

THE HAPPENING

COMMUNITY
Living SERVICES
OAKLAND COUNTY DIVISION
CITIZENS' ADVISORY
COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

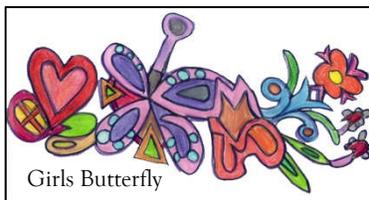
March/April 2015

I AM NOT DOWN SYNDROME – I AM NOOFI

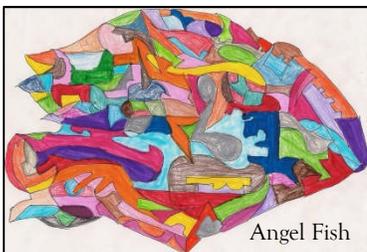


Nafaa Makadsi (“Noofi”) is an amazingly talented young man that has literally traveled miles to break down the barriers of Down Syndrome and express himself through his art.

Noofi was born in Baghdad Iraq. In 2003 when Iraq became unsafe due to war, Noofi and his family fled to Jordan where they lived until they traveled to the United States in 2008. In 2014 Noofi proudly became a US citizen. While in Iraq, little to no supports were provided to individuals with disabilities. Noofi’s mother and grandmother worked with him academically and his grandmother taught him art. At the age of three Noofi created his first drawing, a portrait of his grandmother and he hasn’t stopped drawing since. Today Noofi draws everyday creating his abstract masterpieces. He will draw on anything when he feels inspired, from napkins and pizza boxes to mixed media paper. While Noofi, currently does not sell his artwork, his primary goal is to eventually make a living with his art.



Girls Butterfly



Angel Fish

Through his Self-Determination arrangement and the assistance of a fiscal intermediary, Noofi hires his own staff, who assist him in developing his own business ideas and creating prints of his art that he hopes to one day sell. They also assist him with his computer and English skills and spending time in his community. Noofi enjoys getting out in the community and volunteering at a

variety of places including various retail stores and at his school. Noofi also has a part-time job at Pizza Hut. At Pizza Hut he works independently folding boxes. His work hours vary however currently he is working about 4 hours per week on Wednesdays.



For fun Noofi likes spending time at the Joe Dumar’s Fieldhouse to play basketball; he is a big fan of Michigan State. He also enjoys learning new dance moves and creating with Legos.

Noofi is very close to his family and currently lives with his very supportive parents. He indicates that he is very happy with his living arrangements at this time.

Noofi’s Independent Supports Coordinator, Jennifer Kacin, describes Noofi as a “bundle of joy and an inspiration; he is very enthusiastic about life.”

You can check out Noofi’s art on his website <http://iamnoofi.weebly.com> and on his Facebook page, just search “I am Noofi.” He also has a YouTube video under the title “I am Noofi.”



Thank you Noofi, for sharing your story. We look forward to seeing your future successes in the work of art!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*“What sunshine is to flowers,
smiles are to humanity.”*

- Joseph Addison

OAKLAND COUNTY BUDGET UPDATE

You may have seen the recent newspaper articles related to the funding situation in Oakland County. In a nutshell, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) used \$11 million of their reserves to fund our overall mental health service costs for this year, and now those funds are no longer available so effective October 1st, there will be an \$11 million reduction in funding available for the Core Provider Agency (CPA) contracts. It is also still unknown if the state will do another negative “rebasings” of funding come October 1st (the last round of “rebasings” led to significant funding cuts in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland Counties). There are still a lot of unknowns for sure and we know how stressful times like this can be.

OCCMHA has announced that they will be meeting with each of the Core Provider Agencies, including CLS/OC during the month of April to begin proactively planning for the October 1 reductions. They have said that they will be evaluating rate variances and inconsistencies in funding while they are implementing the upcoming reductions. We are optimistically hopeful that this could be good news for CLS/OC’s service funding as we have worked hard to achieve fair service authorizations and consistency in rate setting across our entire service network. We are appreciative that we will soon know our projected funding for the next fiscal year so that we can begin thoughtfully and carefully planning for any changes that may need to be made.

