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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.

SPOTLIGHTS ON

This very active young man **Daniel J.** otherwise known as **DJ**, has been with the PKT family since 2002! Everyone who visits the **Dark House** will be greeted by DJ as he makes you feel comfortable and welcome. He will most likely first offer you coffee, (he loves his java) and greet you with a hug or some kind of joke as he is quite the kiddler!

DJ has been especially busy lately, always on the go and proud of his independence. He loves being out in the community and gets around everywhere. You may see him at the mall or he may even spot you himself at places like the Minnesota State Fair!!

He is a total Vikings fan and if you are at our house during one of the games you can tell by his loud cheers who is winning. Actually, I think the entire neighborhood can! DJ especially loves to attend a game or two every season. He has attended deaf day at Valleyfair, deaf day at the Minnesota State Fair, and also deaf day at the Minnesota Twins. He is always willing to try new things and is a super good sport. DJ especially enjoys basketball season. His team has come in first place the last three years in a row.

DJ has a new special friend and has been spending a lot of time getting to know her and her family, attending church and other activities. He loves visiting with his family as well and spends as much time as he can with them.

The last few years DJ has worked super hard at being more responsible at home and work. He has a new job working at Byerly's in Roseville. He is doing a fantastic job learning the different modes of transportation and his job duties. His employer has said he's a "perfect fit." He is now saving his money for a vacation as he would like to go somewhere warm. You can tell by the huge grin on his face that he loves his job!



If you are looking for a great cup of coffee, stop by the house and meet DJ (you may want to call first as he is a busy man) and ask him about his job. I know he'd love to tell you all about it.

Congratulations DJ, all of your hard work is paying off!

Linda Fox, Dark House Coordinator

Introducing **Angelique S.**, who lives at the **Yellow House!** We have been lucky to have **Angel** with us for just over two years now! You'll usually find her doing something active, socializing, or journaling.

This winter Angel has been playing basketball; her team even made it to the playoffs! Angel enjoys socializing with her teammates and showing off her skills. She enjoys sports, dancing, walking, and biking, anything that gets her out and moving. This summer is a big one for Angel, as she is attending a camp that is all about dance!! When Angel is not involved with sports or something active, she enjoys playing games at the house with her housemates and writing in her journal. She enjoys learning to cook side dishes and desserts, which her entire house enjoys! Thanks for learning a little bit more about Angel!

Caitlin Tucker, Yellow House Coordinator



FEATURED HOME

Hello from **White House**! As the snow started flying we got ready for the winter season and then it ended just as quickly as it began. Spring is already here.

The latest big news is that **Angie L.** started a new job at Merrick, and she is very excited with this great adventure. We are all very happy and proud of Angie for her choice of going back to work! Although the news wasn't too great this year, Angie continued to keep everyone informed of all the Vikings news on and off the field. Angie has also been planning a vacation to sunny Florida in May.

Chris D. continues to work part time at Merrick and enjoys the time she spends there. Swayze continues to enjoy all the motherly attention that Chris has for her cat. She is as always a wonderful mama for her kitty. Chris joined several other PKT clients and staff in December to visit fabulous Las Vegas. Great food, entertainment and sightseeing made the experience memorable.

Dorie S. is working at Merrick full time and continues to work with the self-advocacy group and the new staff training. This is the part of her job that Dorie loves the most! Dorie also went to Las Vegas for girls week. She especially enjoyed a Beatles Tribute show and spending time strolling the sights. During the holidays Dorie spent time at her sister's house, which is always special for her.

Our man of the house **Gordy H.** is doing great! It has been over two years since Gordy moved to the White House; how time has flown! Gordy continues to share his wonderful humor at the house and is always telling jokes or telling stories. King's Corner and War are the two card games that get played regularly with Gordy and he does a good job of teaching those who don't know how to play. The house is always filled with music with Gordy around. The Bee Gees, Elvis, Gordon Lightfoot, and Roy Orbison can all be heard during the day.



Everyone from the White House sends Happy Spring wishes!!

Laura Rybicki, White House Coordinator

PKT LIFE

As I was writing this article recently, I was able to reflect on the past year, but more specifically the last few months of 2014. I recall some very exciting events had happened around PKT. **Sovanny M.** went to Florida and got to experience Disney World and Universal Studios up close and personal. She spent a week there and claimed to have had a super awesome time. **Sean A.** found out about this adventure and decided to take one of his own. He then went to Universal Studios and Disney World. He came home with many pics to share with his housemates and staff. Once he was home he decided he needed new bedroom furniture, so Steve, Duane and him went on a fun shopping spree.

