



mdc goldenrod report

Fall 2015

MDC Goldenrod Board

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MDC Administrative Staff

Tammy Friesen - Executive Director
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Greg Leatherman Sommers - Director of Outreach and Development
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Donna Wampler - Care Manager
Tim Croyle - DSP Manager
Kristin Yoder, Schedule Coordinator
Jill Miller - Wellness Manager
Debra Pass - Wellness Coordinator
Kevin Ritenour - Office/HR Manager
Leana Males - Accounting Clerk
Beth Bontreger - Receptionist

Community Member Spotlight

Melissa Mast

Melissa has been at MDC Goldenrod since 2010. When she was asked to be interviewed as part of our "Community Member Spotlight" in the newsletter, she responded in her usual upbeat disposition with "sure!" I have to say, it is such a pleasure to be around Melissa. She is a great community member, friend and housemate. She is always willing to be helpful wherever and whenever she can. Melissa enjoys hanging out with her friends here on campus, crocheting scarves. She even has her own website where she sells the products she makes.



"I feel that my friends and staff here at MDC are simply a part of my family. I appreciate the activities planned and the availability of staff to assist me with getting out into the community and to my job at a local coffee shop. Most importantly, the staff that are available to me when I need support."

"My friends and housemates are very important to me. Through them, I have learned how to be accepting of others and their differences. We are all different, but the same because we all want the same things, to be independent as much as possible, respected and to learn how to be as successful as we can in life."

"Our staff here are awesome! They are trained to help us to do many things. Like job coaching, learning personal skills and reaching our work goals. My staff member's name is Erica, besides helping me with all those things, I can take my own medication, but she makes sure that I don't forget to take them. Having her as a companion is like having family away from home."



I feel that as community members, we learn from our staff and they learn from us. MDC makes my need to feel independent not just a thought, but real.

There are many activities offered here. I especially enjoy Camp Amigo where we have fellowship, learn archery, arts and crafts, go boating and fishing. I also enjoy

the bonfire and 'Burger Bash.' We not only get to take our own staff, but the staff at Camp Amigo are a lot of fun. Usually, I don't want to leave.

I am excited about all the things happening here on campus and the new activities being planned."

When I asked her mother Mim how she feels MDC Goldenrod benefits Melissa, she states "it gives her a sense of belonging and to identify with others. Also, gives her independence from her parents, companionship, new social contacts and other activities besides sitting and watching television. And, important to me as a mom as well, security and understanding as she matures into an adult. Melissa also feels a sense of value as she relates to others such as helping others sort through some of their problems.



As a family, Goldenrod gives us all a sense of peace; Missy is "okay," she's with people who understand her, and part of a community of like needs and she fits in. Goldenrod also gives her a place to learn new skills from others, overseen by her direct support staff who really do care about her and pay attention to every little detail.

MDC Goldenrod is an organization built on strong Christian principles where independence is encouraged and community members are happy."

Moving into Fall...

As you consider your end-of-year giving, please remember the MDC Goldenrod community. See the back cover for a list of current needs.

Watch your mailbox and email inbox for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities!

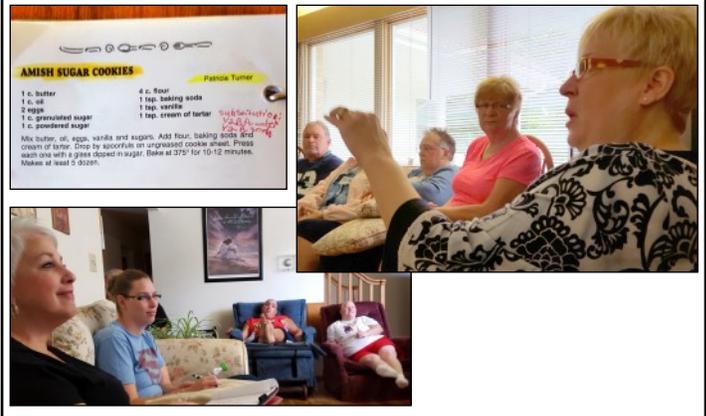


Community Members Provide Input

MDC Goldenrod always welcomes suggestions and concerns from our community members. As part of our accreditation and strategic planning process, we are actively seeking feedback from a variety of stakeholders. That solicitation includes surveys and focus group meetings.

