



# Newsletter

## PRS BATTLE CREEK IS GIVING BACK

Progressive Residential Services Inc. took a part in the Stand Down for Veterans event on October 20, 2017 at Full Blast Recreation Center in downtown Battle Creek. Stand Down was started with belief in the triumph of the human spirit over extraordinary odds. It grew out of a conviction that the overwhelming number of homeless veterans on the streets of America is unacceptable, and that the veteran community itself must respond. Stand Down is an intervention that was conceived from the ground up specifically for veterans, by veterans. The event started in 1988 in San Diego as a way to help former military members get off the streets and put their lives back together. It has since spread around the nation. While homelessness overall has been a major issue in San Diego, the number of veterans living on the streets has been a special concern. The annual countywide tally of the homeless in January found 9,116 people, with 5,621 unsheltered in any way. Of the total, 1,054 were veterans, 9% fewer than last year and 29% below the level four years ago. The number of veterans counted on the streets, 454, was down 21% from 2016. The drop is, in part, a result of increased attention on the plight of veterans on the streets, and a city of San Diego program that offers incentives to landlords to rent to homeless, former military members.



Veterans who attend the event receive shelter, food, clothing, showers, medical and legal assistance and substance abuse counseling.



## NEW BEGINNINGS AT PRS BATTLE CREEK

The PRS-MI Battle Creek management team sat down to examine ways in which we could help our organization continue to progress and succeed. Topics concerning barriers, perception, and the acceptance of the community were discussed, as well as how we could overcome these obstacles. The answer we came up with; was to open a new specialized residential home!

Anyone who has opened a new home before, or even maintained an existing one, knows this can be a daunting task! Regardless, the PRS team was willing to take the risk, and not let fear get in our way.

Our journey started by reaching out to other communities, as well as collaborating with SWMBH (Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health) to determine if a need existed for more specialized residential housing. As a result, we were able to gain contacts and support from other providers, something that wouldn't have been possible without the start of this project.

Once we were able to determine a need for expansion, the search for a house and a landlord that would take on the task of creating an ADA-compliant home could finally begin. The only help we could offer was our determination to see our vision of expanding into the community become a reality. Our hard work paid off. Through networking with area realtors, we were able to obtain a house and a landlord who shared our goal.

The opening of this home is an opportunity to expand our roots in the community. The location of the home is in the heart of the city and we hope this will allow for greater acceptance and integration opportunities. Barriers have been broken, obstacles have been removed, and PRS of B.C. is thrilled to announce the opening of our third specialized residential home!

Everyone from PRS Battle Creek would like to give a special thanks to Jan Hurst for her fine decorating of our new AFC home.

*Along with a new group home, PRS Battle Creek SIL's has 11 new residents, and we are happy to announce that the Beachfield home and the Pennfield home also have a new resident.*



## ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ashley B., a resident from the SILs program, has enrolled into the E3 Achievement program.

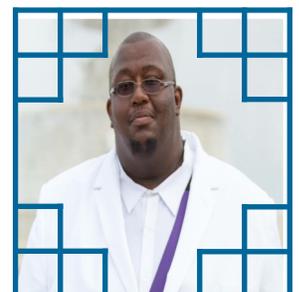
E3 Achievement offers a range of educational, employment and entrepreneurial programs and workshops with the goal of helping people succeed economically. We believe that with work, this certificate program delivers a curriculum that prepares the student for a wide variety of jobs that interact with the public.

Ashley made the PRS coffee cup she is holding and is hoping that this will open up new doors for her in the job market. We would also like to announce that Ashley is now on the board for PRS.



Nothing stops the man who desires to achieve. Quintell B. is one of our residents in the BC SIL's and he set out to get his license and he is well on his way to achieving that goal! We are proud to announce that he has received his driving permit and is studying to take the test to get his driver's license. This has been a dream of his and now it is within his reach.

Antonio Rudolph started with PRS about three years ago. He began as a Direct Support Professional and transitioned to Assistant Manager of the SILs program in July of 2017. He has a positive attitude and it shows in his work. He has said "I see great things happening with the SILs program in the near future." Opportunities continued to present themselves to Antonio as he continues to learn and grow. In February of this year, the manager position became open, needless to say, he took that chance as well and has now been promoted to Manager of the SILs program.



