

July-September
2014

Volume 11
Issue 3



PKT ENTERPRISES

THE PKT PRESS

Investing in the Lives of People

PKT's Mission:

Working together with integrity to provide quality care, support, and life enriching opportunities to persons with disabilities, in an environment fostering growth and independence, while upholding and maintaining a viable, ethical, and moral business, treating everyone with respect, compassion, and dignity.

FEATURED HOME

Hi and welcome to the **Dark House** as the featured home this month. We are thrilled summer is here, finally!! Please take time to read a little bit about each of our great clients who live at the Dark House.



The one and only lady is **Bounleu R.** When she isn't busy getting her nails done, you will find her sewing away at her sewing cards. She also has been planting flowers and seeds and anxiously waiting for them to grow.

Walter S. has been busy building model airplanes and cars. He recently took a fabulous vacation to Chicago by Amtrak. He will have great memories until the next trip. He is looking forward to going to the local beach to swim and soak up the sun. In the meantime you may find Walter at the Mall of America, which is one of his favorite places! Walter also happens to be a fantastic bowler!



Another resident recently returned from vacation at Walt Disney World, where he states he had a great time! He enjoys using his iPad to look up and listen to hip hop music and is an excellent dancer. This gentleman also purchased a new bike which he loves to ride with his roommates up to the park to shoot hoops. He's all about the three pointer shots and is very good at making them. In fact his basketball team came in first place!

Last but not least **Daniel (DJ) J.** lives at the Dark House. You may see him all over town biking, visiting family and friends, at the park shooting hoops or fishing. He is a very busy guy and always on the go! He loves his iPhone and you won't ever see him without it. DJ's basketball team won first place again which he is very proud of. I'm certain if you were within a ten mile radius, you would have heard his shouts of excitement!



We all love our fire pit and love to have company, so if you're in the neighborhood or even if you're not, make plans to stop by or give us a call. It's a great excuse to roast marshmallows or s'mores and we would love to have you. You can also tour our gardens and just relax in our beautiful backyard. You might even see a deer or two!

Linda Fox, Dark House Coordinator

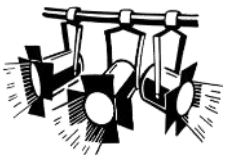


You are invited to our annual PKT Picnic
September 7, 2014 - Baker Park Reserve
See enclosed flyer for all the fun details!

Celebrating our 20th year!



SPOTLIGHT ON



I would like to introduce you to one of my lovely ladies from the **Green House**. Her name is **Lisa B.** She has been with us for about six years now. Lisa grew up in Minnesota with one brother and sister. Lisa is the oldest sibling in her family. She enjoys talking with her mother and going to church with her on the weekends. Lisa is also a proud mother of a beautiful daughter and son. If you ask Lisa, she would say that her kids are the best and a great joy in her life.

Lisa did live in Austin Texas for many years. If she had her choice she would still be living there because she loves being warm and the great food that they serve there. Lisa was a hair stylist for most of her life and loves to tell stories about her wild adventures of the business. She has many stories that would surprise you and she loves telling them.

Lisa has been keeping up with her soap operas and figuring out the correct price for items on the "Price is Right" these days. She has become a regular at the Outback in Maplewood on Friday night to where she has her own booth and knows the waiters by their name. Lisa gets a great delight out of the great service they provide and can't wait to eat there every week. She also has been spending time talking with her siblings on the phone and can't wait for their phone calls. Lisa is looking forward to all the festivals and events of the summer. She loves to go for the music and the fair food. She loves this time of the year because it's so hot and she can get some sun.

Katie Fordyce, Green House Coordinator

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Summer is here and the clients are getting active outside. Walks, festivals, gardening, relaxing on the deck, these seem to be some of the favorite activities this time of year. Another therapeutic and relaxing thing for many is the Arts. Whether it is painting, a picture, singing, dancing, drawing or storytelling, many in the PKT family are great at expressing themselves in different ways through many outlets.

Art is such an interesting outlet because it can be so personal and deep for different reasons. I may look at a painting and see one thing where you may see the opposite. The idea that interests and views can affect the lens we see art though is something that draws many to it.

