NEW YEAR’S REFLECTIONS

Looking back on the months gone by,
As a new year starts and an old one ends,
We contemplate what brought us joy,
And we think of our loved ones and our friends.

Recalling all the happy times,
Remembering how they enriched our lives,
We reflect upon who really counts,
As the fresh and bright new year arrives.

And when I ponder those who do,
I immediately think of you.

Thanks for being one of the reasons we will have a
Happy New Year!
Looking forward to working together in 2017!

Jeri Schettler, Executive Director
Alicia Peña Matias

CLA 921

Alicia has been a DSP with CCSI for 2 ½ years. She most enjoys caring for the consumers! She has been a caregiver since she was 7 years old. Alicia has a very loving, caring and close family. She has 6 children – 5 boys and 1 girl, and also is blessed with 18 grandchildren! In her free time, Alicia likes to do hand quilting.

Thanks for being a part of the CCSI team, Alicia!

Employee Spotlight

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy CCSI employment anniversaries to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year: Monica Soukphilanouvong</td>
<td>1 year: Seanquai Harris</td>
<td>1 year: MacKenzie Harms</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 years: Mary Klopstad, McKayla Powles</td>
<td>2 years: Angeline Roberts, Brenda Hurlbut</td>
<td>2 years: Brandy Kirby, John Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 years: Judi Rand, Karen Iedema, Staci Cauwels, Traci Gruis</td>
<td>3 years: Jennifer Kumi, Andrew Kowalski, Virginia Petersen</td>
<td>3 years: Jenine Bixby, Yoseph Gelgelu, Nyamunkel Gew</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 years: Jackie Rand, Karen Stamer, Shawna Horkey</td>
<td>4 years: Virginia Petersen, Twila Weischedel, Traci Gruis</td>
<td>5 years: Claudia Aguilar</td>
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<td>5 years: Jessica Brands, Jennifer Kumi</td>
<td>5 years: Jeanette Valdez, Virginia Petersen, Twila Weischedel</td>
<td>6 years: Claudia Aguilar</td>
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<td>6 years: Elissa Brooks, Sam Smith, Amber Kamm, Staci Cauwels, Traci Gruis</td>
<td>6 years: Twila Weischedel, Staci Cauwels, Traci Gruis</td>
<td>12 years: Katy Efner</td>
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<td>9 years: Janine Brands</td>
<td>9 years: Traci Gruis</td>
<td>27 years: Ray Waldner</td>
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<td>20 years: Pat Cowdin, Jane Folkers</td>
<td>20 years: Glenda Pfeifer</td>
<td>20 years: Pat Cowdin, Jane Folkers</td>
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<td>28 years: Jane Folkers</td>
<td>28 years: Glenda Pfeifer</td>
<td>28 years: Jane Folkers</td>
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<td>16 years: Janice Wolterstorff</td>
<td>16 years: Janice Wolterstorff</td>
<td>16 years: Janice Wolterstorff</td>
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<td>19 years: Mary Martin</td>
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CLA 921 Notes:

Consumers at 921 had a great Thanksgiving. One enjoyed the great meal at CCSI and three went on home visits. All are looking forward to Christmas parties and entertainment at the Auditorium. They attended the Christmas Concert to start off December and it was evident all enjoyed it with all the toe-tapping and dancing in their seats!

One consumer bought a new comfortable chair to watch movies in his room and another purchased a new, bigger bed that she said she is “so happy” with. All have enjoyed crafts/hobbies that they work on since the weather has turned cold. They planned two get-togethers to break up the cold months – Bingo in January and decorating Valentine cookies in February. It’s always fun to have friends over!

Marlin from CLA 404 would like to say “Happy Holidays” to everyone. He stated, “I am lucky to be here and hope everyone is as happy as I am.” He continued, “This time of year is a time for celebration.” On that note, Marlin celebrated his birthday on December 14th with a party at his home. Thanks to all who were able to help Marlin celebrate his special day!
TO CCSI’S EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER!

PAM MASTBERGEN
CLA 921 SUPERVISOR

Professionalism:
Pam has a very professional relationship with case managers, families and those she works with in the agency. She always has the client’s best interest in mind when working with the client and outside individuals. She comes across as factual and positive when presenting information in a way that builds up the client while addressing areas of improvement. She is a great representative for CCSI and those we serve.

Consumer Focus:
Clients come first. She always thinks about what the clients’ needs/wants are before presenting ideas or suggestions. She encourages the client to be involved in community activities, bringing ideas to them and letting them choose what they would like to do. She not only encourages her clients to be involved in activities, but she also encourages other clients by hosting cookie decorating activities at Christmas and other holidays and other activities as they come about in the community. Pam advocates for those she serves by keeping very positive relationships with the guardians and family of the clients, encourage the guardian/family to visit at any time and advocating that the guardian/family take the clients out as much as possible.

