

Healthy Risk Taking Has Its Rewards!

Why not step out of your comfort zone and try something new! That is the spirit and attitude of some folks at CCP who have been taking some healthy risks big and small. And in the process they have unknowingly inspired others (including their support staff), grown personally, and made some community connections. Here are some of their stories.



Guy Johnson joined the local Lions Club, was in two parades and started taking guitar lessons! Since joining the Lions Club Guy has been an active member and has made new friends. In addition to faithfully attending monthly club meetings and holiday dinners, Guy has helped out with several fundraisers. He especially enjoys doing his part to keep the club's classic 1929 fire engine in mint condition by cleaning, sanding, and painting it. If you attend any parades this summer around the Brooklyn Center area, you will most likely see Guy on the fire truck waving to the crowd. He would enjoy it if you would give him a wave back!

There is an element of risk being an artist as you never know how people will respond to your art. Alice Wollshlager doesn't seem to think about this though, she just keeps creating art. This year Alice has a paper collage in the "Foot In The Door" exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Alice has been in a couple of art shows before but nothing this big with so much exposure. The "Foot in the Door" show only happens every ten years and with almost 5,000 works of art displayed, has grown to be the state's largest art exhibition.



Money can be a motivator to try something new, and Chima Okolo has found that with his new job at *Tavern on the Avenue*, a neighborhood restaurant and bar, where he makes well over minimum wage. He is the person to thank for the clean grounds outside of the restaurant.

Volunteering at Arc Value Village is providing another new environment and opportunity for Chima to discover and use his work skills. Chima is behind the scenes doing what it takes to get donated clothes and items ready for sale. He assists the other employees and volunteers at Arc by separating donated clothes, stocking shelves, unloading the delivery vans, and putting together bags of items. This work environment provides opportunity for meeting new people and working as a team.

With any new job there are many new tasks to learn and people to meet. Chima is working at two new places and is doing well at both. The managers at both of his jobs have found Chima to be dependable and motivated. Over time he is gaining confidence and showing he has the ability to do new tasks with less and less support from his job coach.

The Cooperating Community Programs

Service Satisfaction Survey

1=Strongly Dissatisfied, 2=Dissatisfied, 3=Neutral,4=Satisfied, 5=Strongly Satisfied

Statement Rights

Consumer Rights Training	4.03
Level of Respect	4.12
Response to Complaints and Concerns	3.90

Staffing Services

Professionalism	4.11
Effective and Efficient Communication	3.98
Qualitative, Effective Service and Care	4.10
Knowledge of Consumers Needs and Desires	4.08
Display of Positive Attitude	4.19

Health and Safety/Confidentiality

Response and Care in Regard to Medical Treatments	4.26
Promotion of Consumer Safety at Home & In Community	4.25
Staff Maintain Consumer Confidentiality	4.32

Outcomes/Consumer Preferences

Preferred Activities Provided for Consumers	4.08
Encouragement of Consumer Interaction	4.06
Promotion of Consumer Decision Making	4.07

Physical Plant

Cleanliness of Site	4.16
Condition of Yard, Furniture, Equipment, etc	3.89
Proper Storage of Hazardous Materials	4.12

Average Score for all areas 4.10

Policies and Procedures Updated

Copies of updated policies and procedures are available. To obtain copies or for more information on updated policies and procedures contact Marie Rofshus at 651-917-8322 x 712.

Limitless Patience, Inexhaustible Compassion



Carla Frick, CCP Staff of the Year

Carla Frick started with CCP Home Based Supports about one year ago, at a time when the four women she was working with were going through some very difficult times. They needed a certain kind of support and Carla proved to be just the right person. For someone who had never worked in the human services field before, Carla immediately showed real skill in working with people. She had some challenging situations to work with including suicide threats, angry outbursts, somebody inviting strangers over, and another roommate wanting to run away from home. But day after day, Carla showed up for work and brought with her a compassionate approach and a calm determination to find a solution to problems. After every part of her orientation training, she would study at home and bring back many thoughtful questions.

Carla's greatest contribution has been her persistence in helping a young woman who experiences severe depression and low self esteem. When Carla first started, Lauren* only showered four times per month, her room was chronically unhygienic (to an extreme degree), and she was emotionally unstable. Because of Carla's unmatched consistency with programming, her limitless patience, and her inexhaustible compassion, Lauren began taking showers almost every day and has had the cleanest room in the house (no kidding)! What's more, she did not speak of hurting herself for many months.

Carla saw the "worst of days" with the ladies she is working with and made the "best of days" happen. She helped the women she works with make positive changes in their lives. They love her, and she contributes to making them feel safe and supported. For all of these reasons, Carla won the 2009 CCP Direct Care Staff of the Year Award!