The ladies of PKT couldn't just sit around and let the men of PKT go on a camping trip without firing back. They arranged a trip to Las Vegas at the beginning of December. **Chris D., Sovanny M., Sharon G., Marilyn M. and Dorie S.** all boarded a plane and flew to Vegas with **Caitlin, Laura and Jennifer.** While there they took in many shows, visited the Wax Museum and ate waaaayyyyyy too much food. These ladies needed to eat as much as possible as they walked and walked and walked – it was reported that there were 10 mile days while there. Sovanny took a chance on a slot machine and did win some of Vegas' money. We all know that Vegas does not like to just give its money away to people. Their favorite part of the trip was the Beatles Tribute show; the ladies were up dancing in the aisles. They even had a celebrity sighting – one of the guys from The Cake Boss show was in their Vegas location.

As 2014 wound down, PKT had its annual client Christmas party, which was again celebrated at DeGidio's Restaurant in St. Paul. Everyone in attendance enjoyed seeing new and old friends, eating too much food and playing holiday games. Surprise, surprise, Santa showed up with presents for all. Usually Santa blesses us with a friend of his and this year he didn't disappoint. He brought his sidekick Christmas Chewbacca. Everyone had a great time visiting with both Santa and Chewey.

We here at PKT are looking forward to all of the new adventures in this new year. Trips are already planned, adventures being concocted, shopping trips being scheduled as I write this. I encourage all of you readers to just try and keep up with the hustle that the PKT clients show us every day.

Tennille Carlson, SLS Director

STEVE'S SCOOP



2015 is here and now almost ¼ over! Well time does fly! I hope everyone has survived the mostly snow-less winter and is looking forward to SPRING!

There is not too much to report here...we are moving right along! PKT celebrated a GREAT Christmas and Holiday season...see pictures and story.

We did lose a GREAT coordinator and longtime PKT employee...Amanuel Teklemariam. While we all were sad to see him go, we are excited for the new opportunity he is off pursuing...Amanuel will be a professor at a local university ☺! Congratulations and good luck! You will be missed!! We did hire a replacement, so stay tuned for an introduction Press article from her.

Also, since the last PKT Press, we began serving a new client over at the Brick House. Please watch the next issue of the Press for more about her ☺!

Lastly, as already mentioned in this issue, I too would like to congratulate **DJ** on his recent new job at Byerly's in Roseville! A BIG thank you goes out to Blaine Newberg and his entire team over at Rise, Inc. They all worked very hard to make this job placement dream for DJ a reality! Thanks guys!! Your work is appreciated!

Have a great Spring and should you have any questions, etc., as always, don't hesitate to give us a call or email!!

SHARILYN'S

A lot of what I do as PKT's Director of Financial Services is checks and balances. Since my primary job involves working with numbers most of the day, I have found the calculator to be my best friend while here at work. Though I know that my "brain math" skills have dramatically increased in recent years, I still like to double check my math with the calculator.

Throughout any given day I will use a calculator to balance checkbooks, other accounts, timecards or staffing hours. When statements come in and I balance accounts, everything better add up the same. Otherwise if you walk into my office, you may see me hunched over my desk pulling out my hair in agony over the error that was made and cannot be found. Don't worry, I will find the error and get it resolved, whether it was my mistake or not. Likewise, monthly I ensure that the receipts for food and household supplies for each of the houses balance accurately. If not, I start questioning things until I am satisfied with the answers I receive. Why do I spend so much time stressing myself out over numbers that do not balance? It's because I believe that being a good steward of the funds I am entrusted with every day is the best way I can serve the wonderful people at PKT.

"No more paperwork!" Such wise advice from one of our beloved clients. Every time I speak with this client, he tells me to tell Steve this very thing. Ah, if only Steve was the right person to tell such a thing to. Counter to what this client may joke about, Steve does try to lessen the amount of paperwork for me, however most days if you walk into my office you will see paper scattered all over my desk. This is the secondary part of my job, keeping track of it all.

The truth is, much of my day is filled with paperwork. There are many forms and request for forms and verifications that I receive for many of our clients on a regular basis from places such as the county and Social Security. Some of these forms can be long and tedious while others just require me to read, sign, and send back. I do my best to fill out these forms as accurately and quickly as possible so that the services or funding continues to work properly for our clients. Sometimes I even fill out forms and send in verification before it is requested knowing that the earlier something can be processed the better for our clients. My dream is for one day there will be one system to gather all the information required to keep everything moving smoothly for our clients and for me to be able to tell the client mentioned earlier "Yah, you're right, no more paperwork!"

