



In-Pact In-Facts

September 2011

This publication is to be distributed exclusively to all employees of In-Pact. For information in regards to this newsletter, contact Toni at the In-Pact office (219) 662-1905.

GROUP HOME SERVICES

Submitted by: **Dana Rock**

Sherwood Group Home

The time has flown by so fast as there has been a lot going on at the Sherwood Group Home. Last August, we were excited to have a new boy join the group home. Manny is a silly playful teenager that loves to sing, dance and listen to his music. He has adjusted well to the group home and really enjoys interacting with his roommates.

The fall and winter months were full of outings. We went to Country Line Orchard a few times to pick out apples and pumpkins. The guys dressed up for Halloween and attended several parties as well as went trick-or-treating, bringing home Plenty! of candy. The guys also went to Lego Kids Fest at McCormick Place in Chicago, Hensley's Nursery to see Santa, and to Lincoln Park Zoo to see the lights. Once it started snowing, they spent a lot of time playing outside and going sledding at the Fairgrounds.

We also welcomed another boy to the group home in February. Michael is an energetic and curious boy who loves to play in the water and swing. He also enjoys listening to the Doors, Pink Floyd, and some Classical music. We are enjoying watching him progress and learn new skills.

Once the weather started getting warmer, we were able to start going more places again. The guys went to Navy Pier, the Childrens' Museums, in Chicago and Indianapolis, the Michigan City Zoo, and the Field Museum. They also went to Medieval Times and really loved watching the competition between the knights.

In April and May, Johnie and Manny were named student of the month in their classrooms. We are so proud of their achievements! The summer has been fun and busy for our guys. They have been to the Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, the Brookfield Zoo, and Lego Land for Star Wars Days. We have enjoyed lots of picnics, playing at the different parks, and the guys also went to the beach often to swim. They went to the fair, which is something that the guys are always excited to do. In addition to all of the group home outings, a few of the guys were able to take individual trips with staff this summer. Austyn took the train and



spent the day in Chicago, Russell wore his cowboy hat and went to Tim McGraw concert, and Johnie went to Bison Farm and out to eat at Tyler's Tender. As summer vacation ends, the Sherwood boys are preparing for school. Russell will go back to Crown Point High School, while Johnie and Manny will return to Colonel John Wheeler Middle School. Austyn will be moving from Solon Robinson Elementary School to John Wheeler Middle School and Michael will be going to Lake Street Elementary School. We know the guys will continue to do well at school and at the group home.

Submitted by: **Sandra Miller**

September NC-Supported Services Employee of the Month

Karen Kobb has been selected as the In-Pact North Central Employee of the Month. Karen has been an extremely helpful employee to the consumers she serves, fellow support staff, and management team. Karen is a creative person that encourages In-Pact consumers to participate in fun and unique experiences.

Karen is consistent with documentation obligations, working her scheduled shifts, and simply providing above and beyond services to our consumers. North-Central is proud to have such a resourceful and positive support staff on their team.

That's why the September's Employee of the Month is...

Karen Kobb!

The Supported Service Employee of the Month receives a Gift Card for use at a local establishment! As an added bonus some of the Supported Service Employees of the month for this calendar year may attend the IN-ARF conference in Indianapolis next Spring.



Be miserable. Or motivate yourself. Whatever has to be done, it's always your choice.

