

May-July
2015

Volume 12
Issue 2

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.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Gordon H. has called **White House** home for the past 2 ½ years, however, he has been with PKT since November of 1995. Gordy has many stories to tell of his days at the **Pink House**, and of the many people he has met over the years. Gordy is a natural storyteller and will share stories of the people and places he has visited and known.



If you are ever at White House, you can ask to see some of his many collections; flashlights, radios, model cars, music, key-chains. He has a story for each and would love if you could help fix up the one or two that aren't working. Gordy enjoys being retired and spends his day out and about. His favorite places are still the bank and McDonalds, but he also loves to spend time at the Dollar Store and other thrift stores around town, as well as the many restaurants in the area.

When at home Gordy will spend time playing King's Corner or a game of Go Fish. If you don't know how to play, no worries, Gordy will gladly teach you. Gordy is a music lover, he will listen to all types of music, but Rock 'n' Roll is his favorite. Don't be surprised to hear Elvis, Elton John, or Roy Orbison coming from his room. Gordy loves old TV shows, his favorite being "Highway Patrol".

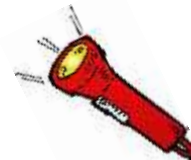


Gordy recently celebrated his 70th birthday. He had a celebratory lunch at his favorite restaurant Romolo's, and was joined by current and former staff who have worked with Gordy over the years and wanted to celebrate with him. He received a gift of 70 \$2 bills which he was over the moon about. Gordy enjoyed sharing stories and eating pizza with everyone that came to the party. Gordy was also able to spend a day with his family for his birthday, and ended his birthday week with a trip to the casino where he enjoyed playing the slots and using a few of his lucky \$2 bills.



Thanks for reading and getting to know Gordy better. If you are ever in the New Brighton area please look us up to say hi!

Laura Rybicki, White House Coordinator



PKT ENTERPRISES

THE PKT PRESS

Investing in the Lives of People

FEATURED HOME

As I sit down to write this piece, enjoying a drink by the lake (non-alcoholic, of course!!), the sun shining down in dazzling rays, the birds singing sweetly, the hot yet soft breeze blowing across my brow, festive music playing from the mariachi band off in the distance, the sound of children's laughter and of people having lighthearted conversations ...Ok, so hopefully I've helped paint a picture for you in your imagination of summertime, because it's definitely here, all 90+ degrees of it! It's well deserved, too! Time to get outdoors, enjoy the parks and lakes, as well as all the wonderful things that summer has to offer – and when you're out, chances are pretty good that you could bump into all or any one of the guys from the **Pink House!!**

Bob E. has started up with his horseshoe club for the season. He's been throwing with the guys for years, and even has a few awards that show that he does a pretty darn good job with it! Bob will still recant stories of when his dad threw horseshoes, which inspired Bob to get into the sport. He also likes to get out and throw the football around at times. He might start out a bit slow, but once he's warmed up, watch out!! Bob is an excellent resource if you want to know anything about John Wayne. He probably has every movie that John Wayne has been in! MeTV is Bob's favorite TV channel to watch, since it has a lot of the old shows on it that he watched in his younger days. Of course, we can't forget the fact that Bob is an excellent card player! He seems to know pretty much every game there is, and is a great competitor for anyone who is up for the challenge.

Mike M. keeps very busy out in the community. As soon as the final snowfall has melted, he's out in the front yard, cleaning his bike and making sure everything is ready to go for the biking season. Mike is seldom at the house for a good part of the day during the weekends as he is typically gone to the Starbucks in the Highland Park area, drinking a coffee or hot chocolate, and of course, talking with his friends. He also enjoys going to various community events anytime during the year, but especially during the summertime, as he thoroughly enjoys being outside. During the week, after work, Mike like going to Candyland in St. Paul, where he helps out by washing pans and doing other cleaning tasks. He enjoys hanging out with staff and housemates, and is always up for a good conversation.

Doug M. is the newest guy at the house, having been there now for a little over a year. Doug can be a little shy at first, but sit down to have a chat with him, and he really opens up and likes to talk about pretty much anything, especially sports and specifically the MN Twins! Doug has followed the team religiously for the longest time. He walks almost daily to the store to pick up the newspaper, not only to keep up on current events, but also to check out all the details on his favorite sports team. Doug also keeps up with sports through his subscription to Sports Illustrated. He also keeps busy with taking various classes through the SEED program. Doug has taken exercise classes as well as a class on current events, which has really come in handy for him when reading through the newspaper .

