



From the President's Desk: We've Come This Far... By Faith



On May 16th an incredible event took place at the Northwest Activity Center on Detroit's west side. The purpose of this event was to bring together the leaders of the faith based and community based organizations to save our children. An extraordinary partnership was formed to bring about positive change within our community. The partnership consists of the Wayne County Department of Community Justice, the City of Detroit and three of the local Care Management Organizations (Black Family Development, Central Care Management and StarrVista).

The event was compelling and inspiring with messages delivered by The County Executive Ed McNamara, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Jeriel Heard, Dr. Carl Taylor and the keynote speaker Dr. Wilson Goode former mayor of Philadelphia. Many other notables were in attendance including Attorney General Jennifer Granholm.

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The theme of the program was straightforward and simple; it takes a village to raise a child. With this theme in mind those in attendance were implored to get involved, to return to the way our elders cared for us and the community. We were reminded time and again throughout the program that our children are our responsibility and that through faith, caring and action all things are possible.

Today we stand at the door of opportunity; we have the support of the leaders of our county and our city in fulfilling our duty to take care of our children and our community. In partnership with our friends and neighbors we can positively influence our young people and make our community a shining example for all to see. We've come this far by faith and determination but we have so far to go... we challenge each and every friend and neighbor to get involved, to work with area organizations to see that our children grow and prosper in a loving, caring, nurturing community.

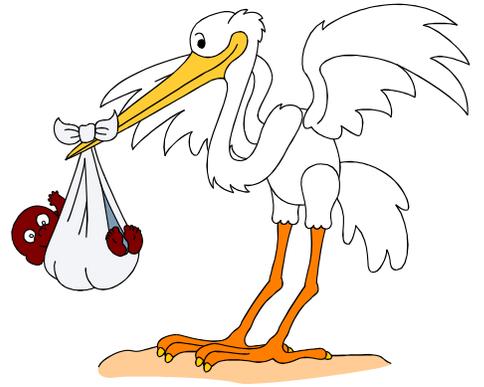


It Started With a Thought...



It started with a thought, transitioned into a few whispered conversations, traveled via e-mail to the masses, and evolved into one of the best demonstrations of unity and caring by the staff of StarrVista. On April 19th, thanks to the committed organization of the planning committee and the participation of our staff, we were able to transform our humble little center conference room into Baby Shower Central. Staff not only provided our mother-to-be, Kisha Parnell, with a carload (literally) of baby worthy gifts, but unselfishly contributed refreshments and libations for the gathering as well. As customary with such events, the afternoon was filled with games, prizes, and well wishes. Kisha's official last day of work was May 3rd, just a mere nine days before Savanna's (the baby) due date. Following in her mom's pattern of punctuality, Savanna successfully made her world debut on Mother's Day, weighing in at 7.5 lbs. and stretching 19 inches in length. At last check, mother and baby are fine and adjusting well. Special thanks not only go to the staff, but especially the planning committee: Shirley Atkins,

Mary Woods, Harriet Coleman, Francine Stitt, Bobbie Johnson, Dorothy Coney, Chanita Taylor, Tiffany Doby, and Octavia Lesley for their hard work and participation.



Bowling Outing a Smashing Success



Ron Smith and Mary Woods preparing for the task ahead—bowling!

On April 19, 2002, the StarrVista staff adjourned to Plum Hollow Lanes to conduct a staff meeting and have some fun. The turn out for the event was phenomenal. All staff participated and had one heck of a good time! Pizza, pop and cake (to honor March and April Birthdays) was enjoyed and pins were flying. It was a rowdy bunch that hit the lanes that afternoon. Both bowlers and non-bowlers alike had the time of their lives. On April 30, 2002 following training, certificates and gifts were presented to the following staff:

Best Bowler: Rodrick Laster

Best Team: Team 3—Darcy Brohman, Lance Fisher, Harriett Coleman, Frank Kozlowski, and Brice Abrams

Not So Best Bowler: Octavia Lesley

Not So Best Team: Team 6—Shawn Pearson, Bobbie Johnson, Keith Johnson, Shirley Atkins, and Theron Beaver

Highest Game: Rodrick Laster

Lowest Game: Theron Beaver

Congratulations to all of our winners (and we consider everyone a winner) and we hope to see you on the lanes next year.



Employees Attend BARJ Conference

Last week, Gloria Person, Tiffany Doby, Lori Linsday, and Darcy Brohman attended the BARJ Conference in Boyne, Michigan. It was a busy, but informative time for the group. There were daily two to four hour seminars that described the Balanced and Restorative Justice principles and concepts, as well as it's origination. There were also seminars regarding public officials, healing the harm, and victim of-fender mediations.

Although the trip was work related, there was opportunity for fun. The group went sight seeing, dined at the local restaurants, and had the opportunity to network with other conference attendees. These four young women put their best foot forward and represented StarrVista in a highly professional manner. The group is anxious to share all of the knowledge and insight gained from having attended the conference with those who stayed behind.

Youth Spotlight

The Agency's business is invested in the lives of the children and families we serve. This month our spotlight is on Onofre G., whose case worker is Darcy Brohman. Since placement at StarVista, Onofre has made tremendous progress in his treatment. He has a changed attitude and is a positive leader in his group at Martin Luther King House, where he will soon complete the program and move into Boysville's supervised independent living program. Onofre recently passed the GED and received very high scores on his ACT exam and hopes to begin community college in the fall. Onofre G. has learned to communicate more effectively, thereby creating a better rapport with his family and peers. Onofre has established himself as a positive role model and we at StarrVista are proud of his accomplishments. Keep up the good work!

