



Community Housing Alternatives



Community Residence Corporation



Community Living Network





# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE CEO

## Steve Weindorf



*M*y thoughts as another year begins...

**T**umultuous moments we experienced in the past fiscal year include the significant increase in recipient rights complaints and substantiations we experienced in the first half of the year. Our goal has always been to uphold the highest standards, respect people’s rights and have caring, dedicated and knowledgeable staff. With the help of our colleagues from the Washtenaw County Health Organization, we undertook a comprehensive systems analysis to get to the root causes of these situations. We reorganized the supported living program to provide better oversight and management to a rapidly growing program, and I’m proud of our team for responding to the changes and the resulting decrease in complaints since June. Frustration with the state of our economy came when our customers’ dental benefits were eliminated from Medicaid coverage last July. We hope you will support our efforts to establish a dental care fund so that our customers can still receive the dental care vital to their overall health. A truly sad moment came when long-time customer Philip Cender passed away after a short and valiant battle with cancer in November of 2008. We all miss Philip greatly.

Residence Corporation’s 4th consecutive and Community Living Network’s first ever three-year accreditation award from CARF in September.

**I**t became increasingly obvious during various meetings over the past year that our three different agency names cause a lot of confusion which makes it hard for people to understand the work that we do. Often times, Community Residence Corporation has been referred to as the “parent agency” of Community Living Network and Community Housing Alternatives; which necessitates a long explanation using complex legal terminology should someone ask what that means. As we all know, a long explanation with legal terminology often leaves the poor person who simply asked an innocent question more confused, possibly bored, and worse for us, not likely to continue the conversation or engage in supporting our missions.

leaves of a clover. Each one is separate, but they all work together to ensure the survival of the whole. In our case, we are three distinct initiatives, but we all work together to serve our customers and make sure that they receive the appropriate supports or services while maintaining their dignity, autonomy and freedom to the fullest extent possible.

**W**hether a customer uses our fiscal intermediary service, Community Living Network, which allows our customers throughout Southeastern Lower Michigan to hire their own support staff; or Community Residence Corporation that provides trained staffing support in a licensed group home or in the person’s own home throughout Washtenaw County; or one of our rental units or home ownership programs through Community Housing Alternatives; all of our initiatives help underserved populations participate fully in our community.

**W**e are pleased and excited with our restructuring, with the positive changes, and with the rebranding work we have done in the past year. We are excited to share some of the highlights with you in this annual report. Additionally, we look forward to continued growth, improvements, fund development, and your on-going support, especially with our “Chow Down for Change” campaign and other ways that people can contribute to our dental care fund for our customers.

### Moving Forward Putting the Pieces Together

**O**ur exciting moments include hiring a development director, Kate MacEwen in April, raffling a play house at the Heritage Festival in August, and achieving Community

**S**o, we began a rebranding effort last June that has resulted in our new identity as Community Alliance. Another way to visualize this is to think of our three agencies as three

# FISCAL YEAR Accomplishments



Community Residence Corporation, Community Living Network and Community Housing Alternatives underwent a major rebranding effort resulting in our new identity as Community Alliance. All three of our initiatives still provide the same great services, the only difference is we have an identity that is easier to explain and understand.



Community Living Network, received its first three year accreditation (the highest accreditation level) from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).



Community Residence Corporation received its 4th consecutive three year accreditation from CARF.



Community Housing Alternatives, awarded Neighborhood Stabilization Program Funds in the amount of \$561,124 for Washtenaw County, \$245,000 for the City of Ann Arbor and HOME funding in the amount of \$422,315 to assist households with purchases in approved Urban County areas.



Community Living Network and Community Residence Corporation experienced program growth.



The Supported Living Program underwent restructuring, enabling us to care for more customers with more complex needs at our high standard of quality.



Community Alliance established a new Development Department; as a result Community Alliance as a whole underwent a successful re-branding initiative, received a Volunteer in Service to America from the federal government, and began several new initiatives.



Ninety one cents of every donated dollar is spent directly on program services.