Clint V. is another of the guys at Pink House who keeps quite active. He also takes various classes through the SEED program, including cooking and woodworking classes. Clint has always been eager to bring home the latest recipe from his cooking class, and some of these have even been incorporated into the menu at the house! Clint is also the house photographer! About a year ago, Clint went out and bought himself a digital camera, and since then he has been very eager to bring his camera with to almost any event he goes to so he can capture the moments! He has no hesitation in taking pride in his final product, always wanting to share his photo albums with others. One of the more defined characteristics of Clint is his smile, which is not only wonderful to see, but can be very contagious when you hang around with him for even a little while. Sometimes he's told "Clint, you're always smiling!", to which the all too common response of "I know, right?!" is given.

So there's just a bit about the wonderful group of guys at the Pink House! Feel free to stop by anytime; they're always up for company, and enjoy visiting and having fun.

Chris Bastyr, Pink House Coordinator

STEVE'S SCOOP



SUMMER! Boy is it HUMID here! I know, I've been here all my life, but I still like to whine about the humidity...ask anyone in the office...I like it cold! Too often my officemates can be seen wearing sweaters, shawls, blankets, or even BIG FURRY SLIPPERS pretty much year round. Thanks everyone for putting up with my low in the office heat tolerance! I know we joke about it, but I am grateful!

For those of you who don't know...PKT has sponsored a baseball/t-ball team over in the Lake Minnetonka area for the past 5-6 years and this year, the 7/8 year old team went undefeated! What a great accomplishment for all the players!!

PKT is currently working on opening a 10th home! YEP! We were asked a few months ago by an out of town case manager and her supervisor if we had an opening which would best suit their client...since we didn't, the discussion shifted to the possibility of a new development. The home would serve 4 women with DD and hearing impairments! There is such a need for these types of services here and statewide!! Currently, we are waiting on the State to make their final decision...so, stay tuned! If you have or know of any DD/hearing impaired women in need of SLS placement, keep us and this potential new development in mind! Currently, if all goes according to plan, we have 2 maybe 3 women ready to move in so we would be in need of 1 maybe 2 more. Feel free to email or call me should you have questions or want updates!

For those of you just waiting on the edges of your seats wondering about a 2015 PKT picnic, it looks like we will not be having a giant one like last year. Instead, we are going to do a bigger than usual summer client birthday celebration and are thinking of beefing up our client Christmas Party this year ☺ !

Thanks everyone for your continued support of PKT and the services we provide! Have a blessed, safe, and fun rest of your summer!!

SHARILYN'S

One of the coolest parts of my job is being able to order various event tickets for our clients. Our clients have a vast array of interests and the people at Ticketmaster must think I am the most eclectic person ever. Whether it is country music, rock and roll, ballet or the Blue Man Group, or Twins Games to Monster Trucks, I've ordered them all.

I have been known to set alarms to remind me when certain concerts go on sale so that I can be one of those crazy fans to wait in line (online) to get tickets. There is a sense of accomplishment I feel when I am able to secure those tickets even if I'm not the one going to the concert. It is all worth it to hear that a client got super excited about an upcoming event I helped them purchase tickets to. Furthermore, I do my best to find them the best seats possible within their price range. Though most of our clients would love to be as close to the action as possible, for many just to be able to say they were there, brings joy.

Sometimes the events chosen may not be something I would choose for myself, and to those staff that have ever taken a client to an event for the delight of the client not their own and sat through it all, I want to say thanks! You are a rock star in my opinion!



Sharilyn Wipf, Director of Financial Services

WELCOME ... PKT would like to extend warm welcomes to ...

Meet our latest client

Introducing the newest client at the **Brick House...Jessica H.** Jessie moved in to the Brick House in March and really enjoys living here! She comes from a great family and was born and raised here in Minnesota. She has a twin sister who lives in Alaska and a brother who is a pilot in the Navy! She loves it when her mom comes to visit her on Wednesday and Sunday.

Some of her favorite hobbies are coloring with sidewalk chalk, going for rides in the car, and taking bubble baths. When she's not relaxing in the tub, you may find her outside playing soccer! Jessie loves kicking the ball around and scoring goals. When she was younger, she played on a soccer team and was a star player! She has a nice woven swing on the back patio that she likes to swing in when the weather is nice. She also loves dancing and shaking her hips to country music! She always has her radio on the country music station. Jessie has lots of interests and we are learning more about her each day!

So, if you want to play a game of soccer or need a country music dancing partner, come on over to the Brick House and meet Jessie!

