

# Ventures Adventure

## 2010-New Decade-Looking Forward to Growth and Change

### Washburn County

110 N. Industrial Drive  
Shell Lake, WI 54871  
(715) 468-2939

### Sawyer County

10140 Highway 27  
Hayward, WI 54843  
(715) 934-3035

### Barron County

413 S. Main Street  
Rice Lake, WI 54868  
(715) 736-6959

Check us out at our new  
email address:  
[www.venturesunlimited.org](http://www.venturesunlimited.org)

Ventures Unlimited opens the New Year and the new decade looking forward to another year of growth and change. 2009 certainly brought its share of change in the human services system, and 2010 promises to bring even more challenges. The shift to the managed care system that took place over the latter half of 2009 created countless opportunities for members to create support systems specific to their goals. Ventures Unlimited has long been driven by person-centered planning and as such welcomes the opportunity to provide services tailored to each individual. These efforts were greatly enhanced by the award of the 2009 Rebalancing Initiative Grant, supporting agency ef-

forts to shift resources internally to support individual community-based employment goals. The staff at Ventures has been fortunate to work directly with a number of nationally known experts over the past few years as vocational training and employment goals become increasingly diverse and customized to meet individual goals. No longer are persons with disabilities confined to janitorial, cleaning, or fast food positions. Today, persons with disabilities are just as likely to be business owners or office personnel or sales persons or hospital aides. Advances in assistive technology create opportunity where there was none just 5 years ago. Ventures' staff members

take pride in the creation of a continuing education program, which enables us to be part of progressive efforts that support a wide range of employment goals. The changing economy creates challenges, and it also creates opportunity. Ventures Unlimited is well positioned to assist persons with disabilities in taking advantage of these opportunities. Ventures is actively pursuing the 2010 Rebalancing Initiative Grant, which would provide additional resources for staff training and capacity building. Customization and creativity are the buzzwords in the new paradigm for success in vocational planning, and the staff at Ventures is ready for the future.

## Director's Corner

Ventures Unlimited, Inc. has experienced many positive changes with the roll-out of our new Managed Care Organization, NorthernBridges. The change has encouraged us to once again focus on community integration. Living as independently as possible is important to all of us. Many of the things we do day in and day out may be more difficult for a person with a disability. At Ventures we continue to focus on teaching work skills, providing a pay check every two weeks, and offering many edu-



cational opportunities. These educational opportunities include teaching individuals to read, write, and we've even had yoga on the beach and snow

shoeing along the river. Community outings are also an integral part of our programming, including upcoming trips to Footloose at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, a voyage to Florida, and a trip to see the Brewers vs. Twins. Of course none of this would be possible without the tremendous determination, loyalty, and compassion of the great staff at Ventures and the support of the Board of Directors. Until next time!  
*Kristin Frane, CEO*

### Inside this issue:

Valuable Coupon	Pg. 2
New Staff at Ventures	Pg. 4
Disability Rights WI.	Pg. 5
Packer Game	Pg. 7
2010 Trips	Pg. 8

## Ventures Unlimited Thrift & Gift Shoppe and Just For the Birds

The Ventures Unlimited Thrift & Gift Shoppes have been very busy. The donations continue to pour in, even with the cold weather. Thank you to everyone who continues to show their support by donating and shopping at our stores. Clothing is being sorted, tagged, and hung by the Ventures assembly floor in Hayward and Shell Lake. This has been a wonderful opportunity for many people to gain valuable work experience. We are still having the \$2.00 bag sales on the last Saturday of each month. We had a very busy holiday season. Both of our stores were reset during the month of January. We did lots of rearranging and deep cleaning. Stop in to see our fresh new look, and bring in this coupon for valuable savings!

We **DO NOT ACCEPT** the following items:

- \*Computers, printers & accessories
- \*TVs
- \*Clothing with tears, stains, missing buttons, broken zippers, etc.
- \*Electrical items that do not work
- \*Large Appliances
- \*Chipped or broken dishes and glass
- \*Stereo speakers
- \*Furniture items that are stained, torn or broken
- \*Construction Materials
- \*Exercise Equipment

Please drop off donations during business hours only. Thank you.

The milk jugs should be rinsed thoroughly and air dried before bringing them in to Ventures. Thank you for helping us reuse and recycle milk and water jugs.

