

**HGA SUPPORT SERVICES**



# 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 officially here! What a mixed-up year it’s been – winter felt like spring and spring feels like winter. But the sun will soon be shining and the gardens we planted at our homes will begin to show signs of new life. Here at HGA we continue our work to grow a culture of gentleness at every level of the organization.

Leadership staff continue to grow their skills to better support and guide the staff in our homes. Leadership development 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. Growth is important! We will also be growing — food, flowers, and friendships again this spring and summer. We are expanding our gardens to more homes, putting in perennials, vegetables, and herbs and finding fresh recipes to grow healthier bodies and a healthier 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. Remember to be gentle with yourselves and with each other!

Warm regards,  
Myra

## 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



## A Big Thank you to MSU Cooperative Extension and Choice One Bank

### HGA CORE VALUES



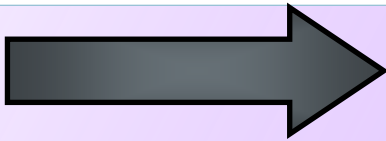
- ◆ We are dedicated to serving our families, supporting our fellow team members, and collaborating with organizations that work with our families.
- ◆ We respect the diversity of all people.
- ◆ We foster meaningful community participation and relationships.
- ◆ We honor the need for choice and control.
- ◆ 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

At HGA, we're always growing and learning! Last year, MSU Cooperative extension hosted a Cooking Matters class for our managers. This year they will go out into the homes and teach staff and residents some healthy recipes as they talk about the benefits of a healthy diet. Thank you to Stephanie Marino and all the MSU Cooperative extension staff for your support!

Choice One bank will be offering money management classes for our residents in Muskegon and Newaygo counties. Financial advisers will show us how to make a budget and set financial goals. A big thank you to Celeste Spivey and her amazing team!



***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 everyone can grow and learn.

Congratulations to our winter Gentle Teachers:

December-- Alison Kissling, Morningside  
Anna Galvan, Walker Home  
Leigha Arnold, The Woods North

January -- Carly Wentzlof, Administrative Office  
Carianne Smith, The Woods North  
Jovanna Stewart, Walker Home

February – Jerry Ream, Maintenance  
Bobbie Palmer, Morgan Home  
Anna Bays, Morningside  
Loretta Bristol, Rex Street Home



chibird

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)!



*It takes a lot of energy to keep up with the kids in the ABA program. They never stop moving, not even for a photo!*

Courtney Parmer has been a behavioral technician in HGA’s autism program for 9 years and loves working with the kids! She is 32, from Muskegon, married with a 4 year old son. Enjoys reading, taking her dog for a walk, and spending time outside with her son. She hopes to travel in the future.

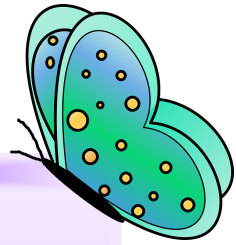
After earning an Associate’s degree in Allied Health Technology and OTA from Baker College, Courtney went on to get a Bachelor’s in Healthcare Administration.

Alison Kissling has been with HGA for over 20 years, since August 2003. She started at the Michigan Steet home and worked there until 2018, when she transferred over to the Morningside home. Long before she worked for HGA, Alison said she would drive by one of HGA’s homes and wonder if she could work in a home serving people with special needs.

Some years later, the path of Alison’s life led her to apply for and get a job with HGA. It was her first "real" job. She was just 33 years old. Alison’s mother worked at Crystal Lake Trainable School and some of the students she worked with when they were children, Alison works with as adults.



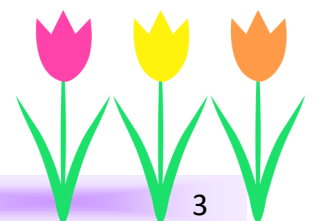
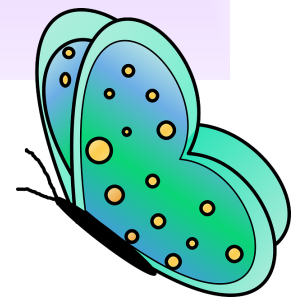
Alison says, “I have learned so much and it has been rewarding and challenging. I'm thankful for the opportunity to work and grow here with HGA and all of the different individuals--people served and staff—I have been blessed to have met!!”



## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

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 each and every one of them 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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	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.free-printable-calendar.com

**April 15, 2024, 11 am–** Money management and budgeting class for Newaygo and Oceana residents will be held at the Newaygo CMH. Contact Melanie Billings for more information. **April 23, 2024, 10 am —** Money management and budgeting class for Muskegon residents at the corporate office. **Thursday, April 25 at 10:30 am** All Company bowling event at Northway Lanes, 1751 Evanston Ave, Muskegon, MI 49442

# MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			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.free-printable-calendar.com

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 11:30 am—2:30 pm** we will gather at a location tbd (stay tuned) for some food, fishing, friendship, and fun! Come and hang out with us. Be sure to get your fishing license in advance and bring your pole if you want to fish!

PLEASE  
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### HGA SUPPORT SERVICES

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