Recently over at the **Brighton House**, one of our talented employees, **Sarah Dunn**, has brought to work her passion for art and has helped the ladies not only stay active and engaged, but has also helped them create beautiful art work that they can display proudly in their homes. The Brighton ladies enjoyed it so much that they even pulled in the **Columbia House**, and all of the ladies at both houses have created beautiful pieces that transform their houses into homes. The artwork shared here was created by Sarah and **Polly B.** together. See a larger size version on our website.



It's not just paintings and drawings that our clients are up to. We frequently hear about the dance parties that the **Yellow House** ladies throw on a weekly basis. They enjoy "getting down" with their Wii U. Dance is not only a great way to exercise but it's also a great way to express yourself. Many of our clients have started to use that physical outlet as a way to have a good time and let the stresses in life fade.

Over at the **Dark House**, **Bounleu R.** has been doing arts and crafts since I've known her. The living room sometimes looks more like an aisle at Michaels than a living room. Bounleu finds comfort in creating pieces of art work with her sewing and latch hook. Most people leave the Dark House with a beautiful hand sewn gift from her. **Walter S.** is also an avid airplane model maker and does incredible paint by numbers; his attention to detail shines in all of the projects he does.

We challenge you to channel your inner artist this summer and find a new exciting way to express yourself and de-stress after a long hot day. Next time you're at one of the PKT homes, take a look around, our clients are incredibly talented gifted people.

STEVE'S SCOOP



HAPPY Summer and Fall! I hope this issue of the PKT Press finds you all in good spirits and health!

1st off, BIG congratulations to the 2013 PKT Enterprises' Employee of the Year winners, which were recently awarded!! **Amanuel Teklemariam** won it from the Management Team and for the non-Management Team, the winner was **Rachel Newbury**! Please page ahead in the Press for the official announcement!! We also had 2 runners-up for each team, who won 2 spins of the PKT Prize Wheel, which is filled with fabulous prizes ☺ ! The Management Team runners-up were **Pat Matt** and **Laura Rybicki**! The non-Management Team runners-up were **Nicola Opine** and **Alison Owens**! Thank you for all the work you 6 have done and time you've contributed to not only be nominated but to win! I truly appreciate you!!

Most of you have probably heard by now that the State approved a "5% Rate Increase for Continuing Care Providers" effective 7/1/2014! This legislation was exciting news to us as it allowed us to give all eligible employees pay increases, raise our mileage reimbursement rate, increase our hourly training wage by 50%, and help cover the costs of the ever rising health insurance policy premiums! Thanks to all who supported and lobbied to get this legislation passed!!

Lastly, PKT's official 20th Anniversary is coming on 9/19/2014! To celebrate we are having a picnic on 9/7/2014!! Please watch your mailboxes for the invites and see the flyer in this issue of the Press!! I hope to see ALL of you there ☺ !!



SHARILYN'S

It's hard to believe some days how long I have been in the Director of Financial Services position at PKT Enterprises. Throughout my time here things have greatly changed. I remember back in the day writing a lot more letters to people and keeping paper copies of everything. The boxes of notes, forms, and other information started to become overwhelming by the end of the year and I was so happy to store away all of the past years' stuff and start fresh in January with uncrammed drawers and bookshelves.

Fortunately, with the advancements in technology, much of my work now is done and kept electronically. Email has definitely become my main source of communication with most of you. Though I enjoy the occasional phone call and still would rather problem solve big issues over the phone or in person, I have found that the quickest way to get information to you and my fellow coworkers is via email. Plus, through email I am able to keep better track of correspondence, which allows easy access to information that might need to be referred back to in the future.

Speaking of needing to reference back to information, I have really got into scanning paperwork and filing on my computer for quick access. I used to have to pull out heavy boxes of files from behind my bookshelf when I needed to find something from more than a year ago. This took up valuable time and energy. Now I can quickly find what I need on my computer without the physical workout. Though I still do not have all my boxes of years past scanned, they are becoming less and less and less and I hope to one day soon never lift a heavy box ever again!

