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Everyday Heroes



SAGINAW COUNTY
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY

Welcome

“The whole is greater than the sum of the parts” are words attributed to Aristotle in ancient Greece, and yet still ring true today.

For centuries western medicine has separated mental, physical and spiritual health — treating them separately, independently or conflictly. Current healthcare research, though, points out how very important it is for all helpers and clinical treatment providers to see the whole person and to be guided and informed by each of these dimensions.

It is our honor and pleasure tonight to celebrate individuals who have lived a whole health orientation with results to be proud of. Still others have helped those we serve on their recovery journey. Some of our heroes have helped with resources like jobs and housing and services that have assisted consumers and the service delivery system itself improve and grow. Other honorees have established new partnerships with Saginaw CMH Authority that promote whole health interventions, driving better and long-lasting treatment outcomes.

All our honorees are heroes to the system and to the persons we serve, whether they have a mental illness, substance use disorder, intellectual or developmental disability or a youth with a serious emotional disorder or behavioral challenges.

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the many accomplishments and contributions of our 2018 Everyday Heroes. Congratulations to all of our honorees.

Warmest regards,



Sandra M. Lindsey
CEO, Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority

Everyday Heroes Program

6:30 p.m. Welcome, Sandra Lindsey, CEO

6:45 p.m. Introduction of Dignitaries

6:50 p.m. Introduction of Julie Battle, Emcee

6:55 p.m. Invocation, Morgan Notestine

7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Everyday Hero Recognition

Eric Gascoyne
Yaroslav Harrison
Sharise Hood
Robert Landskroener
Jacob Mangas
Marcus Mansfield
Tanara Simpson
Michele Sura
Billy Ray Thompson, Jr.
Jordan Wise

**8:00 p.m. Bernice Barlow Community
Partnership Award**
CMU Health – Pediatrics

Improving Practices Champion Award
Spectrum Autism Center

**Carolyn Rapson & Ted Rapson Living the
American Dream Award**
Union Court Assisted Living

**Eileen & Lou Vescio Leadership,
Advocacy and Family Support Award**
Terry Kuhns

Special Hero Recognition
Stephan Bowman
Old Country Buffet
Tri City Rental Properties
Andrea Wagner

8:45 p.m. Dancing & Entertainment, TCT

Everyday Hero

Eric Gascoyne

Eric Gascoyne has had to overcome many trials and tribulations in his life in order to be in the good place he is currently. He realized that he needed some assistance with his mental health in order to become the best version of himself and got connected to SCCMHA services.

Eric was born and raised in Saginaw by his parents and has three brothers and one sister. He has a mental health condition as well as an intellectual/developmental disability. He was enrolled in special education classes and graduated from the Transitions Center at the age of 26.

In 2008, Eric married Judith, and the couple began living with her parents. After his father-in-law kicked him out of the house, he and Judith separated. The separation was the stressor that led to thoughts of suicide, attempts and hospitalizations. In 2010, he went to live in an adult foster care home. Eric experienced challenges in adjusting to living in the adult foster care home and also had to give up his job (and income) of 14 years at the Kroger grocery store located on State Street in Saginaw.

Eric started to work in July 2011 through SVRC Industries when he got a janitorial services job and was responsible for cleaning the Michigan Works building. He greatly enjoyed this type of work and easily transitioned into the housekeeping department at the Frankenmuth Fairfield Inn

through the SVRC Supported Employment Enclave.

Eric experienced another setback in November 2015 when his brother was murdered.

After many years of hard work, determination, budgeting and planning, Eric was able to save enough money to purchase his first car in 2016. Having and maintaining his own car has enabled Eric, who is very punctual, to get to work and to scheduled appointments on time.

Eric made the Special Olympics basketball team in January 2016 and played point guard. He functions as a good role model for his ex-wife's 14-year-old daughter from a previous relationship.

In 2016 Eric began working with MRS to secure competitive employment, and in August of that year was offered job at SVRC Industries on the production floor of the electronics recycling center. Eric's success has resulted in additional work hours, therefore becoming more financially stable. In January 2018, Eric found a full time job packaging meat at the Mackinaw Bridge Company in Frankenmuth.

Eric is now well on his path to recovery and achieving his dream to move in with his girlfriend and get married and support a family. His many achievements, resiliency and ability to overcome challenges make him an Everyday Hero.

Everyday Hero

Yaroslav prefers to be called Slava. He was born in Russia and adopted by his parents when he was four years old. As a youngster, Slava had big challenges moving to a new country with people he hardly knew who were to become his parents. Slava had a good command of the Russian language but was now faced learning a new language and adjusting to a new home. With the support and help of his new parents, Slava quickly learned English and adapted to his new surroundings and life in America. Slava's early years in Russia left him with some serious obstacles to overcome in his journey to adulthood.

Slava's parents said he was a very active child and he kept them on their toes. Slava's dad said Slava spent many days in his office. His dad said, "Slava spent much of the time in his special place looking at books." Slava is a bright person and as a child he could catch on to things quickly which allowed him time to explore other things.

Slava had some challenges that resulted in a few separations from his family while growing up. However, upon his return home Slava attended SVRC and graduated a year ahead of schedule. Slava decided he would attend SVSU to pursue his college education; he was excited and could not wait to experience college life. Slava's parents had concerns but knew it was time to give him his wings and

prayed that he would soar with the eagles. For Slava, college life presented challenges that were hard to overcome for a young person with disabilities. Slava found himself making alternative plans for life. He tried a stay at Innerlink, but it was hard for Slava to follow the rules. His parents helped him to get housing in an adult foster care home and he found a job close by. He felt like he was doing well. But Slava started hanging out with other young people whose interests were not focused on work. Slava eventually found himself in a position of being homeless with not too much to look forward to.