## Administrative Staff

Christopher Battle  
*Executive Vice President*  
*Community Residence*

Sam Brown  
*Vice President of Operations*  
*Community Housing Alternatives*

Kelly Friedland  
*Receptionist*

Carol Gobeyn  
*Executive Assistant*

Kate MacEwen  
*Vice President of Development*  
*and External Relations*

Joanne Magee  
*Executive Vice President*  
*Community Living Network*

Rhonda McGill  
*Executive Vice President*  
*Community Housing Alternatives*

Jason Medeiros  
*Accounting Clerk*

Peg Merica  
*Vice President of Finance*

Steven Weindorf  
*Chief Executive Officer*

## Direct Support Staff

Djibril Adam  
Kiara Akins  
Esther Alfred  
Jon August  
Sandra Ayler  
Mary Beaudry  
Anna Bell  
JoAnne Bertoni  
Danielle Boyd  
Edward Bradley  
Kristen Brown  
Yamisha Brown  
Wanda Burton  
Tibletse Dessu  
Christopher Dusette  
Toni V. Evans  
Gwendolyn Giger  
Brittini Gillespie  
Sabrina Grant-Chisholm  
Donald Hagele  
LaShanda Marie Hartman  
Christiana Ihebom  
Nakeya Jones  
Ronald Kreger  
Lemonica Lee  
Sueann Levack  
Britini Lige  
Darryl Mack  
Julia Martin  
Amber Massingo  
Edward McIntosh  
James McKivens  
Michael Moore  
Ora J. Morris  
Telesia Nathan  
Daniel Nelson  
Shannon Nwikapawa  
Violet Osuji  
Kiarra Patterson  
Maggie Pinard  
Milika Porter

Teneca Powell  
LaQuanda Reid  
Donovan Robinson  
Matthew Salemka  
Joseph Shalhoub  
Ernest Shepard  
Albertina Simfukwe  
Alton Smith  
Shawn Smith  
Cyril Sunday  
Jimmica Taylor  
Ronda Teague  
Betelhem Teklabe  
Kenyetta Vaughn  
Chiffon Walker  
Carrie Welch  
Chiquita Whitfield  
Giovanna Williams  
Paul Woodward  
Yohannes Yoseph  
Francis Zajkowski

## Coordinators of Personal Supports

Karmen Coleman  
Melissa Frash  
Cindy Treharne

## Team Leaders

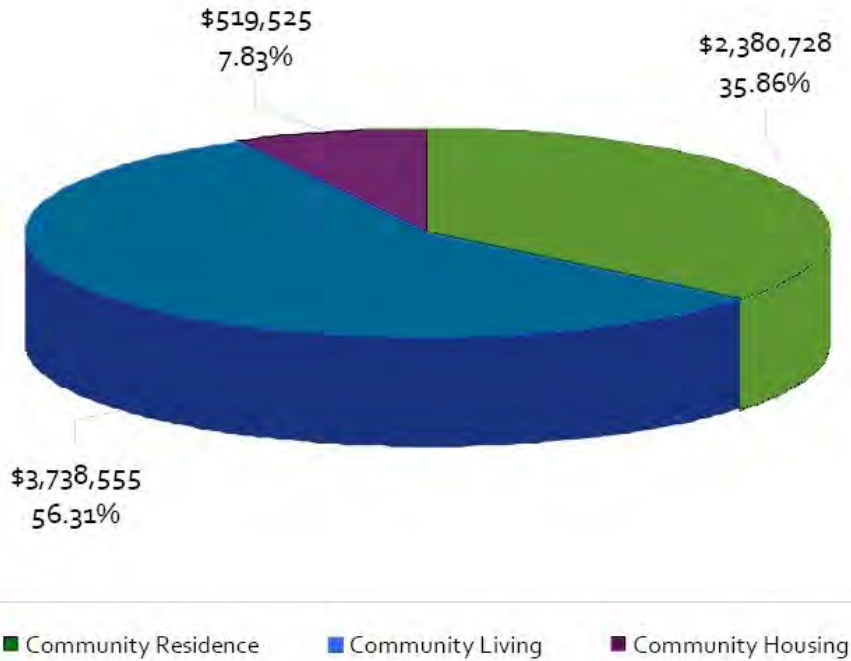
Kelly Carter-Scott  
Dominique Diaz  
Charlie Flowers  
Patricia A. Gambles  
Jermaine Gause  
Lameia Harris  
Carmen Jackson  
Robin Lee  
David Mulcahy

