

# CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2005

## Anyone Can Make Money!

### “mon-ey (mun’e):

a medium that can be exchanged for goods and services and is used as a measure of their values on the market, as a commodity such as gold, an officially used coin or note, or a deposit in a checking account or other easily liquefiable account.” *Websters II New Collegiate Dictionary*

Anyone can earn income. It doesn't matter if you can't walk, talk, work a cash register or add and subtract. Everyone can do it.

At Community Living Services, we support 2700 people with developmental disabilities; many are movers and shakers, Board members, employees, friends, advocates, community leaders, entrepreneurs.



### “En tre pre neur (on' tre-pre-nur'):

one who organizes, operates and assumes the risk in a business venture in expectation of gaining profit.” *Websters II New Collegiate Dictionary*

CLS encourages the people it supports to earn income whether it's working for someone else or starting their own microenterprise. This spring's issue of *Life Connections* is dedicated to making money. It also highlights our big fundraiser of the year, *Evening with Friend's*, that is set for September 15, 2005. Please turn the pages for more exciting news about freedom and independence.

## Did You Know?



### CLS supports business owners who:

- ◆ Have their own bottled water business
- ◆ Travel to area businesses to shred documents
- ◆ Sell sports memorabilia
- ◆ Sell Avon & Mary Kay products
- ◆ Have their own handmade greeting card companies
- ◆ Sell delicious, freshly popped kettle corn
- ◆ Sell homemade “candy sundaes” and will deliver anytime, anywhere!
- ◆ Design & sell handmade knitted & crocheted items

- ◆ Create exquisite arts & crafts that you would be proud to give to ANYONE!
- ◆ Sell beautiful gift baskets
- ◆ Create balloons filled with stuffed teddy bears
- ◆ Fill those vending machines that you use and sometimes visit more than you should!
- ◆ Have designed and created a “Handless Shaver” and is looking for investors!

# SIP IT!

## Downriver Entrepreneurs Gear Up for Hot Summer!

Since we had one of the coldest winters in Michigan history, it's only fitting to hope and pray for one of the hottest summers on record! That's exactly what small business owners Charles, Carol, Phette and Eric are praying for, one heck of a hot summer! "All four entrepreneurs have started their own bottled water business called "SIP IT!" said Program Director Susan Shelley, who works at the NOVA offices in Taylor. The North Oakland Vocational Association supports people with developmental disabilities. All four business owners have



**Business owner Charles Barbee holds up a bottle of his company's water "SIP IT" for sale beginning in May.**

significant disabilities and need interpreters to help them communicate.

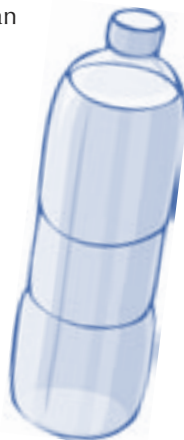
"NOVA has been working on starting

microenterprises (small businesses) for the people we support. Our philosophy is no matter how significant the disability, people can still earn income. Most of the time, the staff is very involved in helping with every aspect of the business, from concept to final product. When we started investigating, this was the perfect idea for our folks."

Shelley and friends found a water bottling company located in Ohio that will sell it by the case with their very own custom-made labels. The group is getting ready to pick up their product and begin selling it to local businesses in May.

"We are very excited to be working with Collingwood Water, which is located in Toledo, Ohio. It is a wonderful company. Right now, we are looking for places to sell our water, either by the cases or individually, at special events. If we are successful, we may expand to selling carbonated beverages, coffee and tea."

Business owner Charles, has been involved with marketing and product development and is very excited about this new adventure.



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**CLS is funded by the Detroit-Wayne County  
Community Mental Health Agency.**



### OUR MISSION IS ...

To assist and advocate for each person to have supports they want and need:

- To exercise control and authority over their own lives
- To live a life of freedom, opportunity and relationships as family, friends and neighbors
- To share in full community membership and citizenship



### VISION

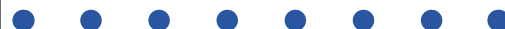
People will fully participate in their communities and have a quality of life which comes from freedom and its responsibilities, the authority to make their own life decisions and the financial resources to implement them.



