



THE LINK



Summer 2010

Arnold Center, Inc.

President's Year in Review



President Charles Markey

I wanted to share with you my observations after completion of my first year on the job as President of the Arnold Center. First, we continue to receive tremendous support from the community in our mission to serve people with disabilities with vocational, rehabilitation, and support services. Due to the diligent work of our staff and the cooperation of our numerous community partners, we are able to match individual participant's desires and capabilities to inclusive work opportunities while contributing to the economic growth of the community.

As I look back at the year in review, I am amazed at the number and quality of our achievements including the expansion of community work opportunities, our customer and participant's satisfaction results, the MSHARP Safety Award, new paper recycling partnerships, and the groundbreaking of our new 14,000 sq ft addition to our Midland facility. However, the real satisfaction for all of us who serve is the knowledge that we have helped our participants learn a new skill, overcome a barrier, or get that job. With this motivation, we will continue to strive to develop new innovative programming that can make a difference.

Thank You!

The Arnold Center would like to thank the following community members who have supported us through donations and contributions over the last few months:

Knights of Columbus #8043, David Murray, Mr. Hunter, Marlene Hanna, Keith Mead, Brent McCumons, Jim Brozzo, Joe Kozumplik, Kevin Roeder, Pete Lehman, Threse Fitzgibbon, Michael Beale, Melissa Barbard, Ajay Badhwar, William Henninger, Leroy Smith, Dr. Roy Goethe, Pavel Konecny, Debi Shaffer, IBM, Lylenette Canfield, HE Lennon, Ayre Rhinehart, Jake Layman office.

As we begin our 14,000 square foot building expansion project we would like to thank the following foundations that have pledged funds for the expansion: Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, Doan Family Foundation, Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Midland Area Community Foundation, The Dow Chemical Foundation and Dow Building Solutions.



Again We Thank You!

Did you know that the Arnold Center has a website?

The site is located at www.arnoldcenter.org. The information at our site includes Annual Reports which gives highlights from previous years, a list of community members who serve on our Board of Directors, our community newsletter, The Link, which gives information about happenings the Arnold Center is doing throughout the community, an organizational chart which breaks down the hierarchy of the organization, and a link to the building update. The news and events page are articles from local media regarding the Arnold Center. There is a section that gives links to related organizations locally and nationally such as CARF, MARO, the Michigan Works Talent Bank, Facebook, and the We Cycle Store. We also have a section explaining the services offered to our customers and the different programs offered.

If you have not checked out our website or it has been awhile, log on today and see the different articles, services and options offered through the Arnold Center.





Customers Attend Day at the Capital

On May 12, 2010 the Arnold Center in Midland and Gladwin Counties participated in the Day at the Capital in Lansing Michigan sponsored by MARO. The MARO Employment and Training Association is a network of organizations that create opportunities for people with barriers to community access and employment. Tim, Linda, Mike, Jeffrey, and Joy were able to meet briefly with Senator Tony Stamas at the capital where they learned what his duties included. Tim, Linda, Mike, Jeffrey, and Joy were also able to talk about the positive influence working with the Arnold Center has been for them. Other opportunities at the capital included a tour of the legislative room, observing a demonstration of how congress voted on a bill, meeting some of the Michigan State troopers on what their job duties included and having lunch.



Jeffrey M. and Joy D.



Linda D., Mke M., Tim D.

Arnold Center Receives 3 Year CARF Accreditation

The Arnold Center has recently been accredited for a period of three years for its Employment Programs: Community Integration Services, Job Development Services, Job Support Services, Vocational Evaluation Services, and Organizational Employment Services. The latest accreditation is the 11th consecutive Accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to the Arnold Center. This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.