## Lead Support Supervisors

Brian Clark  
Donald Newsted  
Linnae Rankin



Revenue - Total \$6,638,808



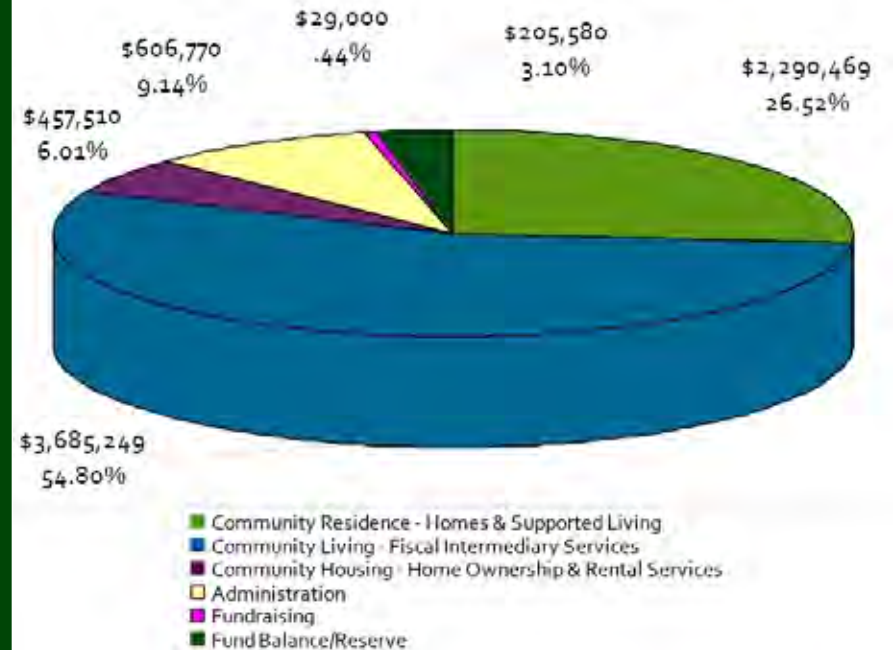
Revenues

Community Residence	35.86%	\$ 2,380,728
Community Living	56.31%	\$ 3,738,555
Community Housing	7.83%	\$ 519,525
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$6,638,808</b>

Expenses and Fund Balance

Community Residence <i>Homes &amp; Supported Living</i>	26.52%	\$1,760,286
Community Living <i>Fiscal Intermediary Services</i>	54.80%	\$3,637,945
Community Housing <i>Home Ownership &amp; Rental Services</i>	6.01%	\$399,227
Administration	9.14%	\$606,770
Fundraising	0.44%	\$29,000
Fund Balance/Reserve	3.10%	\$205,580
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$6,638,808</b>

Expense & Fund Balance - Total \$6,638,808





# COMMUNITY RESIDENCE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Christopher Battle



2009 was an exciting year for Community Residence. In addition to welcoming four new customers to our program, our new fundraising efforts, such as Chow Down for Change and charity poker allows you to help support us while having fun or enjoying some great food.

In the fall of 2009, our Milan group home closed, and our residents moved to supported living sites of their choice. This allowed our customers a greater freedom to choose their roommates, and locations. While the move was a change for our customers they have adjusted to their new homes very well.

In 2010 we will be developing a nutritional education program for our customers, their families and our staff. Our goal in this program is to have a holistic effort to help provide our customers with the highest quality of life possible. Look for updates and information in the coming months on this exciting new program!

In addition we have recently opened a new site, which enables us to provide quality round-the-clock care for some of our most severely impaired customers. Of course we couldn't have done it without our wonderful staff and generous donors. It is because of people like you that our customers are able to live inclusive and meaningful lives in our communities.