After a brief hospitalization, Slava was invited to stay with his grandfather to help out. Slava accepted the invitation and he moved in with his grandfather. Since his move, Slava has stayed on his medication which he finds helpful. He has been able to develop and sustain a good relationship with his grandfather and, as a result, has formed a better relationship with his parents. Slava recently started looking for a job, but put it on hold because his grandfather had some medical issues arise which required Slava to stick close to home to look after his grandfather. In a recent conversation with Slava, he said, "I can't start a job right now because I need to be here for my grandfather. Right now, that is the most important thing I have to do." Slava's grandfather has since passed away and Slava is now living in a



Yaroslav (Slava) Harrison

semi-independent living arrangement and participating in the Self Determination program.

Slava is an Everyday Hero and inspiration to those who know him and understand him. He has overcome incredible obstacles in his young life, and now has his feet on the ground and is headed in the right direction to independence. As Michele Goiun, his Wraparound Coordinator, put it, "He is learning the importance of being dependable and being a man of his word. He still has his days and obstacles that challenge him regularly but he knows with help and support he will reach his goals." Slava Harrison is an Everyday Hero.

Everyday Hero



Sharise Hood

Sharise has been receiving mental health services for many years. In October 2016 she was arrested for assault and spent four and a half months in jail. While in jail she continued to experience symptoms of mental illness.

Between the ages of 14 and 16, she became a full-time parent to her two younger sisters with some help from her grandmother.

Sharise lived in an adult foster care (AFC) home following her acceptance into the Mental Health Court in January 2017. She improved so much that after some time at the AFC she decided to move to a semi-independent placement (SIP) setting. The staff of the SIP notes that Sharise is a "joy to have around." Now, Sharise is looking for her own apartment where she, and eventually her two sons, can live.

Sharise has seven children. The first, a son, was born when she was 17. Unfortunately, she lost custody of two of her children because of her illness and she would like to have them back in her life. She is trying to get custody of both her six-year-old son and twelve-year-old daughter and continues to work diligently on this goal.

Sharise graduated from the Mental Health Court Program on March 21, 2018. She also completed the United States Offenders Anonymous (USOA) Group which is a 12-Step group designed to remediate antisocial behaviors and

risk factors that lead to crime. Recently, she has been taking steps to repay or resolve her student loan debt and she has considered returning to college.

Sharise treats everyone she meets with dignity and respect. She can often be found sending SCCMHA staff "get well" cards or birthday greetings.

For all of her accomplishments, Sharise Hood is a deserving Everyday Hero.

Everyday Hero



Robert Landskroener

In January 2016, Bob started a new life at ResCare home in Chesaning when his mother was no longer able to care for him at home. In May of the same year, Scott Lange became his guardian. He transitioned well into his new living arrangement and gets along well with his housemates.

One of the biggest challenges Bob had to face was his out of control weight and poor nutrition. Bob weighed 400 pounds. He decided to make changes in order to improve his health and wellbeing. He met with the dietician, Ann Rapheal, to learn more about nutrition, eating well, and getting exercise.

Bob lost over 100 pounds in 2016 due to his healthy lifestyle and with the support of his home staff, dietician, guardian, SCCMHA nurse Deb Davies-Teets, and SCCMHA Supports Coordinator Lynette Tilson. Before losing weight, Bob had multiple health issues. For fifteen years he had an open wound that he had been hospitalized for. Despite attending a wound clinic for all those years, the wound never seemed to heal. After moving, losing weight and taking better care of his hygiene, the wound healed and Bob no longer had to go to the clinic.

Bob also started to participate in Community Ties South (CTS) where he enjoys crafts and drawing. He has become more involved in his community and has made new friends while attending CTS. Bob is

a very talented artist who displays his drawings and gives them to others. He also reports with great joy that he has a girlfriend, stating, "I like her and she likes me." In the future Bob has plans to attend a dance and mentioned once that he might like to find a job, although he currently does not want to change a thing. Julie Bitterman, SCCMHA CTS supervisor, states that, "Bob is a sweet man who is kind to everyone he meets."

According to Lynette Tilson, Bob's SCCMHA Supports Coordinator, in the beginning of 2016 he was a different person. He has risen to the challenge of creating a better life for himself and continues to look ahead to other dreams he can accomplish.

Bob has fully experienced life. He has been able to leave his home to live a life that is involved in the community, experience relationships beyond family members, and he made the choice to become healthier and feel better. His many successes make Bob an Everyday Hero.

Everyday Hero



Jacob Mangas

Jacob is described as “an awesome person, a great son, nephew, friend, consumer, and church member” by those who know him. Although he struggled with mental illness since the age of four or five, Jacob has been able to turn his life around. What makes him awesome is who he is now and how he turned his life around.

Jacob first came to SCCMHA right after he had been discharged from a psychiatric hospital. He was physically, emotionally and sexually abused by his father while growing up. He reached a point where he wanted to fight back and was having homicidal thoughts towards his father because of the way he and his mother were treated. His mom suffers from a mental illness and his father has a substance use disorder.

