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Preschool Staff Kathy Boulis, Glen Kistler, Diana Laporta, Sheleigh Nicolai, Penny Owen, Angela Oros

WMFC Preschool Staff @

Chippewa Nature Center:
Lead Teacher Erin Soper
Preschool Staff Steve Frisbee, Kristin Lehnerer

WMFC Preschool Staff @

Bullock Creek Elementary:
Preschool Teacher Marcy Young
Preschool Teaching Staff Ellen Burch, Erin Rey

KinderKare Staff Members

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Program Staff Tammy Moore, Kaylin Erickson

Youth & Teen Staff:

Youth Program Director Stephanie Ponte

Dow College Opportunities

Program Director Terri Malek-Madani
Teen Program Director Stacey Urbani
Youth and Teen Staff Ariel Blackburn, Amanda Bialik, Deanna Desilva, Casey DeWar, Michelle Duffey, Jennifer Hand, Angela Hayner, Jenn Johnson, Sarah Levett, Nick Milanovich, Adam Saunders, Tammy Screws, Jeff Tanner, Alaina Waldman

Interns John Koehn, Suzi Poppy, Heather Bartlett, Eric Davis, Darcy Lee

Senior Program Staff:

WMFC Senior Program Staff Susan Wells
Council on Aging
Site Manager Tammy Jerome
Council on Aging Staff Sandra Engle, Barb Fenby, Caroline Hoffman, Marsha Orwig

Each staff member is listed only once although many serve multiple roles at the Center.

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER
 4011 W. Isabella Road
 Shepherd, MI 48883

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ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AREA RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES

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Future Visionary: Larry Reeves President of WMFC Board of Directors



Larry Reeves

WMFC's Board President, Larry Reeves brings a range of skill and experience to his new role that has already served the Center well. Before "signing-on" as Board President he had already invest-

ed many hours with center staff members as together they developed a center-wide Vision for the Future.

Larry grew up in Indiana where he attended nine schools in the years K-12! Clearly, adaptability is one of his strengths. He graduated with a degree in Chemistry from Michigan State University and a commission in the Army through the ROTC. Larry was stationed in Korea, later in Viet Nam. After serving five years, Larry resigned and joined The Dow Chemical Company in 1970 where he worked for 31 years. His career highlights include his foreign assignments; among them was a three-year stint in Brazil where he was Plant Manager and in South Africa where he was Operations Leader for nearly five years. He also spent time in California and Illinois. Seventeen years of his career were

here in Midland, which was always considered "home". Prior to retirement Larry's civic activities were mainly involved with schools. In continuance of that practice Larry is working with Northeast Middle School and Midland High School on their "School Improvement" processes. Additionally, Larry has invested a great deal of his time at North Midland Family Center to help staff members plan a future-vision for their organization.

The WMFC Vision Process:

This is where Larry's patience and adaptability have shown the brightest. Larry has guided WMFC staff members along a path of personal growth as together they move the Center forward on a vision-driven path. With the help of his colleague Dave Pellegrom, Larry has facilitated group consensus on difficult and important decisions.

The result of this process is a clear articulation of WMFC's vision for the future: this comes in the form of a Vision Statement, Guiding Principles, and an assessment tool to determine vision alignment of all current and future projects. This will assure that WMFC remains on a self-directed path with the vision elements as a map.

continued on page 4

Continuing Commitment

Five years ago Brian McNeil made a commitment to WMFC. In exchange for free facility usage Gateway Martial Arts vowed to provide FREE Martial Arts classes to West Midland patrons! Attendance has grown continually since that time currently averaging 25 - 30 students each week. There is much

continued on page 2



Perfect for ages.

Larry Reeves....continued from page 1

The vision elements include the five areas to which we will direct our efforts:

- Promoting Individual Self-worth
- Encouraging a Fit and Healthy Community



Cordell practicing heath play.

- Assuring skills to Get Along in the World
- Uphold Thriving Families
- Support the Concepts of Helping Others

Among the Guiding Principles you will find concepts such as:

- We ensure our community members are safe, happy and healthy at home, at the center, school, or in the community
- We seek to develop programs offerings that meet diverse needs, indi-

vidual interests and learning styles to stimulate participation

- We understand the value of education and include education and goal setting in all we do
- We practice fiscal responsibility throughout the organization to ensure our ability to secure financing and long-term viability
- Whenever possible we integrate fun into all our programs and activities.



Barb injects fun into every activity.

These are just five of fifteen principles that guide the work that happens at WMFC: Concepts brought to light through the hard work and dedication of individuals such as Larry Reeves, Dave Pellegrom and former Board President Bob Dostal.

Focus on Elementary After School Program

The 2007-2008 WMFC Elementary After School Program (ASP) is averaging 60 children daily. We provide outside play, snack and homework time, then choice time. Choice categories include: Dramatic Arts, Science and Construction, Arts and Crafts and Recreation.

We are especially excited about a new collaboration between WMFC and Bullock Creek Schools. Our Elementary ASP will provide an enhancement to Floyd school's Diagnostic Reading Lab. The model program, housed at Floyd School will be the first Michigan site for this highly effective

reading program for at-risk students in Kindergarten through second grades.



Katelynn showing her letters.

The program was modeled after "THE ANNA PLAN" which was developed in a rural high-poverty school in southern Illinois.

