

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

Fall is Upon Us



As I reflect on the change of the seasons that is upon us once again, it is not dissimilar to the changes we have gone through at Ascend Services the last few years. Change creates a sense of newness and excitement. We are inspired to create more opportunities for the people we serve and our community. Our team empowers individuals to try new services and connect them to our community resources!

When change occurs, it creates new opportunities! We have been assessing our physical footprint and having discussions with our Board of Directors and staff about our future vision. As we continue to grow and provide services to more people in our community, we are faced with the reality of space constraints.

We are in the early stages of exploring options that align with the vision of Ascend Services. As some of you may know, we own nearly eight acres that our main building and the Community Center sits on. We plan to move forward with a feasibility study of our land to determine if building a larger campus makes sense for the future of Ascend Services.

We will keep our clients, parents, guardians, and other community members abreast of the feasibility study and our plans for continued growth! As Abe Lincoln once stated, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." So, let's create a fuller and more robust future for our clients and community!

From the Heart,
Deanna

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)



To mark two significant events in 2023 for people with disabilities, the U.S. Department of Labor announced its Office of Disability Employment Policy has selected themes to promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month and honor the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

ODEP has chosen "Advancing Access and Equity" as its theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month in 2023. Observed each October, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive policies and practices that benefit employees and employers alike.

Each year, the agency chooses an NDEAM theme for use by organizations around the nation to recognize the importance of ensuring

people with disabilities have equal opportunity to prepare for and succeed in employment.

"National Disability Employment Awareness Month reminds us of the valued contributions people with disabilities make in our nation's workplaces, and the 50th anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 marks a major milestone in our nation's ongoing quest to advance access and equity for all Americans," said Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy Taryn M. Williams.

The Rehabilitation Act laid the foundation upon which the more comprehensive Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 now stands. These laws continue to be vital tools used to advance access and equity for workers from historically underserved communities and meet the goals in the department's Equity Action Plan.

Celebrating a Lifelong Success Story During National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Scott Paulow
June 25, 1958 ~ September 24, 2023

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The purpose of NDEAM is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. Ascend Services provides Employment Services to assist people with disabilities obtain and retain employment in our community.

One of the best success stories is when our team helps someone find their dream job and they are hired on and work for that employer until they retire! Scott Paulow did just that. Scott passed away in September of this year and we wish to spotlight his experience with Ascend Services, which was Holiday House when he was a client. Scott worked with Deanna Genske, who was the Employment Services Connector at the time, to find a job that would suit his abilities and also be something he would like to do. Together they found him a position as a page at the Two Rivers Lester Library. The year was 1995 and he was hired on April 1. Deanna said she can remember how he told her "it was not a joke", being hired on April Fools Day. He was proud to have his own job! He continued to work at the library for almost 27 years until his retirement in 2022.

A few years ago Scott heard Deanna on a radio program on WOMT, and took it upon himself to call in and thank her for helping him to get that job. His is truly a client success story that will not be forgotten and is a great example of how our services help connect individuals to our community!

Ascends Youth Program Transitions to After School Care in Fall

Although the chaos of summer has come to a rest, our youth clients are keeping busy. Over the last few weeks they have become 'the next great bakers' by learning how to make mini fruit pizzas, pumpkin protein balls, and jack o lantern pancakes, which everyone enjoyed!

They also enjoy getting outside every chance they can. They enjoy playing soccer, football, drawing with chalk, blowing bubbles and getting out in the community and playing disc golf. Exploring many different sensory experiences with things such as shaving cream, slime, frozen pom poms in hair gel and kinetic sand are some of their favorite activities.

As a group, they enjoy playing board games, building with STEM activity kits and having friendly competitions. Our young artists have created some masterpieces including spiders from old CD's, perler beads magnetic creations, and using straws to blow paint. Currently they are taking pleasure in creating fall / Halloween decorations, exploring different fall themed foods, and building their social skills.



Cooking Lessons Bring Fun and Flavor to Our Day Services Program



Cathy Cherney, Linda Brunmeier, Gemma Ulness and Sue Clark have been busy teaching cooking simple yummy treats. They've taught clients to make a snack mix and smoothies, and also did a cookie decorating activity for groups of our Day Services clients. Everyone got to participate in the making, eating and the fun! Thank you ladies for donating your time to teach!



Ascend Receives Donation of Van From The Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center



Thank You With All Our Heart!

What a great way to touch the heart! In August, the Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center donated a beautiful used van to Ascend Services. Heather Ihlenfeldt, Two Rivers Senior Center Supervisor, and Sid Kemp are pictured with Deanna Genske, Executive Director of Ascend. Sid stated that they felt that our mission is very close to that of the Senior Center, and they wanted to be able to help us carry that mission out. We recently shared that many of our vehicles that we use to transport clients out into the community for work or programming are beginning to become dated and the upkeep is getting costly.

So, we are in need of gently used vehicles, vans preferred, to help as we transition the older vehicles out of services. If you would be interested in donating a vehicle to Ascend please contact Dale Cayemberg, Operations Director at dcayemberg@ascendservicesinc.org or call Dale at 920-682-4663 Ext. 122.

Beautiful Day for the Second Annual Toss With All Your Heart Bags & Brews Cornhole Tournament

The Second Annual Ascend Services Cornhole Tournament at Sabbatical Brewing Co. was another big success! The weather was warm, the sun was shining and the bags were flying! People cooled off with a specialty drink by Sabbatical and enjoyed food from Holla on Wheels Food Truck. Nettle Hill entertained with live music and put on a great show. It could not have been a better day! We can't wait for next year!



Ascend SERVICES INC. 1st Place \$200! 2023

TOSS WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Scan to Register!

BAGS & BREWS
AT SABBATICAL BREWING CO.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

SABBATICAL BREWING CO.

Sat., August 12, 2023
NOON - 5 P.M.

To Register:
Ascend Facebook Event or
ascendservicesinc.org
SABBATICAL BREWING CO.
835 S 29TH ST. MANITOWOC

Nettle Hill 5 pm

FOOD TRUCK

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