Sharilyn Wipf, Director of Financial Services

IN-HOME CONNECTION

Today the In-Home Services spotlight connection is shining brightly on **Steve U.** Steve joined the PKT family back in the summer of 2001. His interests are many, and his zest for life is contagious. Steve is an awesome guy, so please take a moment or two and get to know him a little better.

Steve grew up in Maplewood, Minnesota and still lives there with his family. Steve is very handy around the house and yard. He enjoys mowing the lawn and is good at fixing things in the garage. Monday through Friday, Steve works at the LivInn Suites. He is part of an excellent team that works tirelessly to keep the LivInn looking clean and tidy. Steve is a dedicated employee who works hard until the day's checklist is complete. His job coach says that Steve is an irreplaceable part of the team!

Steve is an active guy who loves to exercise. He is a regular participant in Special Olympics sports, including swimming, track & field, golf, and downhill skiing. During the winter months, Steve enjoys going to the gym to lift weights, run on the treadmill, play racquetball, and play pick-up basketball games. This winter, Steve worked on his trick shots on the basketball court at the YMCA in White Bear Lake. Next time the Harlem Globetrotters are in town, Steve might want to try out!

When the weather is nice Steve likes to spend time outdoors. One of his passions is playing Frisbee golf. It isn't uncommon to see him at one of the many Frisbee golf courses around the Twin Cities including Lake-wood Hills in White Bear Lake, Kaposia Park in South St. Paul, or the Highland Park course. However, his all-time favorite course is at Acorn Park in Roseville. It's a tricky course with plenty of water, but that doesn't stop Steve. He says that one of his personal goals for the summer of 2014 is to get a hole in one!

Steve also loves to go to Monster Truck shows. This past January Steve was in attendance at the very last Monster Jam that took place at the Metrodome. He'll have to wait a few years, but Steve says he's excited to see Monster Jam at the new Vikings stadium. Steve likes to get pit passes and walk around on the track before the event. He enjoys seeing the trucks and drivers up close and personal.

Steve's other interests include going to the movies (especially at the "comfy seat theater" in Oakdale), going out to dinner, and going to the Mall of America. Steve also likes to play video games and is very good at almost every racing game he plays.

So, if you happen to bump into Steve around town or at a PKT party, don't hesitate to say hello! I'm sure he would be happy to meet you!

Darin Schluender, In-Home Services Coordinator



OPENINGS UPDATE

PKT always has openings for new clients for the In-Home department. Anyone interested in more information, please contact Tennille Carlson at 612-788-3998 x 114 or Steve Tschacher at 612-788-3998 x 105.

We are now accepting both DD and CADI Waiver clients.

Meet our new House Coordinators

I grew up in a small farm town called Good Thunder. I worked on the farm and went to high school in Maple River. I played sports, mainly volleyball, basketball and softball through high school. After high school, I went to Cornell in Mt. Vernon, Iowa to play volleyball and basketball. I transferred to Bethany in Mankato, MN my sophomore year and continued to play sports there. I received my BA in Exercise Science, and then went to MSU in Mankato for a MA in Exercise Physiology.

Before becoming the **Columbia House** Coordinator with PKT, I was a personal trainer for the last eight years. Most recently, I work part-time at Anytime Fitness. I have worked with many different kinds of people from all walks of life, from people with disabilities to elite athletes. This is where I got my passion for helping people.

Outside of work, I love to play volleyball, basketball, or lift. I very much enjoy going to live music, and watching movies or sitting on the beach reading a good book. If I can be of assistance, please contact me at my office number (612) 788-3998 ext. 154.

Amy DeWitz, Columbia House Coordinator

Hi everyone, my name is Lilla Gandolfi and I am the new **Brighton House** Coordinator for PKT Enterprises! I graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island with a degree in Psychology and Business Administration. I moved to Minneapolis just over 2 years ago and enjoy its music scene and assortment of restaurants. I strive to live my life as "green" as possible and am a strong advocate for animal rights.

My first experience working with people with disabilities was while in college and then again when I first moved to Minneapolis. I consider myself relatively new to this line of work and welcome any feedback to make me a great House Coordinator! My office phone number is (612) 788-3998 ext. 156.