Jacob weighed 275 pounds and knew that his medications contributed to this weight and asked his psychiatrist for effective medication that would also allow him to lose weight and stay healthy. He adhered to his treatment plan and graduated from high school. He was the first in his family to accomplish this. He enrolled in college and has college credits.

Jacob lives in an adult foster care home and he helps out the staff in the home. He now has a vehicle. He volunteers many hours in his church and he set up the church's sound system. He designed a logo for a

local tour bus company. He is fit and weighs 195 pounds. Friends from high school do not recognize him.

Jacob is an inspiration to young adults in our community, staying physically and emotionally healthy. After meeting his last goal of leaving the mental health system, he “graduated” from SCCMHA. Jacob's many accomplishments and successes make him an Everyday Hero.

Everyday Hero



Marcus Mansfield

Marcus began to receive services from SCCMHA in 2010 when he was struggling with suicidal ideation and depression as well as an addiction to crack, marijuana and alcohol. He was also involved in a gang. With a lot of hard work and effort by Marcus and his family, he has overcome his addictions and was able to manage his mood and graduate from high school.

After stopping services for a time in 2012, Marcus returned to SCCMHA in 2014. That year he also enrolled in Delta College where he began working towards his Associates Degree in graphic design. He struggled with school, and asked for guidance several times to help him navigate and understand grants and scholarships to help him remain in college. For a brief period he was unable to meet criteria to remain in school and his funding was cut off. He immediately found a retail job and began working as much as possible. Marcus overcame a period of academic probation upon his return to Delta and paid for his own classes until he was able to receive assistance again. He continued to work while he took classes and demonstrated a lot of maturity and excellent time management skills. He sought assistance when needed, was able to articulate his needs effectively, and was willing to do whatever was necessary to achieve his goals. Despite grieving the loss of his grandmother, who was very important to him, he continued to work towards his goal.

Marcus was in his last semester of his Associates program when he began having difficulties. He complained of vision problems, went to see his eye doctor in May of 2016, and was subsequently diagnosed with a grade III astrocytoma. Despite immediately beginning treatment with radiation and chemotherapy, the cancer spread and became a grade IV (terminal) glioblastoma. He began a new treatment with Optune, a portable, battery-operated medical device that creates an electric field around a tumor to disrupt the growth and reproduction of cancer cells in the brain. He initially began treatment in Saginaw but now sees specialists at Henry Ford in Detroit and an eye specialist in Lansing.

Marcus's right side is partially paralyzed, and he is unable to work. He had to drop his classes and quit school as his cancer affects his speech, vision, comprehension, and mobility. His mother has to help him dress, eat, communicate, and shower. He is currently involved in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, and returned to family therapy for a time to address anxiety and depression regarding his diagnosis. He is unable to read, struggles to draw and sketch, and wears a brace on his leg, and a sling on his arm. Despite all of these challenges, Marcus remains positive regarding his diagnosis. He reports, “I don't feel like I am dying, so I must not be. I am going to beat this, and get back to school and work and doing

what I love.” He has spoken to other patients about the Optune treatment, and strives to help others by sharing his experiences despite his communication difficulties. Marcus has since been able to return to Delta College where he will finish his degree.

Marcus believes in his potential, dreams of recovery, and has achieved stability despite a debilitating illness. His perseverance, positive mental attitude, and dedication to overcoming insurmountable odds make him the epitome of an Everyday Hero.

Everyday Hero



Tanara Simpson

Tanara has been a valued and extremely dedicated employee at Training and Treatment Innovations (TTI) as a Certified Peer Support Specialist since May 2015.

Tanara has co-facilitated the Let's Talk Recovery group at TTI since 2017. She has been a very influential spokesperson for individuals with a mental illness diagnosis and has shared her story of recovery with many consumers served by TTI.

Tanara has a very positive and charismatic personality which has been recognized by a pharmaceutical company. She is a spokesperson for a medication she has been taking that is manufactured by this company which has flown her to many cities around the country to speak to physicians and consumers about her story of recovery and the success of the medication.

Tanara's supervisor, fellow staff members and consumers are personally greeted every morning by Tanara with, "Good morning. How are you today?"

Tanara's supervisor, Kevin Steinbauer, states that Tanara "has a lot of style and loves to dress in bright colored clothes which raises everyone's spirit. Tanara will always take on any responsibility asked of her with enthusiasm and will give one hundred percent to make any task a success. Tanara has all the qualities that an employer looks for in a coworker and teammate and

she has demonstrated her unquestionable commitment to the consumers she serves at TTI."

To learn more about Tanara's journey of recovery and hear her firsthand account of her experiences, visit <https://www.invegratrinza.com/schizophrenia-stories> or text FASHION to 444888.

Tanara's commitment to recovery, optimism and the inspiration she imparts to others make her an Everyday Hero. As Tanara puts it, "There is always light at the end of the tunnel."

Everyday Hero



Michele Sura

Michele Sura lives in the Frankenmuth area with her mother, Nancy, who is a huge support and encouragement to Michele in everything she does. Michele's disability is on the autism spectrum and has a rare blood disease that requires regular medical contact due to periods of extreme weakness and fatigue.

When we first met Michele three years ago she would barely make eye contact and would look at her mom every time she was asked a question. Michele and her mother had set up a Self Determination arrangement and they were anxious to try new things and get Michele hooked up with an awesome life in her new community of Frankenmuth. With the assistance of her mother and her community living support (CLS) staff, Louise, Michele not only accomplished that goal but has flourished over the years. Michele attends a local bible study every Tuesday night and loves to sing Karaoke at parties with friends. She and Louise are exercising in the community or with her walking videos in the winter. She has made lots of friends and the neighbor kids just love her and call her Aunt Michele.

