

Starr Vision

December 2001

Volume 1, Issue 3



*The Board of Directors and Administrative Team
Would Like to Take This
Opportunity
To
Wish the Entire Staff
A
Joyous Holiday Season*

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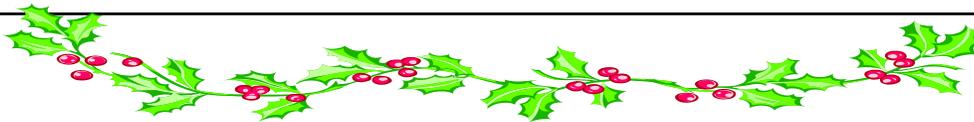
From the President's Desk —

“Tis The Season To Be”

During this holiday season we want to extend our hearts and thoughts to all and keep the focus on helping others beyond this season. On September 11th several planes changed the way we live and forced us to reflect upon the basic freedoms that we have taken for granted. I find it interesting and encouraging that our nation has focused so much attention on the devastation of 9/11. Not to say that this is not one of the most horrific events in our nation, but it concerns me that we have not put as much emphasis on the challenges and loss our families experience everyday on a local basis. Perhaps the fact that a lot of our population deal with poverty, substance abuse, criminal activity, truancy, grade achievement, etc. makes it less glamorous but nonetheless these problems hit our homes just as hard. The giving to this has been unbelievable and they are trying to figure out how to distribute the money.

Well StarrVista and the other four CMO's have been in existence for more than two years. Wayne County had a vision and saw what was happening to our children and Jeriel Heards' leadership is putting the focus on the real issues affecting children and families. The Department of Community Justice took the risk to do something before yet another problem hit our families. I never thought of the impact of planes being greater than problems and it really isn't. What this event shows is how fragile we are when evil comes and we must put up barriers to keep others and all people safe. Wayne County has been doing this and we the CMO soldiers are fighting a battle to make this county safer and better. Perhaps as we go into this season we will call someone who hasn't heard our voice and we will help someone we don't know. Maybe this will be the way we function beyond this thing called a holiday. We could make sure that the season to help is all year. Our mission is clear and we stand firm in our commitment to be the best for the people of Wayne County

“Tis the season” to recognize the value and responsibility we all have to keep the spirit of helping in the forefront of everyone's mind and heart. Thanks to all the great staff here who have weathered the storm of the past and I look forward to the sunshine of the future.



Fun, Food and Laughter at Christmas Time

On December 4, Starr Commonwealth and StarrVista joined together for some good old fashioned Christmas fun. Starr Commonwealth graciously invited the StarrVista staff to join with them to celebrate Christmas at their Secret Santa Potluck. The theme this year was “Holiday in Africa.” And it certainly was that, right down to the steel band and the limbo. There were several very colorful African costumes and a very heavily laden food table. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the staff of Starr Commonwealth for making StarrVista staff feel welcome and appreciated.



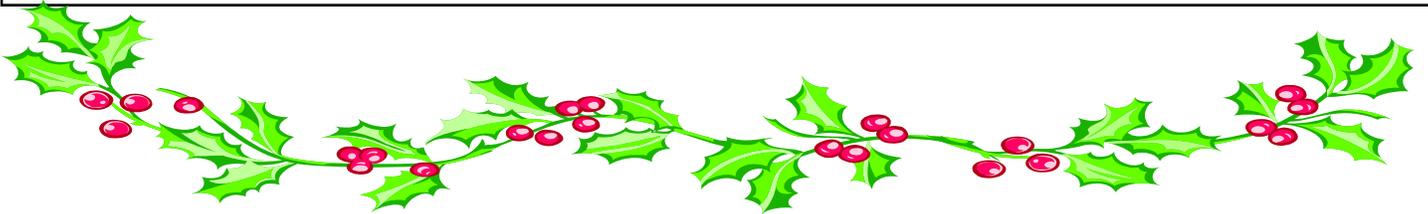
How low can you go? Our fearless leader, Marian Kidd and Cheryl Jackson limboing



Andrea Dukelow and Janet Collier enjoying the music and company

Tis the Season to be Giving

In the spirit of the holiday season, the agency is asking all staff to participate with the giving of holiday baskets for those in need. Each team will pick a family in need. There will be five baskets in the Center Conference Room to donate canned goods. If you wish to contribute money for hams, Octavia will collect your contribution. Everyone's participation is encouraged. The goal is to share with the families a good holiday meal plus some extras. Your generous donation will help us to achieve that goal. Please bring in your donation by December 21.



