

VIP

VOLUNTEERS IN PREVENTION/PROBATION

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

January-February 2012
Volume 40, Issue 1



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2011 in Pictures Thanks for a great year!



New Vision Youth make apple pies courtesy of the Grand Traverse Pie Company.



Judge Stowe welcomes New volunteers



Diana Zapalski teaches New Vision youth how to make rugs using sheets.



CASA training class 2011 with Judge Stowe

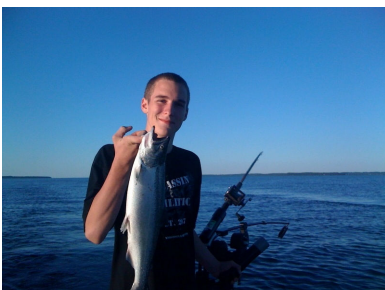
2011 Truancy class committee
Left to right Sharon Studinger, Sharon Rosema
Barbara Disborough, Sharon Herron. Standing left to right Roy Bernier, Mike Herron.



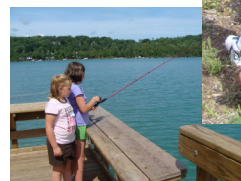
left Barb Winburne and Carla Lamphere discuss guardianship cases



Transporters Barbara and Al Wilkins.



2011 "Get Hooked" Youth fishing program.



Learning Partners Hike and Picnic summer 2011 and Learning Partners fishing outing 2011

Happy Birthday

January

Florence Morrison
Holli Ringgenberg
Daniel Briggs
Henry TenBrink
Joann Carlson
Colette Riffenburg
Pat Wazny

Alfred Wilkins
Caroline Hirth
Mary Myers
Maswe Hennrick
Caron Alpers
Ron Chrivia



February

Cathy Sevensma
Betty Dunham
Nancy Fraser
Kay Velker
Lynn Troutman
John Roeser
Ranya Prince-Stolz
Sophia DeLonghi
Beth Rideout
Sue Green

Nancy Ferrar
Betty Leden
Valerie Doman
Donna Thoma
Cheryl Hains
Marie Hanis
Sue Summers
Joan Wigton
Lynn Bryant
Susan Olson

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our friend Marian Sage. A retired teacher, Marian was a faithful Learning Partner tutor-mentor for many years. We will remember her for her commitment to children and for her kindness, which touched so many.

We were happy to hear that Linda Harker, from Family Court Records is successfully recovering at home from a recent illness

Dear Volunteers:

It is with sadness that I must retire from employment with Grand Traverse County and Volunteer Services

I will always treasure the friends that I have made here at Volunteer Services.

My last day was
December 29,
2011.

Happy Trails!



Judy

Have you noticed our new sign?

Thanks to Carol Stocking and Greg Brainard for our new sign in the lower level lobby directing District court visitors.

This new free standing sign, directs District Court clients to the entrance door at the end of the hall instead of our Volunteer Services dept. window.

Good news from The Probate Office

After undergoing heart surgery at Mayo Clinic Melissa Cholger from the Probate Office is recuperating at home.

We are happy to have former probate register Kathi Polk filling in for Melissa.

Thank you

Many thanks to Donna Gonder, Alinka Lipchinski and Child & Family Services for the great Holiday treats.





We are fortunate to be invited to attend two performances in December a few of the older students enjoyed "The Nutcracker" ballet at interlochen Arts Academy and a half dozen others saw the "Annie, Jr. children's production at the Old Town Playhouse.

Each performance was an inspiring holiday treat for our students. Several have mentioned an interest in the orchestra costumes, dancing and acting since their visit. For many this was the first time they ever had the opportunity to see a performance especially one with other students!

HELPLINK-a problem solving program will be the subject of our January 17 meeting. See column across.

We continue to get requests and continue to add volunteers to our Learning Partners every week!

Judine Leavitt, professional tutor and volunteer learning partner will present tutoring tips and techniques at our February Learning Partners meeting Tuesday February 7 4:00-6:00.



Learning Partners enjoy The Nutcracker ballet at Interlochen in December 2011

Learning Partners Attended the OldTown Playhouse

On November 11 & 12, 2011, Diana Zapalski Robin Komrska and Linda Fawcett attended the Michigan CASA meeting in Lansing. Jeanne Fowler author of "Peter's Lullaby" was a keynote speaker. Ms. Fowler, founder of Big Family of Michigan, is herself a victim of child abuse. She talked about her childhood and the importance of **R&R** encouraging people to **Recognize** and **Report** any abuse to police or



Dept. of Human Services immediately stating child abuse can happen anywhere, and at any time.

