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2111 Adelpha Ave., Apt. B  
Holt, MI 48842

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# Rainbow Homes

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## NOTES FROM JOANN EXEC. DIR.

Friends of Rainbow Homes,

Well, we have all survived another Michigan Winter! Spring cannot come soon enough for me!

As we get a peak of Spring we look forward to getting out and enjoy this season of "New Life." To see the first crocus in bloom the first robin singing the first leaves on the trees, gives me new energy to face the season with re-newed enthusiasm.

This newsletter is dedicated to "Living"! We at Rainbow Homes have much to be thankful for. The generosity of our friends is overwhelming and I would like to mention just a few instances during this past season that we have celebrated "You".

We have over 100 families that have made 2010 Membership Donation. Your \$30.00 donation gives us not only the monetary donation but is let's us know that you believe in what we do and that means everything to us! Thank you!

Our residents were able to take a bus ride to Jackson to see the Christmas Lights at the Fairgrounds. We would like to Thank Dean Transportation for the use of their bus for the evening. Thank you!

Christmas Time was made special by the Immaculate Heart of Mary "Giving Tree Project." Parishioners purchased special gifts for our residents. We appreciate Fr. John Byer's and IHM Parish help in making Christmas brighter for our residents for the past 10 years. Thank You!

We have had many LCC Nursing Students volunteer over the past couple of years. We would like to thank LCC

Nursing Instructor, Rick Freedber for recommending Rainbow Homes to his students. Thank you!

Organizing a Silent Auction and Dinner is not an easy task. Our Silent Auction Committee pulled this 2010 Auction together masterfully! Marcia Evans, as our chairperson and Susan Shehan our co-chair made the evening a success! Thank you! We were able to profit over \$12,000. Thank you to IHM and St. Casimir Knights of Columbus for preparing our meal. Thank you to IHM Parish for lending us their parish center. Thank you to Sandie Killian for the wonderful appetizers and drinks for the evening. Thank you to Jonathan Evans for music. Thank you to Marci Bankhead for her speech. Special thank you to Robert Sheehan for being our keynote speaker for the evening. And Thank you to all who donated, bid on items, set-up, cleaned-up and showed up!

**This was a truly wonderful evening and we look forward to our 5th Annual Silent Auction and Dinner on February 5, 2011 at IHM. Thank you.**

*Joann Davis*

*Save the Date!*



Mark your Calendar  
"Butterflies Are Free"

2010 Rainbow Homes Summer Picnic

Date: Sunday, August 8, 2010

Time: 1:00—3:00pm

Volunteers Needed!

### Wish List

- Fishing Poles
- Folding Chairs for extra visitors
- Size 4x-5x Women's clothing
- Picnic Tables
- Wood for Garden Boxes
- Decor items to spruce up Living rooms
- Vacuum for Community Room

### Our Mission

*To provide ecumenical Christian housing and services for adults with cognitive disAbilities, where they can grow personally and spiritually to reach their God given potential. The residents will be nurtured in a homelike Christian setting.*



## Marci's - Silent Auction Speech



My name is Marci Bankhead, I was born right

here in Michigan. I grew up in Charlotte, living with my mom and dad. It was a good childhood. As I got older, I moved out of my parent's house. I lived at a Senior Citizen Complex. It was ok, but I was a lot younger than everyone else and I had different interests. No offense to anyone over sixty five, but they complained a lot!

My mom had spoken with Susan about Rainbow Homes, so when an opening came up, I moved here. Life at Rainbow Homes has been great in the short time I've been here. There is so much to do and so many places to go. I never know whether I am

coming or going!

It took some time to settle in, but now I have made new friends. There have been a lot of other changes too. I learned many new things. I take my own meds and staff here; take me to do my own grocery shopping. I help cook sometimes and recently made muffins on my own. Ty even said they were, "To die for!" That's pretty good coming from the little guy.