Michele has volunteered several times at a local charity clothing store, served popcorn at "Zippety-Zoo-Da-Day," helped shuck corn at the local farmers market, ran a small microenterprise taking pictures of Dogs called "Hot

Diggity Dog," and recently she and Louise have begun selling Mary Kay products. Michele is trying the Mary Kay products herself so that she can get to know them better, which will in turn help her with sales in the future.

In the past Michele hated the idea of shopping and buying new clothing in the community, as it would cause her much anxiety. However, with the help of her CLS staff, she has overcome that barrier and shopping is something she really enjoys now. This is just another success that she can add to her "Board of Accomplishments" that she and her supporters keep on the wall of her garage. They put up pictures of new things that Michele tries, activities she participates in, volunteer opportunities she was part of and much, much more.

As Angie Irish, SCCMHA Self Determination Coordinator put it, "Michele has an amazing smile and she loves to laugh and joke around. Anyone who meets Michele will fall in love with her kind spirit and her connection to people. I have enjoyed watching her grow and challenge herself to try new things. For her bravery and boldness, Michele Sura is truly an Everyday Hero."

Everyday Hero



**Billy Ray
Thompson, Jr.**

Billy has been a consumer at SCCMHA for almost two years. Since entering the Mental Health Court Program, Billy has made strides to improve his understanding of what it means to have a mental health diagnosis. Earlier, Billy was in denial of having a mental illness. He believed that mania was normal. Billy made everyone aware that he was not happy with receiving mental health treatment and he was even more upset that he had to go through a year-long Drug Court program, particularly one that involved attending groups, biweekly individual therapy and weekly visits to court.

However, as time went on, everyone began to see a change in Billy. He began mending old relationships and accepting the help that was being offered. He began gaining insight into his mental health diagnosis. He attended weekly therapy which taught him how to cope with his symptoms and he began taking his medications. Billy showed the SCCMHA Community Support Services (CSS) team and Mental Health Court team that he was capable of turning his life around.

Billy has successfully assisted his wife with starting their baking company back up. He has also put in several hours and dedication to opening their banquet hall, Elisa Rose. Billy has also found his way back to wanting to be a creator and designer for websites. He is the definition of what dedication and

perseverance look like. He has not given up on his dreams and plans to go back to college to get his business degree. Billy successfully graduated from the Mental Health Court program on March 21st.

Billy Ray Thompson, Jr. has shown us that no matter what the circumstances may be, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. His perseverance and many successes make him an Everyday Hero.

Everyday Hero



Jordan Wise

Jordan Wise is an ordinary person with an extraordinary story. His descent into addiction began as a teenager, after being given opiates by a classmate. "I never realized that something as small as a pill could have such a huge effect on my life. When I took opiates my problems seemed to melt away."

Since the day he turned 14, Jordan realized his life was spinning out of control, spiraling into a life of hurt and despair. He was arrested in September 2012 for breaking and entering and charged with a felony. At the time of his arrest he was "high."

On July 22, 2013, Jordan entered the Saginaw County 10th Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court where he was ordered to residential treatment. This event is when he began to take his road to recovery seriously. For the first time, Jordan began to think about getting off drugs and learned the skills to do so.

Jordan, now 28, has left that life behind him. On March 2, 2015 in a courtroom filled with supportive family, friends, members of law enforcement, and public officials, he graduated from the Adult Felony Drug Court program. Finishing this structured program means Jordan achieved three years of continuous sobriety and lawful behavior in a program of intensive substance use disorder treatment. He knows they care about him and keep him accountable.

Jordan is making a self-sufficient, drug-free future partly credited to the inspirational figures that include

his family and friends, and most importantly, his recovery community who guided him through the process. As Jordan's mother stated, "I have my son back; he is part of the family unit and has made new friends that are not part of the cycle of addiction." On December 30, 2017 Jordan again began a new venture in his life when he married his supportive partner, Stephanie.

Jordan now chairs many Narcotics Anonymous meetings in our community and he took it upon himself to chair two recovery support meetings a month at Tri-Cap, an alternative placement for people involved in the criminal justice system.

He has successfully completed probation and has had his breathalyzer removed from his vehicle. He is also gainfully employed. Jordan is a local resource and spokesperson for the community, offering his assistance and knowledge of addiction and the road to recovery. He will, without hesitation, speak to local high school students about his addiction and recovery when asked to do so by high school principals.

Jordan's enthusiasm and willingness to promote community values, along with his compassion for recovery is evidenced by the support he gives back to his community. Jordan is reassured knowing people care about him. He is pleased to accept he is not walking alone in his road to recovery. The Saginaw County CMH Authority Board of Directors is delighted to welcome Jordan to our

board. He received his board appointment by the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners last month. For everything he has accomplished in five years, Jordan is a role model for our community and his family, and he is the personification of an Everyday Hero.

Bernice Barlow Community Partnership Award

Central Michigan University Health – Pediatrics

CMU Health Department of Pediatrics in Saginaw offers a comprehensive array of outpatient and inpatient services. Providing the highest quality of care for patients starting at birth through the age of 18 years, CMU Pediatrics continues to add to their staff, providing over 6,200 services during 2017. CMU Health board-certified pediatricians are involved in teaching CMU College of Medicine medical students and family medicine residents, and also have duties with Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw.