Employers

Did you know we can help you reduce employee turnover by matching qualified, job-ready applicants to your job requirements. We provide pre-employment assessment and offer job-related training for individuals we refer. Our staff can customize on-the-job training and support services, if needed. We currently have job candidates eagerly waiting to fill the following positions:

Midland

- Janitorial – part-time position, 10-15 hours per week. Individual interested in afternoon- evening shift. Has own drivers license, vehicle, & High school GED. Dependable, hardworking, and enthusiastic about learning new tasks.
- Mail Clerk - part-time position, 10-15 hours per week. Looking for small office or administrative setting. Great at following instructions with minimal supervision.
- Laundry – part-time position, 15-20 hours per week. Skilled and proficient in all areas of laundering process: washing, drying, folding, and inspecting for quality. Excellent judgment skills and outgoing personality.

Interested employers may contact: Amy Bissonnette
Arnold Center Inc. M-F @ (989) 631-9570 EXT.13

Gladwin

- Janitorial- 15-20 hours per week. Interested in all shifts. High school diploma, has driver license, dependable.
- Dishwasher-15-20 hours per week. Interested in all shifts. High school diploma, driver license, reliable.
- Farm Hand- 20-25 hour per week. Interested in all shifts. Individual is interested in milking cows, driving small tractor and assisting with light farm work.

Interested employers may contact: Laura Iseler
Arnold Center-Gladwin M-F @ (989) 426-6300



Building Expansion Underway

A groundbreaking ceremony at the Arnold Center on May 27th signified the beginning of a new 14,000 square foot building expansion. Over the past few years new production jobs, particularly in the recycling and reclamation industries, along with increased enrollment, have filled the Center to its brink. The new manufacturing and office space will hopefully accommodate the Center's needs for years to come. Among those attending the ceremony were VIPs' including Mayor Maureen Donker, Sid Allen (President of the Midland Chamber of Commerce), Michael Shea (former president of the Arnold Center) and project sponsors including Bobbie and Dave Arnold from the Strosacker Foundation, David Kell from the Midland Area Community Foundation, Ned Brandt from the Gerstacker Foundation and Jenee Velasquez from the Herbert H and Grace A Dow Foundation and Mike Hayes from the Dow Chemical Foundation.



The project managed by general contractor Three Rivers of Midland is already under way. Pictured right is sub-contractor Pat's Gradall beginning demolition and excavating work. The project is slated for a December completion date.



Mayor Maureen Donker with Harold H.

Other sub-contractors will be identified through the bidding process as the project progresses.

In addition to those previously mentioned, Charles Markey at the Ground Breaking Ceremony gave special recognition to charter board members Alice Strack and Bill Gaunt whose dedication and commitment to the organization have been insurmountable. Mayor Maureen Donker and Charles also recognized employee Harold Hutchins who began his tenure with the organization 40 years ago, the Arnold Center team who are second to none and to the Midland Community who has consistently promoted quality, value and optimal outcomes in community services that enhance the lives of all community residents.

Martha G. Arnold Endowment Fund

Ensuring Long-Term Support for Arnold Center's Mission

One of the primary goals of the Arnold Center is developing and managing an endowment fund to provide long-term support that will secure the organization's mission for years to come. An endowment is made up of charitable gifts, such as cash, property and stock, and also funds from bequests, trusts and annuities that are invested so that the funds can provide annual support for the organization for many years. By investing the charitable gift prudently, the initial donation has a greater impact over a longer period of time. Each year, a percentage of the Martha G. Arnold Endowment's interest is made available to the Arnold Center. Some years, the Arnold Center may not call up the funds, choosing instead to let the endowment grow until a time it is most needed. The programs supported by the fund serve as catalyst for improving the quality of life of the persons served by the organization. Through your donation to Martha G. Arnold Endowment Fund you too can help enhance the lives of our community's residents. For more information on the Martha G. Arnold Endowment Fund please go to www.arnoldcenter.org and click on the "Giving" tab. Learn how your gift can benefit you, the Arnold Center and our community's residents.



HEMLOCK SEMICONDUCTOR EXPANSION

The Arnold Center has had a work crew at the Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation (HSC) in Thomas Township for 24 years. This crew prepares bags for the manufacturing of polysilicon in a new 1500 sq foot clean room. Because of the growth of HSC the Arnold Center has been able to add additional positions to this crew to assist in the extra production.

On March 11th, HSC staff and our crew celebrated the opening of the new clean room with a pizza party. A huge amount of gratitude and thanks for all the hard work HSC employees and Arnold Center crew puts into their jobs to make this partnership successful!!!