The Hayward woodshop has been busy making feeders and houses for custom orders and for stock. Our most popular feeders have been the 16" seed feeder and the 3 in 1 seed/suet/hummingbird feeder. We appreciate any feedback or new ideas for wild bird products. In addition, the woodshop made some special projects for two different boy scout groups this winter. One troop made view boxes from kits the woodshop produced. The other assembled wren house kits as they have done in the past. The Shell Lake woodshop made some fancy wooden locked cabinets to be used in the offices of some of our document shredding contracts and is currently working on some new birdhouse designs, tic-tac-toe games, and cribbage boards.

Thank you to everyone for all of their hard work in making our stores a success.

We appreciate your business at Ventures Unlimited Thrift & Gift Shoppe and Just for the Birds stores. Please stop in and see us at any of our locations or visit us at [www.justforthebirds.org](http://www.justforthebirds.org). We have something for everyone.



Thrift & Gift Shoppe and  
Just for the Birds

50% off ANY thrift purchase  
-or-  
50% off ANY Just for the Birds  
suet product

Offer expires 6/30/10



Just for the Birds stores are also very busy. The suet season is well under way and both Hayward and Shell Lake have been working diligently to fill the orders that have been pouring in. Thank you to all suet line employees for your hard work and effort in producing top quality suet products. We appreciate the support from all of our regular customers and we are thankful for the additional business the winter bird feeding season brings.

We continue to purchase our black oil seed and deer corn locally. Special thanks to Tom Perlick of Sarena for growing black oil seed and Bill Taubman of Shell Lake for growing whole kernel corn. By partnering with these local farmers, we are able to offer important and meaningful work experiences to many people. Everyone enjoys being part of the crew that goes to the farm to fill bags of seed and transport them to our stores. We also continue to sell lots of the bird seed jugs. We use recycled milk jugs to package our own seed mixes and are in need of more jugs.

**Stop and Visit us at any one of our Locations:**

**10529 Dakota Avenue,  
Hayward, WI (715)934-3377**  
**10140 Highway 27 S.,  
Hayward, WI (715)934-3035**  
**110 N. Industrial Blvd.,  
Shell Lake, WI (715)468-2939**  
**1150 S. River Street,  
Spooner, WI (715)635-6769**  
**413 S. Main Street,  
Rice Lake, WI(715)736-6959**

. Following lists the guidelines of thrift shoppe donations:

All donations should be free from stains, tears and excessive wear, and in resalable condition. According to IRS rules, to be deductible, clothing and household items generally must be in **good** used condition **or better**.

## Hayward AIM Keeps Busy With Many Activities

During the summer months, Ventures Unlimited added more enrichment classes and activities to our busy days. We had the opportunity to view a group of Antique Cars that traveled through the City of Hayward while eating pizza at a local restaurant. We are enjoying coffee, Mochas, and Lattes during our Coffee Club outing. Kitchen class has become a hit with cooking meals and we have found that we have many talented cooks among us. We went on daily walks and to Jimmy F's house to offer help with the Family Garden as our way of saying thank you.

We welcomed Cassie and Tommy to our program as well. They have added enjoyment to our days.



Phyllis Wolf is our new Massage Therapist, and is doing a wonderful job. We would like to thank her.

During November the AIM program cooked a Thanksgiving Buffet. Everyone enjoyed turkey and all of the trimmings and cupcakes for dessert.

For the winter months, we have started bowling and basketball on alternating Wednesdays. These are fun ways of getting exercise in the cold weather.

December brought Christmas decorations and crafts. The AIM program created centerpieces for each family out of Santa hats. They were beautiful and got rave reviews.

We also made pinecone and peanut butter bird feeders to market at the Thrift Stores.

Our Christmas party was so much fun. We had a day of bowling, movies and a taco buffet for lunch. We are looking forward to the new year and wish each and everyone of you a Happy and Healthy 2010.



## Hayward Assembly Floor Update

Happy New Year! Everyone is feeling refreshed and renewed after the long holiday break. We all enjoyed the Christmas party this year. We went bowling in the morning at Riverside Lanes, we had a festive lunch of taco salad here at Ventures, exchanged gifts, and then headed for the movie "Chipmunks, the Squeakquel". A good time was had by all.

The suet line is back up and running in full swing. We are busy filling orders as fast as they come in. As always we are grateful to everyone who puts so much hard work into the suet production.