As the health care system is transformed from non-integrated to integrated, many services and interventions can be provided directly to the pediatric population; as well as their parents in the medical clinic setting. Behavioral health consulting services, initiated under a federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) System of Care Grant awarded to SCCMHA in 2014, currently supports four pediatricians and two nurse practitioners in a co-located partnership at CMU Health. Services include the provision of

consultation, screening, assessment and interventions, which are targeted to serve the distinct developmental and systems of care needs for CMU's pediatric population. Together, SCCMHA behavioral health consultants and CMU Health primary care clinicians continue to develop an integrated understanding of typical child and adolescent diagnoses that may present in the medical setting such as ADHD, pediatric asthma, autism, anxiety, depression, trauma and adverse childhood experiences.

CMU Health – Pediatrics providers have adopted the administration of screening tools to address the mental health concerns of new mothers and to track developmental milestones with the overall goal to support the social and emotional health of the children they serve. These providers demonstrate their commitment to best clinical practice standards by addressing concerns at an early age and frequently initiate referrals to community agencies to provide their patients access to services that support the improved outcomes. SCCMHA recognizes these

practitioners for their patient-centered advocacy and the belief that medically related concerns also affect the mental health and wellbeing of their young patients. Future dreams include the establishment of a full pediatric behavioral health clinic within CMU Health's pediatric setting that provides a continuum of health care services in one location.

CMU Health – Pediatrics continually strives to provide the best care and outcomes for the families they serve. CMU Health – Pediatrics is a dedicated advocate and exemplary provider of comprehensive health services to young patients and their families. We are pleased to present the Bernice Barlow Community Partnership Award in recognition of CMU Health's long-standing partnership with SCCMHA and commitment to improving the overall health of children and youth, their families and our community.



Erin Hanson



Lisa Jean



Adeeba Khan



Mary Moore



Lourdes Morales



Vishwas Vaniawala

Improving Practices Champion Award

Spectrum Autism Center

Spectrum Autism Center stands out as an exemplary provider of Applied Behavior Analysis, an evidenced-based intervention for children and adults being served through SCCMHA's Autism Program. As you enter the door, you are greeted by several friendly and welcoming staff members. Under the direction of Leasa Androl, staff members continue to display that friendly demeanor by being cooperative, helpful and accommodating. Leasa is always available for questions. Spectrum Autism Center is excellent about communicating with SCCMHA staff about meetings, progress reports and documentation, and also collaborates with other service providers to produce the best outcomes for consumers and families. Staff members are warm, friendly and accommodating, and communicate in a timely manner.

Spectrum Autism Center is all about the consumers they serve and promoting independence and goal attainment. Several consumers have "graduated" from needing services and the Center speaks positively about graduating children, proud of their accomplishments. For one particular consumer, progress on a behavioral outcome measurement tool doubled and the parents of this individual note that they have seen tremendous growth. During Christmas, Santa Claus visited the

Center so that each child would have the experience of sitting on Santa's lap, an experience a child with Autism often does not get. While at a goal update meeting, a parent began weeping about how much progress their child had made. Another parent who was reluctant to begin intervention because they believed their child could not improve cannot stop talking about what a huge difference Spectrum staff has made in the family's life.

Not only have parents seen growth, there are special things Spectrum Autism Center does to assist the families and the individuals they serve. They coordinate with the University of Michigan for consumers who have special issues with food challenges. Within the Center, a special classroom area is set up to prepare children for school. This area was specifically set up to assist with transitioning children to the classroom. In addition, there is a program on the computer and parents can download an app so that they can access progress of their child at any time. No one consumer has the same Behavior Technician working with them, which is excellent for generalization in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Spectrum Autism Center embraces the potential of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and



Leasa Androl

promotes graduation from needing services. They are focused on outcomes and proud to see children "graduate" and no longer need services. They are responsive to consumer needs and go above and beyond to treat the individuals they serve.

Spectrum Autism Center exemplifies an Improving Practices Champion and is worthy of recognition as a top notch provider for Saginaw citizens with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families.

Carolyn Rapson & Ted Rapson Living the American Dream Award



Kelly Cornford

Union Court Assisted Living

Union Court Assisted Living has a goal very similar to that of SCCMHA: “to help residents to live life to the fullest.” Union Court opened its doors in 2008 as a locally owned and operated service. The facility truly connects with and cares about the community and values seniors as an essential part of society.

This award-winning St. Charles facility was recognized by Saginaw Future with the Outstanding Economic Investment award, the Business of the Year award from St. Charles Chamber of Commerce, and in 2010 and 2011 was named Best of the Best by *The Saginaw News*.

When Kelly Cornford, one of the owners, accompanies you through a visit to the facility, it is clear that she has relationships with residents and staff alike and takes personal pride in the quality of life the residents are able to enjoy there. When Kelly was asked to help a consumer who is participating in the Self Determination program find a way to move into the facility, she initially met with more barriers than she anticipated. The family and the consumer were hoping to preserve his close proximity to the St. Charles community during a time of transition and at the same time provide him with the maximum amount of choice in his daily life.

The combination of the assisted living setting with a home for the aged licensure and an active Self

Determination agreement presented a complex puzzle to solve; all of the rules for each of these benefits had to be followed. Kelly’s optimism prevailed, and as each new piece of the puzzle appeared to present a barrier, she was willing to work to resolve the conflict and move forward to achieve a solution that worked for everyone. Her position was always, “How can we make this work?” And, at the end of months of policy wrangling she did make it work! This is the spirit of Self Determination, always finding a way to Yes.

