



Knights of Columbus

Council 649 . Monsignor O'Callaghan Council
2755 Ashmun Street (M-129) Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

March 8, 2014

Chippewa County Board of Commissioners
319 Court Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Dear Commissioners,

We have heard that a proposal is currently under consideration regarding a possible change in the county's recycling program. This proposal, as we understand it, could have potentially adverse effects on the intellectually impaired and learning-disabled members of our community who are currently employed by Northern Transitions in the recycling program.

The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic Men's charitable organization, has long been involved with programs that help and assist those special members of our community, most visibly with the annual Tootsie Roll drive which raises upwards of \$2,500 annually for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Special Olympics. Because of our long association with the intellectually impaired, we are especially concerned when we hear of potential changes that would adversely affect and likely decimate a wonderful program managed by Northern Transitions that provides real and meaningful employment for those most fragile members of our community. This employment at the recycling center allows these individuals to become productive members of the community and gives them the head start to develop the basic skills and increasing confidence to move beyond the recycling center into other permanent jobs in the community. How great is that!

The Sault Ste. Marie Council of the Knights of Columbus urges the commissioners to seriously consider the huge beneficial impacts of the current recycling center operations beyond just recycling, and move very cautiously - if at all - in a direction that would upend a very successful community program that has won huge millage renewals over and over for the past 24 years.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James F. Hendricks
Grand Knight, Council 649 Knights of Columbus