

RAMSEY COUNTY Community Human Services CHS Connection



Inside this Issue

<i>Celebrating Our Staff</i>	2-3
<i>Helping Our Clients</i>	4
<i>The More You Know</i>	5-6
<i>This, That & Other Things</i>	6

Ramsey County Child Protection Annual Staff Retreat

Our Child Protection Management Team recently organized/facilitated an all staff retreat at Mounds Park in St. Paul. The attendance was high and the food and games were on point! We played a CP version of Jeopardy, which included our anti-racism framework of reducing disparities and highlighted some qualities in the work.

The CP management team would like to share that we recognize how hard our case managers, case aides, clerks, investigators and screeners work and we appreciate each individual and their efforts to provide oversight for our children’s safety, permanency and well-being needs.

TEAMWORK Simply stated, it’s less about me and more about we. Anonymous

Submitted by Windy Ross



Celebrating Our Staff

Meet our new colleagues. Welcome to Human Services!



Jodi Ippolito

Start Date: 8/30/16

Unit or Program Area: Mental Health Center

Previous Experience: I am a doctor of Psychology and a licensed clinical social worker with 20 years of clinical and teaching experience in the area of behavioral health.

Hobbies/Interests: I am also an activist, advocate, writer and filmmaker. My area of interests include working with underrepresented groups of people, in particular LGBTQ folks. I enjoy art, film, and spending time with my dog.



Barbara Cannon

Start Date: 9/1/16

Unit or Program Area: Child Protection

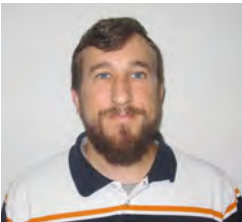


Danny Hicks

Start Date: 9/6/16

Unit or Program Area: Child Protection

Previous Experience: Previously worked as a contracted Social Worker for Ramsey County's Youth Engagement Program.



Phillip Tarmann

Start Date: 9/19/16

Unit or Program Area: Mental Health Center

Previous Experience: I have worked in the social service field for over nine years.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy hunting and fishing.



Azeb Gebretsadik

Start Date: 9/19/16

Unit or Program Area: Child Protection



Emily Ratzmann

Start Date: 9/19/16

Unit or Program Area: Adult Mental Health

Previous Experience: I worked for six years with Meridian Behavioral Health.

Hobbies/Interests: I like to travel, mountain bike and crochet.

Celebrating Our Staff



Chieri Cai

Start Date: 9/21/16

Unit or Program Area: FAS Intake



Peggy Garofano

Start Date: 9/26/16

Unit or Program Area: Adult Mental Health

Previous Experience: I worked in Adult Mental Health with People, Incorporated for the last seven years.

Hobbies/Interests: I am a veteran and I enjoy family vacations.

New Staff Welcome Party

Thanks to all who attended the Aug. 31st special event welcoming new staff to Human Services: FAS/Social Services/Administration!! We're grateful to Tina Curry (*FAS Dept. Director*) and Womazetta Jones (*Social Services Dept. Director*) for their welcoming comments.

For the past 14 years we have held this quarterly event to wish new colleagues well in their work here as together we provide the important programs and services so needed in the communities we serve. The next New Staff Welcome Party will be Wed., Nov. 16th at 10:00 in the 9th Floor Cafeteria, East Bldg. We hope you can join us.

[New Staff Welcome Pictures 8-31-16.pdf](#)

Submitted by Rick Cunningham

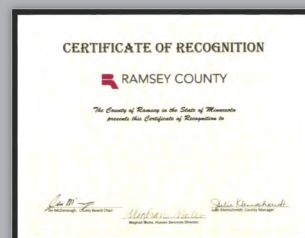
6th Annual Ramsey County Reunion

On Sept. 8th about 100 former Ramsey County Human Services colleagues held a reunion at DeGidio's. This has become an annual tradition first started by former manager Dave Savard, now deceased. He'd be proud to see this event continue through the good work of Dennis Libra, Bill Barrett, Chris Misiewicz, Lorelei Libra and others. Those attending are retired colleagues or those who may have left us but are still working for other organizations. What needs to be said is that over several decades these are the individuals who have built the programs that have helped support individuals and families; helped those in crisis; supported those in need of short or long-term help. We extend a debt of gratitude to them for their many contributions to Human Services and public service! *Good health and happiness to all of you!*

Thanks to Dennis Libra for the pictures linked here. <https://goo.gl/photos/6A7RFrxoeiyrHrRE9>

August Years of Service

Mary Stemper 10 Years of Service
Stacee Peterson 25 Years of Service



Helping Our Clients

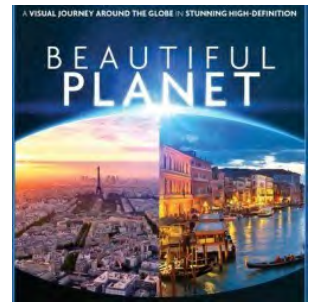
Omnitheater Tickets

Complimentary Omnitheater tickets are available for clients. Tickets include admission to the Science Museum (regular exhibits) and a SPECIAL Omnitheater screening. The next show is scheduled for **Thursday, October 27, 2016** at 6:00 p.m.

