

Starr Vision

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Another Goodbye!



On Tuesday, January 29, 2002, we again said goodbye to another well-loved staff member. Mary Ann Cruz has taken a leave of absence to return to Puerto Rico. A luncheon was held by the staff to wish her well. Mary Ann will return within several months. Her presence will surely be missed and we wish her a speedy return.



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Inclement Weather Policy

As a child welfare agency, StarrVista is obligated to serve its clientele as effectively as possible, despite Michigan's volatile winters. However, there will be occasions when the Agency is forced to operate under an amended work schedule. Supervisors and team leaders will provide notification to their direct reports by 6:30 a.m. Staff can also check the agency voice mail by 6:30 a.m. at 387-6000, to confirm the Agency's schedule during inclement weather. Except under extreme conditions, determined by the National Weather Service and local civic officials, the Agency will be open and staff is expected to report for work. Staff who are unable to reach the office must report their absence to supervisors by 8:30 a.m. and are required to use accrued time for the day off.





From the President's Desk— "How Do You Mend a Broken Heart"

How do you mend a broken heart? That is the lyric from what we affectionately call an old school song. Well it applies today. Here at StarrVista we see the affects of misguided energy in so many youth. Most have been hurt and respond by hurting others. This is a cycle that we can break with the belief that all children are inherently good. Well this belief has to be supported by trained caring individuals. Most medical research supports the fact that the heart is one of the strongest muscles in the body. Why then don't we strengthen this muscle in each family and child that we work with in this great community? Recently the Mayor of our city indicated that children will be one of his biggest priorities. This is so pleasing in that I have been working with children and families for over twenty years and have seen how children have gotten lost in the priorities of this country. I don't believe this to be an intentional act but nonetheless it has occurred. I see so many people using drugs or violence as a way to avoid and express their feelings. Well the CMO's are established to give the best care to these very special people.

I serve as Vice-President of Strength Based International organization committed to enhancing the skills of the front-line people who work directly with our youth. This is done through a large network of best practices and the common belief that all people have strengths that can be built upon to make their lives better. Too many times in this world people are defined by their mistakes. Everyone looking for each others weakness to justify their own strengths. Well, we at StarrVista realize that this thinking makes us less likely to help and therefore lose sight of our goals. We will continue to look at the community as the solution and enlist everyone to be a part of our children's lives in a productive manner. Everything that we do must be on behalf of the better of children. I am not so naïve that I think all will be rosey or problems don't or won't exist. There will be and should be disagreement if we are going to grow. What must stop is the need to be right at the expense of making someone else wrong. This rarely accomplishes anything but creating the atmosphere of I'll get you back, which hurts everyone. It is time for a new paradigm shift as our Mayor says "Right here, Right Now!" Under our leadership from the county we will continue to address our problems and build on our strengths. I am a member of so many good organizations including Deaf Options, National Black Child Development Institute, Leadership Detroit Trustee, etc, etc. All of these organization land on one issue and that is making things better for all people. I guess the one that lands closest to the mending of the heart is the Optimist Creed which reads:

Promise yourself, to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
to talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
to make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
to think only the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best.
to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
to forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
to wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature your meet a smile.
to give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy
to permit the presence of trouble.

Perhaps we have found out that there is a cure to mend a broken Heart. Peace.

(Also this article serves as a tribute to Ed Overstreet our friend from Boysville who passed away this month)

The Agency is pleased to offer through AFLAC, a supplemental voluntary benefits program. Some of the programs offered by AFLAC include: 1) personal accident expense plan; 2) personal short term disability plan; 3) personal cancer protector plan; 4) personal hospital intensive care plan. AFLAC representatives will be here on Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss their program offerings in detail. The AFLAC enrollment period will run from Wednesday, February 13, 2002 through Friday, February 15, 2002. You will receive AFLAC materials in advance of the Tuesday seminar.

We are excited to offer this option and hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity.

Maximizing Your HAP Benefits

From time to time we will be including in the newsletter some helpful hints so that you can get the maximum out of your benefits. The following are several tips for you to help maximize your HAP insurance:

1. **Receiving a bill:** You are only responsible for copayments and deductibles when they apply. You should not receive medical bills for services received and authorized through your HAP PCP. If you receive a bill from a HAP-affiliated provider, please contact Member Services at **(313) 872-8100** or toll free at **1-800-422-4641** so HAP can process your claim.
2. **Out-of-Network bills:** Services received from non-HAP-affiliated providers are considered out-of-network. These services are not a covered benefit for HAP HMO members unless they are for emergency or urgent care. For HAP PPO and POS members, there is a deductible that must be met before HAP covers out-of-network services.