Clothing donations continue to pour in. We are sorting, tagging, and hanging as fast as we can, and the store continues to need more. This is a great way to keep many people busy and working constantly.

We now have a wire stripper in Hayward. We have a group of employees that are very passionate about the work, and we are thankful to Kennell Electric for partnering with us on this project.

As always, we continue to bring in shredding business. The sorting, staple removing, folding, and shredding offers continu-

ous work for many.

In addition we have been keeping busy with other jobs like shoveling and ice removal. We still offer our book clubs, beauty class, and coffee club enrichment classes. We are playing basketball and bowling on Wednesdays to keep everyone active and in touch with the community. We continue to take on labeling and light assembly jobs from area business as they become available. We appreciate all opportunities for work.



Congratulations to Tegan and Jake Brunette. They were married on Saturday, September 26th in Rice Lake.

## Health and Wellness with Judy

The Wellness program at Hayward progressed during the summer by using the great weather outdoors to our advantage. There were many employees interested in enjoying the fresh air doing walking and trying Nordic walking. Among the striders were Amanda H., Terry D., Patti P., Kyle B., Carol G., Tammy L., Mark I., Stosh R., and David K.

The use of the famous Hand Bike continues with flair and enthusiasm as the competition progresses.

To date, David K. has the men's record with 20 minutes at full resistance, and Carol G. has the Women's record with 40 minutes!

The Women's abdominal class is still working hard. the class consists of Johnna J, Marla M, Kelly K, and Amanda H.

This Fall, the Health Class discussed ways to prevent the Flu and other communicable diseases using good hygiene and preventative techniques. Being Clean from Head to Toe

was the theme and also included learning how to do the laundry.

Cooking class saw a variety of salads and sandwiches and when the weather cooled, class turned to cooking soups, lasagna, tacos, and a meatloaf dinner.

The Staff is looking forward to "The Biggest Loser" project in partnership with the Marshfield Clinic Business group to encourage area businesses to promote Health and Wellness.

## Ventures Welcomes New Staff



Upper: Vicky and Mike weaving placemats in Hayward.

Lower: A group playing a card game in Rice Lake.



Missy Paulson started on September 8, 2009 in Rice Lake as an AIM Aide.

She is married, has two grown children and her first grandchild due in March. She enjoys warm weather, Mexican beaches, hiking, biking and running. She chose to work at Ventures because she was looking for a rewarding job.

hunting. She likes what she does at Ventures because she enjoys helping others.



Kitty Quenette just recently started at Ventures working in both Rice Lake and Shell Lake. She lives in

Spooner with her husband Steve and 3 children. She enjoys cooking, shopping and photography. She keeps very busy not only as a Job Coach and Mentor for Ventures but also works as a waitress at Denelie's Pizza in Spooner and manages a Pizza Shop in Lindstrom, MN every other weekend. She loves her new job at Ventures helping people learn new work tasks and life skills through the various Ventures programs that are offered.



Mary Petersen started at Ventures in Shell Lake in December of 2009. She is

working as a job coach and floor supervisor. Mary and her husband, Brian, have 9 children, 5 boys and 4 girls ranging from 4-23 years of age. She enjoys a good workout at the gym, dancing and singing karaoke. She also likes reading books. Mary chose to work at Ventures not only because it was much closer to her home but also because she likes helping others and stated that they are all a joy to work with. Mary said that she enjoys the variety of activities that her job entails. She is always on the go and on her feet.

Ventures would like to welcome all of you aboard.



Jessica Holmes started at Ventures in June 2009 as a substitute in the AIM room. She moved into a position in Rice Lake as

an AIM Aide and has done a great job ever since. She has 3 sisters and is a twin. She loves to go ice fishing and

## DISABILITY RIGHTS WISCONSIN OFFERS FAMILY CARE AND IRIS OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Do you need help in understanding your Family Care, Partnership or IRIS services or benefits?

Are you confused about your rights under Family Care, Partnership or IRIS?

Are you satisfied with your care plan or services?

Are you receiving services that meet your needs and support your outcomes?

Do you have questions regarding your cost share?

Disability Rights Wisconsin's (DRW's) *Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program* is now available. It can provide assistance regarding eligibility, services or other Family Care, Partnership or IRIS concerns. The Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) will continue to provide its ombudsman services to Family Care and Partnership enrollees and potential enrollees age 60 and over.