As always, if anyone has input or ideas related to any potential area of efficiencies within CLS/OC or our network of providers, please send an email to clsoaklandnewsletter@gmail.com. We are welcoming input from any and all of our stakeholders.

Please continue to check the OCCMHA website for budget updates, www.occmha.org.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



On March 20, 2015, Michigan Department of Community Mental Health announced through a press release that Michigan has been selected to receive more than \$5.5 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to provide affordable rental housing and supportive services to extremely-low income persons with disabilities. The Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) grant application process was a collaborative effort between the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).

The funding will be administered by MSHDA. A workgroup consisting of representatives from MSHDA and MDCH will collaborate to identify, refer and support target populations throughout Michigan.

In the press release, Nick Lyon, director of the MDCH and interim director of the Department of Human Services said. “Promoting community-based services and systems of care for persons with disabilities is essential to ensuring that all of our residents have the support they need to lead healthy, productive lives. This grant is a testament to inter-departmental collaboration, and I look forward to continued partnership with MSHDA as we work to provide stable, inclusive environments for those individuals and families who need it most.”

Michigan was one of 25 states selected to receive funding from the Section 811 PRA program. For more information about the Section 811 Supportive Housing program, please visit: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/mfh/progdesc/disab811.

NEW PROPOSED RULE – STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT, SUBMINIMUM WAGE

On April 16, 2015, the US Department of Education unveiled a Proposed Rule regarding State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program; State Supported Employment Services Program; Limitations on Use of Subminimum Wage. The Rule proposes to amend the regulations governing the State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program and the State Supported Employment Services Program in order to implement changes to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) enacted on July 22, 2014. The rule also proposes to update, clarify, and improve the current regulations. It also proposes to issue regulations regarding limitations to use the subminimum wages that are added by WIOA.

President Barack Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law after it passed Congress by a wide bipartisan majority. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. This Act makes important changes to disability programs. The Act will increase individuals with disabilities access to

high-quality workforce services to prepare them for competitive integrated employment. It

requires better employer engagement and promotes physical and programmatic

accessibility to employment and training services. Youth with disabilities receive extensive pre-employment transition services to obtain and retain competitive integrated employment. It will also create an Advisory Committee on strategies to increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. WIOA will become effective on July 1, 2015, the first full program a year after its enactment.

The new proposed rule is now open for public comment until 6/15/2015. If you would like to read the details of the proposed rule and make comment go to: <https://www.federalregister.gov>.

If you would like more information about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act visit the website <http://www.dolera.gov/wioa/>



GETTING MY OWN ADDRESS PRESENTATION

Linda Ronan Brown, Community Housing Network consultant, and parent of two young men who live in their own house with full time support, will introduce the long-term housing plan for individuals with disabilities.



Getting My Own Address™
Achieving housing for people with disabilities

Give yourself a head start on creating and implementing a successful long-term housing plan by attending this free up-dated presentation that is open to individuals, parents and professionals.

This presentation will take place on April 21, 2015, 6-8pm at Community Housing Network, Inc., 570 Kirks Blvd., Suite 231 in Troy.

If you wish to attend RSVP to lbrown@chnic.net by April 20, 2015. If you have questions please contact Linda Ronan Brown at 248-269-1346 or lbrown@chninc.net.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 25TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

July 26, 2015 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Across the state there will be different celebrations that you may want to check out and be part of the celebration.

DISART festival

DisArt Festival will take place April 10-25, 2015 in Grand Rapids. This event is a Disability Arts Festival, which features several world-renowned exhibits of Disability Arts from all over the world. During DisArt 2015 visitors will be able to see the US premiere of *Art of the Lived Experiment*, an exhibit originating from DaDaFest in Liverpool, UK. This collection includes some of the top international and US contemporary Disability Artists. The show will be on display at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and Kendall College of Art and Design Fed Galleries from April 10th to July 31st, 2015.