A copy of her story of survival "Peter's Lullaby" has been added to our Volunteer Services library.

On **Tuesday, January 17, 4:00 pm**, Barb Lemcool will discuss **HELPLINK** in a combined meeting for CASA and Learning Partner volunteers. Learning Partners will meet separately after the **HELPLINK** presentation, CASA volunteers will discuss current cases.



On **Tuesday, February 21, 2012** Crystal Thomas Coordinator of the Safe Haven program at Child and Family Services will be our guest. She will discuss this program designed to accommodate child & parent visitation. Several of our CASA assignments have had involvement with Safe Haven and Crystal will be able to discuss some current case specifics. We hope you can join us.



MICHIGAN ADOPTION DAY

Michigan Adoption Day held Tuesday November 22, 2011 was a huge success with 17 children achieving finalization and permanency through adoption. A luncheon was held after court proceedings to celebrate and honor the new parents and their children.

Special thanks to CASA volunteers Susan Kraus, Diana Zapalski, Lynn Troutman and Nancy Winogrodzki who helped greet and direct families in the Hall of Justice and the court room on this very busy day!



Also recognized during the Adoption Day celebration were Don & Cindy Prince, Foster Care parents with Child & Family Services. They were awarded Foster Care Family of the Year by the State Foster Care Review Board. The Princes were nominated by Diana Zapalski, local review Board member who got to know them through her role as a CASA volunteer.

New CASA training Planned

A new training for CASA volunteers is being scheduled to begin in March 2012. The 30+hour curriculum includes topics such as the law, understanding families, substance abuse, domestic violence, communication and other important components needed to understand and work with neglect & abuse cases. Grand Traverse County is extremely lucky to have a CASA training team, made up of local presenters who customize this national curriculum, to fit our community. For more information please call us at 231-922-4827.

Refresh/reminders going into the new year

- Mail box- an "after hours drive through" mail box is available to drop off reports etc.
- Update your address and email and all phone numbers/ contact information. If anything has changed.
- Check the expiration date on your ID card
- Do you get our VIP newsletter every other month? Publication is our way of keeping us in touch with you on meetings and events happening
- Spring is just around the corner. Interested in helping out as a guest facilitator for our summer program New Vision Academy? Many hands needed to make this program a success for our youth.
- Monthly meetings:

Learning Partners- first Tuesday of each month 4:00-5:00pm

CASA –third Tuesday of each month 4:00-6:00 pm

Guardians– meetings to be announced

- Report forms available by email some available online. Ask us which ones.





GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council Report January, 2012

Happy New Year! We hope you had a happy and meaningful holiday season.

GTALC continues to connect students and tutors and as usual the backgrounds of our students are varied; some are focused on polishing literacy skills and upgrading job skills, others new to English as their primary language are looking to develop proficiency in our language, and others want to complete their GED and/or continue on an educational path.

GTALC was privileged again to be the designated recipient of proceeds from the second annual Children's Book Fair held in November at the City Opera House. Several contacts were made with both publishers and media outlets which may be of service to our students.

The next Tutor Support Workshop will be held on January 14, 2012 at the Traverse Area District Library in the McGuire Room from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This is a great opportunity to meet with other tutors, share successes, techniques and stories about your learners and to seek answers to questions you may have.

If you wish to become a tutor, the next tutor training session will be held April 27 from 6





GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DAVID L. STOWE, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE
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922-4827

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LEARNING PARTNERS

1st Tuesday—4:00—5:00 pm

Tuesday, January 17

Meeting with CASA HELPLINK
Barb Lemcool

Tuesday, February 7

Judine Leavitt—Tutor tips



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3rd Tuesday – 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, January 17

Barb Lemcool HELPLINK

February 21

Crystal Thomas, Safe Haven will be our guest. Please see page 3



LITERACY COUNCIL

3RD Wednesday – 6:00 pm

Traverse Area District Library

Wednesday, January, 18

Wednesday, February, 15



Volunteer Services Offices will be Closed:

Monday January 16, 2012

Martin Luther King Day



Monday, February 20, 2012

President's Day