I have gone to Fenner Nature Center, Lugnuts games, museums, movies, shopping and more. I am just a, "Gal about town now!" I take a computer class at Peckham Green house on Wednesday mornings. I am part of the Aktion Club, bowl every other Saturday with the

Kiwanis and attend Mason Satellite three days a week. They keep me busy around here. We go on vacations too. I went to Frankfort, Rock Lake and camping with the Aktion Club this past summer. I didn't know too much about any of those places, but those vacations sure were fun. My favorite part was the fudge shop in Frankfort.

The best part of living at Rainbow Homes is that I am always busy and I have made a lot of new friends. I plan on staying here a very long time.

**So, that's my story and I'm sticking to it!!!!**

## Saying Goodbye is never easy! Amy's Story 1966-2009

When Rainbow Homes opened its doors in 1989 we welcomed one of our first residents, her name was Amy. With 24 residents living at RH we knew that the issue of death and dying would come at sometime while caring for our residents and it presented itself in 2009.

Amy's diagnose was terminal. It was Amy's and her Mom's desire to live out her life at RH. With our respite program in the community room, it was decided to have Amy move in one of the respite bedrooms, so our staff would be able to care for Amy. In the last months of Amy's life she needed more care than our staff was able to provide, so Amy was moved to Sparrow Hospice. During this move it was still, Amy and Mom's desire to have Amy stay with her "RH Family."

Residents and staff visited with Amy frequently and included her in on RH Christmas Party in our community room. At the party she enjoyed spending time with Chad (her boyfriend), residents and staff. She ate her favorite foods and Christmas cookies. Amy enjoyed her presents from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. She loved her fuzzy coloring posters that she received. As Amy was being wheeled to the van to go back to Hospice she collapsed and "returned to the Lord" on December 12, 2009. Amy's last desire was fulfilled, to come

home to her RH family.

Amy had time to prepare for her death. Our staff listened to Amy's wishes and helped her prepare for her for this stage of life. Amy watched the "Lion King" and talked about the "Circle of Life". Amy had ideas about her funeral. She wanted the service held at Meridian Christian Church, where she had many friends. She wanted Susan to speak and mentioned that Susan was to say only "good things" about her. She wanted Amazing Grace and Jingle Bells sung and have a nice ham dinner served.

Amy's life probably started with parents in mourning for the daughter born with Down's Syndrome, that would never marry or have children. Fortunately for Amy, she was born at a time that people were beginning to look at disabled people as a person with a disAbility recognizing the Abilities of a person. She worked at Mason A&W for 13 years. She next job was at Peckham on the janitorial crew, at the Michigan Library and Historic Museum and later at the Riverside Plant. She participated in Art Therapy at Peckham, Music Therapy at MSU, and Kiwanis Bowling for many years. She was able to shop, ride the bus, keep up her apartment, have friends, go on vacations and pursue a boyfriend. Amy made choices in her life, she took pride in the things she had learned to do and had a best friend she could share secrets with. Now we all

know that Amy was no saint, but she lived a full life and that is what we all hope for.

As we prepared Amy, we also prepared our 23 residents for the loss of a friend and a member of our family. As Amy's health deteriorated we began approaching each resident at their own level of understanding. Viewing the Lion King again and talking about the Circle of Life. Approaching death as part of life and that we will go through this together.

The night Amy died, we called all the folks together, some coming over in their pj's and bathrobes. We cried together, sharing the sadness. The talk turned to sweet moments with Amy and humors antidotes but what happened next was precious. Some residents made coffee, some got kleenex, some cried, some hugged, some consoled staff. Each in their own way grieved and mourned, but no one was alone we were a "family!"

As time has gone by, the talk still occasionally turns to Amy. As the front door sometimes blows open, we believe its Amy coming in for a visit.

**And this people, is what Rainbow Homes is all about! We are a community and family sharing all that life has to experience!**



## Donations from September 2009—February 2010

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Randolph & Sheila Miles (cont'd on page 4)  
\* = Membership  
+ = Membership & Donation  
M = Memorial  
UW = United Way



## Silent Auction & Dinner 2010





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**Respite Care**

If you have a son/daughter at home and you would like to have a safe place for them to visit every now and then, consider our Respite Program.

**Overnight Respite is \$50.00 per night.**

**Day Respite is \$25.00 per day.**

**Contact Susan  
517-699-8454.**