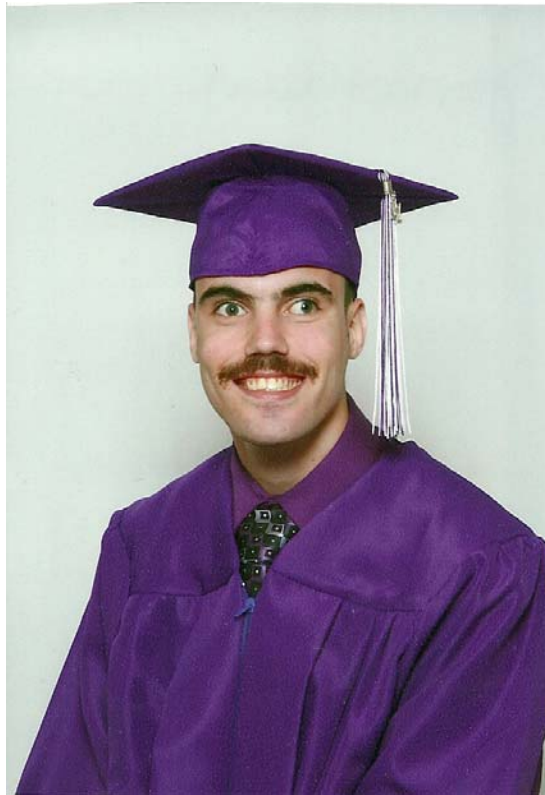
Wayne Dyer



Submitted by **Group Homes**

Spotlight Consumer of the Month of September

Jonathan Satkoski



Jonathan's Progress is Boundless

Jonathan moved into the 76th children's group home in 2002. At that time, he was taking several medications for behavior and had physical outbursts on a regular basis. School was also a challenge for him due to a short attention span and behaviors. Over the years, Jonathan has become a social and caring young man. He takes half the amount of medications that he did 9 years ago and his behavior has improved dramatically. He acknowledges when inappropriate behavior occurs and apologizes. He can recognize and initiate the need to seek help from others when he is not feeling in control.



Jonathan had been looking forward to moving out of the group home after he graduates school and getting an apartment. He did graduate in June, however due to the lack of waiver slots, he moved into an adult group home. We were all worried when he had to be told he could not get an apartment, but Jonathan handled it like a pro. Actually getting to move into the adult group home was a bit crazy as well. He was prepared to move right after graduation but getting BDDS approval/level of care took longer than expected and he had to wait until August 1st. Again, we were worried about how he would handle it and again, Jonathan impressed and surprised us all.

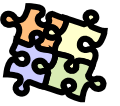
Although he was frustrated that he didn't know when he was moving and that he had to wait a few weeks until he got into Opportunity Enterprises, he was patient and continued to go with the flow. Jonathan's relationship with his mother has gotten better as the years have gone by. He talks to his mother every week and goes home for holidays and special occasions. Jonathan continues to make progress in social areas by learning the give and take of conversations and being helpful to others. We are so proud of the young man he has become and look forward to being a part of his adult life. So, this is why Jonathan is consumer of the month!



Submitted by: **Sheila O' Dell**

Group Home of the month:

The Group home of the month award was presented to 200 East. We have been raising the bar, so some of the homes are going through an adjustment period. We also had one of the Program Coordinators out for a month. 200 East staff adapted and are handling these changes and there were no major maintenance issues, incident reports, and no major problems. 200 East ran smoothly and most independently for the whole month. **Way to go 200 East!** You are group home of the month!



Training Corner

Submitted by: **Ruth Fields**

Accountability, Observation and Problem Solving

October's monthly in-service will focus on three vital skills to being successful at supporting people with developmental disabilities. All too often, staff members become compliant and start to let little things slide. Before long there are medication and documentation errors; preventable accidents; and problems that could have been avoided if more thought and consideration had been made. This training will examine and provided ways to increase these skills. The training will be held on Monday, the 10th from 10 am-12 pm and Tuesday, the 11th from 5 pm-7 pm.

Friendship Union News

The next Friendship Union meeting will be held on Monday, September 26th from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Clubhouse.

September Training Opportunities

Mon, the 12th: New Employee Orientation 9 am-5 pm

Tue, the 13th: New Employee Orientation Med Core 9 am-1 pm

Wed, the 14th : New Employee Orientation 9 am-5pm

Thu, the 15th: New Employee Orientation Crisis Intervention 9 am-5 pm

Mon, the 19th: Current Employee Review 9:30 am-3 pm

Tues, the 20th:NEO Review 10 am- 12 pm

Thu, the 29th: Management Training: on Racial and Cultural Sensitivity 10 am-12 pm



October Training Opportunities

Mon, the 10th :Accountability, Observation and Problem Solving 10 am- 12 pm
Tues, the 11th : Accountability, Observation and Problem Solving 5 pm- 7 pm
Mon, the 17th: New Employee Orientation 9 am-5 pm
Tue, the 18th : New Employee Orientation Med Core 9 am-1 pm
Wed, the 19th: New Employee Orientation 9 am-5 pm
Thu, the 20th: New Employee Orientation Crisis Intervention 9 am-5 pm
Mon, the 24th : Current Employee Review 9:30 am- 3 pm
Tue, the 25th : Crisis Intervention Refresher 5 pm- 7pm
Wed, the 26th : NEO Review 10 am- 12 pm
Thu, the 29th : Management Training topic TBA 10 am- 12 pm