Meet our new House Coordinator

Hello! My name is **Carrie Burleson** and I am the new House Coordinator for the **Brick House**. I was born and raised in the charming city of Richmond, VA. I graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010 with a BS in Psychology. After graduating I started working as a Home Health Aid in Virginia. Then, two years ago, my boyfriend and I left Virginia and moved to South Minneapolis. I love it here in Minnesota because it is so beautiful and the water and air are so clean. I worked at an assisted living facility for people with TBI/Mental Illness for the past two years which I enjoyed, but was looking for an opportunity to step up into a management position.

When I am not working, I love going to the beach, exercising, or going camping...anything outdoors! I also enjoy going to see live music, watching college football and college basketball. I love the SEC football games and have been to many growing up in the Southeast. I'm always excited for March Madness and always support my VCU Rams!

I love caring for people and it is truly my passion. I am so excited to be taking this next step in caring for people as a house coordinator. Please feel free to contact me anytime at my office number (612) 788-3998 ext.151.

Carrie Burleson, Brick House Coordinator



PKT would like to recognize and thank the following outstanding Employee of the Month winners:

Wanda Berry - March 2015

“Jumping right into the direct care role, bringing much excitement to clients and always encouraging activities and movement - Having extreme patience and coming up with many different ways to help clients understand something instead of just giving up - Encouraging clients to play games or participate in a new or different way to make it more fun, easier and appealing - Taking the time for upkeep on the client’s hair and keeping them laughing even on their worst days - Being flexible for her supervisors and her co-workers for emergencies and client needs - Always helping clients with their manners, chores, mood and activities”

Dwayne Haskin - April 2015

“Doing an outstanding job helping to coordinate the unfortunate funeral of a client - While doing so, displayed an extreme resilience in an otherwise difficult situation - Working with this client for two years and being a tremendous positive force - Caring for the client on a level that went well beyond call of duty as an LSI staff - Enriching the client’s life by sacrificing much - Committing recently to working with another in-home client, which is greatly appreciated”

Asia Villarreal-Sansom - May 2015

“Finding activities to do with the clients such as dyeing Easter eggs and playing soccer - Doing a great job dealing with extreme behaviors - Putting in a tremendous amount of work getting the Brick House orderly and shaped up - Being so flexible with her schedule, even when shifts get switched at the last minute; picking up the slack - Working so hard at every house where she is scheduled to work - Cleaning out the client’s rooms and closets - Being a great communicator and never complaining - Always reliable, early to her shifts, stays late if she sees the need”

Michael Blahnik - June 2015

“Helping out in last minute situations - Working so patiently with the clients - Encouraging the clients to reach their wellness goals - Having a positive attitude and a smile on his face - Getting the van washed every two weeks - Being a pleasure to work with and a tremendous help to others”

Maddie Lund - July 2015

“Rallying up staff to do a big spring cleaning - Coming up with great menus and grocery lists - Jumping right into the Lead Staff position - Setting an example of how behaviors should be handled - Having an upbeat personality, which is positive and contagious - Striving overall to create more of a positive and enriching environment - Helping at the ER for six hours - Being kind, hardworking and liked by all”

Congratulations and
Thank You
You are ALL appreciated!!!!



PKT Enterprises'

2014

Management

Employee of the Year

~Jennifer Johnson~

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

- ◆ Jenn strives leaps and bounds in the area of leadership, she consistently motivates other to excel by acknowledging their accomplishments and hard work
- ◆ Jenn always has a positive attitude, always upbeat, takes the bull by the horns and gets the job done
- ◆ Jenn makes herself available at all hours of the day and night, and is a reliable go to for helping solve any issue
- ◆ Jenn finds ways to motivate her staff to work through adversity and excel
- ◆ Jenn is able to take crisis situations and prioritize the needs to ensure smooth results
- ◆ When there are last minute emergencies, Jenn has been seen arranging daycare for her children so that she can help
- ◆ Jenn is quick to empathize with others when they are having a bad day and to do what she can to lessen the burden of that day
- ◆ Jenn leads by example, picks up shifts at houses, and comes in early or stays late when necessary, which shows true leadership and a can-do attitude
- ◆ Jenn has taken clients on vacation, even invited a client to her cabin or her home for a holiday dinner
- ◆ Jenn truly leads by example through demonstrating a balanced blend of teamwork along with quality of work
- ◆ Jenn is a strong source of support, strength and empowerment
- ◆ Jenn understands the importance of teamwork and sees the best in all
- ◆ Jenn clearly shows that she has PKT's best interest and success in mind
- ◆ Jenn is truly dedicated to PKT's credo of investing in the lives of people!



