

MINUTES of 2/1/2025

MDC Circle of Friends

mattscircle.org

yikesbev.com

[YIKES! Instagram](#)

[Amazon Wish List](#)

Zoom link [here](#)

2025 Microboard Meeting Dates

April 12

June 21

September 20

December 6

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM: Jan, Liz, Flip, Barb, Cami, Courtney and Allister, Alyssa and Lee

Quality of Life Updates: Liz

#1) Matt's Apartment

Matt's original apartment lease was signed in May 2011.

Matt's apartment is looking great. Big thanks to Flip for contributing to Matt's new rug and big thanks to Alyssa and Andrew for the sofa (which, according to Alyssa, came from Barb originally. It's a family affair.

Liz had cleaners come to his apartment for a deep clean. She and a friend also went to Matt's and spent a couple of hours cleaning and organizing.

When Liz was there, she noticed that the fridge was empty. She called the case manager and reported this. The case manager held a staff meeting, and hopefully, this will not happen again. Liz reported that Matt's quilt and bedding still look nice.

#2) Matt's aides

Gwen is doing very well with Matt. She has cooking classes with him and takes him on walks.

Gwen has a niece named Essence who wants to take Matt swimming at Janelle's pool in Winnetka. Hopefully, this will happen soon.

Liz has been trying to drop into Matt's apartment more often just to check on things. On the day the fridge was empty, Liz picked up Matt and took him to *Chuck Wagon*. Yum.

Matt has a new aide, whose name is Hans, on Thursdays & Friday's. Liz is encouraging him to take Matt to play basketball and do more outside activities.

Liz mentioned that she is going to create a visual prompt of canvas photos of all of Matt's aides that will hang on the wall in his apartment highlighting all the activities Matt is capable of doing on a regular basis. Great Idea.

When Liz leaves Matt's apartment, he always says to her, "See you Sunday!"

HOLIDAY VISIT

Flip and Gabrielle came for a holiday visit.. They met Hans. who Flip says is a "super nice guy." They decorated his tree and Flip cooked a nice dinner that the four of them ate.

Matt was happy when he got his Amazon gift card.

Flip also mentioned that he tried to fix Matt's front door and door jamb...Lee will look into a more permanent solution.

HOLIDAY LETTER email 2025– Feedback

Courtney screen-shared the HOLIDAY LETTER and feedback she received via FloDesk. This feedback included the number of people the newsletter was sent to, number of people who opened up the newsletter and the number of clicks people made to Matt's websites. Liz wondered if any of those clicks translated to donations for Matt. John will look into this.

10th anniversary of YIKES! In 2025.

Jan shared that she and Courtney chatted on the phone about the creation of a newsletter via FloDesk.

Courtney shared that someone has volunteered to update Matt's YIKES! website.

Courtney will create a 10th anniversary of YIKES! Via FloDesk and include links to the new website She thinks this can happen in April or May. Courtney will also talk to Emily Raming (Total Link to Community) about jointly sharing Matt's success story.

Cami shared that she looked through the Better magazine website and sent a note to them mentioning Matt and YIKES! the ten year anniversary, the microboard and Wilmette. She will follow through with a phone call.

YIKES! Update : Liz

Liz said that a goal is to have one more vending machine in place before the Individual Advocacy Group (IAG) would be willing to take over Matt's day service. Currently Matt services 2 machines and one break room. Liz asked for help from the microboard to contact small businesses they know, looking for possible vending machine placements. Liz will send a draft template that members can personalize to their contacts.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report [here](#).

John thanked those who give donations to Matt on a regular basis and those who gave donations before the end of 2024.

Matt also received an increase from Active Visions.

Apartment Repairs - Lee.

Liz asked that Lee look into having Matt's doors painted. Flip mentioned that during his visit, he tried to repair a door jamb. Lee will look into both of these items..

Residential and Day Support

UPDATE:

Liz talked to a manager at IAG a few weeks ago. James has his application in and so does Gwen. They are both waiting to be interviewed. James wants to be his daytime aide and Gwen would like to be overnite. IAG wants to be fully staffed up before they can take over at Matt's service provider.

Staff Appreciation

Barb shared that gifts should be given Spring 2025, Summer 2025, Fall 2025 and Holiday 2025. Alyssa volunteered to coordinate this by receiving the gifts and dropping them off as she has done in the past. Thanks Alyssa.

Cami volunteered to donate the Spring 2025 gifts and will coordinate with Liz and Alyssa.

Finally, Liz encouraged one and all to send photos to Matt...his email address is matt116@me.com