Some other festival events include: DisArt Local, Access is a Civil Right: The Photography of Tom Olin, capturing the past 40 years of the Disability Rights Movement; DisArt Fashion Runway Show; DisArt Film Series; DisArt DisStories Performance; and a variety of Experiential/Family Oriented activities

All events are accessible. More information about this event are a through their website www.disartfestival.org.

ADA Legacy Tour

On July 21st the ADA Legacy Bus Tour will arrive in Detroit's Eastern Market. For more information check out their website www.adamichigan.wordpress.com.

PRESERVE CELEBRATE EDUCATE

★Rolling Disability History Museum ★
Justin Dart Giant Hero Puppet ★Tom Olin
Photo Exhibit ★Telling Stories ★Art and
Music ★History standing panels about the
formation and passage of the ADA ★
History of self advocacy panel display ★
Voter Registration Drive

ADA 25 1990-2015
AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT

SAVE THE DATE: ADA Celebration at Disability Network Southwest Michigan in Kalamazoo on July 24th. For more information visit www.dnswm.org.

SAVE THE DATE: 25TH Anniversary of ADA Celebration on the Lansing Capitol Lawn on September 17th.

ADA NATIONAL NETWORK – CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. Throughout the year and on the ADA Anniversary, the ADA National Network participates in celebrating this landmark event as a way of bringing attention to the important work that has been done to promote equal opportunity for people with disabilities and to highlight the work that is yet to be done. The ADA National Network provides information, guidance, and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act. They consist of 10 regional centers distributed throughout the United States. The Network is a helpful resource supporting the ADA's mission to "make it possible for everyone with a disability to live a life of freedom and equality."

Pledge – become part of the celebration with the ADA National Network and make a pledge.



For ADA Anniversary Publications, tool kits, to sign the pledge and other valuable anniversary information and events go to www.adaanniversary.org. To learn more about the ADA National Network go to www.adata.org.



Resource Fair

**Thursday, April 23, 2015
10:00am-2:00pm
Resource & Crisis Center
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Building 32E
Pontiac, MI 48341**

**Get information
and resources from more than 20
community agencies on:**

- Mental Illness
- Developmental Disabilities
- Substance Abuse
- Employment
- Housing
- Health & Wellness
- Education
- Transportation
- Youth Services
- Legal Aid
- Veteran's Assistance
- Training

Free Snacks and Treats Provided

Giveaways

Prize raffles

FREE LEGAL INFORMATION HELP DESK

The Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA) and the Legal Aid and Defender Association (LADA) have collaborated to offer free legal assistance for civil law cases. The partnership between OCBA and LADA has gathered lawyers from the OCBA lawyer referral service. More than 30 attorneys have agreed to provide pro bono legal service through the Help Desk. The Free Legal Information Help Desk is designed to assist Pro-se litigants by providing legal information and referrals for legal services and legal advice/representation for eligible residents. They may be able to help with landlord-tenant problems, mortgage foreclosure, food stamps, Medicaid, social security benefits, bankruptcy, school related problems, family law, utility problems, collection cases, garnishments, and other civil matters.

The Free Legal Information Help Desk is open in the north lobby of the Oakland County Circuit Court on the fourth Thursday of each month from 12:00pm - 2:00pm.

Free Legal Information Help Desk

A collaboration between Legal Aid and Defender and the Oakland County Bar Association






11TH ANNUAL WALK-A-MILE IN MY SHOES RALLY



This year's rally will be held on *Wednesday, May 6th* at the State Capitol Building in Lansing. Make sure to create and bring signs to the rally to let your legislators know that people with disabilities and mental health concerns matter!



