

**From the Heart...**  
by Deanna Genske, Executive Director

**Choosing Kindness Can Change a Life**



Kindness...one small act can change someone's life significantly.

Acts of kindness have the potential to make the world a happier place. An act of kindness can boost feelings of confidence, being in control, happiness and optimism. They may also encourage others to repeat the good deeds they've experienced themselves – contributing to a more positive community.

What does choose kindness mean? When you choose kindness, it means that your heart is full of love and positivity. You are open to receiving these things as well as giving them. It's not just about being nice for the sake of doing so; it's about truly caring for others and wanting what's best for them in every situation.

I believe that a community infused with charitable people grow to become communities of hope, possibility, and adds new life. I challenge you to find a nonprofit that you wish to adopt- and reach out to learn if you can donate your time or resources to help them!

From the Heart,  
Deanna

**Ascend Services 65th Anniversary Open House welcomed friends, new and old!**

Ascend Services celebrated their 65th Anniversary with an Open House on October 12. The day included the unveiling of the new mural, painted by Don Krumpus and Erin LaBonte, with a welcome by Deanna Genske, Executive Director. Guests were treated to tours of AscendServices and then were welcomed to share in some treats.

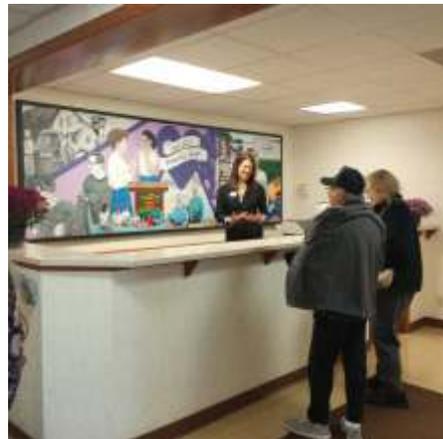
Ascend, originally Holiday House, celebrates their anniversary each year in October. That is the month that the original wreath makers and Bj got together to make holiday wreaths, and thus, "It all began with a wreath..." was the start of something special.



Our teamwork room was decorated for the day along with many of the office doors!

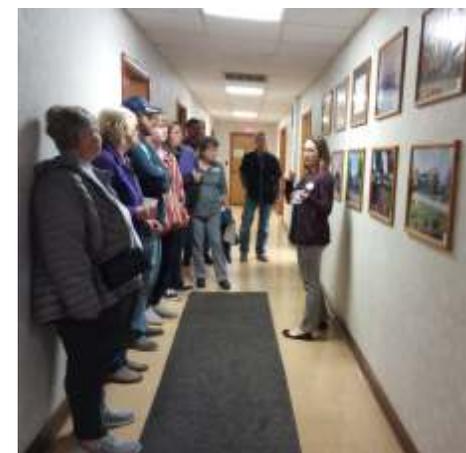


Dale Cayemberg, Operations Director, gave tours through our Production Services work areas.



Visitors were treated to the unveiling of our new historical mural, painted by Don Krumpus and Erin LaBonte. Deanna Genske, Executive Director, gave a brief look into the history of Ascend and the meaning of the imagery.

Allyssa Miller, Employment Services Coordinator, toured people through the office areas. Here she is showing the wall of photos of Ascend work sites.



# Ascend Thanked Area Business Partners and Celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

Ascend held an Employer Recognition Reception on October 20, 2022. It was an evening to recognize area businesses that partner with Ascend's Workforce Solutions Programs. It also coincided with the 65th Anniversary of Ascend and National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

Ascend was excited to present its History Video that was produced by Lakecoast Local. The new history mural was also available to be viewed. The Employment team handed out recognition awards to area businesses that were in attendance. Ascend partners with over 65 area businesses in our Workforce Solutions program which includes, Production Services, Mobile Work Crews and Integrated Employment. Save the date for next year, the Employment Recognition Reception will be held at Sabbatical Brewery on October 18th, 2023. We are excited to make this an annual event and to continue to recognize the area businesses that help us to fulfill our mission.



Deanna Genske, Executive Director, presenting a Powerpoint about Ascend's different Workforce Solutions.



Deanna and the Ascend Employment team handing out recognition awards.



The new mural with the Halvorsen Family. From the left: Ingrid Struttman, Gretchen Lulloff, Deanna Genske, Ascend Executive Director, Halvor Halvorsen and Bridget Bakken.

## Original Wreathmaker for Holiday House Still a Client at Ascend

When we were coming up with the concept for the mural and what images we wanted to include, it was an easy decision that the wreath picture of Bj and the boys would be a part of it. That was the beginning of our organization. We chose to feature one young man and Bj. The decision was easy as to which boy to choose, as the young man depicted is still a client at Ascend Services. Doug was one of the original wreath makers, worked in our Production Services, Community Employment and is now in our Day Services Program. Pictured is his sister Michele, an Ascend Board Member, Doug, and Deanna Genske, Executive Director.



## Summer Days... Cars, Food Trucks and Dancing!

Summer brought with it the first ever Ascend Car Show! We incorporated the car show with our annual Parking Lot Party and then added a food truck to boot! El Tequila food truck served up delicious mexican cuisine while Advanced Entertainment DJ Services served up the tunes to boogie to!

The day cooperated with sunshine and summer heat, maybe a little too much heat, but it was a fun time had by all! All clients and staff of Ascend were able to vote on their favorite car show entry and then trophies were given out.



## Job Fair Draws Area Employers to Fill Positions

Ascend held their second Community Job Fair on October 6th, 2022 at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum Riverview Room. Over 25 employers were on site looking to fill positions. There was a good community attendance and many connections were made! We are planning to host semi-annual Community Job Fairs. We feel this is an important resource to help our community connect with area employers and to help fill a need for more employment resources.



## Community Job Fair

**October 6, 2022 • 2 - 6 p.m.**  
 Wisconsin Maritime Museum - Riverview Room  
 75 Maritime Dr, Manitowoc

*Find the job that suits your life!*

Businesses attending this fair:

- Advocate Aurora Health Services
- Amigo, Inc.
- Ascend Services
- Alpha Baking Co. (Natural Ovens)
- Bay at Northridge
- Burger Boat
- City of Manitowoc
- Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center
- Festival Foods
- Frodoert - HFM
- KDC-Northern Labs
- Kwik Trip
- Nicolet National Bank
- Par 5
- Seek
- Tenneco
- Wisconsin Maritime Museum

Questions? Contact Bill Schief  
 920-471-3113  
 bschief@ascendservicesinc.org

# Ascend Toss With All Your Heart Bags & Brews Cornhole Fundraiser

Ascend Services held their first Annual Cornhole Tournament at Sabbatical Brewery on August 6th. The day was a big success and we can't wait for next year! The weather was warm, the sun was shining and the bags were flying! People cooled off with some specialty drinks by Sabbatical and enjoyed food from Blue Suede Food Truck. Plans are in the works for next year. So save the date, August 12, 2023 and there will be live music by Nettle Hill. We can't wait to see what drink Will brews up!