## PRS Battle Creek's Events and Outings

### Rivalry Between Teams At The Beachfield Home



Watching the ongoing rivalry between the Michigan and Michigan State football teams play out on the field has always been a highly anticipated event. October 7, 2017 was no exception. Beachfield home became a house divided, with die hard fans on both sides of the roster rooting for their favorite team. Food and decorations were prepared to show support for each team as the staff and residents reveled in this historic event, all while enjoying pizza, breadsticks, wings, and a giant cookie displaying the school colors of the opposing teams.



### BOYER HOME'S VISIT TO SEA LIFE AQUARIAN



Boyer staff Karmen Carlson, Brandi Jacobus, Sabrina Williams and persons served Heather F., Roger G., and Tim H. enjoyed a day at Sea Life of Auburn Hills in September. They enjoyed the hands on experience and sensory stimulation. There were some baby stingrays at Sea Life which were super cute. It was very enjoyable since it wasn't very crowded on this day and we were able to take our time to appreciate the several types of aqua life. The best part was being able to sit in the tunnel area while schools of fish/baby hammerhead/baby sharks/sea turtles/sting rays just floated along.

### STAFF APPRECIATION DINNER

In October, PRS - BC celebrated staff appreciation at the Asian Buffet Hibachi Grill, in Battle Creek, MI. Staff really enjoyed the meal, the socialization and recognition from management and our residents. To the staff of PRS Battle Creek, keep up the good work!

### EVENTS

\*On December 19, 2017 PRS BC hosted a Christmas party at the Robin's Nest, a reception venue in Battle Creek, for all staff and residents from 11am to 3pm.

\*On Tuesday, January 23, 2018 the Disability Network hosted a Lunch & Learn 11am to 1pm. The movie "RISE UP" was shown. This movie is about how waking up to your unique self can change the world for the better.

### TRAINING WEBINARS for Direct Support Professionals

#### Webinar Training Topics

#### **Supporting People in Establishing Friendships and Making Community Connections** (9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

This training is designed to give you information about ways you can support people with disabilities in developing relationships/friendships with people in the community.

#### **Self-Advocates & Direct Support Professionals Working in Partnership to Achieve Life's Dreams** (10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

This training is designed for people with disabilities and their direct support professionals. Participants will learn about effective self-advocacy techniques and the role that DSPs play in assisting self-advocates in achieving their goals.

## PRS ROMEO CELEBRATIONS

The Romeo staff enjoyed a Christmas dinner while they also celebrated the "Staff of the Year," which was given to Diane Rogers.

She is always willing to help others whenever she can and we are glad to have her on the Romeo Team. Thank you Diane for all you do!



Romeo also had a Christmas party for the residents at The Mirage Elegant Banquets & Catering. Everyone enjoyed food served by local school children, dancing, great gifts, and of course the guy in the red suit. Our residents love this time of the year.



## A ROMEO RETIREMENT

Long time staff of PRS, Mary Phillips, has decided to retire. Mary has been with PRS for 19 years. She will definitely be missed by everyone here. We wish you a happy retirement filled with fun and happiness.



Happy Retirement!

## PRS Bids a Fond Farewell to the Monroe Managers

PRS Monroe says farewell to two wonderful long time managers with the company, Valerie Mannor and Donna Whited. We are very grateful for the years of devoted, high quality care they provided, and we wish them the best moving forward in their future endeavors. PRS will continue to provide the best advocacy as possible for all of our persons served, but these two ladies will be greatly missed. Thank you ladies!

By Lee Peters



## PRS Judd/Washtenaw SILS 2017 Year End Award Winners

During our monthly staff meeting in December, we announced the 2017 end of the year award winners. We honored E.U. with "Consumer of the Year", Marion Benton for "Guardian of the Year", and Cindy Smith-Young, a staff member with more than twenty years of service, was chosen for "Employee of the Year". We are thankful for all of our staff and guardians, and all of the great things they do to assist us throughout the year.

By Roger Heath



Cindy Smith-Young,  
Employee of the Year 2017

## PRS Judd and Washtenaw SILS

It was a busy holiday season at Judd and Washtenaw SILS; our residents and staff participated in several fun activities. Residents created home-made Christmas decorations for the tree and baked cookies. We also went to view the "Nite Lites Winter Wonderland" at Michigan International Speedway, which is a three-mile light display that you enjoy from the comfort of your car. We saw reindeers and Santa Claus too! Everyone is looking forward to spring and the milder weather to go outside and enjoy more outings.





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