

News and Views

Spring 2017

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Sensory Room Opens

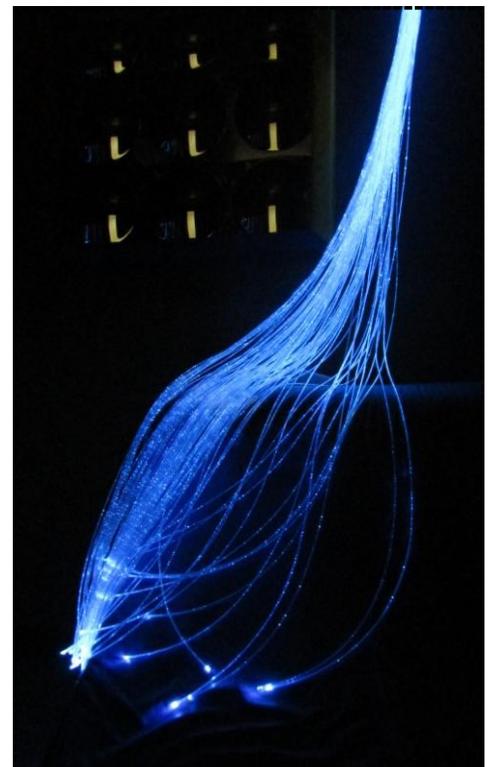
Last year, MEE was able to open a multi-sensory environment on its campus.

A multi-sensory environment is a dedicated room or space that is designed to control sound, space, temperature and lighting. It uses special equipment that stimulates senses, and promotes feelings of calm and concentration. Time spent in multi-sensory environments has been shown to increase focus, improve communication, and encourage pro-social behavior.

In the first six months, 47 individuals have already utilized the new equipment.

The room was constructed using \$13,019 in grant funds provided by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL).

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois has been a regional leader in philanthropy since 1953. CFNIL serves as a catalyst for giving in order to attract, grow, and preserve an endowment for the needs of Northern Illinois. Since 2000, CFNIL has granted more than \$46 million for charitable purposes.



The bubble tower and LED lighted strands, shown above, are among a wide variety of therapeutic equipment available in the multi-sensory room.



2017 CILA EXPANSION

We are pleased to announce that we will be expanding our residential CILA program later this year.

A Community Integrated Living Arrangement, or CILA, is a living arrangement for adults with developmental disabilities. The residents of the home live under the supervision of a community developmental services agency.

The goal of a CILA is to promote independent living and community access in a residential setting. The house will serve four individuals and is scheduled to open later this Summer. We will be making more announcements soon!

MEE Awarded 26-Passenger Bus



Malcolm Eaton Enterprises was awarded a 26-passenger vehicle by the Illinois Department of Transportation on Tuesday, March 21st.

The Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310) aims to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options.

Since 2014, MEE has been awarded four 14-passenger vehicles and one 26-passenger bus from the Section 5310 program. The 26-passenger vehicle is valued at \$100,000.

MEE will be seeking two additional 26-passenger vehicles in 2017.

MEE Transportation Help Line Available for Area Families

In order to help promote our transportation help line, we recently mailed refrigerator magnets to the homes of each individual receiving services at MEE.

The Transportation Help Line has been in operation for a number of years, and serves as a simple way for individuals and families to inform MEE when they do not need transportation due to illness, physicians appointment, family vacation, or any other reason.

By distributing the magnets, we hope to encourage more individuals and families to take advantage of this easy to use service.



University Medical Students Visit Malcolm Eaton

A group of four medical students from the University of Illinois, Rockford visited MEE on March 1 to meet with Clinical Programs Manager, Tracey Kempel.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the students with information about the type of services that are available in rural areas. All of the students that visited MEE have expressed an interest in working in a rural area following their medical schooling.

During their visit, Kempel provided the students with an overview of the programs and services we provide at MEE, as well as discussion about the population that we serve.

MEE was one of several organizations in Freeport visited by the medical students. Other students attended similar presentations at the FHN Leonard C. Ferguson Cancer Center, FHN Family Counseling Center, FHN Hospice, the Stephenson County Health Department, and the Stephenson County Senior Center.



Medical Students from the University of Illinois at Rockford meet with MEE Clinical Programs Manager Tracey Kempel.

Kloos and Freeport Community Foundation Fund New Projector Screen at Malcolm Eaton



MEE received a major technology upgrade recently when a projector and retractable projector screen were installed in the MEE conference room.

The upgrade was made possible thanks to a \$1,500 donation from Bill Kloos and the Freeport Community Foundation.

Kloos was recently recognized by the Freeport Community Foundation with the 2016 Matt Marvin Award. The award is given annually to one person in the Freeport Community for their lifetime of volunteerism and leadership.

Kloos has been a long-time volunteer at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises, and has served on our board of directors and many committees. Kloos is still active on the MEE Marketing committee and recently helped plan the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The equipment has many uses, including presentations and staff training.



We have also used the equipment to help distant family members and/or outside care professionals connect to meetings they otherwise might not have been able to attend in person - a significant upgrade over using a speakerphone!

We want to thank Bill Kloos, and the Freeport Community Foundation, for helping us bring our staff, family members, and

Spirit on Display at Visitors Center

A Spirit display was unveiled last month at the Stephenson County Visitors Center. The display, featuring a pop up stand as well as some paper from the Spirit family of products, will be on display until April of 2018.



SportsPlex Fundraiser Set for July 22nd

The 3rd Annual SportsPlex Fundraiser raffle will be held during the Freeport Soccer Club's 3 vs. 3 tournament on July 22nd.

Tickets for the raffle cost \$5 each, or five for \$20. Grand prize will be \$500. Tickets will go on sale for the raffle on June 1.



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Coming Up

May 29:
Memorial Day
No Day Services

June 16:
Institute Day
No Day Services

July 3-4:
Independence Day
No Day Services

MALCOLM EATON Enterprises

Board of Directors

Patty Burke, President
Steve Wells, Vice President
Kam Stake, Secretary
Flo Chapin
Craig Dale
Lynn Wilson
Todd McKenna
Steve Cox

Spherion Makes Donation to MEE



Pictured, from left, John Kmiecik, Spherion; Margarita Nunez, Spherion; Tim Cook, Executive Director, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises; Kris Bradbury, Spherion; and John Kmiecik II, Spherion.



Spherion Staffing Services made a generous donation of \$1,500 to MEE.

The donation is part of Spherion's Community Giveback Program. The Community Giveback Program was designed to further the work of local charitable organizations making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Every year, Spherion selects one or more local organizations and honors them with a special contribution. Spherion has donated nearly a half million dollars to local charitable organizations



Pictured, from left, are Nils Sandstrom, Knights of Columbus; Brian Babcock, Community Liaison, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises; Todd McKenna, Knights of Columbus; and Tim Cook, Executive Director, Malcolm Eaton Enterprises.

Knights Support MEE

We want to sincerely thank the Freeport Knights of Columbus for making a pair of generous donations totaling over \$1,150 dollars! Since 1997, the Freeport Knights of Columbus have raised over \$60,000 for local organizations that assist those with disabilities.

Mississippi Man to Play Annual Party



Local music artist Larry Michael, better known as The Mississippi Man, will be making an appearance at the Annual Consumer Appreciation Party on August 11th.

The Mississippi Man played at the MEE 50th Anniversary party, and has played at prior events at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises.

His lively act often involves bringing members of the audience onstage to play musical instruments.