*name changed for privacy



"Patience is the art of hoping." Marquis Vauvenargues

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Leo Buscaglia

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CCP Employees of the Month

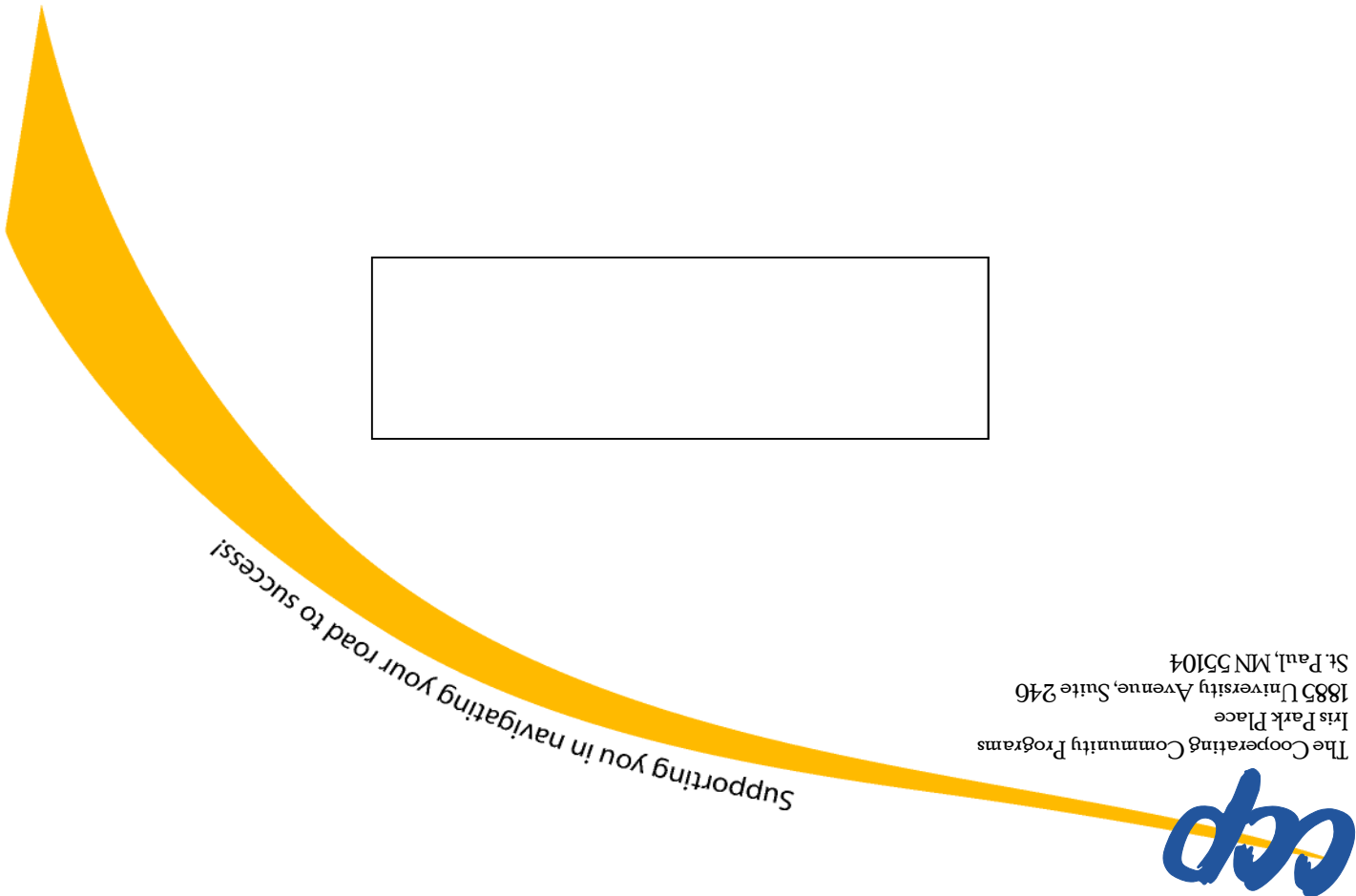
October - Tai Solarin, Andrew Kerkow, Justin Packard, Lisa Johnson

November - Cassandra Braun, Carla Frick, Leah Ruetten, Debra Traetow

December - Janice Carlson, Odeline Gerlach, Patrick Hansen, Dana Will

January - Kelly Nicholson, Sandra Stokes, Joseph Adetifa, Kathleen Pohlman

February - Amy Zier, Derek Akore, Teresa Kimmes, Carol Hasbargen



New AT Cooperating Community Programs



West Metro CAT (Community Action Team) - CCP Home Based Services staff and vocational agencies including Community Connections Partnership and RISE are teaming up! They are part of a highly collaborative Community Action Team along with representatives from ACT, ARC, Hennepin County, Pro Pet Sitting Services, STAR Services, DEED and Minneapolis Transition Plus. Group resources and ideas will be used to achieve a goal of supporting five people with disabilities in gaining competitive employment. The Minnesota Employment Training & Technical Assistance Center (MnTAT) will provide CAT members with training on strategies to increase individualized employment opportunities for people with disabilities.



ILS (Independent Living Skills) Services - This is a service option in which a CCP support staff comes to an individual's home and works with them to gain independence and self sufficiency in areas of their life they want and need support the most. CCP 's ILS services are available to adults living in Ramsey and Washington counties, who have funding from the CADI or TBI waivers.

Shelter Needy Funding - CCP has successfully assisted some folks in accessing this relatively new funding source to pay for housing and utilities. To be eligible for the shelter-needy special need allowance applicants must be: • eligible for MSA; • under age 65; • determined by the county to be shelter-needy; and • relocating to the community from an institution or mental health program or eligible for state plan services or a home and community-based waiver .

Contact John Rentschler if you would like more information about Shelter Needy or Independent Living Skills services. 651-379-9711 or jrentschler@theccpinc.com