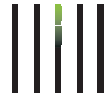


# TURN AROUND TIMES

Quarterly Newsletter of 180 Degrees

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## SPOT LIGHT ON 180 DEGREES BOARD MEMBER....RENEE SAYLES

*The 180 Degrees board of directors' newest member, Renee Sayles, meets life's challenges with passion, commitment and always a smile.*

In her first meeting with 180 Degree board members, the prospective board member confessed that she was still mad at her daughter for "kidnapping my three grandchildren and moving them to Atlanta." In this first glimpse, board members began to see both the humor and passion for family and children that help define its newest board member, Renee Sayles.

As a third generation Minnesotan, Renee grew up in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood. She recalls, "neighborhood houses and community playgrounds were our center of activity. It was a very close African American Community."

In 1971, Renee, fresh out of business college, began her professional career with Metro Transit. At the "bus company" Renee found herself in the business of helping people get from one place to the next. Thirty years later Renee's first job turned into her last job when she was suddenly diagnosed with Lupus, an autoimmune disease.

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## NON-RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVE (NAP) PROGRAM

NAP is a 60-day non-residential program for males and females on parole. Its' goal is to provide a short-term community alternative to residential placement or revocation of supervised release. The program offers additional supervision, structure, and monitoring in the areas of employment and maintaining sobriety.

There are two phases of the program. The first phase involves working with unemployed clients and the second phase involves working with employed clients. During the course of both phases, clients are required to check in twice a day, com-

ply with curfew restrictions (monitored either electronically or manually) and must be available for random urine analysis (UA) and breathalyzer tests (BA).

An optional third phase may be recommended for clients if they are working, remain clean from drugs and alcohol and are available for curfew as directed. Phase 3 clients may check in only 2-3 times per week and will receive very random UA's and BA's. They will not receive curfew checks.

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## WHAT IT TAKES TO TURN A LIFE AROUND

By Stacie Pacquette, JDU Case Manager

On 11/1/04, Billy\* became one of 20+ juveniles assigned to my Juvenile Delinquency Unit (JDU) caseload. Adopted at a young age, Billy had difficulties with relationships throughout his life. At that time, he was charged with a gross misdemeanor, which was followed by several other charges over the next few years. During that time, Billy was offered every community resource available through probation. Finally, this last July, he was ordered to Redwing because he admitted to a felony charge and probation exhausted all other available options for him. During his time at Redwing, Billy focused on his academics while completing his court ordered obligations and earned his GED. Not only was he able to earn his GED, he was one of a few students who earned the honor roll. Billy's father and I recently visited Billy at Redwing and attended his graduation ceremony. It was a very proud moment for his father.

Billy will be leaving the Redwing program within the next couple of weeks. A few weeks later he will turn 18. My client's true success will be determined by the choices he makes once he is back with his father, but throughout Billy's time assigned to probation – he has been provided with many valuable resources including therapy/counseling, mental health services, Wilder ISP, community services, CD evaluations and treatment, and residential treatment. His GED provides him with a tangible accomplishment that will enable him to continue to progress once in the community. Billy's goals when he leaves Redwing are to find a job, get his license, complete a carpentry apprenticeship, and to keep working on his relationship with his father. I have every reason to be hopeful about Billy's future.

[Stacie's caseload is now 33 kids]

\* Billy is not his real name

### Spotlight on 180 Degrees Board Member ... (Continued from page 1)

In Renee's words, this diagnosis "ended one career path and posed new challenges. I zigged and zagged with these challenges and turned them into new opportunities. I expressed the illness as an educational awareness path. It wasn't easy. I had to re-invent myself."

Today our re-invented Renee has leveraged her life-changing experience into an opportunity to follow her passions, some old and some new. These include community involvement, smoothing the path for our youth, and bringing a healing attitude where needed.

Residing in the Phillips neighborhood, she attends a church in the community, which has a strong record in civic involvement. She states, "As a result I've gone from serving on the Church Council to also serving as an active board member of Lutheran Social Services (LSS), because their Mission serves the community.

In addition to serving on the Church Council, the board of LSS, and now the board of 180 Degrees, Renee is also a very active board member of the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota. These board appointments have allowed Renee to passionately address her commitment to serving her many and varied communities.

