the main office to remember their dear friend TT with a memorial luncheon. Rachel made a video compiled from past pictures. Everyone seemed to really enjoy seeing his contagious smile once again.



## Fundraising - GIVING MORE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



Adult Learning Systems-Lower Michigan (ALS-LM) continues to participate in the Kroger fundraiser. We are asking you to please sign up and encourage staff, friends, and family members to do so as well. Each time someone shops at Kroger and swipes a Kroger card, the shopper will receive all sales prices and ALS-LM will receive 2% of the amount spent on food and paper products. Please support our company! If you have any questions, please email Ray Krzeminski at [rkrzeminski@als-lm.org](mailto:rkrzeminski@als-lm.org). Thank you for your participation!

-- Ray Krzeminski and all the Fundraising Committee Members

## Fun Facts about Spring

- ❖ Spring almost always arrives on March 20 or 21, but sometimes on the 19th. The reason the equinoxes and solstices don't always come on the same day is that Earth doesn't circle the sun in exactly 365 days.
- ❖ The first day of spring in the Southern Hemisphere is the first day of fall in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ The first spring flowers are typically lilacs, irises, lilies, tulips, daffodils, and dandelions.
- ❖ During the spring, birds are more vocal as they sing to attract mates and warn away rivals.
- ❖ Children actually grow faster in the spring than during other times of the year
- ❖ Honeybees are more likely to swarm during the spring. They swarm as a way to start new colonies. Surprisingly, swarming honeybees are very docile and the most friendly they will ever be all year.

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