CONGRATULATIONS!
THANK YOU!
~Jennifer Johnson~
Winner of \$500.00

PKT Enterprises'

2014

Non-Management

Employee of the Year

~Michael Connor~

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

- ◆ Mike will improvise solutions if the perfect tool is not available
- ◆ Mike is always willing to take on anything that comes up during the day
- ◆ Mike demonstrates pride by doing every aspect of his job well
- ◆ Mike is very easy to work with and is a team player
- ◆ Mike will offer to fix an issue when he sees a need
- ◆ Mike has used many of his own resources on the job
- ◆ Mike has acquired many skills over his lifetime, which contributes to knowing the difference between a job done properly and a job barely finished
- ◆ Whenever Mike has gotten into a difficult situation, he will stay focused until he figures out how to get it done on his own
- ◆ Mike always shows confidence in his skills, yet he continually still finds ways to improve where possible
- ◆ Mike's high standards in keeping the sites functioning in good repair shows commitment to PKT's quality of care mission
- ◆ Mike is willing to respond to emergencies as they come up
- ◆ Mike is very competent in maintenance and is extremely knowledgeable in many areas
- ◆ Mike is very respectful in getting things out of the way so the wheelchairs can maneuver around
- ◆ Whenever Mike is expected at the house he is there
- ◆ Mike is always willing to help clients and staff when he can
- ◆ Mike receives many complements, is very pleasant, friendly and respected by both clients and co-workers!



CONGRATULATIONS!
THANK YOU!
~Michael Connor~
Winner of \$500.00

As always the clients and staff at PKT remain busy, busy, busy. As summer approached many of our clients were gearing up for vacations, well deserved time with family and even a couple of weddings. This year many have elected to attend Camp Friendship where they spend anywhere from 3 days to a week at camp depending on the adventure they picked. Some have already been on their vacations. **Angie L.** recently returned from a Florida adventure and **Steve U.** spent a few days at a NASCAR event in Kansas. Both say they had a blast and didn't want to return to Minnesota.

For those clients who are not as adventurous, we have various single events happening, anything from attending Saints and Twins games, to Luke Bryan or Shania Twain or Imagine Dragons, to musicals and plays around the metro. **Kristin M.** was even brave enough to head to the Basilica Block party for a great evening of music and fun. Man it makes me tired just writing all of that, much less participating in it.

PKT has once again decided to sponsor a Wellness Program, however this year it was opened up to both clients and staff. Each house sat with their respective supervisor and developed wellness goals for each client. The goals could be exercise or diet related. Clients chose from challenging yet attainable goals that they wanted to do, such as walk a mile or 50 bicep curls or eating a vegetable daily or eliminating pop for a week. Every week through diet and exercise each house has the opportunity to earn 140 points. The two houses each week with the most points win a \$20 gift card to Walmart. This challenge has definitely benefitted the clients at each house as it brought them closer together as they work towards their \$20 gift card. Some houses have chosen to "collect" the gift cards so that they have more money to spend as a whole, other houses have picked an item and made their purchase immediately. Either way everyone seems to be having fun with this program. There is a second challenge for the clients as well. This is the Biggest Winner (Loser) competition. This one is simple...the house that loses the most weight collectively wins dinner out with staff at the restaurant of their choosing, paid for by PKT!!!

While the clients are all working so hard at their challenges, PKT also is promoting a few challenges for staff too. PKT is sponsoring a MILLION step challenge. The goal is to walk a million steps in 100 days. Anyone who completes this challenge will be entered into a drawing for \$500. For those employees who wanted to participate, but were not quite ready to take on a million steps, PKT offered a 500,000 step challenge as well. For those who complete this challenge, their names will be entered into a drawing for \$500!!! Staff had to pick one or the other – they could not participate in both. Staff also are doing the Biggest Loser challenge. Rules are simple here, the person who loses the biggest percentage of weight wins the \$500. Finally just like the clients, staff are given a weekly challenge to participate in; from walking 15 miles a week to 250 push-ups to 700 calf raises to cooking two healthy meals. For each challenge that they participated in, their name was entered into a drawing for a \$10 Target gift card. Stay tuned for announcement of winners soon.

It has been a lot of fun to watch the clients and PKT staff get excited about their health. At the end of the day we all need to be as healthy as possible to keep up with all of the activities our clients have going on this summer!!!!