Quality:
If I had to describe Pam’s quality of work, she is the best! Again, clients come first. She is here to make sure they have the best life possible. She is also very encouraging to her staff and other staff. She is a great role model, working regular shifts like her DSPs and sharing the load for filling in shifts as needed.

Teamwork:
Pam is a team player and promotes team work among her staff as well as other staff throughout the agency. She is positive in her interactions and is willing to do whatever it takes to make sure that the clients’ needs are being met. As far as her staff, she has had the same for many years and has built good and positive relationships with them. 921 recently had a staff person pass away. On her own time, Pam would visit this staff in the hospital and in her home. The family of this staff person has a very positive view of CCSI and what we do because of her interactions with this staff person even after she no longer worked for CCSI.

Innovation:
Pam is willing to do whatever it takes and thinks of activities for those she serves and others in the agency to participate in. She is a promoter of CCSI’s participation in the community such as the Windsurfing Regatta and the King Turkey Day Parade.

Pam has nominated most of her staff for this award, which they deserved, but in reality it is because of her leadership that those nominated received the award. It’s her strong, positive leadership that makes her one of the best supervisors I have ever worked with.

As the Employee of the Quarter, Pam will receive $100 in Chamber Dollars and will have her name engraved on a plaque to be displayed in the CCSI Corporate Office. If you have a coworker you think is a “winner”, ask your supervisor or stop in the CCSI Office for a nomination form!
**SILS:**

We fell in love with Fall of 2016. What a gorgeous fall we experienced! From Turkey Day in September to Turkey Day in November, SILS consumers enjoyed many activities in the community and beyond!

On September 14th, 10 consumers enjoyed the Disability Day at the Clay County Fair in Spencer, Iowa. Amusement park rides, fair food, fun purchases, and of course “freebies” were enjoyed by all!

You didn’t happen to see Wonder Woman, a witch, pirate, cat, pumpkin or cheetah (just to name a few) in a couple of vans on October 27th headed north, did you? Well, if you did, you saw some of the finest costumes donned by SILS consumers headed to Pipestone for the annual Halloween Dinner and Dance. The Monster Mash had many different interpretations on the dance floor!

Even though we didn’t harvest any big crops (other than tomatoes and onions from a few consumers’ gardens), a Harvest Dinner was celebrated on November 9th in the Community Room at the Atrium. To show their spirit of thankfulness, consumers brought a non-perishable food item to be donated to one of the local food shelves and then they got their creative side tuned up and made Thanksgiving cards to give to a person of their choice.

The annual SILS Christmas party was also held in the Community Room at the Atrium on December 1st to kick off the holiday craziness that seems to come with the month of December. Consumers enjoyed a catered meal by Hickory Lodge followed by some fun and silly games, a little singing with the karaoke machine, and the finale was a gift exchange!

We welcomed a new consumer to the program in October. Robert lives with his family in Worthington and we are looking forward to getting to know him!

Happy Holidays to all from SILS!!

Colette Leopold,
SILS Director

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**Iowa Services Notes**

My original idea for this newsletter was going to be pictures of our Iowa Services of CCSI Staff and Client Christmas Party; however, since we live in the ever-changing weather areas we sadly had to postpone our party. We look forward to celebrating at the beginning of January, so you’ll be able to see our fun in the next newsletter.

This year we decided to do something different. Instead of exchanging gifts among the staff, we decided to pool together and collect canned goods, non-perishables, and items to help a family in need in our local areas. Last year, one of my daughters asked for items to put together “Blessing Bags” instead of making a list of gifts for herself. I was inspired by her thoughtfulness in thinking of others before herself. She was able to put together backpacks with some basic necessities for others in need. I think there are many people who could benefit from some extra thoughtfulness and I personally wish I had more opportunities to “pay it forward”, but maybe I need to be more active in looking for those opportunities.

With the new year approaching, I think we are all trying to get through the hustle and bustle of all the activities; however it is also a time some of us create New Year’s Resolutions. Have you started thinking about yours?

From Iowa Services, we hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Trinity Harig,
Iowa Services Director
To the following employees celebrating in January, February and March:

**January:** Janine Brands, 1st; Alejandra Chonay Peraza, 7th; Jane Folkers, 18th; Tammy Gisemba, 8th; Carmen Kamm, 10th; Mary Klopstad, 29th; Melissa Kron, 21st; Jennifer Kumi, 24th; Glenda Pfeifer, 10th

**February:** Staci Cauwels, 12th; Mary Martin, 15th; Karen Stamer, 18th; Margaret Vyskocil, 12th

**March:** Caitlin Altman, 26th; Crystal Buntjer, 19th; Amber Kamm, 16th; Robin Koehne, 30th; Selena Leinen, 19th; Juana Muniz, 8th; Britney Noyes, 8th; Bonnie Schroeder, 11th; Brad Schultz, 23rd

**CCSI Wellness:**

Here’s a healthier sugar cookie recipe for you to use for decorated cookies, but also a fine addition to your everyday cookie jar!