Hemlock Semiconductor Crew: Pictured in the front row: Rex F., Pam S., John P., Janet F., Patty D., Eric D., (behind Patty D.), Alice B. Pictured in the back row: Mark R., Jolena C., Jim C., Cary R., Mike B., Scott S., and Scott R.

VOCATIONAL EXPLORATION PROGRAM

The Vocational Exploration Program provides high school students opportunities for increased career awareness, vocational exploration, and opportunities to interface with work through community based work experience. During the 2009/2010 school year students from Sanford Meridian, Bullock Creek, and the Academic and Career Education Academy participated in the Vocational Exploration Program. The Arnold Center, Midland County Educational Services, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and local businesses provided the services and training for the students under the leadership of Harland Koboldt.

Adventurers and risk takers are words used to describe students and employers that participate in the Vocational Exploration Program. It's an adventure and a risk, for students, to come out of their comfort zone. Many students, when they start the program, don't know what they want to do or what skills they possess. Most of the students are quiet, they don't know the other students in the program, and they are afraid of meeting new employers every couple of weeks, but by the end of the school year these students have gained leadership skills, feel confident working with the public, and some of the students have received paying jobs. It's a risk for the employers to allow students to volunteer and work at their business. The owners do not know if their employees or customers will accept the students. They wonder, will the students do a good job and can they work fast enough to meet the demands of their business? Each employer participating in the Vocational Exploration Program has been surprised and overwhelmed at the quality of work the students have done. The employers say they have gained and grown as much as the students. Being part of the Vocational Exploration Program is a win-win situation for students and employers. If you are willing to take a risk and be adventurous, we encourage you to participate in the Vocational Exploration Program.



CUSTOMER SUCCESS!!

Duane L. began services with Access Midland in 1993, and tried numerous job sites before settling into Community Employment at Shelter House and the Midland Civic Arena. Duane continued to work with Access Midland staff at the Arnold Center, within their Organizational Employment program for nearly 5 years. During that time, Duane made consistent improvements in his attendance and ability to cope with schedule changes. He showed great reliability on various production floor tasks, and grew to be a very dependable employee.



With his renewed sense of purpose, Duane once again felt inspired to enter Community Employment, and with the help of his Coordinator, found a great position at Hemlock Semi-Conductor. As the new job began, Duane showed immediate promise and potential. He capitalized on that potential by meeting production goals, and even taking the initiative to add extra days of work to his schedule. Duane is an excellent example of an employee who relied on the supports available to him, to find a way to succeed in his own time. He persevered in his commitment to himself and the Arnold Center, to find work that was both enjoyable, profitable, and most of all, gave him a sense of inclusion.

Dale began his employment at the Arnold Center in the Fall of 2008 when he enrolled in services through Access Midland. His radiant personality made Dale very popular, especially among fellow Detroit Tigers and Great Lakes Loons fans. After Dale learned the various production tasks in Organizational Employment, he took the initiative to begin working additional days at the Arnold Center. Dale took pride in his work, and the activities his income made it possible to afford: like going out to eat, seeing movies, attending baseball games, and throwing himself a big birthday party that he invited all his friends to attend.

With the assistance of his coordinator at Access Midland, and support staff at the Arnold Center, Dale accomplished another personal success in February of 2010, when he joined the Special Olympics walking group. Now every Monday, Dale takes his own transportation to the mall, enjoys a meal out with friends, and walks an average of three miles! He looks forward to possibly competing in a Special Olympics walking event next year, and the Arnold Center wishes him continued success as he finds his voice and independence, both in the community, and in life. Congratulations to Dale and his success!



REMEMBER TO RECYCLE

Please remember to be environmentally responsible and recycle your office paper.

Every 50,000 pounds of paper saves:

- * 475 mature pulp-producing trees
- * 1968 gallons of oil
- * 175,000 gallons of water
- * 1,025,000 Kilowatt hours of energy, and
- * 75 cubic yards of landfill space

Our new 40H 3/8 in. cut shredder.