In- Pact, Inc. would like to

the following new staff

New Hires

Supported Services

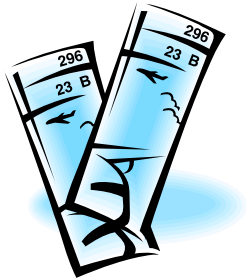
Niaga Sims
NaShay Mcferson
Kelly Todd
Terri O'Dell



Our **Group Home Services Department** has an opening for a **Group Home Manager** at our **Berens Home**, located in Dyer. This is a full-time, salaried, exempt position. Please see job description for more information, which is posted with in all sites or contact Mary Jane. If you are interested in applying please contact Susan Whitten, in writing, no later than September 22, 2011.



Submitted by: **Ray Giacomini**



Re: 2011 Holiday Raffle- Dollar Days Are Coming To an End Soon

It was brought to my attention that an employee wanted to purchase a raffle ticket last December but did not have money at the time. As a result of this request I am willing to try something for this year's raffle. I am willing to accept a deposit of \$1.00 towards the purchase of a raffle ticket. The full \$10.00 must be paid by December 1, 2011 and then a raffle ticket will be available for you to choose and enter into the raffle. Let me know if you are interested so we can start with the first payment.



HAPPY September BIRTHDAY

Karen Allen, Carl Bernacky, Dorothy Humes, Penny Givens, Herb Grulke, Betty Moody, Ruth Altman, Cheryl Kleckner, Bill Nelson, Charles Blanchard, Berry Flowers, Shawna Dickson, Stephanie Bardley, Cheri Hooten, Starr Frohock, Angela Williams, Mariann Jeffery, Michelle Gibson, Nicole Williams, Stephanie Altman, Kathryn Unwin, Stephanie Arnold, Megan Doyle, Abigail Pillar, Duncan Kinuthia, Kevin Vahst



Endless options for all disabilities

Improving disability awareness with a first-hand perspective

Person with disabilities must "face the music" at events

By David Morrison

Ever wonder what it is like for a person with a disability at a concert, sporting event or other cultural affair? The bottom line is that each experience can vary depending on a number of factors. Yet our goal remains the same as anyone in attendance...HAVE FUN! So how exactly does one achieve that goal? This week, I want to offer some tips to make that happen.

Let us begin where any person planning to attend an event would... the purchase of tickets. Recently, I used a major online event service to buy tickets for American Idol LIVE. The service recommends that patrons who require accessible seating should email their request. This is not the first time I have seen a venue present this option, but after my recent attempt to complete my order in this manner, I would suggest making a phone call instead. By no means is the service to blame here, it is simply easier to coordinate accessibility needs with a human on the other end.

Another tip I will mention here and throughout the column, start early when possible. This may seem like common sense but in this case it rings true. For example, as someone with vision issues, it is important for me to have an unobstructed view at all times. By obtaining seats shortly after ticket sales begin, you are more likely to enjoy the event from your preferred location. Still, we must remember that the best seats in the house are preferred by many. So, you have your tickets in hand and are ready to enjoy... not so fast. So are (in the case of this event) thousands of others.

What can wheelchair users and others with special needs do to combat the crowds. Arrive before and stay after. Again, this may sound simple but it will work to your advantage. In most cases a half hour to an hour prior to gate open will suffice. This allows time for locating parking and/or unloading. In terms of after, why rush it? You know that everyone else will want to leave, making a line in the parking lot more probable. Therefore, if you know you need to leave head for the exit ahead of the crowds. Otherwise, wait them out.

Finally, in a new venue or just unsure what to do, ask. The event staff are there to help you. In my experience, more often than not, staff are friendly and are there to be of service

Generally, events may be a challenge for those with disabilities, yet so are many other aspects of life. Do we avoid them? Have a great time at your next event and thanks for reading!

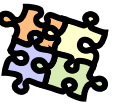
-David Morrison, [@dmorrison87 on twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dmorrison87)



Fun Fundraiser Finds Fans Forthwith!



