A Note from the Director:
Changes to Day Programming for the Safe Harbor Residents

The Residents of Safe Harbor spend much of their week in day programming at local service organizations. This programming helps our Residents learn new skills and become more independent, through one-on-one or small group support settings.

As many of you are aware, beginning last year, state funding cuts have reduced much of the day programming that our Residents have been receiving since our group homes opened. Fortunately, our Residents and staff have met this challenge head on, and we have taken a number of steps to replace the day programming that was eliminated.

We received special certification status at all of our group homes, so that the Residents in greatest need of frequent care and programming are still receiving it. Our staff takes the Residents on many group outings each month (see photos above). Additionally, many of the Residents are volunteering at a wide variety of local nonprofit organizations. Some Residents are even being financially sponsored through the Very Special Volunteer program, in which donors sponsor the volunteer hours of the Residents to support Safe Harbor’s group homes (visit their website at veryspecialvolunteers.com to learn more). Volunteering builds self-esteem, provides a sense of purpose, and contributes to community engagement. Others have even enrolled in college programs, to expand their learning and open new doors.

Thanks to the generosity of the community, we are able to provide the level of care necessary to making the lives of our Residents fulfilling and purposeful. As we continue to modify and refine our programming in adaptation to the changes we face, I would encourage you to remember our Residents through visits, cards, and letters. Everyone likes recognition and heartfelt words, including them! Your dedicated support is very much appreciated, and I encourage you to keep the residents and our homes in your prayers and financial giving.

Blessings,

Dan Phillips
Director
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www.safeharbormi.org | www.facebook.com/empoweringindependence
Join our monthly email list! Email brad.terhaar@safeharbormi.org to be added
Meet the Safe

Each issue of Safe Harbor News features an adult living at one of Safe Harbor’s group homes. This issue, we introduce you to Beth Anne.

Beth Anne lives with 5 other women at Mary’s House, Safe Harbor’s group home in Muskegon. She was born in Lansing and spent her early years living at home and later at a large group home setting in Northville, MI before becoming part of the Safe Harbor family.

Beth Anne, who has Down syndrome, enjoys living at Mary’s House because she loves the staff and opportunities to connect with her community. Safe Harbor has helped her find a part-time job at a local salon, as well as places to volunteer, including an area retirement center. As a result of maturing in her living at Safe Harbor during the past several years, Beth Anne has become more independent and progressed in her language ability, social skills, and in performing chores, personal hygiene, and other activities of daily living.

Beth Anne has a sister and brother who live in Michigan, and another brother who lives in Mississippi. She frequently sees her parents, who moved to Muskegon in 1995 and led the founding of the Safe Harbor organization, which opened its first two group homes in 2001. Beth Anne joined Safe Harbor that same year. Her hobbies include swimming, sailing, bowling, playing games, and singing and listening to music. Her favorite movies are Wizard of Oz, Sound of Music and Polar Express, and she enjoys watching Wheel of Fortune, The Price is Right, and Detroit Tigers baseball. She loves participating at her church, Forest Park Covenant, Norton Shores.

What are Developmental Disabilities?

Developmental disabilities affect cognitive abilities, physical functioning, or both. These long-term disabilities can include a combination of intellectual, physical, learning, language, or behavior impairments, ranging from mild to severe diagnoses.

‘Developmental disabilities’ is an umbrella term that covers many different types of disabilities that you have likely heard of, such as:

- Autism
- Fragile X Syndrome
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Fetal Alcohol Disorder
- Cerebral Palsy

Did You Know?

250,000 people in Michigan have a developmental disability, and this figure is expected to rise over the coming years. Safe Harbor is helping address this growing need by providing group homes that are affordable, with quality, 24/7 care by professionally trained staff.

People with developmental disabilities are 2x more likely to be living in poverty, as compared to the rest of the population.
Safe Harbor is blessed to be guided by a passionate, dedicated group of individuals who form our Board of Directors. One such board member is Adonica, who has been involved with the organization for a half-decade, volunteering her time and expertise. She took some time to tell us a little about her.