Achievements



It is very rewarding to announce the recent promotions of the following staff members:

Sherry Davis, former Youth Liaison Specialist, has been promoted to the post of Youth Investment Counselor. She begins her new assignment on Monday, May 13, 2002. Sherry began employment with StarrVista in January of last year. Over the past year, she has ambitiously been pursuing her MSW at Wayne State University, a two- year program, which she will successfully complete this year! Sherry is passionate about working with youth who are infected with HIV/AIDS. She enjoys ballroom dancing and loves animated movies, her favorite being *A Toy Story*.

Tiffany Doby, former Youth Liaison Specialist, has also been promoted to the post of Youth Investment Counselor. She will begin her new assignment on Monday, May 13, 2002. Ms. Doby began her employment with StarrVista in September, 2001. She received a BS in Criminal Justice from Ferris State University. Tiffany actively attends church and is looking forward to receiving her state certification in sign language. She enjoys spending time with her family and recently moved away from home into her first apartment.



Kerry Herd, former Provider Network Specialist, has been promoted to the post of Placement Coordinator Specialist. She began her new assignment on May 1, 2002. Ms. Herd began her employment with StarrVista in February, 2001. She received her BS in Psychology from University of Michigan and her M.S.Ed. in Counseling/Psychological Services from the University of Pennsylvania. Kerry's interests include working out, cooking, shopping, travel and spending time with her family and friends.

New Employee

Ms. Novella White joined the StarrVista team on May 13, 2002, as a Financial Analyst, whose responsibilities include accounts receivables, billings and claims. She was formerly employed at Starr Commonwealth, Albion, as an Associate Accountant. She received her BS from Michigan State University and her interests include traveling and shopping. She is also a professional bowler. Welcome!

Employee Spotlight – Dorothy Coney



“Stay focused on God and he will direct your path.” This inspirational passage guides Dorothy Coney as she lets her light shine as Starr Vista’s Data Entry Clerk. She began this position February 26, 2001. Dorothy’s past employment history includes Medical Billing (5yrs) and Administrative Assistant (10yrs). She is the sister of team leader, Shirley Atkins, who incidentally, referred her to StarrVista. Dorothy has been married over 25 years has three children; two girls, one boy and eight grandchildren. Presiding over her church’s trustee and usher board, reading, traveling and spending time with her grand children occupies the majority of Dorothy’s free time. Dorothy tends to stick with things she likes and knows will work; a quality

she has found in her fellow co-workers.

A Memorial Day Essay by Kathlena Peebles [Copyright, 1996]

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day set aside for remembrance of those who have died in our nations service. Memorial Day was first proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, in his General order number 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868; when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. The South, at first, refused to acknowledge, Memorial Day, honoring their dead on separate days until after WWI. It is now observed in almost every state of the union on the last Monday of every May. Since the Civil War more than 1.1 million veterans, both women and men, have lost their lives in service to America. Indeed the Civil War alone accounted for more than 600,00 dead.

On Memorial Day I had the opportunity to witness a memorial in San Francisco, aboard a submarine, the USS Pampanito, a submarine that was used in WWII and Korea. The United States submarine service suffered the highest percentage of casualties than any other of the services that served in WWII. They also sank over 55% of all Japanese shipping sunk in WWII. This was all pointed out to me with pride by several of these veterans.

As our National Anthem was played over the speaker system some of them started to cry as they remembered all of their fallen comrades, the ones that served with them, and the ones that did not. I thought about how many of these veterans brothers had made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may all enjoy the freedom this country offers.

As we stood for the Pledge of Allegiance I saw the reaction on their faces, it was a thoughtful, respectful look, a look of such sadness. I thought about what my dad's submarine veterans group was really all about "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives while serving in the United State Naval Submarines" I then started to cry myself with the realization of what that really meant . All those old sailors, my dad included, standing on the deck of an old submarine holding the flag with such pride and sadness.

Then it was time for the speakers to give their speeches about their experiences and the meaning of Memorial Day. A WWII veteran talked about the hardships and struggles and the fact that he was lucky to be alive when so many of his brothers had fallen victim to the war. One talked about how it was up to the veterans to teach "our children about the sacrifices made by so many". Another said, "that America will only be the land of the free so long as it is the home of the Brave". So many of the speakers spoke with so much pride about America that it was hard not to think about all the people who have no idea what this holiday is really about. While they go to their Bar B Q's and beaches there are some who keep up a tradition of pride in service to the United States of America and remember all those who had fallen, and rejoice in the ones who still live and remember. Let none of us ever forget what Memorial Day really is.



Happy Birthday to You

We wish a Happy Birthday to the following staff:

Theron Beaver May 8

Lori Linsday May 19

Harriet Coleman May 23

Novella White May 31

***Trainings for
the month of
May will be
announced as
information is
available.***

***The StarrVista, Inc. office will be closed on Monday,
May 27, 2002 due to the Memorial Day Holiday.
The offices will reopen on Tuesday, May 28, 2002.***

HAP CORNER- Who Ya Gonna Call?

So who should you call when...?

You want to find out why a new dependent hasn't been added to your contract?

Contact the Human Resources Department. We will forward all of the necessary information to HAP.

You realize that a letter is missing from your name on your ID card?

Contact HAP. They can make simple changes to your name, including missing letters or correcting the order of misplaced letters.

You want to find out if your child's immunizations are covered?

You should call HAP. Their representatives can answer questions about your covered benefits.

You were recently married and want to change your name in our system?

In this case, you must contact the Human Resources Department. We will forward the updated information to HAP. They can only change names at StarrVista's request. This protects you against fraud.

You want to find out if a claim has been paid?

Should you have questions about claims, please contact HAP directly.

You need to update your address?

You can call HAP or take care of it yourself by logging on to www.hapcorp.org and using their online application.

HAP's customer service number is 313-872-8100.

