



# Traverse House

October 2026 Newsletter

## Member Testimony

"My sense of belonging come from the common collective feeling of togetherness, and how we work as one. From different walks of life, we all have the same common good! Feeling welcomes." - Betsy Z

"I know I belong when I am able to create long lasting friendships with member's and staff" -Lizzy W

"I know I belong when I am totally accepted for the person that I am and what I have to contribute for the common good for all members of clubhouse" -

Jayna E

"I feel like I belong here. I do a lot for clubhouse. I found people who respect me and get along with me despite my mental illness. I have made friends and family here." -

Hunter D

"I feel I belong when I go to the meetings. I enjoy handing out bus passes each day" - Paul M

*I Belong...*



## Work Ordered Day



Work-Ordered Day describes the structure of the day-to-day activity within a Clubhouse, organized to help members develop self-esteem, confidence and friendships, which make up the foundation of the recovery process.



# Community Awareness



Left: This month we had the great opportunity to have State Representative Betsy Coffia come in to Traverse House for a tour and to learn how we serve our community.



Right: We had a great crew go to the **Out of Darkness Walk** to help represent Traverse House and NLCMH and to raise awareness for suicide prevention.



On Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> Traverse House colleagues attended the annual **Pride Rally and March** to advocate for equality for all! This event was organized by Up North Pride, and former US Senator Debbie Stabenow was the guest speaker.

## Why we attend the Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally in Lansing...

To enhance public awareness, because legislators need to know that Mental Health Matters. To put an end to the stigma related to mental illness & developmental disabilities, because Michigan does not have parity (equality) between mental health & physical health care coverage.

To promote mental health and wellness, because we can make a difference!



## Employment Updates



Jayna E. obtained a position working for Keys To Freedom as an administrative assistant.



Michael L. concluded a TE placement at Plato's Closet in August and then moved into an independent position at Oleson's Food Store as a bagger in September.



Michael St. is a new colleague at Traverse House. He began working as a dishwasher at Rico's Cafe in December 2025.



Hunter D. obtained a TE position working as a Laundry Attendant for Precise Cleaning LLC. He is pictured with his first paycheck!



## Social Recreation



**Standard #32**  
The Clubhouse has recreational and social programs during evenings and on weekends. Holidays are celebrated on the actual day they are observed.

Pictured: Craft night, games, and Labor Day celebration!

## Directors Corner

### *Community and Advocacy*

Traverse House focused on joining our local and state community in advocacy efforts in September. We advertised Clubhouse services at the Out of the Darkness Walk, joined the community in marching for equal rights at the Pride event, and advocated for mental health rights at the capitol in Lansing.

In October, we will have our annual Employment and Education Celebration Dinner on October 8<sup>th</sup>. This event will include members speaking about their education and employment opportunities.

Also in October, we will be excited to host the Sunrise Rotary for breakfast on the 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be an opportunity to show our Clubhouse space and have colleagues share their testimony about how Traverse House services have supported recovery opportunities.

-Hannah Driver, Traverse House Director

## Culinary

## Culinary Statistics

### Feeding America Site Visit



Culinary had their Feeding America Inspection on September 17, 2026. The visit was conducted by Hailey from the Grand Rapids main office. The focus of her inspection was the kitchen, licensures, both pantries, proper food storage and documentation, signage from staff regarding Civil Rights knowledge, and our current health department inspection. Hailey was given a tour of the clubhouse and no citations were noted!

### Statistics August 2026

Number of  
times the  
Pantry was  
utilized:  
**331**

Number of  
Meals Served:  
**234**

## Upcoming Activities

### October Social Recreation Activities

- 6th - Game Night 3:30-5:30pm
- 7th - Born to Read 7am-11am
- 8th - Employment Dinner 4:30-6:00pm
- 14th - Recovery Celebration 10am-2pm
- 22nd - Pumpkin Patch 3:30-5:30pm
- 28th - Rotary Breakfast 7:30-8:30am
- 30th - Halloween Party! 3-5pm

### Committee Meetings October

Every Monday 8:30-9:30am: Wellness  
Every Friday 8:30-9:30am: Employment  
Readiness

Oct 7th: Purchasing Comm. 8:30am  
Oct 3rd: Resilience (QRT) Meeting 8:30am  
Oct 8th: Food Coalition 9-10:30am  
Oct 20th: Education Comm 11am  
Oct 20th: Advisory Board 12-1pm  
Oct 24th: Community Awareness 2pm

### Member Statistics:

Active Members: 78  
Average Daily attendance: 28

### Employment Statistics:

Number of Members Employed: **26**

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Web: [www.traversehouse.org](http://www.traversehouse.org)

CMH Crisis Line: 800-422-7315 or  
833-295-0616 or 911  
Suicide Talk Line: 800-SUICIDE or  
800-273 TALK or 988