An Ombudsman (OM-budz-man) is an advocate. If you are applying for or receiving Family Care, Partnership or IRIS, you are eligible for DRW's Ombudsman services. The ombudsman can assist you whether you are living in your own home, a supported apartment or another residential setting. If you are applying for or already enrolled in the Family Care, Partnership or IRIS programs and have a question or concern, call DRW at one of the toll-free numbers at the end of this article.

The Family Care Ombudsman Program offers many services, including:

- Investigating complaints
- Resolving and mediating issues
- Providing information and education on consumer rights
- Assisting in negotiating care plans
- Appealing denials of services or

changes in services that you don't agree with  
Working with enforcement and regulatory agencies

The Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program has staff in DRW's Madison, Milwaukee and Rice Lake offices and is available to advocate for Family Care, Partnership and IRIS participants in *any* Wisconsin Family Care county. It can help Family Care, Partnership and IRIS enrollees or potential enrollees, their guardians and families with issues such as:

**Development of a Care Plan that supports your goals:** Were you actively involved in developing your care plan? Were your concerns and questions addressed? Does your team understand what kind of life you want your long term care services to help you achieve? Did you get good information about all of your services (such as employing your own caregivers)? Were you given the opportunity to direct some or all of your services (such as employing your own caregivers)? Do you understand how decisions about your services were made?

**Reduction in Services:** Have you requested services that are not provided? Were any previous services changed or reduced? If so, do you understand why?

**Employment:** Are you interested in having a job or working toward employment? Are you getting support in getting or keeping a job?

**Living Arrangement:** Are you living where you want? If you want to move, have you told your care team about that? Is your care team helping you live where you want? With whom you want?

**Young Adults Moving from School to Adulthood and enrolling in Family Care or Partnership:** If you are at least 17

years and 9 months old, do you know that you might be eligible for Family Care or Family Care Partnership? Are you getting information about your options for services?

If you are age 18-59, are applying for or are enrolled in the Family Care, Partnership or IRIS programs and have a question or concern, you can contact the Family Care Ombudsman Program at the Disability Rights office nearest you:

Madison: 608-267-0214; Toll-free: 800-928-8778

Milwaukee: 414-773-4646; Toll-free: 800-708-3034

Rice Lake: 715-736-1232; Toll-free: 877-338-3724

Disability Rights Wisconsin provides reasonable accommodations upon request. Language translation services are available.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a private non-profit organization. Founded in 1977, it was designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and systems change. DRW is part of a national system of federally-mandated independent disability agencies. It serves people of all ages, including people with developmental disabilities, people with mental illness, people with physical or sensory disabilities, and people with traumatic brain injury. DRW respects the cultural values and personal choices of those seeking our services.

For more information about Family Care or other disability advocacy issues, please visit our website at: [www.disabilityrightswi.org](http://www.disabilityrightswi.org)

Family Care and Partnership give you several choices for help if you have a concern about your service plan. You can visit the DHS web site for a listing of options: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lcicare/>

## News From Rice Lake



Happy New Year from the gang in Rice Lake! We had a great 2009, it went by extremely fast but left us with many good memories. Last month we had Old Saint Nick make a guest appearance for our holiday party and some people thought he looked very similar to Dustin. Lanny (shown) looked the big guy over from head to toe



just to make sure it wasn't Dustin. Everyone had a wonderful time and received a gift from our gift exchange. In the afternoon, we got a special surprise from Rick, the owner of Bargain Bill's in Rice Lake. Rick hand wrote 26 gift certificates for all the people that attend Ventures Unlimited Inc. in Rice Lake. Thanks a bunch Rick! During 2009 we had many good community outings such as going to Wilderness Walk, The Pumpkin Patch, picnics,



swimming, trips to the mall, humane society, fishing and fall color tours just to name a few. We also had several people take advantage of Venture's Adventures which included a trip to see the Green Bay Packers, the Mall of America and the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. Last year Rice Lake started the mentoring program and the "Friday Alternative Group". The group program started in October and meets every Friday from 10 am to 3 pm. This group of 5 individuals is headed up by one of Ventures' newest staff, Missy Paulson. Her role is to assist the group in reaching the goals and outcomes that THEY want to achieve. Their first goal was to develop an opportunity for themselves and other young adults to meet, hang out, listen to music and have fun. They met several times at Ventures; talked, discussed options, talked some more and then began to plan and organize....you guessed it, PARTIES!! The first one was a Halloween party in Shell Lake that 40 people attended. The group sold pizza, hot dogs and pop, played music,