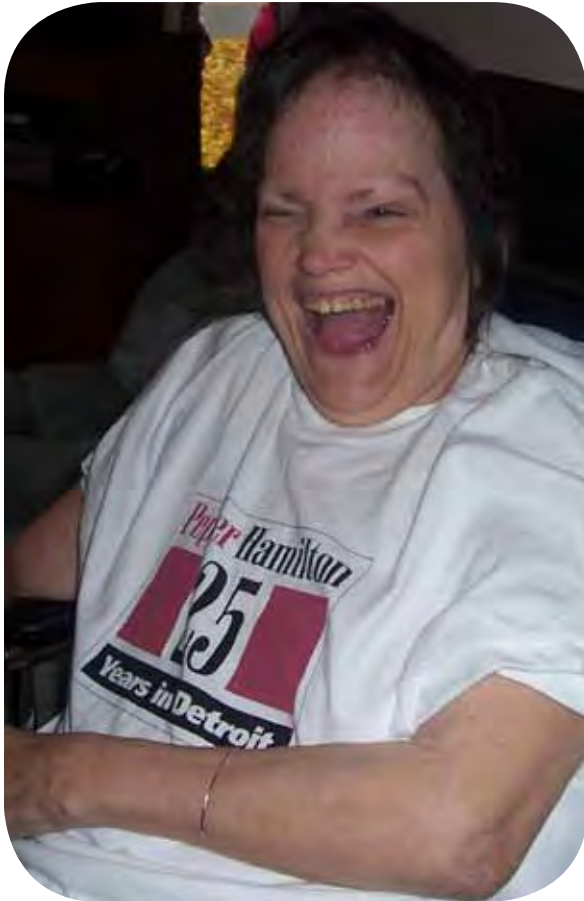
We are looking forward to our new Oral Health Initiative that will provide our customers with a routine dental cleaning and exam. By this time next year, our goal is to be able to tell you that all of our customers were seen by a dentist at least once. Dental health is an important part of everyone's overall health and because of this we are committed to thinking outside of the box to address the Medicaid Dental Cuts.

On behalf of our customers I want to thank you again for all of your support in the past year and look forward to your continued help into the future!



# MY PIECE OF COMMUNITY

## Suzy Mason



*Suzy has been a part of the Community Residence family for around 13 years and is a customer in her own home, receiving support services through our supported living program.* She shares a ranch house with hardwood floors with two roommates in Ann Arbor. Her house is located on a quiet street and has large mature trees in the yard and tulips and daffodiles that bloom in the spring. Suzy is a wonderful lady with beautiful dark hair and blue eyes. Suzy cared deeply about her staff and housemates and looks out for them. Suzy has clear likes and dislikes, her favorite color is yellow and her favorite holiday is Easter. Suzy loves receiving visitors, and her face just lights up when someone comes to see her.

**A**bove all Suzy REALLY likes is costume jewelry! She loves all jewelry but is partial to pieces with red stones. When Suzy was asked what her favorite kind of jewelry was she answered, "Rings, expensive rings." Suzy is even able to treat herself to a new piece of jewelry at a department store once in a while. According to Melissa Frash, Coordinator of Personal Supports, Suzy "just bought a new ring the other day, and has quite a collection of fun jewelry she has acquired through the years."

**W**ithout the support and assistance of staff, jewelry buying trips and other outings would not be a part of Suzy's life. Due to the severity of her disability, Suzy cannot drive or navigate public transportation by herself, but with the help of staff she is able to get around town. Staff support is essential to our customers, not only for the fun trips to browse for jewelry and pursue other hobbies, but to help them with their everyday needs like cooking, and cleaning. *Some individuals with disabilities need help to live independently; however, with the proper supports, like Suzy has, they do live wonderful full lives in an environment of their choosing.*

**W**ithout programs like Community Residence people like Suzy might live in less than ideal situations where errands and outings are infrequent. *Because Community Residence is here providing the necessary supports that Suzy and others need, individuals with disabilities can truly be full members of our communities and enjoy the benefits they have to offer.*

# COMMUNITY LIVING NETWORK EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Joanne Magee



Sometimes explaining Fiscal Intermediary Services can be a bit difficult- however the easy part to illustrate is the importance of these services to our community members with disabilities, their families and caregivers here in Southeastern Michigan. It's inevitable that if your disability is severe enough you will need some help doing tasks that other people take for granted. This is why Community Living Network exists. Our job, our purpose, our passion, is to make sure that people with disabilities can choose who they want in their homes providing their care. Community Living Network makes sure that caregivers of the consumer's choosing are paid on schedule with

appropriate taxes withheld from each check.

We are pleased to share Austin Saunders story in this report. He is one of our many consumers that benefits from our fiscal intermediary services. Our services help people like Austin Saunders stay at home with their families. I am pleased that we provide this service for more than 140 people every day. The real effect of fiscal intermediary services is the profound way it helps families right here in Southeastern Michigan!