We walk:

- ❖ Because May is Mental Health Awareness Month
- ❖ Because Michigan does not have parity between mental health and physical health care coverage
- ❖ To put an end to the stigma related to mental illness and developmental disabilities
- ❖ Because legislators need to know *Mental Health Matters!*

This year's schedule:

- ❖ Group photo at 12:00pm on the left side of the Capitol steps. *Everyone from Oakland County wear RED!*
- ❖ Check-in: 12:30pm
- ❖ Rally: 1:15-2:30pm

Need to catch a bus!

- ❖ The bus is free, but space is limited! You must reserve your seat on the bus by contacting Debbie Wisner at (248) 858-0929 or wisserd@occmha.org.
- ❖ The buses are wheelchair accessible - indicate if you use a wheelchair when you reserve your seat.
- ❖ Indicate your bus location when reserving your seat. There are two bus locations:
 - MORC - 1270 Doris Road in Auburn Hills
 - United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit - 23077 Greenfield Road in Southfield
- ❖ Bring your own lunch, beverages and snacks.
- ❖ Buses leave promptly at their scheduled time.

BUS SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m.	Leaving North Pickup location
10:15 a.m.	Leaving South Pickup location
12:00 p.m.	Arrive in Lansing
3:00 p.m.	Bus Leaves Lansing
4:30 p.m.	Bus arrives at South drop off
5:15 p.m.	Bus arrives at North drop off

OCCMHA IS LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The OCCMHA Consumer Evaluation Committee (CEC) is seeking individuals interested in joining the team to offer perspectives regarding quality of services provided to individuals in the network. Any individual that directly receives services from a network provider is welcome to inquire; however, in order to fairly represent all the individuals served, they have a recruiting focus of individuals with developmental disabilities. The committee meets every other month on the second Wednesday from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. If interested, please contact Wendi Schiller at [248-975-4423](tel:248-975-4423).



2015 WALK FOR AUTISM

The Autism Society of Oakland County's Walk for Autism will take place on Sunday, April 26th, 8am-11am at the Somerset Collection 2800 West Big Beaver in Troy.



Join them rain or shine for a walk in the mall. This is a family event and is open to anyone who is interested in making a difference in the lives of those impacted by autism. Highlights of the day will include: music by DJ Mikester and the Far Drummer, a yoga stretch by far flyers, Kaufman Center will host a Sensory room with Legos and other fun Art experience crafts, plus other family fun. Registrations will be accepted until the walk begins at 9am on April 26th. For more information visit their website at www.autismsocietyoaklandcounty.org.

APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

join us in
CELEBRATION



In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

Join the Autism Society for National Autism Awareness Month this April. National Autism Awareness Month represents an excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness, autism acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year.

To learn more about the Autism Society and the National Autism Awareness Month visit their website at www.autism-society.org

THINGS TO DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY

10th Annual
MI Earth DayFest™
One of the Planet's Largest Earth Day Celebrations
FREE ADMISSION
April 24-26
Fri 4-8, Sat 10-8, Sun 10-4
Rochester
Municipal Park/City Center

Shop, Learn and Celebrate at the Michigan Earth Day Fest in Rochester, April 24-26. At this festival you will enjoy more than 100 exhibits, speakers, food vendors, kids' activities, entertainment, and more. Admission is free. For more information check out their website <http://www.migreenteam.com/miedf>

The Michigan International Women's Show



will take place April 30th - May 3rd. This event is fun for moms, daughters, sisters and girlfriends. Enjoy food, shopping, cooking, fashion shows, makeovers and entertainment. Receive health screenings, taste ice cream, learn cupcake decorating, and get makeup tips. Check out hundreds of exhibitors. This event will take place at Suburban Collection showplace in Novi. The cost for this event is \$10 at the door, advance discount tickets available at Kroger for \$7 and online for \$8. For more information about this event check out their website <https://southernshows.com/wde>.

THE NEXT CAC MEETING

Monday, April 27, 2015

2:00-4:00pm

at the CLS/OC office

642 E. Nine Mile

in Ferndale

Everyone is Welcome!



MARCH COMMUNITY
Living SERVICES

**Oakland County
Division**

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