

# 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,  
 Welcome summer! We gathered for our first picnic of the year in Fremont on May 25. It was a little chilly, but so heartwarming to be together at the jungle-themed picnic hosted by the Newaygo County homes. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at our first carnival on June 22 from 4:30-7 pm at Margaret Drake Elliott park by Pere Marquette in Muskegon.

Gardens are growing and homes are being cleaned, organized, and painted. Some of the homes will host a yard sale soon. Look for information and stop out! We continue to foster our commitment to the concepts of gentle teaching and to recognize the dedicated Gentle Teachers here at HGA. As always, be sure to put the upcoming gatherings and events on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you this summer. Finally, remember to be gentle with yourself and with each other!

Warm regards,  
 Myra Dutton, CEO



## 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

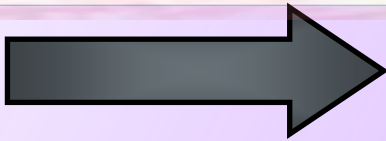


- ◆ We are dedicated to serving our families, supporting our fellow team members, and collaborating with organizations that work with our families.
- ◆ We respect the diversity of all people.
- ◆ We foster meaningful community participation and relationships.
- ◆ We honor the need for choice and control.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

**Healthy and Connected – to the environment, the community, and each other.** It's been a dry spring, but our plants seem to have survived and are beginning to bud, bloom, and bear fruit. The Healthy and connected garden project at Black Creek Cove and Virginia's house was made possible by a grant from the Environmental Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. If you like gardening and want to share your talents, reach out!



***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 Gentle Teachers:**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| February – | Nila Howell, Shaffer home<br>Amber Cole, Walker home<br>Makaylia Jackson, Virginia's home<br>Darlesha Vines, Black Creek Cove |
| March –    | Hannah McGettigan, Walker home<br>Jhimira Santiago, Black Creek Cove<br>George Tice, Morningside                              |
| April --   | Leigha Arnold, Woods North<br>Maggie Francis, Rex home  |
| May --     | Shamuka Bolden, Shaffer home<br>Jessica Wilson, Woods North<br>Melanie Billings, Woods North<br>Emma Morgan, Rex 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)!



Mary Stidham works at Virginia's House and has been with HGA for 23 years. In her free time, Mary enjoys camping, fishing, and any outdoor activities. Mary balances being a caregiver both at work and her everyday life caring for friends and family. What keeps Mary going as a support staff is the return of affection and love she gets from clients as she provides care.



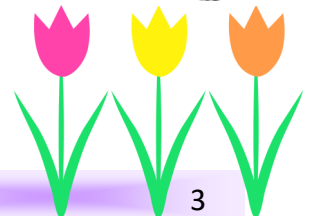
Johnna Owens who works at our Woods North home has been with HGA for six years. Previous to coming to HGA Johnna helped raise her special needs nephew, her passion for this career path comes from wanting to make a difference in other's lives and the fulfillment she gets from making people smile.



## STAFF

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



# Jungle Picnic Review



Our HGA family comes together this June to recognize and celebrate Juneteenth (FREEDOM DAY). Take a moment to embrace our observance of a historical day.





# July 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		21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

www.a-printable-calendar.com


## UPCOMING EVENTS



On July 20th HGA homes will be attending John Ball Zoo at 11AM for a fun filled day of animal watching!

On August 17th, there will be a tie dye party at Beals Wolf Lake Park at 11am. Please bring packed lunches and whatever you would like to dye. (t-shirts, sweat shirts, etc)

# August 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		

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# SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	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

Download & Print Free Calendars From Wiki Calendar

There will be a hockey event on September 29th at 10:30am at the TrinityHealth Arena for all who'd love to go see the Muskegon Lumberjacks toss the puck around!

### HGA SUPPORT SERVICES

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COO: Channe Hicks

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