

MDC Circle of Friends Zoom Meeting

April 12, 2025

Quality of Life Updates: Liz

Liz reported that Gwen has been helping with Yikes! deliveries. She is also continuing cooking classes on Saturdays and gets Matt out of his apartment for walks.

Matt's Ludington, Michigan vacation is scheduled for July 22-25, Three days and two nights at the same location as years past. Liz will ask Nataiya if she wants to join them. Gwen may come with Devon.

Liz has until May 22 to change plans as this is when payment is due.

Liz ordered a grid of 12 x 12 canvas photos showing Matt doing things he loves. It will be good for Matt to see himself in the photos and for the staff to see what he can do.

Courtney will be visiting soon.

Yikes Update

Liz sent us a Yikes! Letter. She received comments and made revisions. She encouraged us to send the letter to anyone who might help with new locations for vending machines.

Liz has used the Instagram feed to promote Matt's 10 year Yikes! anniversary.

Website

Courtney is pursuing a new website for Yikes!. Someone has offered to create it but won't be able to get it done before summer. She will follow up. A suggestion was made to maybe sell beverages through the website. Allister asked to be included in communications concerning a website for his input.

Courtney will give an update at June meeting.

Newsletter

Courtney and Jan have written a new newsletter which will come out soon. A Yikes! Beverage newsletter will be available soon as well. A draft will be available at the June meeting.

Liz suggested that we create a PR piece for Total Link to Community to put in their newsletter. Lee will work on this. The purpose is to show the success of Matt's business at 10 years.

Better Magazine - Cami

Cami has reached out to *Better Magazine* multiple times with no response. She will continue trying.

Treasurer's Report - John

John distributed the Treasurer's Report. He noted that it reflects the \$5,000 donation received early in the year from Anabel Moore. It also reflects monthly/periodic contributors such as the Küffner's, Flip, Kelsey Lee and Debra Drake who are also appreciated.

We have \$9800 in the account which will be helpful this year.

Let John know if there are any in-kind donations.

John again explained that we are not a 501c3 and one cannot take tax deductions for donations. Flip will look into it further.

Active Visions has increased their monthly payment to Matt for personal expenses from \$60 to \$100.

Long Term Plans Update

Jan, Lee, Cami and John have met to look at long term plans for Matt. They anticipate that there will be a need for a long-term manager who would interact with any agency and be available for any urgent needs. Renting for Matt is not stable, so purchasing a living space \$200,000-\$300,000, might be a solution. It would hopefully be in his neighborhood, near the El.

Investors would be necessary.

Matt would need to be with a better agency, such as, IAG. Lee would become treasurer.

Residential and Day Support – Liz

Active Visions still provides for Matt.

James does Yikes! with Matt on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Active Visions is paying James for that. Gwen is there Tuesdays and Thursdays. She takes Matt grocery shopping on Saturdays. But it has become clear that Active Visions caretakers don't get Matt out of the house, they make no behavior plans and pretty much just offer babysitting.

Clearbrook is no longer involved.

JCFS is no longer interested in providing assistance.

ALG, Individual Advocacy Group, seems to be the best answer for Matt.

They have shown interest in Matt and are very responsive. But they have also informed Liz that their application for funding for a single group home has been turned down. So, Liz indicated to them that we would consider a 2 person group home for Matt if that becomes possible. Funding for 3 person group homes seems to be the norm. They will get back to us.

Apartment

Lee has sent the apartment manager 4-5 work orders for repairs. Nothing has happened yet. He will give him the dates that Matt will be out of town in July.

Staff Appreciation

Cami will be sending gift cards to Liz to distribute to Gwen, James, Joshua and Robert.

Minutes submitted, April 14, 2025

Barb Cochran