We are pleased to commend Union Court Assisted Living’s commitment to helping adults who are no longer able live independently enjoy their lives to the fullest, and we recognize this dedication with the Rapson Living the American Dream Award.

Eileen & Lou Vescio Leadership, Advocacy and Family Support Award

If there is anyone who embodies the SCCMHA Vision as a life mantra, it is Terry Kuhns. Spend five minutes with him and it becomes evident that he truly believes in the positive potential of everyone he encounters. It also becomes evident that, in addition to spending time with and caring for his family, his life’s calling is to create opportunities for others to achieve their dreams.

Terry Kuhns is a “pastor turned social entrepreneur.” A pastor since 1998, Terry has worked to nurture collaboration between government agencies, churches and other community service providers. He believes strongly that both government and the faith community have something to offer the other. His personal mission is to nurture trusting and purposeful relationships that will positively impact a community.

Terry has served on state and national committees addressing family and community issues for citizens returning from the prison system. Previously, when SCCMHA was the coordinating agency for a three-county program, Terry worked with prisoner reentry mentoring for several years and his work was noted by SCCMHA leadership as very successful.

Terry resigned as the Senior Pastor at Grace Baptist Church of Saginaw in order to focus on his work with PACT (People Achieving Change Today). PACT is an LLC local to Saginaw County that creates positive change by contracting with government agencies, faith-based and community organizations to develop and manage programs, projects and initiatives that nurture trusting and purposeful relationships in a community. PACT currently contracts with SCCMHA to coordinate mentoring for Saginaw

MAX System of Care and to assist with the launch of The Open Table Model in Saginaw County.

The Open Table is a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)-supported, faith-based model that trains congregations and their members to form communities – called Tables – that transform their vocational and life experiences into tools that individuals in poverty can use to develop and implement plans that create change. The Open Table processes draw from the extensive research base of Wraparound, an established evidence-based practice method for assisting people in transition. Each Table is composed of a group of volunteers that make a year-long commitment to act, through relationship, as a team of life specialists, encouragers and advocates. Over the course of a year, the Table works together to set goals, foster accountability and implement a plan to create change.

The PACT mentoring program receives referrals from multiple system partners and provides mentors for children and youth from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds who have experienced trauma in their lives. Mentors work with young people for at least one year to develop and explore their dreams and goals. Terry can tell you the evidence that proves the value of mentoring – such as youth with mentors demonstrating improved academic skills, showing increased self-esteem and being more likely to attend school and less likely to use drugs and alcohol. The one-year minimum mentorship relationship



Terry Kuhns

allows the youth to develop trust and experience consistency with a positive adult in their lives. Recruiting volunteer mentors for a minimum one-year commitment with youth who are experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges is a daunting task, but Terry has orchestrated a long list of success stories in our community. And it’s not just the youth who are gaining from the experiences; many a mentor has excitedly contacted Terry to tell him about some new and wonderful change, connection or event. And when the year is up? Most want to sign up again.

We are pleased to recognize Terry’s many contributions to the positive development of youth in our community with the Eileen & Lou Vescio Leadership, Advocacy and Family Support Award.

Special Hero



Stephan Bowman

Stephan at Action Thrift donates a fifty-dollar voucher to be used in his store for consumers in need. He helps SCCMHA consumers with furnishing their apartments after leaving adult foster care or semi-independent living.

He treats his customers with dignity and respect. His employees are eager to load the items into a vehicle. Instead of dictating what items to give consumers, he allows them to choose from anything in the store.

Stephan's prices are reasonable, so many customers get "more bang for the buck." Action Thrift has been known to donate clothing, furniture, kitchen items, couches, dining tables, chairs and televisions.

SCCMHA staff members have noted that Action Thrift is "one of the few thrift stores that give our consumers items without a hassle." And, "they're there when we need them." Action Thrift also gives discounts to senior citizens and veterans.

Action Thrift requires a letter of referral from an SCCMHA employee for items an individual requires. They then go above and beyond to accommodate these requests as long as the items are on hand.

Action Thrift takes Action in the community by putting quality used items to good use by helping people furnish and accessorize their homes or apartments and clothe themselves. They are generous to those less fortunate in the community. Stephan is enthusiastic about his work and serving the needs of our citizens and the community as a whole. His selfless service to support members of our community makes Stephan/Action Thrift deserving of recognition as a Special Hero.

Special Hero

Old Country Buffet

The first Everyday Heroes event was a small luncheon held at Old Country Buffet in May of 2003. More recently, Old Country Buffet has supported and maintained a willingness and openness to the success of SCCMHA consumers for some time. When SCCMHA Supported Employment Services staff approached Brendan LaRue, the former general manager of the restaurant on Bay Road, to request his consideration of hiring an individual served by SCCMHA's Supported Employment Unit, Brendan not only listened, he believed in the supported employment program enough to hire the consumer and provided personal as well as team-based support to help ensure the consumer's success.

In addition to hiring this work-ready and very capable consumer, management always cared enough to ensure that the consumer takes his break, eats a hot meal and, most important, is treated with equal respect like every employee. Old Country Buffet management was always flexible and gave the consumer the time he needed to learn to do his job while firmly coaching him to achieve and maintain acceptable job performance throughout his four years of employment.

