



mdc goldenrod

report

spring 2015

MDC Goldenrod Board

Dr. Mary Graber - Chair
Jim Gascho - Vice Chair
Mary Ellen Sisson - Secretary
Marlyn Fast - Treasurer
Tom Bontreger
Calla Patka
Judy Stickel
Jim Stiver
Galen Kauffmann
Carolyn Krull
Alvin Miller
Grace Swartzendruber
Sheila S. Yoder
Aaron Wieand

MDC Administrative Staff

Tammy Friesen -Executive Dir.
MJ Frey -Finance Dir.
Sophia Beal -Program Dir.
Colin Rusel -Development Dir.
Leana Males -Accounting Clerk
Kevin Ritenour-Office Manager
Marcia Weaver -Care Manager
Aaron Vanzile -Care Manager
Tim Croyle -DSP Manager

Community Member Spotlight

Finding a Place to Call Home



"I love it here!" That is Ashley's response when I ask her what she would like to tell people about MDC Goldenrod. Ashley joined the MDC Goldenrod community in late fall, 2013. Prior to this, Ashley had lived with her mother. When her mother died, Ashley was left with questions and uncertainty about the future. Fortunately Ashley has extremely supportive family members in the area. Together they decided that trying to find a place where she could live more independently would be ideal. In their search, they found MDC Goldenrod and Ashley decided it would be a good fit.

On moving day, amidst all the busyness, Ashley was all smiles. She approached the staff assisting her to move in saying, "I have my own house, my very own house! I have a kitchen that is my own. I have always wanted my own house!" In fact, for a good part of the next week, she shared this message with everyone she met.

Ashley has enjoyed making friends, living with housemates, activities in the Goshen community and learning new skills. Ashley has also brought tremendous gifts to the MDC Goldenrod community. Her positive attitude and witty sense of humor contribute to the smiles and laughter of those around her. Her attention to caring for those she meets is a blessing to so many. This is not to say there have not been challenges for Ashley, for we all face these during transition and change. However, there is a true sense in talking to Ashley that she has found a new home here at MDC Goldenrod and is dedicated to help care for her newly found community. This is, after all, what we work so hard to create at MDC Goldenrod; community with people of all abilities. Ashley's move is a reminder of God's love given to all of us. It is a true gift. Thank you Ashley for choosing to be a part of the MDC Goldenrod community.

Dis ABILITIES Month

March is Disabilities Awareness Month! It is a month in which people are encouraged to learn about, and maybe even get to know, individuals who have disabilities. It is a month to inspire treating each other with respect and dignity, a month to intentionally look at ways we can all better include and empower individuals who have disabilities.

What a great idea! This is of course what we try and do everyday as we work to create community with people of all abilities.

There are many events going on to celebrate Disabilities Awareness month and we wanted to make sure you know about a couple that we find really exciting!

The Boys Next Door - MDC Goldenrod and Goshen College theatre department are collaborating on this play. It is a powerful story that follows a group of 4 men with developmental disabilities who all live together in a communal residence. The play provides a window into their reality as they deal with everyday challenges and strive to live meaning filled lives. The play is filled with both humor and hardship and works toward a powerfully poignant ending!

Doug Caskey, Professor of Theater and Department Chair at Goshen College is directing the play. In an effort to present the story and the characters it portrays in an honest, respectful manner that

highlights their humanity and dignity, Doug reached out to MDC Goldenrod. This was the beginning of a partnership in which MDC Community members and Goshen College students have been getting to know each other. This has been a wonderful process in which connections have been made and abilities are being celebrated.

The collaboration all leads up to performances at Umble Center March 20,22,27,28,29 (8pm shows the 20th, 27th, 28th and 3pm shows the 22nd and 29th). We look forward to the way this play will help raise awareness about individuals with developmental disabilities and hope that it sparks renewed discussion about how best to live together in communities that support people of all abilities. Call the MDC office or visit our website for more info.

The Project Promise Easter Play -

MDC Goldenrod's Project Promise Players present their annual Easter play at Clinton Frame Mennonite Church on Saturday, March 28, at 3 and 6 p.m. During this live drama, the actors will interpret the events of Easter. While a story most of us know well, the passion and integrity with which the Project Promise Players present it brings the power of the miracle of Easter to life in a stunning way. Come celebrate God's unending love for all people, of all abilities! Admission is free; a goodwill offering will be taken. The church is located at 63846 County Road 35, Goshen, IN 46528. Project Promise is a program of MDC Goldenrod that provides spiritual and social support for persons with disabilities.