Tennille Carlson, SLS Director



IN-HOME CONNECTION

This month the **In-Home Services** spotlight is shining on a very special person; a person who is very active and spends a portion of almost each shift doing something out and about in the community; an individual who loves to explore the Twin Cities; and someone who puts his family before anything else. This person is **Xao V.**, and now is your opportunity to get to know him a little bit better.

Now that summer is here, Xao likes to go to different parks in St. Paul. Phalen Regional Park is one of his favorite places to spend a sunny afternoon. It isn't uncommon to see him wetting a line and trying to catch a fish or two either. While at the park Xao enjoys listening to the radio. Xao also enjoys camping and boating.

At the end of summer, Xao seeks out a destination that most Minnesotans also enjoy: the Minnesota State Fair. He loves all the people-watching, and of course all the wonderful smells. In the same area as the fair is Como Park, where Xao also likes to visit.

Xao's family is very important to him. He is very content spending time with his nieces and nephews, and watching them play. Xao's family often get together during special occasions where everyone can catch up and eat delicious food together.

Xao also likes to go shopping at hobby stores where he can stock up for whatever craft project he may be working on. Some other things that he likes to do is going to the Science Museum and to the Mall of America. Xao also attends the annual Minneapolis Boat Show and the Minneapolis/St. Paul RV & Camper Show almost every year. He loves looking at all the new boating and camping equipment that are available.

Next time you're out and about in the cities (especially St. Paul) keep your eyes peeled for Xao. You just never know when and where you'll bump into him. And if you do, make sure to stop and say hello!

Darin Schluender, In-Home Services Coordinator

STAFF MEETINGS



Staff meetings are conducted monthly at the PKT Corporate office. The following schedule is currently in place, however please verify times and locations in advance.

In-Home Services	-	First Wednesday	9:30-11:00am
Brick House	-	Fourth Friday	12:00-1:30pm
Pink House	-	Third Thursday	3:30-5:00pm
Brown House	-	Third Friday	12:00-1:30pm
Columbia House	-	Fourth Tuesday	12:30-2:00pm
Green House	-	Second Monday	12:00-1:30pm
Brighton House	-	Third Wednesday	4:00-5:30pm
Dark House	-	Third Monday	3:30-5:00pm
Yellow House	-	Fourth Monday	4:00-5:30pm
White House	-	Third Wednesday	12:00-1:30pm

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.

UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION ...

www.PKTEnterprises.com

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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
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Client Birthdays

Polly B.	5/2
Bounleu R.	5/8
Rose K.	5/9
Angel S.	5/20
Megan C.	5/27
Gordy H.	5/30
Marilyn M.	6/4
Daniel (DJ) J.	6/12
Jessica H.	7/6
Jim R.	7/12
Dottie L.	7/22
Jaci B.	7/28
Tom M.	7/29



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Employee Birthdays

Michelle Schauer	5/1
Tanya Smiley	5/1
Enoch Hudson	5/4
Sara Wirth	5/20
Adeniyi Babalola	5/25
Wanda Berry	5/26
Jesse Lobash	6/5
Lucas Van Fossan	6/12
Colleen Hofer	6/24
Maddie Lund	6/24
Bangela Smith	7/1
Jean Parker	7/3
Mike Blahnik	7/4
Nicki Opine	7/7
Latasha Gray	7/14
Ron Katzenmaier	7/21
Heidi Phillips	7/21
Crystal Furlough	7/22
Channon Doerr	7/23
Patty Amunga	7/29

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**

Crystal Furlough	1 year
C. Cassie Jones	1 year
DeAnn Reese	1 year
Asia Villarreal-Sansom	1 year
Pamela Johnson	2 years
Sara Wirth	2 years
Janine Beier	3 years
Alison Owens	3 years
Rachel Newburry	4 years
Lucas Van Fossan	4 years
Michelle Freeman	5 years
Duane Sundblad	6 years
Sherri Vogel	9 years
Tennille Carlson	11 years
Sarah O'Blenes	11 years
Dave Halverson	19 years

WELCOME

New Employees

Kyle Avenriep	Brown House Live In
Carrie Burleson	Brick House Coordinator
Gary Faust	Pink House LSI
Latasha Gray	Brick House LSI
Elizabeth Iversen	In-Home LSI
Michael Matthews	Brick House LSI
Molly Organ	Brick House LSI
Emerald Sawyer	Yellow House LSI
Nancy Tannehill	Brighton House LSI
Kristi Yang	Yellow House LSI



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Words to Live By ...

For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:17

*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...