Now Showing—[*A Beautiful Planet*](#)

Filmed for the giant screen from the ultimate “window on the world”—the cupola of the International Space Station—*A Beautiful Planet* features breathtaking footage of Earth captured by the crew on board.

Viewers will be wowed by this stunning footage of our magnificent blue planet—and the effects humanity has had on it over time. *A Beautiful Planet* presents an awe-inspiring glimpse of Earth and a hopeful look into the future of humanity.



To request tickets for your clients—

E-mail Volunteer Services: HumanServicesVolunteer@co.ramsey.mn.us, provide your client’s name, complete mailing address and the quantity of tickets.

Requests for the October show must be received on or before Thursday, October 20.

Please order tickets only after talking to your clients to make sure they plan to attend.

‘Tis the Season

Volunteer Services invites you to assist in making this year’s holiday season a jolly one for families in need in Ramsey County. The Family Sponsorship Program matches families receiving services from the Ramsey County Social Services Department, with sponsors from our community who want to make the holidays brighter for families by providing food and gifts for the family’s celebration. These families have experienced varying degrees of abuse or neglect, or have a disability. This program is not open to the public; our Social Services staff refers all participating families.

The sponsor provides the family with *at least*:



- One clothing item per child
- One toy item per child
- A parent gift
- A grocery gift certificate

The typical sponsorship budget is \$30 to \$50 per person, for each member of the receiving family, with an additional \$15 per person for the grocery gift certificate.

Sponsors are given the family’s information—age of children, clothing sizes and gift suggestions. We request that gifts are wrapped and labeled for specific family members. The referring staff person picks up the gifts from the sponsor and delivers directly to the receiving family.

Last year, our sponsors generously provided a happy holiday to 88 families in need, that’s 375 people! We look forward to increasing that number this year.

If you are interested in sponsoring a family, please [contact us](#) at 651-266-4090 no later than **November 4, 2016** to allow us to better estimate the number of families we will be able to serve. Receipts for tax purposes are available upon request.

Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to working with you this holiday season. Through your involvement, you are carrying out the mission of the Ramsey County Social Services Department—*Making a Difference: Helping People Survive and Thrive!*

The More You Know

Registration is OPEN for the 2016 Ramsey County Support Staff Conference

The 2016 Ramsey County Support Staff Conference will take place Tuesday, October 25th at the Landmark Center. Our theme this year is “**Open Your Mind, Open Your World to New Possibilities**”. We will have duplicate sessions, one in the morning and the other one, in the afternoon. We have two great speakers, Amy Tolbert, Ph. D., CSP and Tim Gabrielson (both natives of Minnesota) lined up for this year’s conference.

Amy Tolbert, Ph. D., CSP. received her Doctorate in Human Resource Development at the University of Minnesota and is currently a Fellow of the Carlson Executive Education Center at the Carlson School of Management. Amy specializes in increasing individuals’ productivity through e-learning, technology and facilitated training, and developing multicultural organizations and individuals. Amy is principal of ECCO International; she and her team speak on multiple topics such as employee engagement, team building, communicating across styles, diversity training and learning delivery methodologies.

Tim Gabrielson uses comedy and magic to teach that modifying your thought patterns can result in greater enthusiasm and improved productivity. He uses his philosophy - that responding rather than reacting will change an outcome - to guide his audience to focus on their own abilities to overcome obstacles simply and easily with one paradigm shift. Tim ignites positivity and shows attendees how to make small choices that result in big differences.

Register by accessing the Learning and Development Center.

To find the class, enter [2016 Support Staff Conference](#) in the search box.

Link: <https://ramseynet.us/tools-systems/learning-development-center>



Submitted by Jaime LaVigne

The More You Know

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve: Patriot Award



Prior to my training rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin California from May 30th through July 1st of this year, I felt compelled to submit my manager, Cameron Counters, for a Patriot Award from the ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve). The ESGR is a Department of Defense program that promotes cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members (myself as an 18 year veteran of the MN National Guard) and their civilian employers (Ramsey County). The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed.

Specifically the reasons I initiated my awards submission was the overall support I received from my coworkers and Cam. As I was preparing myself mentally and physically for several weeks of training in the Mojave Desert, I was not preoccupied with the additional work that I had to complete before my departure. I worked with Cam in the weeks prior to me leaving and identified contracts that would need attention. Coworkers selflessly volunteered to help out with projects that could not wait for my return. Additionally, my peer group fielded an assortment of voicemails and emails that came up during my training period. Program Managers and Directors that I support also openly supported my requirement to leave for training. On September 27th I was able to invite an ESGR Representative to recognize Cameron Counters and my peer group for their support. Thank you to everyone that helps support and create an organizational culture that helps me and others in the MN National Guard at Ramsey County.

Submitted by Sam Holl-Contract Manager

This, That & Other Things



**American
Red Cross**

A HUGE THANK YOU to all Ramsey County employees that came out to support our blood drive on August 23rd. We had a great turnout, we collected 42 units of blood!

A special thanks to the **12 first time donors** – an amazing number ~ we hope to see you again.

Please watch your email for information about our next blood drive!

The deadline for the next

CHS Connection is

Thursday, October 20, 2016.