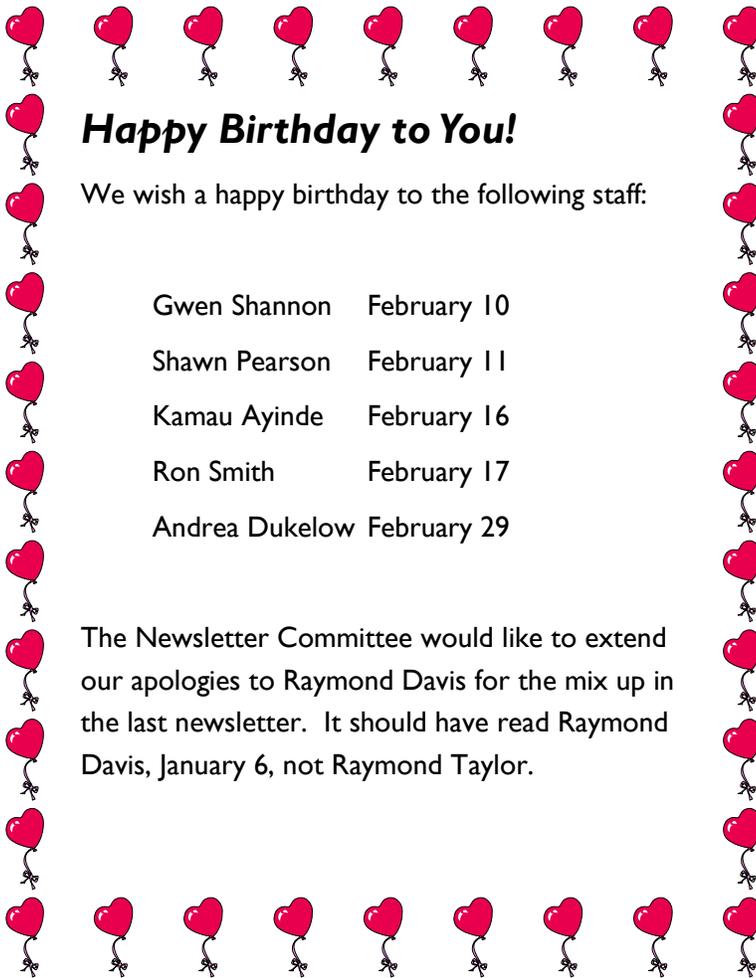
Employee Spotlight



Employee Spotlight – LaShawnda “Shawn” Pearson

A native Detroiter, LaShawnda, better known as ‘Shawn’ began her juvenile justice career at the Court JAC as an administrative assistant. In fact, she was there from the inception, helping with the development of systems, processes, and furniture construction (literally). Fortunately, her hammer and nail days ended when she joined StarrVista in November 2000. As a Youth Liaison, Shawn has been instrumental in providing assistance to the intake and clinical staff. With the completion of her Bachelor’s in May and forthcoming wedding in August, it is self-evident that this young lady is on the ball. Shawn’s advice to today’s youth focuses on the importance of a college education and spiritual awareness as components to success. We wish Shawn much success in her marriage, career, and a happy birthday (February 11).

Events/Training Calendar



Happy Birthday to You!

We wish a happy birthday to the following staff:

- Gwen Shannon February 10
- Shawn Pearson February 11
- Kamau Ayinde February 16
- Ron Smith February 17
- Andrea Dukelow February 29

The Newsletter Committee would like to extend our apologies to Raymond Davis for the mix up in the last newsletter. It should have read Raymond Davis, January 6, not Raymond Taylor.

- February 8 All Staff Meeting
- February 12 Progressive and Immediate Sanctions Training
- February 14 Valentine's Day
- February 15 Accessing Community Mental Health Services
- February 19 Discretionary Overrides



Recipe Corner

Frozen Strawberry Daiquiri Pie

Makes 10 Servings

- 1 cup crushed, low-fat graham crackers
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons light butter or margarine, melted
- 1 can (14 oz.) low-fat sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup frozen strawberry daiquiri mix concentrate, thawed
- 1 cup frozen strawberries in light syrup, thawed
- 2 cups light frozen whipped topping, thawed
- Fresh strawberries for garnish (optional)

Per Serving:

Calories 293	Protein 5.1 g	Carbohydrates 54.9 g
Total Fat 6 g (3.6 g. sat.)	Sodium 147 mg	
% calories from fat 18	Fiber 1.2 g	Cholesterol 7 mg

To make crust, combine graham crumbs, sugar, and butter in a small bowl. Spray an 8-inch springform pan with non-stick spray. Press crumb mixture evenly over bottom of pan. Place crust in freezer while you prepare filling. Beat sweetened condensed milk and daiquiri mix on low speed of electric mixer. Add strawberries and beat again until well blended. Fold in whipped topping. Pour into prepared crust. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze overnight. To serve, run a knife around edge of pan and remove sides. Garnish individual pieces with fresh strawberries, if desired

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Solutions through
youth & family
partnerships

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Puzzle

The 20 definitions below should each suggest an expression which contains the word HEART. For example, *Enthusiastic or invigorating* is HEARTY.

Note, some answers are one-word and some are phrases. Have a sweet time with this puzzler.

1. What happens when you're excited.
2. Area of political importance
3. Anguish; sorrow
4. Pleasantly moving or stirring
5. Novel by Nathanael West
6. Area in front of a fireplace
7. Coronary thrombosis
8. Sincere, frank discussion
9. Causing intense grief, anguish, or pain
10. To commit to memory
11. Tony Bennett recording
12. Operation pioneered by Dr. Christiaan Barnard
13. Edgar Allan Poe short story
14. Song from *Damn Yankees*
15. Generous and kindly
16. Beatle recording
17. Discourage; depress
18. To envy or regret deeply
19. Movie based on novel by Carson McCullers
20. Show one's feelings

Last Month's Around the House Answers

1. Fork
2. Broom
3. Tables
4. Closet
5. Telephone
6. Range
7. Kitchen Sink
8. Davenport
9. Pot, Kettle
10. Pitchers
11. Mirror
12. Frying Pan
13. Plate
14. Tub
15. Bureau
16. Spoon
17. Iron
18. Lamps
19. Curtain
20. Bowl

Since no one bothered to claim last month's prize – it's still up for grabs to the first person to present the most correct answers for this month's puzzle. Good Luck.