Stop thinking in terms of limitations  
and start thinking in terms of  
possibilities



-Terry Josephson

## FISCAL INTERMEDIARY AT A GLANCE

Allow individuals to hire and fire their own employees.  
The consumer decides who provides supportive services.

Adult customers make hiring decisions through the  
Choice Voucher System

Parents or guardians of children participate through the  
Children's Waiver Program

Community Living Network provides payroll services  
assuring that all taxes are paid.

Consumers receive a monthly statement of their  
financial activity.

The consumers' employees will receive accurate pay and  
W2s.

Service Available in the following Counties:

Jackson, Hillsdale, Macomb

St. Clair, Livingston, Washtenaw





# Pieces of Possibility

## The Saunders

**I**magine having to seriously consider putting your 14 year old son in an alternative living arrangement because caring for him in your own home was nearly impossible.

That was the situation Paula and Mark Saunders found themselves in just a



short time ago. Their 14-year old son, Austin, is severely autistic and the daily demands of his care and therapies were so great that Paula and Mark had trouble keeping up with them by themselves. Despite having extended family nearby, the demands of

caring for a growing child who quickly became taller than his mother, were too much for the Saunders to manage without help.

Then, through their caseworker at Washtenaw County Community Support & Treatment Services, the **Saunders heard about the Children's Waiver Program and were referred to Community Living Network.** This program, serves children like Austin, who have developmental disabilities with challenging behaviors and/or complex medical needs. In other words it provides the necessary supports the Saunders so desperately needed.

The waiver includes services, therapies and products, which Austin needed to help manage his Autism. Services like music therapy and occupational therapy were now available as well as specialty

sensory equipment that can help Austin live a full life. The Children's Waiver also covers diapers and additional medical expenses through Medicaid. In addition to these therapies and supplies, the program allows the Saunders



to hire their own caregivers who come into their home to help care for Austin. Soon Austin and the Saunders found several caregivers, some of whom study special education at Eastern Michigan University. They all quickly became part of the Saunders family. The family was even invited to attend a caregiver's wedding.

More importantly, the newly expanded Saunders family has started doing a lot more things together-including those they never thought possible. Paula and Mark's younger son, Garrett, is an avid and accomplished baseball player, and plays travel baseball. **Before the Children's Waiver Program through Community Living Network, traveling as a family to one of Garrett's week long baseball tournaments was just a pipedream.**



However, thanks to the help of one of their Children's Waiver caregivers, the Saunders traveled to Myrtle Beach as a combination baseball tournament and vacation for five days with their whole family. It was wonderful for them to not leave Austin out. In the past, most of their activities would be one parent at home caring for Austin and one with Garrett at his activities. Austin's sensory needs make attending many normal activities impossible.

Having the caregivers has allowed the family to do more together and to relieve some of the physical stress in caring for Austin. They are now able to manage caring for Austin at home and appreciate everything. **Life is good for the Saunders.**



# COMMUNITY HOUSING ALTERNATIVES EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Rhonda McGill



communities.

Here at Community Housing Alternatives we want to help build strong communities and are proud to say that we have been able to do this by offering our many programs from down payment assistance to home purchase rehabilitation. Homeownership is the cornerstone to building personal wealth, and a contributing factor in the reduction of poverty. Families that achieve the goal of homeownership are able to gain stability of not just their finances, but also the well being of the entire household. Homeownership also helps the community by securing longer term enrollment in school districts and investment in community assets such as our local businesses.

Imagine neighborhoods where everyone owns the home they live in, and a house is truly a home. Those are the kinds of communities Community Housing Alternatives creates right here in Washtenaw County. Sadly, many low-to-moderate income families continue to be trapped by the endless cycle of renting because they do not realize that there are many opportunities available to them to become homeowners. Unfortunately foreclosed and abandoned homes continue to sit vacant throughout our

long after the last box is unpacked. However prior to unlocking the key to homeownership, program participants are required to complete a process of homebuyer education that consist of pre-purchase counseling, budgeting and home maintenance classes.

WHEP is also proud of its Housing Professionals Program, which trains Lenders and Realtors about the many programs offered so they can best serve our clients. Unfortunately once some become homeowners, things may not always go as planned and for those that find themselves in a difficult situation, we also offer foreclosure prevention services in conjunction with the MSU Extension and the Washtenaw County Treasurers Office.