Lilla Gandolfi, Brighton House Coordinator

Hi! I am excited to say I am the new Coordinator for the **Yellow House**! I am originally a Wisconsinite, but moved to Minnesota a year ago! Although I love Minnesota so far, I will never resort to being a Vikings fan, I will always be a loyal Cheesehead to the Packers.

I attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where I received my Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice, and a minor in Psychology. While in school I worked in a variety of group homes ranging from Juveniles to Adults. It has always been something I've been passionate about, so I absolutely love the transition into PKT.

When I'm not enjoying the company of the ladies at the Yellow House or others at PKT, I'm always keeping myself busy. I enjoy a variety of things from cooking, trying new restaurants around the cities, volunteering, reading, and being at the gym! I'd love to hear from you if you have any questions or just want to say hi! Feel free to contact me anytime at my office number (612) 788-3998 ext. 158.

Caitlin Tucker, Yellow House Coordinator





PKT Enterprises' 2013

Management

Employee of the Year ~Amanuel Teklemariam~



PKT would like to recognize and thank Amanuel for going above and beyond in the following ways:

- ◆ Played some of his native music and discovered this calmed a client down
- ◆ Over a holiday weekend, Amanuel jumped in to help a sick coworker at another house
- ◆ Runs his house with integrity and compassion
- ◆ Wonderful attitude in the face of challenge and adversity
- ◆ Always has a positive attitude with a wonderful smile
- ◆ Gives staff good teaching goals and is fair and consistent
- ◆ Came up with an easier and more efficient way to present data to the teams to better understand where the clients are with their goals
- ◆ Excels in leadership, models how to be positive
- ◆ Does a great job balancing workload and knows how to say no when necessary
- ◆ Always willing to help out where he can
- ◆ Took the Brick House to “a better place” and keeps it running well
- ◆ Strives to become a better coordinator, not afraid to ask questions
- ◆ Stays focused on the clients and avoids work drama
- ◆ Has great judgment when it comes to the care of the clients
- ◆ Developed new forms and systems
- ◆ Often the first to offer help to other supervisors



CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK YOU!

~Amanuel Teklemariam~

Winner of \$500.00



PKT Enterprises'

2013

Non-Management

Employee of the Year

~Rachel Newburry~



PKT would like to recognize and thank Rachel for going above and beyond in the following ways:

- ◆ Completely planned an overnight activity at the Water Park of America
- ◆ Came up with multiple Christmas lists so Santa knew what to purchase for several clients
- ◆ Spent a lot of time and effort working on various programs, such as "Use Your Words"
- ◆ Kept the house budget in check, allowing for extra wants to be purchased
- ◆ Creative in using coupons for groceries and utilizing what is on sale
- ◆ Developed new seasonal menu ideas incorporating favorites and dislikes
- ◆ Worked at keeping the house impeccably clean
- ◆ Juggled client basketball and baseball practices with eating out traditions
- ◆ Shopped for culturally appropriate food for the holidays
- ◆ Constantly came up with new ideas to make the client's lives better
- ◆ Assisted a client in accruing game points so they could buy more songs
- ◆ Created a fun atmosphere for daily exercise programs
- ◆ Took on many projects such as figuring out entirely new household schedules
- ◆ Planned all of the birthday party details to ensure each client got exactly what they wanted
- ◆ Encouraged clients to step out of their comfort zones
- ◆ Planned fun BBQ's and picnics during the summer months
- ◆ Sets a great example for staff and clients and is highly respected



CONGRATULATIONS!
THANK YOU!
~Rachel Newburry~
Winner of \$500.00

Satisfaction Survey Results Are In



PKT Enterprises recently sent out a satisfaction survey to the parents/siblings/guardians and case managers of all of our clients. The continuing effort allows us to solicit information on what we do well and also allows us to see areas in which we need to improve. We would like to thank all of you who took the time to participate in filling this out. The following are the results, on a 5 point rating scale. Here is where we averaged in each category:

