HIGHLAND NEWS

January 2016 A Newsletter for Highland Community Residential Services

Happy New Year! Here's to a great 2016

Welcome to 2016.

Thank you everyone for your hard work , patience and cooperation during the Christmas season. In addition to organizing all the usual Christmas activities and festivities, there were a few homes that required a complete change of schedules due to regulation changes and participant needs. Supervisors, Managers and Counsellor staff worked very hard to make sure that everyone had the support that was needed.

HCRS staff training calendar for the year has been developed by Ross, Cindy, Tracy, Tracy and Mary Clare. House Managers and Program Supervisors will be scheduling staff to attend the appropriate recertification sessions. Please make sure to check your HCRS e-mail account.

HCRS will also be offering two Communications Skill training programs from Jan 20 – March 24, 2015. These are 40 hour programs at 4 hours per week over a 10 week period. One program will be for Frontline staff, while the second will be for Management and Administration staff. The plan is to repeat these programs over a period of time until all staff have been trained. A note of thanks and appreciation for the funding support provided by the Department of Labour and Advanced Education's Work Place Education program.

HCRS is also planning on hosting another training program on "Communications Skills for End of Life Care Workers" in the spring months – end of March through to the first week of May. To date our agency has hosted two of these programs – with participants from CACL in Antigonish, L'Arche Antigonish, Heatherton Group Home, Summer Street Industries, River View Home Corporation, Colchester Residential Services Society, Canadian Mental Health Association Colchester- East Hants and HCRS. The people attending this program recommended that HCRS repeat the program and host other agencies to attend.

This week marks a another milestone in HCRS transition to the COMIVDA software based scheduling system – pay data for the pay period December 25, 2015 – January 07, 2016 is being processed online. This is the culmination of a three year process involving all the Program Supervisors, House Managers and Administrative Staff. In addition to schedules and pay data, this software provides data bases for Human Resources functions like keeping track of staff training & re-certifications.

The Community Council hosted a successful Christmas reception at the office, with carol singing and good snacks. The Council is getting ready for its winter schedule of meetings to complete a couple of projects.

Winter is upon us, so please stay warm and prepared for storms, and don't forget to get outside to enjoy the season.

Cheers!

Hilary.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Communications Skill training—January 20th

HCRS Summer Street Dance– January 29th

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Battle of the offices!

HCRS OFFICES WENT HEAD TO HEAD IN A HEATED

DECORATE YOUR OFFICE FOR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION!!

The results were creativity at its best!

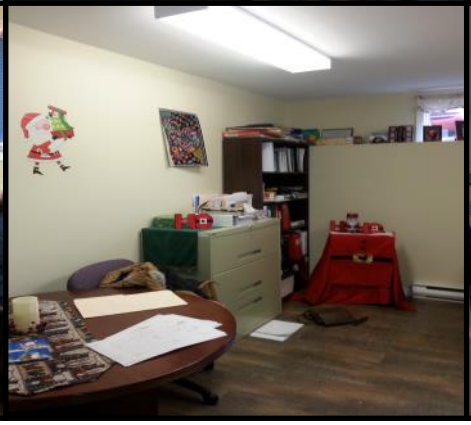
Stacey Cunningham had the difficult job of judging the best decorated office,

as everyone put a lot of effort into the contest.

In the end, the House Managers took 1st prize with the "Shelley on the shelf" room!

CONGRATS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED! AN AMAZING JOB DONE BY ALL!

Here are more great pictures of the competition!



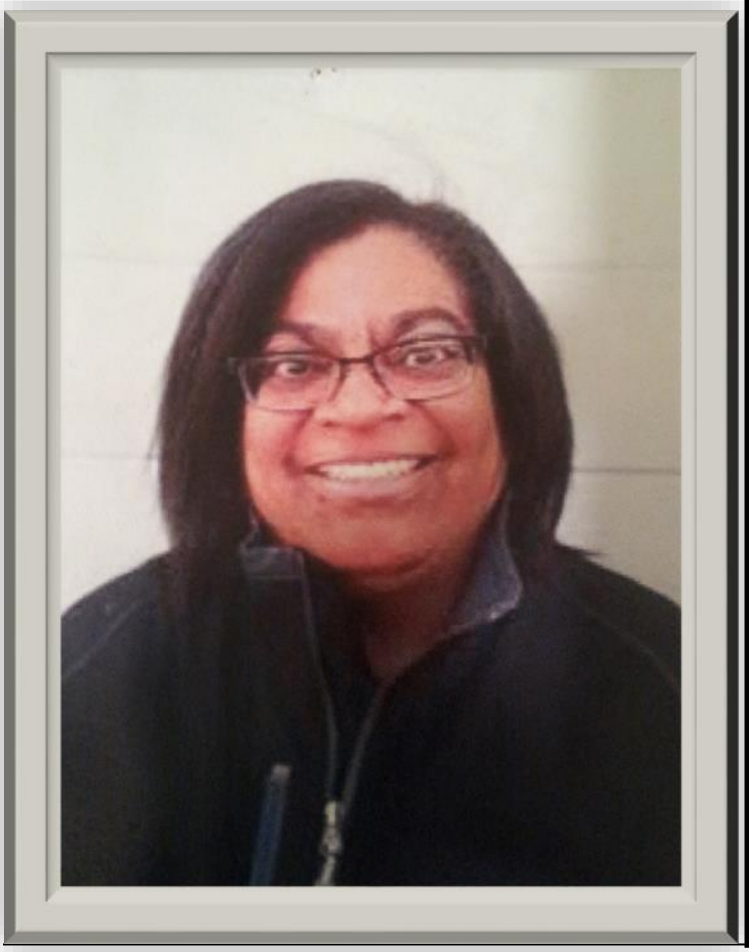
FROM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

After a very busy fall of project planning and meetings the community council took a break over the holidays. We ended the 2015 year with a turkey dinner social hosted at Chris Atkinson's home. Many members helped prepare the delicious meal and we were honoured to use Chris's grandmothers China. The council is looking forward completing our bill of rights in early 2016. If you would like to become involved please contact us at communitycouncil@hcrsweb.ca

HCRS CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

NORTHERN REGION RESPITE SERVICES

NRRS would like to thank Community Council for arranging a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus at our Fun Friday Christmas party! The kids were very excited !



OTHER EVENTS

Some of the people supported by HCRS living in apartments enjoyed a Christmas social on December 15th .

Put on your dancing shoes and join every-one at Summer Street Industries for the HCRS dance on January 29th from 7pm-9pm.

Hope to see you there!

HCRS Participant Profile

Full name: Norma V.M. Paris

Favorite Food: Turkey dinner

Favorite movie: ”42”

Favorite song: Whose bed have your boots been under/Here’s a quarter

Favorite season: Summer/Winter

Favorite Memory: Winning the Dr. Frank Hayden Award/Meeting Coleen Jones

What do you enjoy doing most: Driving bike/going for coffee

Who has been the biggest role model in your life: Tina Turner

What is the funniest thing that happened to you: getting hit in the head by special Olym-pics coach.

An interesting thing about you is:Leaving HCRS in March/Going to watch Montreal Canadians play in Montreal

Your job: Michelin, New Beginnings, SSI catering/bar

Favorite thing about your job: Meeting people