Sharilyn Wipf, Director of Financial Services

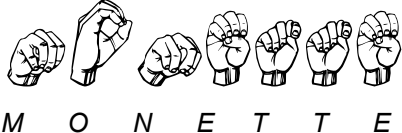
IN-HOME CONNECTIONS

Very rarely in life do you meet someone whose smile and demeanor leave a lasting impression on you. PKT is lucky enough to have one of those people as part of our In-Home family. She is someone great to be around when you're having a bad day. Her personality is contagious and it's hard not to have a good time when you're with her. This delightful woman is **Monette D.**, and now is your chance to get to know her a little better.

Monette went to the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault. She communicates using American Sign Language and enjoys helping other people learn to sign new words. Recently, she has been working a lot with the In-Home Coordinator and helping him improve his ASL skills. She can only laugh at how often he has to ask her for help, but she is always willing and able.

Monette likes to play volleyball and enjoys going for walks at parks or at the Mall of America. When she is at the mall, she likes to stop at Barnes and Noble. While there, it isn't uncommon to see her cuddled up with a magazine or using her iPad at the coffee shop. Monette gets a kick out of searching for videos on YouTube and playing Candy Crush. At last check, she was nearing level 100! She also enjoys drinking delicious iced coffee treats.

Monette really enjoys getting out and about in the Twin Cities and exploring the area. She likes to try different restaurants, but her all-time favorite place to eat is Chipotle. She always orders a burrito bowl with guacamole! According to Monette, a trip to Chipotle is not complete without a little guacamole. When Monette isn't at work or out in the community, she likes to relax at home and watch movies or play video games.



Next time you see Monette at a PKT get together don't be afraid to say hello. If you don't know sign language, don't worry! A simple wave and a smile is understood in any language!



The next In-Home spotlight is shining on **Tom C.** Tom has been part of PKT for almost 20 years! Tom is a very active young man who loves the outdoors. He is an excellent hiker and loves nature walks. From the trails of Afton to the shores of Lake Calhoun, to the river walk in Hudson, Tom stays active outdoors when the weather allows it. In the wintertime Tom maintains his exercise regime by going walking at Mall of America and also riding his exercise bike. Tom truly enjoys staying in shape.



Tom is also a big fan of bowling. On the days Tom feels like taking it easy, he'll go to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts where he enjoys checking out the exhibits and at times catches the performance of a local band. He really enjoys live music. In fact, Tom loves all kinds of music, in general.

Tom is a very hard worker and has been working at Coopers SuperValu near his house for many years. He is extremely friendly and has gotten to know many of the customers. This isn't surprising, as Tom is very outgoing and almost always greets you with a smile. Tom is a very familiar face in his West Seventh neighborhood of St. Paul. It isn't uncommon to see him riding his bike around town in the summertime. After work, be it winter or summer, Tom likes to head down to The Mississippi Market and grab one of his favorite drinks: tea. Sugar-Free Honest Green Tea and Kombucha Tea are a couple of his favorites.



Tom is no stranger to the staff at one of his favorite restaurants in St. Paul: Saigon's. When he walks in they know exactly what he wants: a grilled pork salad. How could they not know; he's been ordering that every week for almost the past twelve years! Tom also likes to eat at Chipotle, where he has no problem finishing one of their burritos by himself. It takes a lot of food to fuel such an active man!



Tom also enjoys the river, especially when he gets the chance to cruise around on it. He has gone boating a few times on both the Hudson River and the Mississippi. Tom has lived with his foster family for more than 20 years. He is very happy there, and likes going out every week with his dad, who takes him out to breakfast quite often. This past year, Tom went on a trip to San Francisco where he got to see the "Full House" house in person. He said he had an awesome time!

Tom is quite an amazing man. From work to play, both night and day, he is always busy enjoying life. So if you're ever at Coopers, be on the lookout for our good friend Tom. He'll be the one with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face.

Darin Schluender, In-Home Services Coordinator

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

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH for November 2014 is ...

Asia Villarreal-Sansom

PKT would like to recognize and thank **Asia** for:

- ◆ Doing a great job patiently encouraging a client to get through their emotions to get their hygiene needs done
- ◆ Being very patient with explaining different tasks when a co-worker was not sure of the routine
- ◆ Jumping in to help with the work load with a positive attitude and encouraging co-worker's to be positive and productive
- ◆ Having a great rapport with the clients she serves, as they look forward to seeing her again
- ◆ Being a team player and helping switch out monthly paper-work on the last day of the month
- ◆ Co-workers commenting that they "like to work with Asia and they are happy that she is in the company"

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH for January 2015 is ...