1. How would you rate the quality of services provided by PKT? **4.43**
2. PKT provides opportunities for people to participate in community activities. **4.51**
3. PKT staff keep me well informed about the progress of the person, any concerns, as well as any successes/achievements/accomplishments. **4.29**
4. My son/daughter/sibling/client is receiving the types of support services I would want for them. **4.40**
5. PKT staff are courteous and respectful to me when I interact with them. **4.83**
6. I would recommend PKT to a person looking for services. **4.45**
7. I am satisfied with the appearance of the group home where my son/daughter/sibling/client lives. **4.44**
8. When an emergency arises I know my client is well taken care of. **4.64**
9. I feel that PKT is protecting the rights of my son/daughter/sibling/client. **4.58**

We also asked if there was anything else you would like to tell us. The following are some of the comments:

Positive

"The staff is very attentive - thank you for your services. A 5 is not high enough. The staff are just the best. HC (House Coordinator) does a wonderful job. He's always on top of everything. If I leave a message he always relays the information to the staff. Lead Staff is always very friendly to me and my client. He gives my clients hugs!!! HC and Director are professional, kind and caring. I could not ask for more for my nephew. Staff urges client to participate in more activities but he is set in his ways. If the event falls on an evening that client ... on a particular day he does not want to try anything new. Client seems to be doing well at the house and doing well with the staff. I'm sure she "has her days" but has fun too! Thank you for taking such great care of my brother. Client is difficult at times to expand interests, skills, etc. Staff works well with guardian to coordinate services. We love _____ (name of staff)! Client looks forward for the days to be out with staff. Loves community activities. Keep up the good work".

Negative/Neutral

"When I have asked for doctor appointment papers filled out to purchase items it seems to take forever and many reminders to get them done. I feel everything else is good. Would like to receive updates monthly. Also emergencies have been reported to me 3 days later. Wish there were more activities with others such as baseball games".

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH SPOTLIGHT ** WINNERS OF \$50.00 Gift Certificates**

May 2014

PKT would like to recognize and thank **Tami Block** for:

- ★ Going out of her way to find fulfilling activities to do during her shifts
- ★ Organizing a Yahtzee tournament that her client helped teach
- ★ Being very accessible and communicating well with her supervisor
- ★ Doing a great job 100% of the time
- ★ Being a wonderful resource for other staff who ask for her advice because of her extensive background of working with individuals with various abilities

June 2014

PKT would like to recognize and thank **Alison Owens** for:

- ★ Being flexible to adjust her schedule and work at two houses
- ★ Cleaning up and organizing the garage at the Brick House
- ★ Being creative to relocate the Brick House phone for safety and easy accessibility
- ★ Taking clients to have their hair cut and affordable shopping of seasonal clothes
- ★ Being firm and fair when implementing client program goals and house rules

July 2014

PKT would like to recognize and thank **Sarah Dunn** for:

- ★ Bringing her own supplies for the ladies to do activities such as painting crafts
- ★ Helping them enjoy the special arts and crafts time so they can proudly display their art-work on the walls
- ★ Communicating effectively and answering texts in a timely manner
- ★ Always being up for going on community outings
- ★ Offering to paint the ladies' nails - girls' night!

EMPLOYEE STAFF MEETING CALENDAR

Staff Meetings

In Home Services	9:30a - 11:00a
Brick House	12:00p - 1:30p
Pink House	3:00p - 4:30p
Brown House	11:30p - 1:00p
Columbia House	12:30p - 2:00p
Green House	11:30a - 1:00p
Brighton House	4:00p - 5:30p
Dark House	3:30p - 5:00p
Yellow House	5:30p - 7:00p
White House	12:00p - 1:30p

August *

August 6
August 22
August 19
August 15
August 26
August 18
August 20
August 18
August 12
August 6

September *

September 3
September 26
September 16
September 19
September 23
September 8
September 17
September 15
September 9
September 10

* Dates and times are subject to change



AUGUST						
SUN	MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31					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

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MO	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				