Old Country Buffet gave a perhaps not-so-traditional job-seeker an opportunity to accomplish his goal of permanent part-time employment. Brendan functioned not only as a manager, but as a friend and a support person, providing a much-needed work and social outlet for this extremely social consumer. Mr. LaRue looked past the consumer's challenges. There have been times where he went out of his way to give the consumer a ride home from work in inclement weather because he cares and did not want him to walk the almost six miles home. Rather than sanctioning or terminating the employee for not having transportation, he gave him a ride home.

As Annie Midcalf of the SCCMHA Supported Employment unit put it, "If there were more people in the world like Mr. LaRue and more employers like Old Country Buffet, there would be many more happy people accomplishing their goals and dreams and becoming included in their communities."

We salute Old Country Buffet as a Special Hero in recognition of the dignity and respect they have afforded to a consumer who is obviously valued by Old Country Buffet and its employees.

*Old
Country
Buffet*

Special Hero



Tri City Rental Properties/ James Enszer, Jr.

Tri City Rental Properties, specifically James Enszer, Jr., has consistently provided numerous opportunities for the SCCMHA Housing Resource Center to locate residences for consumers who are recipients of long-term supportive housing grant funds. In fact, Tri City Rental has welcomed more consumers served by the Housing Resource Center than any other landlord by choice, not out of necessity. James is always cordial to both staff and consumers. He fosters an attitude of humbleness in his dealings with consumers and always treats them with respect and dignity.

James makes repairs, no matter how small, in a timely manner and comes up with solutions to help with issues tenants have had to deal with. He is very patient and never complains about inspections or the annual re-inspections. No matter what HUD Housing Quality Standards are, James Enszer, Jr. and Tri City Rental are willing to make the adjustments to the property so that it meets HUD's (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) seemingly ever-changing requirements. Whether the requirement be as small as changing a plug or as large as replacing windows, James always readily complies. And, James will call the Housing Resource Center if he has question about a written notice; he is proactive not reactive.

If a consumer does not qualify for a property due to financial restrictions or other reasons, James is always ready to show another property to the tenant if he has one. He does not try to force the tenant to take the unit he wants them to take, but instead is patient and allows them to freely choose their new home. This is important; consumers who are the recipients of these grant funds are homeless and have severe persistent mental illnesses or are in recovery from an addictive disorder. The ability to choose from multiple locations is important to them. Whether it is an individual with an alcohol use disorder who does not want to be near a location with alcohol, or a person suffering from

schizophrenia not feeling safe in a location shown to them, James respects their choices.

James and Tri City Rental have very competitive rental rates. If Tri City Rental's rates are over the maximum allowed by HUD's program rules and regulations, he will adjust them in order to help people qualify.

Tri City Rental also has very well-maintained apartments and homes. They fix what needs to be fixed, and are the only landlords in this area that offer most, if not all, the tenants the Consumers Energy appliance repair plan for free for units funded by SCCMHA housing grants. Consumers receiving housing grants cannot afford a new stove or a refrigerator when one stops working. This plan insures that appliances are repaired or replaced as needed; consumers do not need to worry that they will not be able to cook or keep food fresh for a day, weekend, or week when James is not available.

James Enszer, Jr. and Tri City Rental help consumers fulfill their dream for a place to call their own – a home in which they can live independently. James and Tri City Rental are Special Heroes.

Special Hero



Andrea Wagner

Expertise, quality results and professionalism are the qualities that best describe Andrea Wagner, a person who has dedicated herself to providing family engagement opportunities for families in Saginaw County. Andrea is highly skilled to assist families with not only being actively engaged in their child's life, but how to become change agents and advocates of children regardless of ability or disability.

Andrea has served in a parent engagement role for Saginaw Max System of Care. She has volunteered on various projects that involved assisting families with helping their children improve in social behaviors. She also assists with a number of Parent Cafes and workshops for Saginaw Max System of Care. Keva Clark, Saginaw Max System of Care's Lead Family Representative states that "the leadership she provides can't be measured on a single scale."

Andrea, who is a parent of children with special health care needs and disabilities, has participated in leadership training through Saginaw Max System of Care and currently serves in several capacities including Parent Trainer for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Resource Parent Curriculum; facilitator for the Strengthening Families Program 10-12; Parent Trainer for Family

Road Map Training Curriculum; and Region 5 Family Leadership Network Representative.

Keva describes Andrea as having "a gentle, yet firm approach that helps families, educators and the community at large to be able to understand family and youth voice. She is always looking for ways to strengthen the family bond and bridge any communication or other gaps between families, schools and agencies." Andrea's commitment and dedication to helping families makes her a Special Hero.

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Consumer/Consumer Advocate Involvement in SCCMHA Committees

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Alisha Barnes
Susan Bielskis
Michelle Blaine
Tracey Burke
Everen Calhoun
Vincent Calligaro
Jennifer Campbell
Mary Lou Davis
Nicol Donald
Emma Gaddis
Timothy Green
Sandra Hudson
Kristine Kaufman
Claude Linton
Chrystal Marshall
Gregory Marshall
Lesia McAfee
Kirk McClure
Winfred Mitchell
Anna Monk
Carol Mose
Deb Nagel
Lisa Nettles
David Osmun
Thelma Paschall
Daniel Prieto
William Reid
Ronald Robertson
Christin Rogers
Jesse Saldana
Lisa Sawyer
Charles Schroeder
Nicole Sims
Larry Taylor
Joyce Terry
Cecilia Thomas
Tad Urban
Kelly Jo Vanderlip
Carol Young

