



CHS Winter 2020 Newsletter

“Teach a Client Something” Taught Us All



When we initiated our first ever “Teach a Client Something” week, we had no idea what to expect. The only prompt was to teach participants a new, safe skill. The idea was to inspire employees to make a detour from routines and discover that they can bring their own interests into the lives of the people we serve.



New Skills



Sensory

The top prize went to Courtney Coleman who guided JB and Kbron in the development of an amazing sensory learning box! The activities they designed can assist others in gaining valuable skills.

Honorable mentions were given to four very creative staff. Anna Lisenszki worked with JR on the creation of a Skill Building book.



South County CHS is Handy!

This activity was also aimed at helping others achieve meaningful objectives.

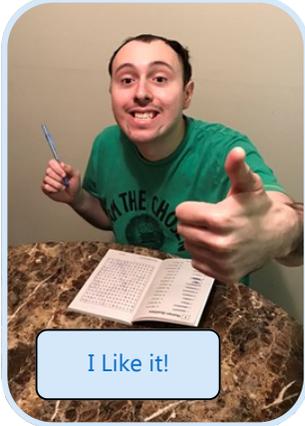
Dawn Milligan taught JZ, DG, and RT to refurbish a blackboard. This was no easy feat! The entire process took four days and included cleaning, taping, priming, sanding and painting. They did an amazing job: the blackboard looks brand new!

Rick Riley decided to go for the science route and teach SH and CW how to build a volcano. To add to the fun, the eruption demonstration was performed in front of the entire skill building group.



Shelby Pratt worked with Alex on letter and word recognition and taught him to use thumbs up and thumbs down to communicate his likes and dislikes. This may seem like a simple lesson but it made a big impact! Sometimes the smallest thing can alter the lives of a client. What can you do to improve a life?

Thumbs up everyone!



I Like it!

Holiday Cheer at CHS!

South County Parade



CHS south county decided to do more than watch the parade go by—they wanted to be a part of it. Clients practiced social skills and spread holiday cheer from their very own float in the Ida Christmas parade! They even received an honorable mention for the best float and were presented with a plaque to commemorate their efforts. (photo on right) Everyone was so proud of the plaque and their hard work. Best of all, they had the chance to celebrate with their community!



The Holidays in Photos



Christmas Pajama Party at Washtenaw!



CHS Business Awareness Tree, Bedford Library



The Ida Christmas Parade!

Giving Back to Monroe



The 2019 4th annual "Giving Back to Monroe" fundraiser generated over \$5000 to buy Christmas presents for people with special needs.

Events ranging from hobby horse racing to a silent auction delighted generous supporters at our Octoberfest themed event.

After covering costs, \$1,200.00 was given to each of the following organizations: Mon-Arc; Monroe County Guardians; and CHS Group. Check out the last page of this newsletter to recognize and support the businesses and people who made a real Christmas possible for so many!

CHS Live Shows!

The CHS group in Washtenaw decided to make their annual Talent show a Christmas themed event at Washtenaw Community College.

Our Monroe Mill and Farm also had their own holiday concert at the Intermediate School District.

The clients loved belting out familiar Christmas tunes and the audience met them with their typical enthusiasm and support!



Our Clients Give Back



Giving back to the community is something that runs deep at CHS. Our Washtenaw program just participated in their 2nd annual sock drive. They donated a hundred pairs of socks to the women and children of Safe House,

an Ann Arbor shelter for victims of domestic violence. Our clients were able to develop many skills, but even more importantly, they felt a sense of accomplishment for making a difference!

Globetrotter's Delight

Everyone who knows Martha knows her two favorite things: the Beach Boys and basketball! CHS staff couldn't resist the opportunity to take Martha and her friend, Linda to see the world famous Harlem Globetrotters!

Martha didn't miss a trick as she marveled at the skills of these entertaining crowd pleasers! We love it when the people we serve have the opportunity to pursue activities that light them up!



Another CHS First: An Engagement!



There are so many things we take for granted. Falling in love and finding someone that you want to spend the rest of your life with is one of those things. Up until 2001, Michigan law restricted people with cognitive impairments from marrying. Despite the legal changes, there is still a bias that ignores the sexual and emotional drive for intimacy among people with special needs. Fortunately, a couple of the people we serve are breaking down those barriers.

Sean and Chastity met at CHS and felt an instant connection. Their relationship blossomed and Sean recently popped the question! Chastity has developed an extraordinary relationship with Sean's supportive family. His mother has even become Chastity's guardian! Best wishes to the happy couple!



Meet Sabrina!



CHS believes in helping clients develop skills outside of their comfort zones. This was exactly the thinking when Washtenaw staff began training Sabrina in the office. With a volunteer position as Junior Office Assistant, she is learning valuable office skills that can translate to increased employment marketability!

Congrats CHS Graduate!

As sad as we are to see people graduate from our vocational program, we are also constantly inspired!

Join us in congratulating John on his graduation and full time job!

We are so proud of you!



Slick, Smart and Full of Heart! Monroe Talent Show 2019



There are few things that CHS loves more than our talent shows. Staff and clients come together for a completely integrated and energy filled night of inspiring performances. Monroe's theme was "As Time Goes By," a journey through seven decades of musical hits. From the 50's classic "Battle of New Orleans" to the 70's hit "Crocodile Rock," everyone was dancing on stage or from their seats!

The chance to be at a professional theater lit up the performers, many whom have never felt the excitement of a live, enthusiastic crowd. We are already in the planning stage for next August's show! It's one you won't want to miss!!