Staff have been holding a series of household meetings with community members and their family members, during which the organization received really helpful information. Thanks to all who participated!

Here are a couple of scenes from one of the house meetings. Special thanks to our hosts, who made wonderful sugar cookies for all in attendance.



Helping Wishes Come True

Did you know that community members periodically empty and service wishing wells that support MDC Goldenrod? The wells are currently placed at Yoder's Department Store in Shipshewana and at The Depot in Goshen.

We just received a new well to replace one that was broken, and plan to set it up next to the carousel on the third floor of Davis Mercantile in Shipshewana.

When you visit the wells, bring your change to help MDC Goldenrod make positive changes for our community members!



Adopt a House

Can you use a paintbrush? Hammer a nail? Weed a flower bed? If so, we need your help! We are asking church families to consider "adopting" an MDC Goldenrod residence and assist with upkeep and maintenance. If this is something your Sunday School class, Bible Study group, or Small Group would be interested in, give us a call.

Volunteer

Share your time, energy, skills and talents and get to know MDC Goldenrod community members!

Visit our website: www.mdcgoldenrod.org to find a copy of our volunteer application or call our office 574-533-9720 to find out about current volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Spotlight

The **Emma Mennonite Church TLC Youth Group**, including Andre Stutzman, Kathryn Stutzman, Mary Beth Hochstetler, Kent Yoder, Beth Hunsberger, Ben Hunsberger, and Kristin Yoder, spent much of July 25 working around the Middlebury campus. While there, they...

- * Removed branches and brush from the fire pit area
- * Moved all furniture upstairs in Agape N to center of room for painters. Did the same in the basement
- * Rehung the curtains in all of the rooms and apartments in Bontreger
- * Installed new door stops as needed
- * Weeded along west side of Bontreger

Great job, everyone!



MDC Goldenrod's Impact

"In our retirement years and as we think about the time when we will no longer be here, we are comforted by the fact that MDC Goldenrod provides a safe home for our son Scott. We know that, whatever happens to us, Scott will be surrounded by friends and caregivers who make life enjoyable and secure for him and supply all of his needs and will continue to do so when we are no longer able to do so."

Paul and Ruth Herr

How Are We Doing?

As part of a strategic planning process, MDC Goldenrod is asking community members, families, and other stakeholders for feedback on our ministry.

If you received the survey (by email or mail), please make sure the completed form gets back to us by the deadline.

Thank you for your help in making MDC Goldenrod an even better place to be!

If you would like more information regarding MDC Goldenrod and the wonderful work we do, please send a request to info@mdcgoldenrod.org

NOW HIRING

MDC Goldenrod needs your help in finding more great people to work with our community members. Applications available online or in the office.



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www.mdcgoldenrod.org

From the Board of Directors

Planning Ahead

The mission of MDC Goldenrod is to create community for persons of all abilities. This is what I want for all my children. My oldest daughter has many abilities and skills, but she needs help with all of her activities and creating community for her is not easy. As the Board continues the strategic planning for the organization, ways to create community for all is our priority. We will be looking for ideas that will enable our members to find support, friendships and activities which bring our community members and the extended community together. We will be seeking your input thorough surveys and other means and appreciate your time and thoughts in completing these. Please let us know your ideas, your concerns, your suggestions for possible board members and your vision for the future of MDC Goldenrod.

Mary Graber, Board Chair

MDC Goldenrod Community Needs

- Replace Harmony furnace (\$3,500 needed)
- Replace Agape window wells (\$7,000)
- Covered Bicycle Rack (for locking 12 bikes)
- Picnic Tables
- 4-door fuel-efficient car
- Mini van
- Install lift at the Middlebury Campus
- Pave the road at the Middlebury Campus
- Woodchips (for landscaping)
- Volunteers for landscaping work
- Run a sewer line to the Middlebury Campus

**Please contact our office at 574-533-9720
to make a donation. Thank you !**