As you can see, by working together we can have a significant impact on our environment. So, clean out your desks, shelves, file cabinets, lockers, briefcases, backpacks, records and document rooms in search of mixed office paper.

Mixed office paper is unsorted paper including: computer and general office paper, manila folders, white, colored and glossy paper, notebook paper, junk mail, pamphlets, brochures. This mix does not include: newsprint, phone books, magazines, Pendaflex or brown Kraft envelopes.

Recyclable paper may be dropped off between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday at the Arnold Center, 400 Wexford, Midland. Anyone having questions can call 989-631-9570 or Email general_info@arnoldcenter.org





Faces and Places

Our mission at the Arnold Center is to promote improved quality of life for individuals with differing needs, by encouraging and supporting personal growth and inclusion in the community through the development of vocational, social, and life skills.

Each day, all around the Midland and Gladwin communities, people with disabilities are working, participating in an activity or volunteering their time, but in all cases it's people getting to know people and enriching lives by doing so. Here is just a glimpse of what has been happening recently.



Youth Leadership from Midland County Schools recently came to visit the Arnold Center. Pictured is Kelly S. with a student working on Apothecary Shoppe Pill Cases.



Chris G., Dale P., Ardie C., and Rick W. recently attended a Loons Baseball Game.



Jim M. and David S. at the Pines Nursing Home in Gladwin for a day of singing with the residents.



Rose P. and Ryan A. at the Farm Days Exhibit in Gladwin.



Weldon M. and Judy S. playing horseshoes at Emerson Park.



MMCC Nursing Students Kathy, Mary, and Beth along with Harold H., Ron N., April M., and Jamie B. in front of the Sugar House at the Chippewa Nature Center for one of their weekly activities.



Kathy P. working on her latch hook project at the Grace A. Dow Library.



Arnold Center Gladwin Customers volunteer to deliver meals on wheels. Pictured here is Linda D. delivering to a local resident.



Matt H. playing basketball with Joyce at the Gladwin Free Methodist Church.



Annual Meeting

Arnold Center, Inc will hold its Annual Meeting and picnic on Wednesday July 28, 2010 from 10:30-4:00. This meeting is an opportunity for the community to understand the status of the agency and where we take time to honor our community members and customers for their dedication to the agency throughout the year. The meeting will start at 10:30 in the Arnold Center Board Room and lunch will be served at 11:30 and we will have a short awards ceremony immediately following.



Please join us in our celebration!

Please R.S.V.P. to ndicken@arnoldcenter.org or 989-631-9570 by July 21, 2010.

Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative Program

The process is moving along smoothly, the program is presently providing resources and positive direction for approximately 270 customers in Bay and Midland Counties combined. There have been several customers whom have discharged from their parole since the program started in July of 2008 and we look forward to many more continuing to succeed. Job placement continues to be a difficult task, however we are constantly seeking out new opportunities for our customers in both communities. Having stated the previous, the return to prison rate has been greatly reduced since the initiative began and as the economy recovers we hope to reduce that percentage even more.



2005-2010 Cup & Chaucer



Celebrating Five Years of Service! Stop by Cup and Chaucer and try our new Crème Brûlée smoothie and receive 50 cents off your purchase. While you're there, please check out the many services offered by the library for the summer months. Here is a link for the library www.midland-mi.org/gracedowlibrary. Hope to see you soon!!

Upcoming Events

July

- * 7/4 Independence Day
- * 7/5 Closed for Independence Day
- * 7/26 Finance Committee
- * 7/28 Board Meeting and Annual Meeting

August

- * 8/12 Outcome Management
- * 8/30 Finance Committee

September

- * 9/6 Closed for Labor Day
- * 9/27 Finance Committee
- * 9/29 Board Meeting

October

- * 10/15 Bosses Day
- * 10/25 Finance Committee- *Tentative
- * 10/31 Halloween

November

- * 11/11 Outcome Management -*Tentative
- * 11/15 Finance Committee-*Tentative
- * 11/17 Board Meeting-*Tentative
- * 11/25-11/26 Closed for Thanksgiving