karaoke, bingo and socialized, it was a huge success! The second party was a holiday party held at the Soul Garage in Rice Lake. What a great place! The party goers listened to music, played air hockey, basket ball, ping pong and BINGO and again had lots of fun. The group would like to give a special thanks to the Soul Garage of Maranatha Church for letting them use the facility for the evening. You guys rock!! Rice Lake Ventures is looking forward to a bigger and better 2010 and will continue to move forward, be flexible and offer a variety of options for people with disabilities. Finally, we would like to extend a huge thank you to the staff at Ventures. They make these opportunities available to the participants through their hard work and dedication to helping people with disabilities recognize and increase their skills, abilities and talents.

## Barron County Supported Employment

Ventures Unlimited would like to thank local employers for their continued support of employing people with disabilities. They include Viking Coca-Cola, Link Ford, Buds Tool & Party Rental, Monroe

Manor and many others. We appreciate your ongoing support throughout the year and look forward to building stronger relationships in the New Year. We would also like to thank the employers we

have recently partnered with this year including Dianne's Reflexology in Bloomer and Pets for you in Rice Lake. Thank you for making Ventures Unlimited part of your employment partnership network.

## Rebalancing Initiative Grant

Ventures Unlimited, Inc. was one of 10 community-based agencies in Wisconsin that was awarded the Rebalancing Initiative Grant. This news came on April 1, 2009, with the grant running from May – December of 2009.

The concept of the grant was to expand integrated employment numbers while educating the staff and including them in the entire process.

The first step was to take an internal survey of the staff and assess their needs. This was done in May and it was concluded that the staff is very supportive of making this happen.

As part of the grant the staff was able to take in some excellent training sessions across

the state of Wisconsin. The trainings came at a perfect time, as Jen and Curtis, our newest Integrated Employment Specialists, were able to attend most of the trainings.

As a means of transition toward integration we tracked 12 individuals throughout the 8 months of the grant.

Sarah M. has had a very successful internship at the Hayward Hospital and Long-Term Care Living. Sarah is doing some anti-bacterial cleaning of tables, chairs and handrails. We are hoping to secure a hire in January.

Through this grant, the Integrated Employment staff has met monthly to keep up on the latest updates thus it has kept the staff more aware of the employee's status.

Through monthly conference calls, 2 site visits and 2 grantee meetings we have been in contact with our mentors, which has been very helpful.

We had 4 community education forums, which has been advantageous in educating the public about the mission of Ventures.

All in all, this has had a positive impact on Ventures Unlimited. It has brought together many of the staff to meet, brainstorm, understand and apply new and innovative ways to secure integrated employment.

We are in the process of applying for a 2010 grant, which would start in March.

## Shell Lake Assembly Floor Update

Everyone on the assembly floor has been extremely busy over the past months. We have been working hard on numerous jobs from Nexen, 3-M, tennis shoes, sorting and tagging clothes for the Thrift Shoppe, confidential document shredding and the paper project. Oh and we can't forget the suet line. They have been working overtime on helping Hayward keep orders filled. It is so nice to know that even with today's economy, people are still thinking

of the birds. Speaking of the economy, we would like to thank both Nexen and 3-M for contracting work to us. It gives our consumers meaningful work to complete each day.

These cold frigid temperatures can drive anyone crazy, so to keep that from happening we have made plans for some fun outings to get through the next couple of months. We are going to start swimming

at the AmericInn, movie watching, walking at the Civic Center, Coffee Clutch outing and we also plan to tour a local cheese factory.

We would like to welcome Mary Petersen to our assembly floor as one of our newest staff members. She is a great addition to our team. Welcome aboard!

## Thanks for the Memories—Packer Game 2009

Was it really almost five months ago that we were sitting in the stands of Lambeau Field? What a great trip! We had a fairly large group make the trek to Green Bay. We saw the Packers crush the Buffalo Bills and even experienced tailgating at the Brett Favre Steakhouse. For most of us this was the first time tailgating. We stayed overnight at a hotel not too far from the field. Many of us were too excited to sleep. The next day it was back to Lambeau Field to tour the

Packer Hall of Fame and buy souvenirs in the Pro Shop. It truly was a wonderful trip that went off without a hitch. We even got to see a dear friend, Joe Plummer. He came along and hung out with his old buddies Dan and Jamie. Thanks for the help Joe! Thank you to everyone that went. You made this trip a great success. Ventures is extremely grateful for the opportunity to share a great memory like this one with you. Go Pack GO!