Steve Tschacher	612-788-3998 ext 105	stevent@PKTEnterprises.com	President
Pat Matt	612-788-3998 ext 104	patm@PKTEnterprises.com	Human Resources Director
Sharilyn Wipf	612-788-3998 ext 106	sharilynk@PKTEnterprises.com	Director of Financial Services
Jennifer Johnson	612-788-3998 ext 115	jmj@PKTEnterprises.com	SLS Director
Tennille Carlson	612-788-3998 ext 114	tennillec@PKTEnterprises.com	Director of IHS, Licensing Compliance and Client Relations
Darin Schluender	612-788-3998 ext 112	darins@PKTEnterprises.com	IHS Coordinator
Amanuel Teklemariam	612-788-3998 ext 151	amanuelt@PKTEnterprises.com	Brick House Coordinator
Chris Bastyr	612-788-3998 ext 152	chrisb@PKTEnterprises.com	Pink House Coordinator
Duane Sundblad	612-788-3998 ext 153	duanes@PKTEnterprises.com	Brown House Coordinator
Amy DeWitz	612-788-3998 ext 154	amyd@PKTEnterprises.com	Columbia House Coordinator
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Linda Fox	612-788-3998 ext 157	lindaf@PKTEnterprises.com	Dark House Coordinator
Caitlin Tucker	612-788-3998 ext 158	caitlint@PKTEnterprises.com	Yellow House Coordinator
Laura Rybicki	612-788-3998 ext 159	laurar@PKTEnterprises.com	White House Coordinator

Brick House	651-646-5221
Pink House	651-696-1909
Brown House	651-730-4773
Columbia House	763-789-7188
Green House	651-748-0580
Brighton House	651-636-8558
Dark House	651-766-6992
Yellow House	651-487-8770
White House	651-784-7874



Scan to view
PKT Enterprises'
website
↔ ↔ ↔

Client Birthdays

Jim R.	7/12
Dottie L.	7/22
Jaci B.	7/28
Xao V.	8/5
Mark B.	8/10
Angie L.	9/5
Myiessha V.	9/6
Bob L.	9/15
Dan G.	9/17
Barb B.	9/26
Jesse F.	9/26

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**

Adeniyi Babalola	1 year
Dwayne Haskin	1 year
Enoch Hudson	1 year
Diana Nuthak	1 year
Sara Wirth	1 year
KenDrena Harris	2 years
Erik Kleven	2 years
Nicola Opine	2 years
Lucas Van Fossan	3 years
Jodi Feldbruegge	4 years
Michelle Freeman	4 years
Sharilyn Wipf	8 years
Ron Katzenmaier	10 years
Chris Bastyr	13 years
Dave Halverson	18 years

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**



Employee Birthdays

Bangela Smith	7/1
Kim Sollars	7/1
Jean Parker	7/3
Nicki Opine	7/7
Latasha Gray	7/14
Ron Katzenmaier	7/21
Crystal Furlough	7/22
Channon Doerr	7/23
Patty Amunga	7/29
Chris Bastyr	8/4
Erik Kleven	8/7
Ong Moua	8/7
Dave Halverson	8/8
KenDrena Harris	8/20
Amy DeWitz	8/24
Julia Lutz-Lawlor	8/31
Maza Baheru	9/4
Shamonda Lindsey	9/22
Mike Connor	9/27
Janine Beier	9/28

WELCOME

New Employees

Olya Almeroth	Dark House LSI
Maza Baheru	White House LSI
Crystal Furlough	White House LSI
Chabela Guzman	White House Lead
Judy Hendren	Columbia House Live In
Sita Hoffman	Columbia House LSI
Cassandra Jones	White House LSI
Tim Larson	Brown House Live In
Shamonda Lindsey	Brick House LSI
Julia Lutz-Lawlor	Pink/White House LSI
Monah Nabwe	Pink House Lead
Phalen Land	Dark House Live In
DeAnn Reese	Nurse
Sylvia Stigler	White House LSI
Asia Villareal-Sansom	Floater



PKT Enterprises
1500 Fillmore St. NE
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Minneapolis, MN 55413

Words to Live By ...

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

Revelation 4:11

*For mailing changes, please contact Pat Matt at 612-788-3998 x 104;
email: patm@PKTEnterprises.com*

To view current or past newsletters, please visit www.PKTEnterprises.com

THE PKT PRESS

is intended to provide information to the individuals we serve, the families and individuals who are so vitally important to those we serve, as well as the many members of the PKT community about what is going on at PKT Enterprises and just exactly "who" PKT Enterprises is...