It has been said if you give a man a fish he will eat for a day, if you teach him to fish he will eat for a lifetime. Through our many partnerships and programs we want to teach our customers so that they may embrace the opportunity of a lifetime.



Community Housing Alternatives realizes that homeownership is not for everyone, therefore we also offer rental options that include a mixture of single family housing units, and duplexes ranging from 2 to 4 bedrooms. As a division of Community Alliance, we do maintain a focus on assisting the disabled population and always seek to prioritize service to this population through our housing programs. We are a founding member of the Washtenaw Home Education Partners (WHEP) and are committed to helping our clients





# MY PIECE OF HOME

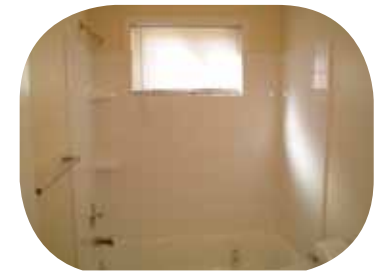
## Kyla Day



In 2007, at the advice of her father, Kyla began the search for her first home. It was a scary concept for someone twenty-four years old right out of college. Kyla didn't think she could own a home because she was single and a student on a limited income, but as a student she did what she did best, research. Kyla found the Washtenaw Housing Education Program. She decided to check it out, but was not optimistic that anything good would happen. She was wrong; Kyla learned a lot about homeownership and felt REALLY well equipped to purchase a house by the end of the program. After she attended the classes, the WHEP program helped Kyla connect with Realtors that took her seriously; they knew *she was prepared to make the investment in her first place.*

Kyla thought she had found a condo that she liked, but it had many flaws that only the condo association had the authority to fix. Kyla would not have known about these flaws, but the WHEP code inspection helped save her from making a mistake. Kyla's realtor even said, "Kyla we can't let you buy this house- we love you too much to let you purchase this property. Let's keep looking, the right place will find you!" This is typical of the commitment Community Housing Alternatives approved Realtors show; *they are dedicated to their clients' best interests, not making a quick sale.* Because of her Realtor's guidance and her own determination, Kyla found a three-bedroom ranch with a nice big back yard in a great family friendly neighborhood. This house was completely renovated through Community Housing Alternative's programs. Kyla was able to purchase a completely renovated home, and even paid less for a mortgage than she had for rent. *Kyla is investing in her future and in her community right here in Washtenaw County.*

Before  
Meets  
After



# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE VICE PRESIDENT DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

## Kate MacEwen



I am honored to have been entrusted to manage Community Alliance's external relations program, and I am excited to take on the challenge of working on our outreach efforts. Community Alliance works tirelessly to foster a sense of community right here in Southeastern Michigan. Whether it's a neighborhood full of owner-occupied homes, a family-like group home, or services that allow a family to stay together, we want to help the disabled and vulnerable populations make meaningful contributions to the communities they live in. Community Alliance makes this possible through our supportive services and housing programs.

However, none of our work would be possible without the generous support of our donors and funders. We would like to thank all of our funders, sponsors and donors for their contributions to Community Alliance. It is organizations and individuals like these that help make our community a great place to live.

**"If you have much, give of your wealth;  
If you have little, give of your heart"**

**-Arab Proverb**

## 2008/2009 Donors

Joanne & Bryant McKune	Kevin Cox
Margaret Burke	Danielle Paille
Penny Yohn	Beth Ballbach
Terry Lindner	Rebecca Jenkins
Christopher Sevick	Devra Cerny
Steven J. Weindorf	Heidi Matthews
Law Offices of Guy T. Conti	Linda Williams
Amin Ladha	Carlo Forester
Manley Ford	Elaine Thrower
Elizabeth Lapetina	Kris Atwood
Wayne Prentice	Evelyn Weindorf
Mark Erman	Kathy MacKercher
Lisa Sokolowski	Heather Dawkins
Susan Day	Betty Smith
Leila Bauer	Eileen Pydyn
Joanne Magee	Pall Corporation
John Zajac	Jaime Patrick
Judy Coleman	Mr. and Mrs. William Wernette
Barrie Kiser	Marilyn Cook
Jason Baxter	Jan Haddad
Nona DeWitt	Randall Brookshire
Mike Booth	Arthur Skiff
Polly Jones	Dorothy Humphery
Rudy M. Vaguera	Andre Bailey
Jose Reyes	Jack and Kelly Huling
Tina Burton	Eric Peacock
Amy Leighten	Lindsay Morris
Rick Lamb	Rex Treharne
Linda Taylor	
J Hackett	
C Sneary	
Dan Everard	



# How To GIVE To COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

## Annual Fund Gifts

For many years, Community Alliance has been a leader in providing services and programs that lead to independent lives. In addition, employees at Community Alliance have played a significant role in making independence happen. Join Community Alliance and its employees as a *Partner in Independence*.