- ¾ cup whole-wheat flour
- ¾ cup unsifted cake flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- ½ cup sugar or ¼ cup Splenda Sugar Blend for Baking
- 2 Tbsp. canola oil
- 1 large egg
- 1 ½ tsp. vanilla extract

Set a rack in the upper third of the oven; preheat to 350°F. Coat 2 baking sheets with cooking spray.

Whisk the whole-wheat flour, cake flour, baking powder and salt together in a medium bowl.

Melt butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Cook, swirling the pan, until the butter turns a nutty brown, about 1 minute, and pour into a mixing bowl. Add sugar (or Splenda) and oil; beat with an electric mixer until smooth. Mix in egg and vanilla; beat until smooth. Add the flour mixture and mix on low speed until just combined. Divide the dough in half and press each piece into a disk. Working with one disk at a time, roll dough on a lightly floured surface to a thickness of 1/8 inch. Cut out cookies with small (2-2 ½ inch) cookie cutter. Place the cookies ½ inch apart on the prepared baking sheets.

Bake the cookies in the upper third of the oven, 1 sheet at a time, until slightly golden on the edges, 5-7 minutes. Do not overbake. Transfer to wire racks to cool.

**CLA 1060:**

This fall, consumers went to the Clay County Fair and the Nobles County Fair, the King Turkey Day Parade, birthday parties of friends and housemates, Spiritual Retreat, People’s First, Pioneer Village for the Laura Ingalls Wilder event, and Halloween parties! Three consumers enjoyed one-on-one time with staff on out-of-town outings during the nice weather. They also went to the apple orchard, a variety of parks to swing on the swings, picnics, Memorial Auditorium matinee movies and personal shopping trips.

Everyone went on a day trip to Sioux Falls Ronald McDonald House to donate tabs. We received a lovely thank you from the Ronald McDonald House: “Dear Friends at CLA 1060 – Thank you! You have our heartfelt appreciation for your kindness, generosity and support. Your donation of pop tabs helps us to provide our guest families a “home away from home” when they need it most. Have a wonderful holiday season! Blessings – Nadine and RMHC”.

We also gave plastic bags to Goodwill as we are trying to give back to the community. It’s a wonderful feeling to give back to others!

All are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year!
CLAs 430 & 869 in Windom:
Looking back on the past months, consumers at both CLA 869 and 430 enjoyed going to the Spencer Fair in September along with a picnic at Robertson Park. During October, three consumers from 869 and three consumers from 430 enjoyed going to a pumpkin farm where they got to see farm animals and got a pumpkin to decorate. Everyone also enjoyed the Halloween dance held at the Community Center in Windom. Many of the consumers from both houses enjoyed Thanksgiving with their families and one consumer got to spend a few days with a really good friend in Mankato and a couple of other consumers enjoyed a wonderful meal at Our Savior’s Church in Windom where they spent time with friends and peers.

It’s hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another year! Both houses have been decorated for Christmas and presents have been bought. Many are looking forward to spending Christmas at home with family and a few will have an extended stay as the DAC in Windom will be closed for two weeks.

Other activities that are enjoyed each month are Peoples’ First and a Friendship group that meets once a month.

From everyone in Windom, Happy Holidays to all!

NEWSLETTER CONTEST...
Subject: WHY ME?
(Each answer is a word that begins with “me” and ends with “y”.
Level 1: (earn 1 point for each correct answer)
1. The ability to remember things.
   Answer: ______________________________
2. Just; only.
   Answer: ______________________________
3. A pleasing succession or arrangement of sounds.
   Answer: ______________________________
Level 2: (earn 2 points for each correct answer)
4. Compassion shown toward someone whom it is within one’s power to punish or harm.
   Answer: ______________________________
5. The quality of being not very good.
   Answer: ______________________________
6. A person hired to fight for a foreign army.
   Answer: ______________________________
Level 3: (earn 3 points for each correct answer)
7. A feeling of pensive sadness.
   Answer: ______________________________
8. A collection of songs performed as a continuous piece.
   Answer: ______________________________
   Answer: ______________________________

Submit your entries to the CCSI Office by January 13th to be eligible for $25 in Worthington Chamber Bucks.

Send your entry to:
Gail Bogie, Administrative Assistant
CCSI
PO Box 97
Worthington, MN 56187
or e-mail to:
gbogie@clientcommunityservices.org

A winner will be drawn from all entries with the correct answers. Good luck!