## What's Happening in Shell Lake's AIM Program?

Hi again! So, what's been going on in the A.I.M. room?? Per usual, it's been busy but very enjoyable.

First, we would like to introduce you to our newest consumer, Patty, who has been with us for a little while now. Patty is a very happy person, laughing all the time. The great thing about working in the A.I.M. room is that each client brings something different 'to the table' which makes for a nice group.

So, getting back to what we, the A.I.M. room, have been doing... in August we had a couple of outings. One happened to be at Michelle's house! We had a picnic and everyone played with her 4 cats! Also in August we had our annual summer pic-

nic at Totogatic Park. Lots of food, games and music. We can't wait to do it again next summer. In September, we started a once a month meal that we cook for all of Ventures. It's called the Blue Plate Special. The cost of this meal is \$5.00. The money earned goes into the A.I.M. fund to help buy new learning activities and to buy gifts at Christmas and birthdays. In October, we headed to the Pumpkin Patch in Rice Lake. What a cold day that was! We also started an activity called Cyber Squad. With help from the staff, individuals use the computer to play games such as Farm Town or Fish Life found on Facebook. We spent Halloween with the folks in Rice Lake. We ordered pizza and had a good time. In November, we took advantage of

the pinecones we found on the ground. We made lots of craft projects out of them. In December we made many, many crafts like snowmen, Rudolph's, and our bird feeders. We can't end without mentioning our Christmas party in Rice Lake at Skate City. With everyone's help, even our consumers that use wheelchairs were able to get out and enjoy being pushed around the floor. It goes without saying that everyone had a good time that day. So, in closing, we hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and that the New Year will bring peace and joy.

## End of the Summer Picnic-Fun Had by All

Another summer came to a close with our annual picnic being held at Tatogatic Park in Minong.

Awards were given to Staff of the Year: Melissa Denotter for Shell Lake, Debi DeFoe-Greene for Hayward and Shirley Berlin for Rice Lake.

AIM clients receiving awards were Joan Wendt for Shell Lake, George Buhl for Rice Lake and Jimmy Francek for Hayward.

Placement of the Year awards were given to Seth Jensen from Hayward and Randy Johnson from Shell Lake.

Employees of the Year were John Worre from Shell Lake, Paul Kutz and Troy Hodd from Hayward.

Thank You to the Shell Lake facility for making the sloppy joes this year and to Nicks for the salads. A big shout out to Hayward and to Rice Lake for making the tasty desserts. The food was delicious.

And as the tradition lives on, Harold Stone, our favorite d.j., was back to provide the music. There was plenty of dancing and then there was karaoke. We had a lot of awesome singers that should be on American Idol.

There was swimming, fishing, massages, pontoon rides and games. The day passed by quickly. Thanks to everyone for an enjoyable picnic.

## New Year...New Trips

HOW EXCITING!!! Our first year and our trips were very well received. Our first trip was to Wisconsin Dells and we took 14 consumers to the Kalahari Waterpark. Next was a trip to Duluth and to the zoo. There were 67 of us admiring the animals and then we enjoyed a picnic lunch at a wayside. Our third trip was to see the Green Bay Packers. This was a wonderful trip that many will be talking about for quite some time. Opening deer hunting weekend was a good day to get away to the Mall of America. There were many sales

and the mall was decorated beautifully for the Christmas season. Our trip to Florida left on Monday, January 25th. It was a perfect time to get away from the cold weather. The crew stayed at a Disney Resort and were the owners of Park Passes to every Disney Theme Park. It was very exciting.

What else does 2010 have in store? We plan to go back to Wisconsin Dells. It was so popular last year that we thought we would do it again. It is scheduled for Mon-

day and Tuesday, February 15th and 16th. The next trip is scheduled for April 24th to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater to see "Footloose." In May, we are going to visit the brand new Minnesota Twins ball park as they battle the Milwaukee Brewers. We plan to travel again to Minnesota for a day at ValleyFair to enjoy all of the rides and entertainment. Our big trip for 2010 is to Branson, Missouri. The dates are yet to be determined. Please watch for more information to come.

