

by Luke Reynolds

Executive Director

#### **OUR MISSION:**

LifeCircles supports
vulnerable
individuals and their
care partners by
providing
compassionate,
comprehensive, team
based care that
honors their health
care preferences and
their desire to
remain living in the
community.

# THE WAVE

The latest news and updates from LifeCircles PACE

#### Spring has sprung!

It has been a very trying year, and the winter season felt extra-long. The precautions everyone needs to take to prevent COVID-19 from spreading have been challenging. We miss seeing you often and being together in our day centers!

Spring represents renewal and life. As birds chirp again, flowers begin to bloom, and leaves grow from bald tree branches, our world is starting to feel hopeful.

The wide availability of vaccinations, combined with mask wearing, social distancing, frequent hand washing, avoiding crowds, and screening & testing activities will bring us out of this historic and scary time. While many people still have not been vaccinated, and others don't follow public health guidance for protecting themselves and others, I remain hopeful that we will continue to make progress. It probably will not happen as quickly as I hope, but we will get through it one day at a time.

Reflecting on the past year and all the challenges of COVID-19, I feel immense gratitude for the LifeCircles team and their commitment to caring for you in new ways. I am equally impressed by the resilience and strength of our participants and their families. Program participants who enrolled over the past 12 months have yet to experience the full beauty of LifeCircles. Among many things, we have learned to use technology in new ways and have realized that in-person meetings are not always necessary to do good work.

What have you learned over the past year? Have any of your priorities changed or become clearer? Do you remember living through a difficult season in your life and how you became stronger as a result? What have you done to stay connected with others? Are there ideas you have for how LifeCircles can better support people? What things are you looking forward to this summer?

Please consider writing a letter to share your thoughts with me. I would love to hear from you! Our addresses are on the back page of this newsletter.

### A warm welcome

Our entire LifeCircles family welcomes these new participants to our program.



Arlene W.



Barbara R.



Barton K.



Bill M.



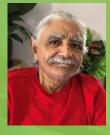
Bobbi W.



Buck H.



Carl S.



Carlos T.



Charlene P.



Chuck L.



Cynthia H.



Dorothy A.



Elmo D.



Eric L.



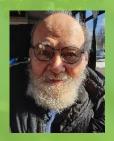
Garth B.



Geneva G.



George W.



Glen K.



Gonda K.



Grant E.



Hank S.



Irene R.



Irma B.



Janice R.



Jerry P.

FALL 2020 THE WAVE

#### Photos coming soon:



Deanna F.



John V.



Julia S.



Leona H.



Leslie L.



Linda D.



Mollie W.



Myra B.



Nanci H.



Nancy P.



Paz W.



Phyllis W.



Rhonda F.



Rhonda H.



Russell H.



Sheral J.



Sue L.



Tamara D.



Teresa W.



Terry M.



Tom V.



Winnetta D.



Yvonne R.

Our team values what matters most to you, and customizes our program offerings to your unique situation. It is our pleasure to partner with you to help you maintain as much independence as possible!

## Caring for someone with brain change?

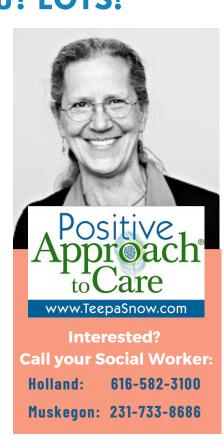
Brain changes, including dementia, happen frequently for participants enrolled in PACE. These changes can impact a person's memory, ability to problem-solve, personality, behavior, and judgement. People living with brain change might have more trouble being aware of safety issues or other risks. They might not have awareness about what is changing. These changes can be hard on both the participant and those who support them! Know that **you are not alone** as you navigate these difficult changes! Together, there are things we can do to make life easier for both people living with brain change and their care partners who work so hard to support them -- **YOU!** 

LifeCircles recently developed a partnership with the Positive Approach to Care (PAC) Dementia

Training program to support our team members, families, and community partners. The focus of this partnership is on helping care partners learn about brain changes, figure out what thinking skills might be working well and not working well for an individual participant, and learn strategies to interact differently to help tasks and interactions become easier. We are grateful to the <a href="Michigan Health">Michigan Health</a> Endowment Fund for financial support with this initiative.