- The "ANNA PLAN" is a unique delivery model for enhancing school-wide literacy.
- The goal seeks reading proficiency among students by 3rd grade.
- Strategies include: ongoing assessment, small group instruction, developmentally appropriate texts and repetitious reading, focus on word solving and phonemic awareness, writing.

continued on page 2

Continuing Commitment *continued from page 1*

positive feedback from class members. One appealing attribute is the manner in which this activity lends itself to family participation. It is something that family members can do together while promoting family cohesiveness. Several families attend on a regular basis.

November 10th was a noteworthy day as Chris Stevens, age 13 passed his test to become a Black Belt. He is the first Black Belt to come out of the Tuesday Night Gateway Martial Arts class. Chris is very dedicated, having attended class for nearly four years to earn his way from White to Black Belt. His parents, Karate Instructor Carloyn Langlois and everyone at WMFC are very proud of this great accomplishment!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE
APPRECIATION AWARDS CEREMONY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2007

5:30 - 5:40 WELCOME
5:45 - 6:05 CEREMONY
6:15 - 7:15 DINNER

Held concurrently with the

“Thanks For Giving Holiday Open House”

Dinner, Games, Crafts, Line Dancing, Teen Event,
Giving Projects, Blood Drive, Inflatables,
Louie the Loon and much more!

COME AND ENJOY AN EVENING WITH US!!

Dow COP Students Earn Their Way

Once again, we have good news to report from the Dow College Opportunity Program! In 2007, all of our high school seniors received scholarships. Rachel



Seniors - Bob Robinson, Rachael Harvey, Brenda Degase, Tesia Dargie & Amanda Geer in Chicago.

Harvey was especially ecstatic to win a \$5000 scholarship from the Miller Family Foundation! She is now attending Mid-Michigan Community College and is enjoying her first semester in school. The Miller Family Foundations scholarship relieved her of the financial burden of attending school, allowing her to focus more of her time on academic and social activities. Amanda Geer, Tesia Dargie, Brenda Degase, and Bob Robison also were recipients of many awards and scholarships. All together, this group of outstanding seniors was awarded over \$15,000 in scholarships! They are

scholars and extraordinary people, and we are proud of them all.



Rachel Schol, and Program Director Terri Malek-Madani celebrate the good news.

Interns a Blessing to WMFC Programs

West Midland Family Center's close proximity to Central Michigan University has always been of great benefit to our programs with a seemingly endless supply of "professionals in training." Recently we've committed ourselves to a group of very dedicated students completing their undergraduate degree or studying at the master's level. They come to us to fulfill requirements for their curriculum and give us hours of dedication and fresh ideas. They are a welcome addition. A brief introduction to each of our most recent interns follows:

She thinks "they are awesome." Darcy is learning about children and their social interactions. She believes having the opportunity to connect with children is the perfect practical experience.



Eric Davis

Eric Davis
Bachelor's in Business Administration/Marketing from SVSU. Eric is in his first semester of the MBA program at CMU. Eric's internship is with COP where he will develop a marketing strategy and be Activities Coordinator. Eric initiated the internship as he is looking for hands-on experience. Eric will be an excellent role model, with new ideas and an ear for listening.

MALL HALLOWEEN '07. He has done programming for Friday Teen Events, supervised on Fridays, prepared and served snack for After School Program and was the Assistant Director for Volunteer Programs.



Suzi Poppy

Suzi Poppy
Senior at CMU, Recreation Parks and Leisure Services. Suzi brings with her varied life experiences including a military tour of Iraq. She is currently leading the "Queen Bees" Program for teen girls, she has prepared programs for Friday Teen Events and is managing transportation, preparing and serving snack for After School Program. She worked as Teens Assistant Director this summer.



John Koehn

John Koehn
Senior at CMU, Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services Admin.major. John came to us in May 2007 and has had many opportunities since then: he was involved on the program committee for ROCK THE



Heather Bartlett

Heather Bartlett
Final year of Master of Arts in Professional Counseling from CMU. Heather is interning under the supervision of Larry Quinn, Catholic Family Services counselor

on site for WMFC. She will be offering individual, family, children, marriage and group counseling for the center. Heather has just begun her internship hours and expects to be here until she fulfills the 600 hour internship requirement.



Amanda Bialik

Amanda Bialik
Senior at CMU, Child Development/Psychology major. Amanda was a Summer Program group leader and now works in After School Program. She completed the 135 hour internship requirement and would consider working at the Center after graduation. She has enjoyed doing home visits and feels that her experiences with the children and parents will prove beneficial as she pursues her dream career as a counselor.



Darcy Lee

Darcy Lee
Senior at CMU, Family Studies major. Darcy is working to complete a 135 hour internship; she will graduate in December, 2007. Darcy works in the After School Program where she really enjoys the kids.



John helping out after school.

Focus on After School Program....continued from page 1

- All students receive 30 minutes a day of individualized instruction - no stereotyping or loss of base instruction.
- WMFC will support the techniques taught at school in our Elementary ASP and our Summer Program: through the use of computer programs, developmentally appropriate texts and other activities designed to build 'real world' exposure.

WMFC has worked closely with Floyd to establish the after school component. Our Youth Programs Director traveled with the Bullock Creek team to visit the site of the original "ANNA PLAN." We continue to work together purposefully to assure program fidelity.



Stephanie listens while Kelsey & Katelynn take turns reading.

**Gift Quadrupling!
That's Right**

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation will match your gift to the Program Endowment Fund on a Three-to-one basis.

Example: your gift of	\$100
Foundation's match	<u>\$300</u>
Quadruple gift to WMFC	\$400

Since it is an Endowment Gift your money will be invested and used to help children and families forever!

PLEASE HELP!

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