On Saturday, August 6, 2011 about 25 consumers, staff and managers from Supported Service, Group Homes and Community Resources gathered in the Strack and Van Til parking lot ready to wash. Two hours later they were wet, tired and \$264.00 dollars closer to their goal of buying a wheel chair accessible swing and shade sails for the Clubhouse patio. With the blessing of Strack and Van Til In-Pact put on its first Car Wash fundraiser. The Community Outreach Committee wanted to design a fundraiser that could include the people who would benefit from the funds raised. In-Pact has always believed that it was vitally important to get our consumers into the community for two reasons; to help them get used to the community and to help the community get used to them, and it was a rousing success.



This Van will most defiantly be clean!



Susan and Zack are getting their strategy down



Everyone is hard at work.



In just two hours over twenty-five drivers stopped to have their cars washed, each giving a free will donation. The exuberance and infectious enthusiasm of the workers on that beautiful Saturday morning lifted the spirits of young and old alike resulting in a bounty of good will and gifts. Given the go ahead on July 13th, the Community Outreach Committee had a little over three weeks to find a site and organize the Car Wash.

The site changed several times, finally, with the permission of Jeff Thacker, Manger of the Crown Point Strack and Van Til, settling on the parking lot in front of the former Walgreens and utilizing the water from Strack's it couldn't have been a better site. Organizers Emerson Caress and Susan Whitten mustered their Managers to gather hoses, towels, sponges, buckets, traffic cones, soap and people. Heather Chopps got the Clubhouse crew to make signs and the enthusiasm of the sign holders soon had the cars lined up ready for their baths.



Michel, Zack, and Billy team work at it's best

The shade sails for the In-Pact Clubhouse patio will make it much more useful in the summer sun and the wheel chair swing will bring a new joy to the many wheel chair-bound people In-Pact serves. It is truly amazing what we can accomplish when we come together.

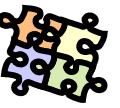


The Sullivan Summer Bash

The Sullivan Summer Bash was a success!! The Sullivan van was decorated and people commented on how nice it looked; it was very festive!! Competition was fierce as musical chairs had consumers eagerly anticipating when that music would stop! Billy Logan took the prize for last man standing. When In-Pact staff competed in musical chairs, there was always someone landing on the ground or in the same seat!! The staff was just as competitive! Clarence Davis was the staff that didn't give up his seat! One of the staff knew a band that would play for us, and they provided musical entertainment! Sullivan's resident musician, Dan, picked up the drumsticks and had a blast drumming with the guys in the band!



Dan Sullivan's Drummer



Staff and consumers also enjoyed the corn hole game with lots of friendly competition!. A water "hot potato" game was played and there were many laughs as we all enjoyed when the water balloon burst to cool us off! A mini water balloon "toss" ended with several staff getting a little wet! Our Director, Sheila O'Dell, was surprised when a few water balloons ended up in her direction, with the enlisted help from her daughter Kristin!

Several of the parents of the gentlemen at Sullivan donated food dishes, and Sullivan staff made dishes as well. Master griller, Mr. Steffus, loaned his services once again at the grill. The competition was tough for the cake bake-off, but there were winners. The ribbons going out were for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for taste and presentation. The following group homes won prizes:

Taste 1st place Vermont

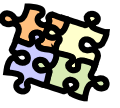
Strawberry Cake



In- Pact Sign

2nd place 4th St.





Sunflower

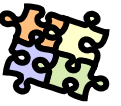
3rd place Berens



Presentation 1st place Forest,

Sand Castle





2nd place 76th

Football / Basketball



3rd place Sullivan

Autism Speaks





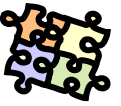
Mt. Chocoula - Heavlin



Cup Cakes 200 East



The cakes were creative and tasty!!



See you at next year's Summer Bash!



Submitted by: **Sheila O' Dell**

IN-PACT recycling paper program will soon be here.

Please do your part to support our program and put your used newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail and other papers into your paper recycling bins. Then drop them off by putting it in our Green and Yellow Paper Retriever bin outside of our main office at 12300 Marshall St., Crown Point. *The bin will arrive in approximately 3 week, so start saving/collecting.* It's time to get the community involved in our paper recycling program. We are encouraging the consumers, parents and our friends and neighbors to clean out their old newspapers, magazines, shopping catalogs and papers and put them into our Green and Yellow paper recycling container. **Spread the word! Let's get our community** involved! All proceeds from our paper recycling program are currently going towards sail shades and wheel chair swing for the Clubhouse. Recycling paper with us is the best way to make a financial contribution without having to open your wallet.