With reference to these diverse interests, Renee remarks, "I have chosen to be broad, because East is now truly meeting West in term of civilization. I'm privileged to be in the "here and now" participating in this blended setting. Regarding

180 Degrees, "I feel honored and realize that this spot light on me as a board member of 180 Degrees requires me to step outside of a comfort zone and into civic responsibility. I may lack a background in corrections, but abound with a sense of responsibility to be a responsive contributor in the lives of each of those that we serve, with a special mission toward the youth. Collectively we can give back to our children the bright future they so richly deserve."

*"I feel honored and realize that this spot light on me as a board member of 180 Degrees requires me to step outside of a comfort zone and into civic responsibility."*

Thirty-six years after joining the team at the bus company, we see Renee is still actively involved in the business of helping people get from one place to the next.

This is just a brief snapshot of Renee. There's a lot more about Renee that adds to her richness and caring. We encourage you to meet her and make your own discoveries.

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## 180 DEGREE'S SCANDAHOOVIAN MAINTENANCE TEAM

Maintenance Manager, Nathan Shaw, and his Maintenance Assistant, Craig Runchey have a lot in common besides their Scandanavian ancestry and their commitment to upgrading and maintaining 180 Degrees infrastructure at 236 Clifton. When they are not engaged in doing some kind of plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, furniture or equipment repair or yard work – they are headed out to the great outdoors to enjoy either canoeing or kayaking with family and friends. Not many know that Nathan is a master boat builder who enjoys building kayaks for fun.

Between them, Nathan and Craig have spent almost 25 years working for 180 Degrees to ensure that their buildings are habitable and in good working order. There are stories to tell about exploding toilets and cascading water and the ongoing mystery about how they managed to get the shower stall into the second floor south bathroom. What Craig loves most about his job is the variety and there is always variety. Craig and Nathan recently added historical restoration onto their long list of tasks as they work to restore the once beautiful high beveled ceiling in the Shift Coordinator's office. When they're done – sometime this year, there will be a newly restored main office for clients, visitors and staff to enjoy.



*Maintenance Manager, Nathan Shaw, and his Maintenance Assistant, Craig Runchey*

Nathan and Craig have seen a lot of changes over the years. They remember when the workload tripled when 180 Degrees expanded and purchased the properties at 300 Clifton. With the sale of that property in 2005, the maintenance team is now able to more pro-actively plan for the ongoing maintenance of 236 Clifton. Instead of crisis reacting - dealing with plumbing issues on a weekly basis – plumbing is now (happily) a periodic issue.



*Nathan Shaw, and Craig Runchey  
In 1998*

*On a daily basis – we at 180 Degrees - are reminded of the importance of our maintenance team and the valuable service they provide to us. Thank you for a job well done.*

### Non-Residential Alternative (NAP) Program ... (Continued from page 1)

Other services available through the NAP program include face-to-face reporting, employment assistance through referrals, following up on job leads, conducting mock interviews, employment verification and monitoring of attendance and referrals for available community resources.

*Chris Gormley, a long time 180 Degrees employee – serves as NAP's Case Manager and can be reached at 612-767-3440 with any questions about the NAP Program.*

## TURN AROUND TIMES

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the World”

Gandi

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.180degrees.org](http://www.180degrees.org)**

## NEW JUVENILE SERVICES DIRECTOR HIRED

180 Degrees Inc. has hired a new Juvenile Services Director. Ms. Sara Walker, of Minneapolis holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Carleton College with a major in African American Studies. She has earned additional college credits in pursuit of her Ph.D. in Public Policy at the University of Minnesota.

Sarah brings a wealth of experience and education to this position. She has supervised case managers, job developers, and intake specialists as part of her responsibilities at the Work Force Development Center in New York City. As Executive Director of New York's Youth Justice Funding Collaborative, Sarah effectively managed all program activities including grant writing and fund development. She just completed a fellowship with the Otto Bremer Foundation, and more recently has been active in the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative in Ramsey County. Clearly she has the education, experience, and dedication to the youth we serve - to be a great Juvenile Services Director. Welcome, Sarah - to the 180 Degrees team.

180 Degrees would also like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Tamara Persaud, our outgoing Juvenile Services Director. Tamara is leaving 180 Degrees to start a new life with her soon-to-be-husband in St. Charles, Louisiana. Tamara has served our children and our community very well. She will be very much missed. We would like to wish her good luck and success in all her endeavors wherever she may go.

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DEGREES INC.  
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