### CLS Board of Directors

Richard Clark	Annette Keda
Jonathan Hale	Sylvia Kloc
Kathleen Harris	John Peetz
Dohn Hoyle	Steven Saules
Satish Jasti	Frank Schuch

James Dehem-President/CEO  
Kathleen Kovach-COO & VP Operations  
William Yordy-CFO & VP Administration



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**If anyone is interested in purchasing  
SIP IT! Products, please call business owners:  
Charles, Carol, Phette or Eric at:  
313-295-0279.**

# Evening with Friends 2005

The 2005 Friends of CLS Evening with Friends extravaganza will be held September 15, 2005 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Our talented co-hosts for the evening will be WOMC Radio personality Dana Mills and WXYZ-TV Channel 7 news personality Joanne Purtan. The night will focus on making money and will highlight many of the people we support who have their own small businesses. People from the community and local businesses are invited to come

and join in on the food, fun and awesome networking opportunities.

There is also an outstanding awards ceremony that recognizes people working in the community, starting their businesses or working with people who have disabilities. The time is now to start thinking about submitting a nomination form. Please go to our web site, [www.comlivserv.com](http://www.comlivserv.com) and click on the "Evening with Friends" button to fill out a form. Hope to see you there!

## Business Leaders of Tomorrow

Are you a future business leader? If you are thinking about being your own boss or want to learn more about how to start your own small business, then we have the opportunity for you! In coordination with the ARC of Midland grant project, CLS, The Center for Self-Determination, and the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Authority will host a money-making business seminar on October 19, 2005 at McKinney Union on the campus of Eastern Michigan University.

The conference will focus on many areas of making money, including how to start your own small business, how to work with a bank, and how to market your products and services.

The one-day conference will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with several presenters and break-out sessions throughout the day.



**For more information  
call 734-722-7185.**

## DJ RAY

### Ask the Advocate



*Ray Schuhotz is a go-getter; nothing stands in his way. He lives in Westland, works in Canton and was just appointed to the Mayor of Westland's new Disability Council. Ray wants people with disabilities to know that he is an advocate and is here to help.*

*This section of the newsletter is dedicated to you, the readers. We are asking that you e-mail Ray your questions and the answers will be published each issue. We will also have "guest columnists" featured from time to time. Now, introducing "DJ Ray."*

**Question:** Ray, you used to live in an institution. Thankfully, you got out and have been living your life independently. What advice would you give to someone who is having a tough time with their newfound freedom?

**Answer:** I would say that you need to stay positive and remember all of the little things that make you happy. My advice is to just take life one day at a time and things will work out.

**Question:** Why are you an advocate?

**Answer:** I want to make a difference. I know there are a lot of people out there who may not be able to speak for themselves. I want them to know that I can help with that. If they need help or have a question, I can steer them in the right direction.

**Question:** What is your philosophy for life?

**Answer:** The phrase that I use all the time is "self-capable." Everyone can do it; you may need help, but don't be afraid to ask for help to get what you want.

Ray receives services from Life Center ([www.lifecenterinc.net](http://www.lifecenterinc.net)) and from CLS.

Please e-mail Ray at [DJRayclub123@aol.com](mailto:DJRayclub123@aol.com).

## Legislators Listen to CLS

In March, a contingent of CLS folks made the trip to Lansing for a legislative luncheon. The purpose was to talk with legislators about why it is so vitally important not to make cuts to Medicaid and how those cuts drastically affect the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.

Senator Laura Toy (R-Livonia) discussed her involvement on the Disability Caucus, and Lansing law firm, Weiner Associates, answered questions about current Medicaid legislation. CLS staff, including Personal Supports and Services Department Supervisor Jill Halevan and Public Relations Director, Tiffany Devon, along with advocates Ray Schuhholz and Teresa Smith, met with staffers and state representatives, including Rep. John Pastor's office (R-Livonia), Rep. Bill McConico (D-Detroit), Rep. Ed Clemente (D-Allen Park) and Rep Glenn Anderson (D-Westland).

CLS will continue to inform and educate legislators about Medicaid. And you can, too by writing letters and contacting your legislators. The Autism Society of Michigan sponsored the conference.



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