



HGA NEWS

"We assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their full potential by providing quality professional care and services in safe, supportive environments"

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Update from the CEO

Dear HGA friends and family,

Spring is here! We are all so ready to see the sun and gather with friends and family -- to charge our batteries and renew the energy we need to be our best selves at home and at work, and to continue our work to build a culture of gentleness at every level of the organization. We're ready to open the windows and let the fresh air in. As you head into spring, clear your space, clear your mind, breathe, and take care of you!

Last month, leadership staff embarked on a year-long leadership development process. This is part of HGA's commitment to provide tools and resources to better support staff and the persons we care for in our homes and programs. Strong, healthy leadership makes a strong, healthy organization. Growth is important. We will also be growing food, flowers, and friendships this spring. As we put in perennials, vegetables, and herbs and find new, healthy recipes to use at home we will continue our journey to become more conscious of our connection to nature and the world. If you like gardening and want to share your talents, reach out. In the pages that follow, look for the Gentle Teachers recognized over the last few months and be sure to put the upcoming gatherings and events on your calendar. As always, remember to be gentle with yourself and with each other!

Warm regards,

Myra S. Dutton, JD

Chief Executive Officer

HGA BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Verboncouer, President

Ashley Siegel, Vice President

John Mahoney, Treasurer

Kay Seng, Secretary

Peter Bialik

Julie Cutler

Dr. Debra Schultz

Mary Purtee



HGA CORE VALUES



- ◆ We are dedicated to serving our families, supporting our fellow team members, and collaborating with organizations that work with our families.
- ◆ We respect the diversity of all people.
- ◆ We foster meaningful community participation and relationships.
- ◆ We honor the need for choice and control.
- ◆ We seek opportunities to build and develop skills.
- ◆ We mentor professionalism in the delivery of services.
- ◆ We are dedicated to providing services with integrity and compassion

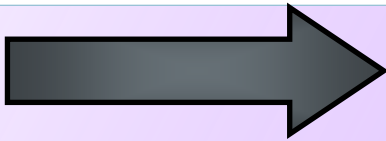
Ethical approach to compliance

With over 23 years of experience, **Teresa Wendt** provides much knowledge of state licensing and Community Mental Health contract requirements. Teresa has served as HGA Support Services Compliance Officer since 2021. Teresa is committed to ensuring all employees are educated on ethical procedures, and that all HGA programs comply with regulations and legal requirements.

HGA is committed to financial security for the organization. Meet our new finance manager **Jamie Chester**. Jamie will be working in the main office to ensure HGA's Financial goals are maintained. She joined the finance team in February. She brings a background in finance management and accounting to the team. She joins Tina Campbell in keeping the many finance pieces in place so all of you can keep doing the important work that you are doing! Welcome Jamie!

HGA is taking effective measures to ensure all programs are appropriate. Our new safety team will begin inspections this spring.

HGA's Vision: We will offer a wider spectrum of supports and services to individuals with different levels of abilities across their lifespan.



According to [Gentle Teaching International](#), "Our central purpose is to nurture; teach; and sustain a sense of companionship, connectedness, and community for those who have repeatedly experienced an existence of disconnectedness, isolation, and loneliness.

Gentle Teaching is based on the premise that all individuals have a right to feel safe and valued in their homes; with their families and caregivers; and at their job, school, or other forms of meaningful day activities."

Gentle teaching is about creating a safe and loving environment where people can grow and learn.

Congratulations to our fall/ winter Gentle Teachers:

November – **Anna Bays** from Morningside
Catrina Bankhead from Virginia's House
Tionna Robinson from Black Creek Cove
Bobby Smith from Rex Street

December – **Susan Smith** from Virginia's House
Tamea Williams from Virginia's House
Ebony Williamson from Black Creek Cove
Anna Galvan from the Walker home

January – **Autumn MacDonald** from the Rex Street Home
Lakesha Thomas from Virginia's House
Carmen Garcia from the Morningside Home
Taewone Love from the Shaffer Home
Roneshia Stapples from the Shaffer Home

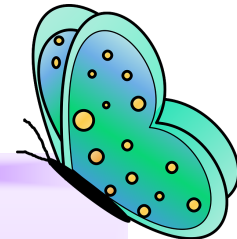
February – **Nila Howell** from the Shaffer Home
Darlisha Vines from Black Creek Cove
Ma'Kaylia Jackson from Virginia's House
Amber Cole from the Walker Home

Thank you all for creating safe and loving environments for the persons who are growing and learning in HGA's homes and programs (and for each other)!

Bobbie Palmer has worked for HGA for almost nine years. She has been married 26 years and is the mother of three sons and grandmother of nine. She started at the Rex Street Home and transferred with the residents to the Morgan Stret Home. She has held several positions within the company such as support staff, lead link, QA, was on the Walk-Through Committee, and is presently the Med Lead Staff. " HGA was going to be a stepping stone back into the health field while attending college. I have my degree now but decided to stay with HGA because of the Gentle Teaching skills that have allowed the strong bonds to develop over the years with my friends (consumers), co-workers and I. Everyone is like family in this company. I enjoy watching their excitement as I walk through the door. Their faces light up with just a hello; a hug or just participating in an activity. I appreciate more then I can say or show to HGA and the Guardians for allowing me to help make a difference in their lives. If only our friends could understand how much they have enriched my life. I have learned how easily it is to communicate with non verbal people and to work with physical and intellectual disabled people. These friends make the world a lot brighter." Thank you Bobby for your 9 years of service.



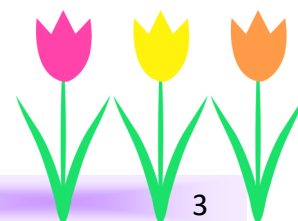
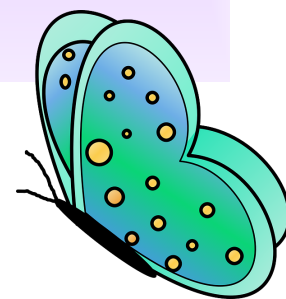
Barbara Evans has been a part of the HGA family for over 26 years. Known as "Popcorn Road Ride," Barbara has built an amazing rapport with Lilac. In her free time, Barbara likes to travel and plant flowers. Barbara also loves ballroom dancing and music. She brings her love for music and dance into Lilac, which especially makes an impact on Saturday mornings when she takes charge of the Alexa. "The individuals at Lilac keeps me coming back each day that I work." Thank you Barbara, for your 26 years of service!



STAFF HIGH-

Each season there will be two staff highlighted in HGA's newsletter to recognize staff from our homes and programs. These staff are on the front lines of our company and deserve to be recognized for their dedication, commitment, and hard work. We want them to know HGA values and is proud to have them on our team.

DISCLAIMER: ALL PHOTOS HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND HGA HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE APPROPRIATE PARTIES TO DISPLAY



APRIL 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20		22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						


Free Printable Calendars from Typecalendar.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

On April 21st 2023 HGA homes will host a BINGO game day at Fellowship Church

May 25th HGA will have a Jungle picnic at Branstrom Park in Fremont at 11am.

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

www.calendaroptions.com

HGA will be holding a fundraiser carnival on June 22nd from 5 pm–7pm at Margaret Drake Elliott Park in Muskegon.

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

www.a-printable-calendar.com

HGA SUPPORT SERVICES

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COO: Channe Hicks

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