What’s Happening at Strive
July 2019

Message from the President/CEO
Submitted by: Grant Jackson
This agency is CHOCK FULL of amazing people doing amazing things, on the daily. I had a wonderful example brought to my attention recently that I wanted to share with you all. This one is about Mr. Doug Sorter going above and beyond to lend a hand. When Doug isn’t out in the community working with community partners and creating new and lasting relationships that help bring in funding for our amazing programs, here is an example of him rolling up his sleeves to help out a fellow coworker and a family that we support………………………….

“I’m always inspired when I see our team members go above and beyond for our individuals and families. Most recently, Doug Sorter personally took it upon himself to deliver a very large sensory swing/chair to a family. The single mom has a very high needs child in our services and the swing was recommended by a therapist to help prevent and deescalate behaviors. Doug, with dolly in hand, loaded the two large boxes in his car and drove them over to her home. The surprise on the mom’s face that a VP of STRiVE was delivering her chair just proves how invested we all are in ensuring the best possible quality of life for the individuals we serve.”

No act of kindness, big or small goes unnoticed. Thanks Doug!

I know that there are DOZENS of stories like this that happen every day here in our agency. Be sure to give your fellow coworkers a shout out in our Recognition Mission boxes. Not only will they receive the recognition they very much deserve, but they will also have a chance to win a prize!

I love hearing these stories of kindness. TELL ME MORE!!!

Stay Cool Out There,
Grant

Departmental Updates:

Public Relations & Development…
Submitted By: Doug Sorter
Interviews:
• We’ve had several interviews on 5 or more radio stations through MBC Grand Radio. They have become a wonderful partner in our efforts to promote STRiVE. The KREX TV station is another partner I can count on to help with any story or event we have. We were able to get in front of the camera about 5 times and the website carries
several more interviews.

STRiVing for Success:
We have reinstated the STRiVing for Success luncheons and they are well attended. This is a very successful way to educate the Grand Valley Community about what we do and what we need. If you’re interested in attending or have someone you think would be interested please let me know.

Grants:
- We received a $48,000, $7,500, $12,600 and $3,000 dollar grant from 4 different funders recently. We have written 3 more and are waiting to hear back.
- Amber Hodges, who I was working with decided to branch out and is no longer helping. I did however find a wonderful new person to take her place, Cindy Willms. I am looking forward to her effort.

Foundation Board:
We will have our next meeting Wednesday, July 17th at 8:00am. We have several number of changes and additions. I see nothing but success in his future with the STRiVE Foundation Board.

Events:
Our first concert of the year was June 21st Doubious Brothers. They are a terrific band and put on a great concert. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather there was not a large turnout maybe 10 people and myself. Our next concert is “The Boys of Summer” July 26th 7:00pm. These are some talented folks who love what they do! If you can find the time you should definitely see them.

Accounting...
Submitted by: Chris Bergquist
- Preparing year end schedules for the upcoming financial audit
- Scheduled Work comp audit and completed work papers.

Human Resources...
Submitted by: Adele Avolio
- Recognition Mission is off to a good start. A few boxes are filling up but I found some empty. EVERY DAY PEOPLE DO GREAT THINGS. LET’S CATCH THEM!
- National Bowling Day and Pirate Day on August 12th is our next dress up day. Bowlers and non-bowlers are encouraged to wear a bowling shirt, or if you prefer you can dress up like a pirate. You could take it one step further and combine the two!
**Vocational...**
Submitted by: Kelly Lupo

**Wellness and Active Wellness**
- **Individuals** and staff have started making salads for individuals to enjoy out of the 508 Fruitvale courtyard garden.
- We are also welcoming Kat Goodwin our team 😊

**Uniquely Yours**
- Uniquely Yours just completed inventory and installment of a new POS system.
- The window was changed to a summer scene and it has received a lot of compliments.
- New products are arriving and new displays are being arranged.

Come in and check out the changes! Remember that Strive/MDS employees receive a 20% discount!

**Host Homes & Family Care Givers...**
Submitted by: Michelle Sharman

- We are excited to share that 3 people that were already in our HH program have chosen to move to new HH’s.
  - One couple got engaged and chose to move into a new HH together.
  - Another person was finally able to move in with a male HHP to hang out and do MAN stuff together!
- We had one Family Care Giver start on July 1st and are excited to start this new adventure to support their child and their family!
- The HH/FCG program is currently working with one woman whom was accepted into the comp waiver on an emergency basis in June and she has found her permanent HH and is doing well!
- We are in the process of meeting with a family to explore Family Care Giver supports after their child received an emergency comprehensive waiver.
- We are also starting to work with a young lady whom just turned 18 and would like to explore HH and vocational services through Strive!
- We have expanded our respite providers for HHP and have had another 4 people certified to provide in home respite care to help support our HHP’s and FCGs’.
- We have worked with HR and training to streamline and firm up the Independent Contractor training and certification.
- We are starting to reach out to other community providers to receive additional OT/PT services.
- We are now at 87 HH’s! And all 87 contracts were signed for the new fiscal year starting July 1.

**MDS Resource Coordination...**
Submitted by: Amanda Gregg

- In June there were 7 SIS’s completed for the month. We continue to work on getting more individuals enrolled into services each month.
- 10 new enrollments occurred in the month of June thanks to the continued hard work of our intake team!
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<th>NAME</th>
<th>WAIVER</th>
<th>NEW ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>TRANSFER</th>
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- This month the Case Management Department wants to recognize Debbie Santana. Debbie is the glue to our department as she keeps on top of PMIPs, getting SPs distributed, staffing notices, and so much more. Her position requires so much time management and prompt organization. Debbie has been with our department for about 3 years now and is so valuable! Thank you Debbie for all you do for all of us!

- Our PASA person of the month was nominated by Chelsea Dexter (Case Manager):

  "I don't get to work with Khristina Kukus as much as I used to, which makes me so sad, but I am so thankful for her role as Strive’s Residential Director. Khristina is someone who is personable, professional, and has immense integrity. She has a sassy side to her and tells it like it is, but is one of the most caring and sincere people"
especially when it comes to the people who live in the group homes. Khristina works hard to meet the needs of the people in the group homes, while also supporting the many staff who work in them. Khristina is one of the best people I have been able to work with over the last 3 years and helped me so much when I was first learning my caseload with the group homes. Thank you Khristina for all your work, it does not go unnoticed!

- **People First** this month had their Officers meeting to discuss the plan for People First for the next year. People First is moving to a new model, of having monthly Officer meetings (elected representatives for People First of Mesa county) and separate meetings for all learning activities and social events. This way events can be more productive and meaningful for all who attend. We will have no People First meeting in July and will resume in August.
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