Special Afternoon Open House

On the afternoon of December 14, 2001, from 1:00 p.m.— 5:00 p.m. the Wayne County Juvenile Assessment Center and the five Wayne County Care Management Organizations have planned an open house to celebrate a successful, new approach to service delivery for Wayne County youth. There will be snacks, music and presentations throughout the afternoon. A special event of the afternoon will be the initial release of the newsletter, "Choices," which highlights youth, family and agency successes and achievements. Our participation is important and all staff are encouraged to participate in this event. **The Agency would like maximum representation between the hours of 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.**

StarrVista Holiday Celebration and Potluck

The Employee Activities Committee has planned a holiday celebration on December 21. The celebration will begin with a Continental Breakfast, hosted by the Agency, in the Center Room at 9:00 a.m. The Committee would like to ask staff to bring in a dish to share for a noon luncheon. This day will be spent not just on work but relaxation and celebration. Holiday music will play all day in the center room (please bring your favorite holiday music). Come and join us for a glass of egg nog, food and friendship on this special day!



Employee Spotlight



In the past we have taken a moment to spotlight an employee in this section. However, the spotlight is focused on each and every one of you this issue in recognition of the teamwork and tremendous effort you made in the recent Wayne County case file audit. We have heard and continue to receive kudos from the County about the status of our files, and none of this could have been possible without your commitment and dedication to this effort. A phrase that continues to be echoed by the County is "Best Ever" so let's continue to strive for this benchmark. A special recognition goes out to the following people for their extraordinary contributions during this process: Mary Ann Cruz, Lori Linsday, Cheryl Lucas, Marcy Sabol, and Chanita Taylor. **Our Stars are Shining!**

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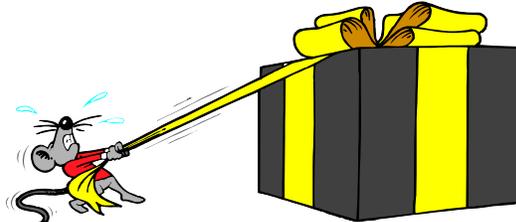
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Solutions Through Youth and
Family Partnerships

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Editors—

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Upcoming Events

- December 4 Starr Commonwealth/
StarrVista Christmas Party
- December 14 WCJAC/CMO Open House
- December 21 StarrVista Holiday Celebration
- December 24 Christmas Eve-Office Closed
- December 25 Christmas Day-Office Closed
- December 26 1:30p.m—3:00 p.m. Team
Meetings
- December 31 New Year's Eve-Office Closed
- January 1 New Year's Day
- January 2 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Team
Meetings

December Birthdays

The following staff are celebrating birthday's this month:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Kisha Parnell | December 5 |
| Mike Williams | December 16 |
| Kerry Herd | December 19 |
| Sherry Davis | December 19 |

New Employee

Let's give a warm welcome to Harriet Coleman, who came to us from Entech Personnel Agency, and joined StarrVista as a full-time employee on December 3, 2001. Mrs. Coleman is a mother of three and grandmother of two grandchildren. Harriet's interests are gospel music, reading, dining out, and meeting people from all walks of life. Welcome Aboard!



COUNTY AND COURT CLOSINGS

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE COUNTY OFFICES AND THE COURTS WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE HOLIDAYS FROM DECEMBER 24, 2001—JANUARY 1, 2002. NORMAL OPERATIONS OF BOTH THE COUNTY AND THE COURT WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 2, 2002.

Grannie's Peanut Butter Cookies

1 cup butter or margarine
3/4 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup peanut butter, creamy or chunky
2 eggs beaten
1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup bran
3/4 cup rolled oats
2 tsp. baking soda

Preheat oven to 350°. Melt butter. Beat together with the sugars, vanilla, peanut butter and eggs. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, bran, oats and baking soda. Stir mixture into butter mixture. Drop by teaspoons onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 15 to 18 minutes. Remove to a rack to cool. Yields 7 dozen.



Christmas Trivia:

1. What are the names of Santa's eight reindeer?
2. What is a buche de Noel?
3. What do bad little boys get for Christmas?
4. Finish the song line: "All I want for Christmas is . . ."
5. Who was caught kissing Santa Claus?
6. How do you say Merry Christmas in Spanish? In French?
7. What did Frosty the Snowman have for a nose?
8. Who wrote "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"?
9. What is the last line in Moore's poem?
10. What is a tannebaum?
11. What did the Three Wise Men bring?
12. On the twelfth day of Christmas, what did "my true love give to me"?