Annual Gifts Sustain ongoing programs and operations. With the high cost of providing quality care and services Community Alliance relies on annual gifts. Individuals may choose to make an unrestricted gift and we will direct it to areas of most need. You may choose that your gift benefit a program that is especially meaningful to you or your loved ones.

Quality care and services do not come without a cost. This is why Community Alliance is asking YOU to help us to foster community through your generous contribution. These gifts are investments in our community's future and can insure that Community Alliance's service areas continue to benefit from our supportive services and housing programs.

## Housing Programs

Our housing programs provide opportunities for individuals and families in our community to become homeowners, or to find quality affordable rentals.

We believe that all individuals should have the opportunity to become homeowners. We assist with that process through a variety of services including down payment assistance, rehabilitation services, and low cost rentals. Our programs in Washtenaw County help low to moderate income individuals purchase homes- often times abandoned and foreclosed properties that are safety hazards. Through these programs, these empty properties go from eyesores to homes.

Your support of our housing programs allows us to provide safe, affordable housing to low and moderate income individuals with a special attention and focus on disabled populations.

## Oral Health Initiative:

The Michigan Medicaid Dental cuts have impacted our clients with disabilities in a profound way. Generally, our clients live on Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability. As a result, our clients fall below the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Without the Medicaid Dental Coverage, our clients will go without any dental care- they simply cannot afford it.

Because of this, we have an Oral Health Initiative for our clients. This initiative consists of several components including our Oral Health Fund, a special restricted fund to pay for our client's oral health needs, and our Dental Cleaning Day. This day consists of free cleanings and screenings for our clients. Help us to pay for treatments and supplies so we can provide oral health care to our clients.

## Gifts in Honor or Memory

Community Alliance accepts memorial and honorary gifts, cherishing the people most important to you; friends and family who have gone on before us, as well as extraordinary people who impact our lives.

Your gift can be made in memory of a deceased family member or friend or in honor of a special day; a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion.

Your tax deductible memorial contribution will be acknowledged to family members of the deceased and your tax deductible honorarium contribution acknowledgement will be sent to the individual of your choice being remembered.



For more information about any of these programs or how to specifically direct your gift, please contact the Development Office at 734-544-8491.

## COMMUNITY Housing Alternatives

**Christopher Sevick, Chair**

*The Law Offices of Christopher Sevick PLLC*

**Cristen Hipke, Vice Chair**

*Proquest*

**Kyla Day, Secretary**

*Graduate Student University of Michigan*

**Neali Lucas, Treasurer**

*MMS Holdings, Inc.*

**Alexsandra Anteau**

*Edward Surovell Realtors*

**Jane Alexander**

*Andra Anteau Realtor*

**Larry Davis**

*Larry Davis Designs*

**Linda Larson-Boynton**

*MedSales LLC*

**Bhavya Tummala**

*Sensei Change Associates*

## COMMUNITY Residence

**Amin Ladha, Chair**

*Washtenaw Community College*

**Guy Conti, Vice Chair**

*ContiLegal*

**Penny Yohn, Secretary**

*Community Volunteer*

**Barrie Kaiser, Treasurer**

*Community Driven Credit Union*

**Jason Baxter**

*HCR-Manor Care*

**James Broderick**

*Community Volunteer*

**Linda Larson-Boynton**

*MedSales LLC*

**Manley Ford**

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**Terry Lindner**

*First Investors*

**Joanne McKune**

*Community Volunteer*

**Joseph Mussin**

*Community Volunteer*

**Judy Wernette**

*Strategic Partners, Inc.*

## COMMUNITY Living Network

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*ContiLegal*

**Amin Ladha, Vice Chair**

*Washtenaw Community College*

**Penny Yohn, Secretary**

*Community Volunteer*

**Barrie Kaiser, Treasurer**

*Community Driven Credit Union*



**The price of greatness  
is responsibility.**