



INSPIRE • EMPOWER • CONNECT

Ascend Services, Inc.
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November 2024

Fall



From the Heart...

by Deanna Genske, Executive Director

Fall is Upon Us

As I reflect on the past year, my heart is filled with immense gratitude for the incredible journey we've shared. This year has been a testament to the power of teamwork, dedication, and the unwavering support of our clients. To our staff, thank you for your hard work, creativity, and commitment to our clients and the mission of Ascend Services. Your dedication has been the driving force behind our success. Each one of you brings unique talents and perspectives that enrich our workplace and elevate our services. Your resilience in the face of challenges and your enthusiasm for innovation inspire me every day. Thank you for your tireless efforts, your passion, and for making our company a place where excellence thrives.

And to our wonderful clients, I am deeply grateful for your enthusiasm, smiles, trust and loyalty. Your success stories motivate me to strive for even greater heights. Thank you for choosing us, for believing in our vision, and for allowing us to be a part of your journey.

As I look ahead, I am excited about the opportunities and adventures that await. Together, we will continue to achieve remarkable things. Here's to another year of shared success, growth, and meaningful connections.

With heartfelt thanks,
Deanna



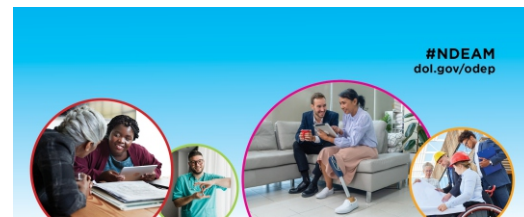
We observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Every October

Ascend Services joined the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy in recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "Access to Good Jobs For All."

The history of NDEAM traces back to 1945, when it started as a week and focused only on people with physical disabilities. Later, it expanded to a full month, and its name and scope evolved to acknowledge the importance of increasing the workforce inclusion of people with all nature of disabilities.

"Our communities and economy are strengthened by the inclusion of all people, including people with disabilities," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy Taryn M. Williams. "Their contributions have historically been vital to our nation's success and are more important today than ever. We must build an accessible, equitable economy that fully includes the talent and drive of those with disabilities."

Reflecting the year's theme, throughout the month, Ascend engaged in a variety of activities to educate its employees and clients on disability employment issues and its commitment to an accessible and



equitable work culture. These efforts included the organizations weekly podcasts, print campaign and social media marketing featuring client success stories. Ascend celebrated with an Employer Recognition Reception that was held on October 17th at Sabbatical Brewing Company.

"Ascend is proud to be a part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Deanna Genske, Executive Director. "We want to spread the important message that we value all perspectives, especially those of individuals with disabilities."

Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about how to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month for next year and ways that they can promote its messages all throughout the year by visiting dol.gov/NDEAM.

Ascend 2024 Employer Recognition Reception

Ascend Services held their annual Employer Recognition Reception October 17th, 2024 at Sabbatical Brewing Co. The event is in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month which is celebrated every October to bring attention to the importance of increasing the workforce inclusion of people with all nature of disabilities. Ascend invited area business partners who participate in their Workforce Solutions Program, event sponsors and community partners to attend.

Ascends Workforce Solutions Program features three services, Prevocational Services, Mobile Work Crews and Community Integrated Employment Services. Prevocational Services is a work program in which the employer brings work to Ascend to be completed by our clients in our production department. The Mobile Work Crew Program is a team of 3-8 clients and an Employment Mentor travel to the business and perform the work on site. The Integrated Employment Program features a partnership between the DVR, the client and the Ascend Employment Connectors, Logan Rooney and Kellie Soulier. They work together to find the client a job in the community with the goal of becoming a permanent hire. Currently between the three programs, Ascend partners with over 200 area businesses.

The event was attended by Ascend staff, area business and community partners, and Ascend clients and families. The evening featured a social hour and testimonials from clients and companies about working with Ascends Workforce Solutions Programs. The testimonials featured clients from each of the three programs. Abe, who works with



Todd, Abe, Troy Christiansen, Owner of Advantage Driving School and Logan Rooney, Ascend Employment Connector



Marissa Fitzgerald, Ascend Program Director, Travis and Bob Reeves, Operations Director, Kaysun Corporation



Kim Kuehnl, Ascend Work Specialist, Trista, Darian Kadarabek, Ascend Program Support Coordinator and Eric Stueck, Alliance Laundry Systems.

Advantage Driving School in the Community Integrated Employment Program, Travis, who is on a Mobile Work Crew at Kaysun and Trista who works on Alliance Laundry Systems jobs in the Prevocational Program at Ascend.

The evening ended with an awards program. Awards were handed out to businesses that partner in the Workforce Solutions Programs in three categories.

Supports Ascends Mission

Schwartz Manufacturing

Community Integrated Employment

Parker Hannifin Parflex Division

Prevocational Services Partner

Kaysun Corporation

Mobile Work Crew

Inspiring Work Culture

Woodland Dunes

Nature Center & Preserve

Community Integrated Employment

Carron Net Company, Inc.

Prevocational Services Partner

Alpha Baking Company, Inc.

Mobile Work Crew

Most Empowering

Goodwill Industries

Community Integrated Employment

Alliance Laundry Systems

Prevocational Services Partner

Parker Hannifin

Mobile Work Crew

This year there were several new awards added. The Sponsor Superstar went to Nicolet Bank and the Most Supportive Sponsor went to Parker Hannifin.

There was also recognition for community partners, organizations that Ascend volunteers at and partners with on various things. The Community Partner Award for a mutual partnership went to Manitowoc Marine Band.

Ascend Fall Festival Brought Families and Friends Together!



Ascend Services once again held their Fall Festival which is open to clients, their families and guardians, and to employees and their families. A great opportunity to get together and celebrate fall. We had a great DJ, Mark, who was pumping out the tunes. There were burgers and smores for all, along with games and dancing. What more could you ask for?



1-2-3-4 we declare a PENNY WAR!

- Each department has a jar to drop pennies in from Monday, November 18th to Friday the 22nd at Noon.
- Each penny is worth a point. Whichever department has the most points at the end wins!
- BUT...departments can sabotage each other and try to deduct points by dropping any silver coins or dollar bills into their opponents jar!!

Good luck to all departments!
Prevocational, Youth, Office Staff, Day Services Programs.

All proceeds will benefit The Salvation Army of Manitowoc



Dress in Green and Red to ring the bells!



Thursday December 5th from 9 AM to 5 PM we will be competing against other non-profits in the area for the Manitowoc Salvation Army to see who can raise the most money in their kettles! We will be sending groups out throughout the day to ring the bells at Tom Drills hut in front of the Manitowoc Public Library, 707 Quay Street. We hope you all will visit us! Also to add some more fun to our Christmas spirit please dress in RED and GREEN when you come to work! For more information see Heather or contact her at 920-682-4663 ext. 112



If Ascend Services needs to close due to bad weather, listen to or watch for announcements that will be made on **WOMT (Am1240)**, **WCUB (AM 920)**, **WLTU (FM92.1)**, **WBAY Channel 2** and our **Facebook Page**. A recording will also be placed on the Ascend Services phone system if you call in. Please, listen to the radio,

check our Facebook page, or watch the TV to find out if we are closed or not.

2024 Ascend Holiday Closings



Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday, November 28th
Friday, November 29th



Merry Christmas!

Tuesday, December 24th
Wednesday, December 25th



Happy New Year!

Tuesday, December 31st
Wednesday, January 1st