Medication Assistance



CHS wants you to be aware of a few ways to cut costs.

Good RX is a free program that offers an easy way to save. Simply download the app, put in the name of your medication, pick your pharmacy and it will show you your savings. They also send a text to your phone to show the pharmacist at pick up.

Another option is the **Michigan Prescription Assistance Program**. Go to www.MichiganRxcard.com and print up a free card. This program provides Michigan residents savings of up to 75% on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies. There is unlimited

usage, the card never expires and the program has no restrictions to membership, no income requirements, no age limitations, and there are no applications to fill out. We hope this helps!

Thanks to all for:

“GIVING BACK TO MONROE”

We would like to thank the volunteers, those who donated items, and our generous sponsors.

Because of you, people with special needs had a Christmas to remember!

Sincerely,

C.H.S. Group LLC, Mon-Arc
and Monroe County Guardians

17 West Café

Agua Dulce

Allen Chevrolet Cadillac

Amaya's Fresh Mexican Grill

Angelo's

Baker's Ace Hardware

Barb & Steve Peterson

Barb Jenkins

Belinda Chipkowski

Bling Boutique By: Marlene Stotts

Bobbie Eby

Bonnie Swatek

Book Nook

Red Lobster

Sheila Cornell

Brooke Reinhardt

Carrington Golf Club

Carter Lumber

Cathy Heller

C.H.S. Group - The Farm

C.H.S. Group - The Mill

Cracker Barrel

D.B.B.C. Women's Auxiliary

Danielle Kowalczyk

Darlene Hochradel

Detroit Red Wings

Diamond Designs

Dundee Golf Club

Public House Food & Drink

Sue Pickens

Evolve Hair Salon and Day Spa

Go M.A.D. Fitness

Groulx Automotive

Karen Selle

Kohl's Department Store

LaFiesta Mexican Restaurant

Laura Reinhardt

Margaret Schafer

Monroe Liquor Plaza

Monroe Pizza Kitchen

Monroe Quick Lube Plus

Monroe Sports Center

Premier Designs

Sally Waggs Doggy Bakery & Pet Supply

The Haircutters/Wise Guys

Special Thanks and Appreciation to the

Knights of Columbus Membership and Leo & Sharon Schmetz

Sponsors

Advance Plumbing of Monroe, LLC

Dave's Carpet and Furniture Cleaning • Detroit Beach Boat Club

Signature Bank • M&H Party Store

Highest Bid Donation!

Thanks to Ann Wilson, former ISD Speech Pathologist, for her donation of a week at her beautiful, oceanfront condo rental, the shackonthesand.com.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION

TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**Jill Jackson Tim McCart Andrea Hedges Rebecca Cornprobst Jeff Smith Josh Reese
Shilo Wood Jordanna Fondaw**



MISSION

*Maximize potential through personal commitment,
collective talents and innovations. CHS supports
individuals with diverse challenges
in shaping distinctive, meaningful lives.*

VISION

*Through partnerships with families, communities, and
government, CHS will be the provider of choice for
people with diverse challenges.*

The World Around Us

Oh, What a Year For People on the Autism Spectrum



In the last issue, we wrote about Kodi Lee, a young man who is both autistic and legally blind. During our August edition, he was deep into the competition and a favorite to win “America’s Got Talent.” As many predicted, Kodi went home with the grand prize of a million dollars and a show in Las Vegas. He wowed the audiences with soulful renditions of classics like *Bridge over Troubled Water* and *You are the Reason*.

No doubt Kodi had a profound effect on people across the country, but he wasn’t alone in his influence. Climate activist Greta Thunberg, who has a diagnosis of Asperger’s, had an impact on the entire world. The young, influential leader has inspired a host of environmental warriors of all ages. Her efforts lead to a Nobel

Peace Prize nomination and the coveted spot as *Time* magazine’s “Person of the Year.”

The attention Greta has received and the impact on a generation are astonishing for someone so young. Greta does not see her Asperger’s as an obstacle but a tool in understanding the dark realities of climate change. The singular focus of the condition allows for the development of an expertise that informs her drive. No matter your political interests, a teenager filling her time with something she believes in serves as an extraordinary role model not only for others on the spectrum but for all of us.



Brittany’s Basket’s of Hope



Brittany Schiavone has never let the diagnosis of Down syndrome stand in her way. Her non-profit organization sends baskets filled with baby essentials to new parents of babies with Down syndrome. Parents are gifted with handmade hats, blankets, and a book titled “Babies with Down Syndrome: A New Parents’ Guide.” They also receive a onesie decorated in celebratory phrases like “I Am Down Right Awesome.”

It’s not uncommon for people who find that they are having a baby with Down Syndrome to feel frightened and concerned. Brittany is working to change the nar-

rative, says Ashley Asti, secretary of Brittany’s Baskets of Hope. “Sometimes, when doctors give parents the news that their child will be born with Down’s, they might say, I am sorry,” she said. “We think the message should be one of celebration — we say, ‘Congratulations.’”

Instead of relying on volunteers, Schiavone chooses to deliver the baskets herself. Her advocacy has resulted in a 2019 honoree recognition from L’Oréal Paris Women of Worth Awards. L’Oréal celebrates women who inspire innovation, exude passion and provide a valuable service to the community. Her \$25,000 prize will be invested in bringing more hope and insight to families of babies with Down syndrome.