Consumer Self-Management Group

Alisha Barnes
Connie Filiczowski
Randy Krause
Deb Nagel
David Osmun
Jesse Saldana
Lisa Sawyer
Nicole Sims

Continuing Education

Michael McGovern
Mark Moe

Friends for Recovery Center

Irene Gray
Jeff Herzberg
Ellen Lake
Deb Nagel
Maryann Saldana
Lisa Sawyer
Andre Strode
Cecilia Thomas
John Vance

Learning Links

Chrystal Marshall
Gregory Marshall
Winfred Mitchell

MSHN Consumer Advisory Council

Mary Lou Davis
Javier Guevara
Deb Nagel

Saginaw MAX System of Care

Heather Akers
Tiffany Anderson
Sally Arriaga
Nanette Barringer
Lorisa Bellinger
Sylvia Brantley
Yolanda Brenner
Dee Brown
Thomas Brown
Lisa Brown
Tina Brown
Mark Bryant
Rhonda Bryant
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Jessica Burton
Kathy Chatman
Jennifer Church
Tina Colpean
Ta-Tanesha Dillard
Richelle Donald
Angela Duby
Wanda Dunlap
Karen Essex
Christian Evans

Latrisha Evans
Mitrece Farnier
Sophia Griffin
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Charlotte Hilliard
Steven Holmes
Teresa Holmes
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Shamell Jackson
Zipporah Jackson
Kaylee Jenei
Martha Jordan
Tracy Kapitzke
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LaWanda McDaniel
Anita McKinstry
Tarus McNeal
Assegid Mersha
Teresa Metes
Algeria Morris-Sowah
Tad Mueller
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Greg Schmidt
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Maudena Scott
Joan Sims
Diane Smith
Tracy Smith
Danielle Tafel
Rachel Taylor
Patricia Teague
Bridgett Townsend
Andrea Wagner
Patrice Walker
Ashley Warren
Dorinda Warren
Mary Williams
Craig Yates
Vivian Youngblade

Self Determination

Mary Lou Davis
Cecilia Thomas

SCCMHA At A Glance

SCCMHA Vision Statement

A belief in potential

A right to dream

An opportunity to achieve

SCCMHA Mission Statement

*As the public manager of supports and services for citizens with mental illness,
developmental disabilities and chemical dependency and their families,
SCCMHA actively strives to develop a system of care and a community that values and
embraces the potential and contributions of all individuals with disabilities.*

SCCMHA Board of Directors

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Andrea Schrems
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Jordan Wise
Robert Woods, Jr.

Special Thanks To

Julie Battle, Emcee

**Thank you to SCCMHA staff and network providers for supporting
consumers and helping them become Everyday Heroes!**

**SCCMHA would like to extend a very special thank you for the proclamations
prepared by the Michigan Legislature for each of our award winners.**

Senator Ken Horn

Representative Vanessa Guerra

Representative Tim Kelly

**SCCMHA would also like to extend a very special thank you
to this year's advertisers and sponsors:**

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Everyday Heroes Recognition Banquet**



Everyday Heroes

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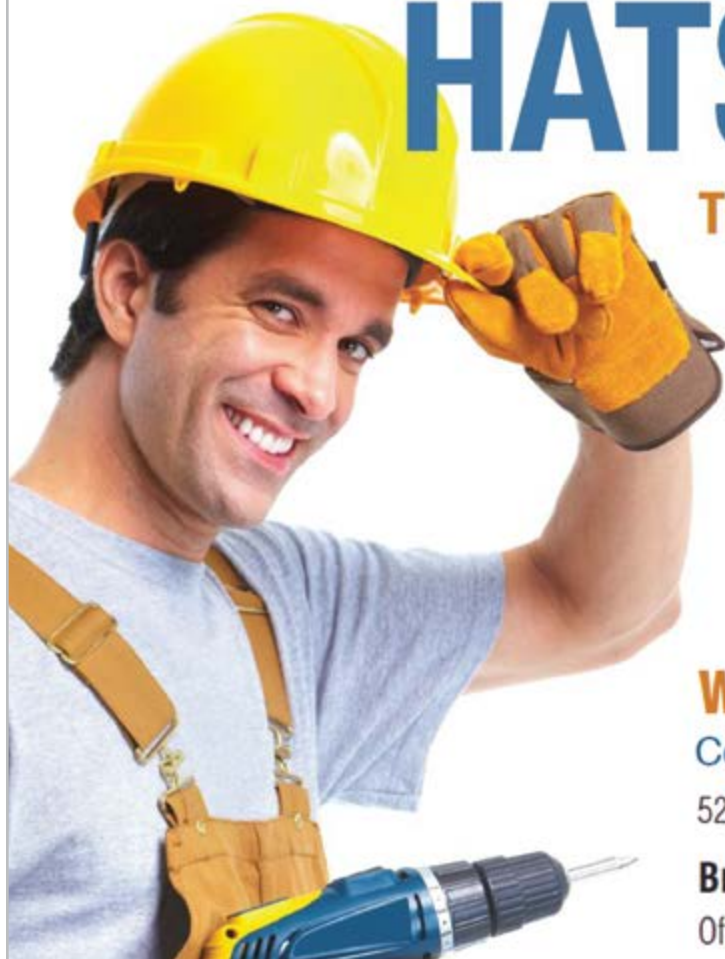
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