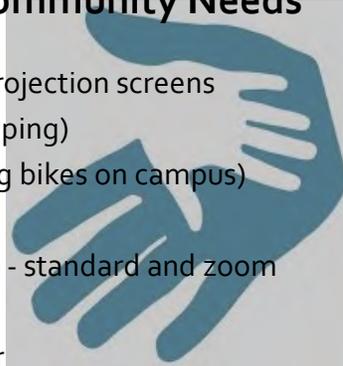
Northridge Middle school Volunteer Day -

On Monday March 16th a group of 25-30 8th graders will come volunteer at the MDC Goldenrod Middlebury campus. They will work with MDC Goldenrod community members in the green house, planting seeds and preparing for spring projects and (weather permitting) in flower beds around the Goldenrod homes. While the work that is done will be most appreciated the impetus behind the volunteering is to share time together and get to know each other. For the last three years, Lauren Bailey, the Functional Skills teacher at Northridge, has organized an annual event to raise awareness and understanding about disabilities. We look forward to being involved this year and to getting to know new people in our community.

MDC Goldenrod Community Needs

- Scrolling, retractable projection screens
- Woodchips (for landscaping)
- Bicycle Rack (for locking bikes on campus)
- Picnic Table
- MM SLR digital camera - standard and zoom lenses
- 4-door fuel-efficient car
- Mini van
- Paving for new parking area at Goshen campus
- Volunteers for landscaping work (in spring)

Contact our office at 574-533-9720 to make a donation. Thank you!



Change a Life, Strengthen the Community

Article submitted by Colin Rusel, Director of Outreach and Development

MDC Goldenrod is a faith-based community. A diverse group of 60-plus employees, 70-plus individuals to whom services are provided, 60-plus supporting congregations, and countless individual and business donors. While diverse, this group is held together by a shared belief: People are people, regardless of what abilities or disabilities we may have, and must therefore be valued, treated with respect, and included in the larger community.

While not a revolutionary idea, it is one that is not often championed by mainstream society and therefore takes a lot of time, energy and money to achieve. The good news? Together we are making this belief a reality! Below are 4 simple ways to make a life changing impact for MDC community members:



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.



Prayer

While we are all doing the physical work of creating community with people of all abilities we look time and time again to God for guidance, wisdom and compassion. Prayer for the MDC Goldenrod community is both needed and cherished. Please hold us in yours.



Spread the Word

What we are working to create at MDC Goldenrod is exciting! Tell your friends, co workers and family members about MDC Goldenrod. Set a time with your church or place of worship for an MDC Goldenrod staff to visit and share about MDC Goldenrod with your faith community.



Donate

Make a gift, change a life! The work of MDC Goldenrod is about caring for people. This work depends heavily on donations and gifts of support. Single handedly you can provide hope! Together we can create a community of joy and support! Mail in your gift or call the office to find out how best to support the MDC Community.

SAVE THE DATE

March - Disabilities Awareness Month

March 20,22,27,28,29 The Boys Next Door Play* - In collaboration with Goshen College
(Fri + Sat shows at 8pm, Sunday shows at 3pm)

March 28 Project Promise Easter Play*
(At Clinton Frame Mennonite Church - Shows at 3pm and 6pm)

April 14 Hacienda Giveback Day

May 5-9 Mother's Day Flower Basket Sale (Check our website or call the office fore more info)

October 17 Project Promise Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

October 24 MDC Goldenrod Annual Meeting

*See DisABILITIES Month article on page 2 for more info





1514 College Ave.
Goshen, IN 46526

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Goshen, Indiana
Permit No. 88

Address Service Requested

Visit us on the web:
www.mdcgoldenrod.org

From the Director's Desk

Greetings,

As I reflect upon my first two months with MDC Goldenrod, I cannot begin to express how blessed I feel to be working with such a wonderful organization. I have had the opportunity to meet one on one with the majority of our staff, enjoyed fantastic dinners with many of our MDC Goldenrod Community Members, witnessed some pretty amazing bowling skills, celebrated with an MDC Goldenrod Community Member as he and his girlfriend shared a beautiful commitment ceremony....each and every moment has truly been precious.

Our team of committed staff have been through many changes over the last few years and now they are faced with yet more change with the addition of me as well as new members of our Leadership Team. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us – "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing". I have been awed by the way staff have

supported and encouraged each other and appreciate their continued dedication to the Mission of MDC Goldenrod.

I would ask each and every one of our supporters to continually lift the organization up in prayer while we make important changes within the organization. God has called us to fulfill a mighty mission and I know how powerful prayer can be.

I look forward to meeting with many of you in the near future and thank you for your support.

Be blessed,

Tammy S. Friesen