Safe Harbor: What drew you to serve as a board member at Safe Harbor?
Adonica: I was born into a large, caring family, and grew up alongside a younger brother who had a developmental disability, in addition to several adult family members who had physical impairments. Seeing firsthand their struggles and triumphs played a huge part in forming who I am today.

SH: What Experience do you bring to the Board?
Adonica: I hold a Master of Public Administration with an emphasis in health care, and I’ve worked for a handful of different community mental health organizations that have allowed me to help people with disabilities and the underserved. I have a passion and experience in the areas of disabilities and housing, social work, recipient/patient rights, and State of Michigan licensing regulations.

SH: What sets Safe Harbor homes apart from other group homes?
Adonica: Families and persons with disAbilities dream about living in homes where they are respected and loved. They dream about friendships, and independence. Safe Harbor homes strive to be that dream and more. I’ve heard from countless people — state auditors who’ve inspected the homes, physicians who make referrals to us, parents of the residents, and residents themselves — that Safe Harbor’s homes are among the best in the state.

SH: So when you’re not busy working or volunteering your time, what are some hobbies/interests of yours?
Adonica: I love to be outdoors — in my flower gardens, riding a bike, climbing the sand dunes, or bouncing in the waves of Lake Michigan. I like keeping busy, but also enjoy spending time with my family and friends over a leisurely cup of coffee.

I love my family. I have been married to my husband, Terry, for nearly 45 years, and we’ve raised two wonderful sons who have given us two beautiful, talented daughters-in-law, and four amazing grandchildren. Being a grandmother is a true blessing, and leading (and sometimes chasing!) the grand-kid pack around on various adventures and activities may be the best hobby of all.

You Can Help us Make an Impact

Your generous support makes a difference in the lives of every Safe Harbor resident, every day.

By making a gift to Safe Harbor Christian Communities, you support our group homes and the residents in many ways. Examples include:

- 24/7 supervision in the homes by our professionally trained staff
- Connecting Residents with the transportation they need to get to the jobs, volunteer sites, programming, and medical appointments
- Group outings and fun activities
- Housing costs such as utilities, maintenance, and repairs.

Donate online at www.safeharbormi.org or mail a gift to:

Safe Harbor Christian Communities
862 Forest Park Road
Muskegon, MI 49441
He is Risen!

Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.

— Mark 16:6

Have a Blessed Easter

2016 Board of Directors

Will Katerberg
Chairman
Adonica Kunnen
David Dwight
Tom Siebrasse
Vice Chair
Pam Guest
Jim Coslow
Treasurer
Barb Coslow
Secretary

Make a Difference! Serve as a Safe Harbor Board Member. Email Barb at bcoslow@ameritech.net for more information.

Director and House Managers

Dan Phillips, Director & Faith House Manager
Rhonda Vesterfelt, Hope House Manager
Lynn Stroven, Mary’s House Manager
Jodi Skinner, Joseph’s House Manager

Fundraising and Communications

Laurie Mills, Manager of Fundraising Events
Brad Ter Haar, Communications Coordinator

Upcoming Events

Saturday
June 18
Calling all golfers! Join us for our 2nd Annual Community Golf Scramble! Golfing begins with a noon shotgun start at Oak Ridge Golf Club in Muskegon. The day includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart and golf balls, dinner, & raffle.

Tickets: $90/golfer or $35 for dinner only. Order now: call Laurie Mills, Events Manager, at 231.557.6278, or Dan Phillips, Director, at 616.550.1643. To order online: www.tinyurl.com/zxcm3r3

Saturday
Aug. 13
Mark your calendars for an evening of fun at our annual summer event at Hampton Green Farm, a beautiful equestrian setting in Fruitport, MI. You’ll enjoy a hearty dinner, a horse dressage show, a silent auction, and more!

Happy Birthday!

Send a Resident a Card on His/Her Special Day! (Send to our address, found on the cover page)

Mark
March 4
Brad
March 9
Beth
March 25
Robin
March 27
Chelsea
April 7
Laurel
May 16
Kristin
May 21
Dan
May 26
Melanie
May 28