## What options are available to you? LOTS!

- Information and resources: This includes videos and written materials
  for review at your convenience. Our team can help set you up with
  videos to review that fit your situation and check in with you to hear
  more about your experience.
- Individual coaching: Meet with a PAC coach to talk specifically about your situation. Learn new support strategies and ideas for providing care that you can try right away! In-person and virtual options may be available, depending on the pandemic.
- Care partner support groups: Coming summer 2021! These groups will
  allow you to connect with other care partners and learn specific skills
  that you can use right away for supporting someone with brain change!
  Virtual and in-person options available, depending on the pandemic. If
  needed, respite supports can be provided for your loved one so you can
  focus in a distraction-free environment.



#### Our furry stress reducers

A study done in the United Kingdom suggests that cute animals may contribute to a reduction in stress and anxiety. Here are some of our team's favorite stress-reducing in-home co-workers. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, so you can cast your vote in our upcoming pet beauty pageant!



































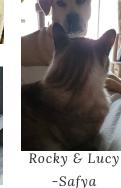














Bella - Julie D

Bo Peep - Sam P



Jeanne's zoo

# LifeCircles Vaccination Update

To date we've helped nearly 80% of our participants and 73% of our team members get vaccinated. In April we were featured in a Fox 17 news story which covered how we've made it easier for program participants and their care partners to access the vaccine. You can watch the story online here:

https://bit.ly/3xb9blS

**It isn't too late to get vaccinated.** If you have questions about the vaccine, or would like assistance getting the vaccine please call our clinics at either 616-582-3100 or 231-733-8686.



Audrey & Pat talk with Fox 17 reporter
Angeline McCall about LifeCircles



Nicole keeps Donna company at a vaccination clinic

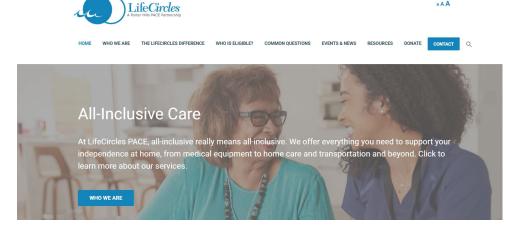


Josie and Barb appeared on Fox 17 to share how LifeCircles helped Josie get vaccinated



Safya assists Randy with paperwork at a vaccine clinic in Muskegon

# Our website gets a makeover



Our website is now easier to navigate. You can find helpful resources at www.LifeCircles-PACE.org. If you know someone who could benefit from LifeCircles, they can now fill out a questionnaire to find out if they are eligible:

www.LifeCircles-PACE.org/eligibility/#eligible

#### Your experience matters

This summer a survey will be mailed to your home asking about your experiences with our program. Your responses are confidential, they will be randomized and analyzed by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid before the results are sent to us. Please complete this survey, we want to know what we can do better for YOU! Assistance will be available if you need help completing the survey.

Oliver - Amy W





Remy - Kelly M







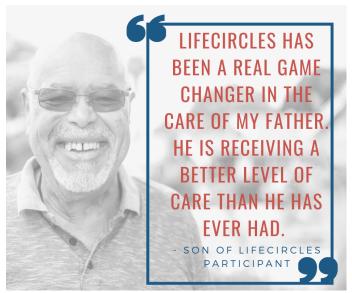
Henrietta - Nikki B

Gemma - Sarah M

#### Our team makes the difference

LifeCircles takes a common sense approach to providing care that makes a difference in the lives of older adults. Our senior care professionals have adapted to safely meet the needs of our participants during the past year. Our in-center aides have adjusted their hours and their places of work by helping participants directly in their homes. Our clinic nurses meet participants at home to complete lab draws. Our team has learned how to use and teach new technology in new ways, to help you and your family stay safe.





Timothy B., Son of a LifeCircles Holland participant left this review for us online. See the full review here: https://bit.ly/32r0aqX

If you'd like to leave a review for LifeCircles you can do so via google or by visiting this link: g.page/LifeCirclesPACEMuskegon/review?

We are honored that some of West Michigan's best, and brightest serve the seniors in our program. We thank them for their service. Without their dedication and compassion, our program wouldn't be what it is. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU LIFECIRCLES TEAM!** 



Clinic team from our Holland center Dedicated even from a distance - some of the

#### DID JOU KNOW?

YouTube Channel waiting just for you? We have low impact movement videos on our

Stay in touch!

LifeCircles PACE



www.lifecircles-pace.org





0012-282-919 251-755-8686



LifeCircles PACE



exception of emergency care. be fully liable for the costs of these visits with the see a provider without prior authorization, you may services authorized by the team are covered. If you As a member of the LifeCircles health plan, all

Holland, MI 49424

560 Seminole Rd. Muskegon, MI 49444

12330 James St., Ste H-10