Julia Lutz-Lawlor

PKT would like to recognize and thank **Julia** for:

- ◆ Doing a great job making cookies and decorating with clients at the house; even bringing pre-made frosting and cookie dough
- ◆ Finding ways to figure out missing item concerns and staying positive
- ◆ Having a calm manner that helps clients work through their concerns and enabling them to become positive
- ◆ Consistently maintaining excellent communications with both the house supervisor and the staff she works with
- ◆ Being a tremendous asset to the sites she works at in coordinating the shift with staff in order to help things go smoothly and efficiently
- ◆ Coming to work with fun activities on weekends as well as suggesting various holiday activities for the clients to participate in
- ◆ Being extremely self-motivated and keeping all aspects of the houses running smoothly during her shifts including keeping the houses spotless
- ◆ Having a genuine caring manner for the clients, thereby bringing joy as they are happy to see her

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH for December 2014 is ...

Olga Almeroth

PKT would like to recognize and thank **Olga** for:

- ◆ Coming up with a 1:1 schedule, allowing the clients to look forward to "their day"
- ◆ Working hard and totally organizing the house, which looks great
- ◆ Coming up with fun activities to do and especially "deaf" inspired outings
- ◆ Making sure the clients have what they need at all times
- ◆ Always being positive and patient
- ◆ Having excellent signing skills while communicating and joking around

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH for February 2015 is ...

Crystal Furlough

PKT would like to recognize and thank **Crystal** for:

- ◆ Taking the time to learn what the client's interests and hobbies are and making sure those things are coordinated into their activities
- ◆ Always willing to be flexible with her schedule and helping whenever she can
- ◆ Working with a very calm and relaxing demeanor, which helps the clients, especially when they are upset
- ◆ Introducing new menu ideas for the clients
- ◆ Being very respectful with her co-workers, and is a good team player
- ◆ Bringing a fun bubbly personality and great attitude to work with her!

Congratulations and Thank You All!!!

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.

Steve Tschacher	612-788-3998 ext 105	stevent@PKTEnterprises.com	President
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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
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Amy DeWitz	612-788-3998 ext 154	amyd@PKTEnterprises.com	Columbia House Coordinator
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Lilla Gandolfi	612-788-3998 ext 156	lillag@PKTEnterprises.com	Brighton House Coordinator
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 ↔↔↔

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND MORE ...

Client Birthdays

Lane M.	1/1
Mohamed M.	1/12
Jackie W.	1/18
Walter S.	1/26
Dorie S.	2/7
Chris D.	2/11
Scott M.	2/16
Jon R.	3/17
Mike M.	3/22
Kristin M.	4/2
Sean A.	4/14
Sharon G.	4/17
Lynn Z.	4/18
Bob E.	4/23

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Olga Almeroth	1 year
Mike Connor	1 year
Amy DeWitz	1 year
S. Lilla Gandolfi	1 year
Crystal Helmrichs	1 year
Colleen Hofer	1 year
Audrey Kludtke	1 year
Caitlin Tucker	1 year
Olaoluwa Awoleke	2 years
Pat Matt	6 years
Donna Collings	7 years
Bangela Smith	7 years
Jean Parker	8 years
Joanna Rojas	8 years
Jennifer Johnson	10 years
Tami Block	12 years
Pam Kurtz	14 years
Katie Fordyce	17 years
Channon Doerr	19 years

Employee Birthdays

Zahra Fatah	1/1
Tami Block	1/4
Dwayne Haskin	1/5
Eric Ross	1/5
Crystal Helmrichs	1/12
Cassie Jones	1/24
Jennifer Johnson	1/28
Pam Kurtz	2/2
Jodi Feldbruegge	2/4
Debbie Shaw	2/6
Pam Johnson	2/7
Duane Sundblad	3/1
Miranda Lobash	3/3
Alison Owens	3/12
Linda Fox	3/17
Phalen Land	3/19
Matthew Pouliassis	3/23
Sheri Vogel	3/23
Laura Rybicki	3/29
Hoeun Hach	4/12
DeAnn Reese	4/16
Sarah O'Blenes	4/18
Asia Villarreal-Sansom	4/19
Laura Madaris	4/22
Audrey Kludtke	4/24
Ruthie Harrell	4/25

WELCOME

New Employees

Hilary Austinson	Yellow House LSI
Quinnetta Babalola	White House Lead
Wanda Berry	Yellow House LSI
Michael Blahnik	Brick House Live In
Darrell Blue	Dark House LSI
Zahra Fatah	Columbia House LSI
Gilbert Ghong	Pink House LSI
Ruthie Harrell	Pink House Lead
Keri Lamusga	Brick House LSI
Maddie Lund	Brick House LSI
Pamela McCoy	In-Home LSI
Heidi Phillips	White House LSI
Matthew Pouliassis	Brown House LSI
Debbie Shaw	Columbia House Live In
Tanya Smiley	White House LSI
Corethia Williams	Pink House LSI



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Words to Live By ...

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

Proverbs 4:23-24

*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...