## Ventures Staff

### Shell Lake Staff

Lori Adams-Floor Supervisor, Michelle Anderson-AIM Aide, Kristy Barbara-Thrift Store, Kate Birdsill-Floor Supervisor, Kara Breitenfeld-Vocational Case Manager, Tammy Dahle-Book Keeper, Paul Davis-Driver, Melissa Denotter-Office Manager/AIM Vocational Case Manager, Gail Espeseth-Woodshop Supervisor, Jen Johannes-Integrated Employment Specialist, Stacy Martin-Lead AIM Aide, Mike Olsen-RAM, Linda Paulson-Massage Therapist, Mary Petersen-Job Coach/Floor Supervisor, Kathryn Quenette, Mentor, Sandy Rommel-Thrift Store, Tina Stilwell-AIM Aide

### Hayward Staff

Curtis Decora-Integrated Employment Specialist, Debi DeFoe-Greene-Marketing director, Dian DeLong-Job Coach, George Drier-Job Coach, Teresa DesLauriers-Job Coach, Spark Eastwood, Job Coach, Paul Gotmer-Woodshop Supervisor, Judy Holmes-Fitness Instructor, Barb Jaaska-Job Coach, Lori Johnson-Thrift Store, Denise Marquardt-Program Coordinator, Delores Marquardt-Job Coach, Ellen Palmisano-Job Coach, Joan Rainville- AIM Aide, Cindy Rau-Floor Supervisor, Kerry Rothgeb-Floor Supervisor, Michelle Slather-Job Coach, Vicki Smith-AIM Aide, Tom Sweeney-Program Coordinator, Phyllis Wolf-Massage Therapist

### Rice Lake Staff

Shirley Berlin-Job Coach/Office Staff, Tegan Brunette-AIM Aide, Bill Duerkop-Integrated Employment Specialist, Mike Grilley-Human Resources, Jessica Holmes-AIM Aide, Jen Johannes-Integrated Employment Specialist, Joe Mier-Job Coach, Linda Paulson-Massage Therapist, Malisa Paulson-AIM Aide, Kathryn Quenette-Job Coach

## Ventures Wish List

Washer/Dryer  
Arts/Crafts Supplies  
Gardening Materials  
Drill Press  
Painting Supplies  
Kitchen Supplies  
Cushioned Chair  
Big Screen TV



*Above:* Mary and Jacqueline have become good friends.

*Below:* Dustin is getting his exercise for the day. Keep going Dustin! Way to go.

## Blue Plate Special Recipe

### Candy Bars

#### Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter  
1 package devil's food cake mix  
1 cup butterscotch chips  
6 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1 cup coconut  
1 cup chopped nuts  
14 ounces sweetened condensed milk

#### Directions:

Heat oven to 350F degrees. In large bowl, cut butter into cake mix with fork or pastry blender until crumbly. Sprinkle evenly over bottom of ungreased 15 x 10 x 1-inch pan; press lightly. Sprinkle with butterscotch chips, chocolate chips, coconut, and nuts.

Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over all ingredients. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes, or until light golden brown. Cool 45 minutes or until completely cooled. Cut into bars.



## *Event Calendar and Vacation Days*

President's Day.....February 15th  
Easter.....April 5th  
Memorial Day.....May 31st  
Independence Day (RL & SL).....July 5th-8th  
Independence Day (Hayward).....June 29th-July 5th

### *Ventures Unlimited Board of Directors:*

Pearl DeBardeleben  
Mary Emerson, Vice Chair  
Vera Hoogen, Secretary  
Wayne Kupsch  
Vern Lokken  
Robert Washkuhn, Washburn County Representative  
Kate Melton, Board Chair  
Dan Ringwelski, Substitute

### *MISSION*

*To assist people in obtaining development, personal, independence, and employment goals in both facility-based and community-based work settings.*

Ventures Adventure is a bi-annual publication of Ventures Unlimited, intended to inform you of our agency's activities. Ventures Unlimited is a 501 (c3) not for profit organization. If you would like additional information about Ventures' services or to schedule a tour please feel free to contact any one of our three facilities. You may also visit us on the web at [www.venturesunlimited.org](http://www.venturesunlimited.org).

If you have recently moved or are receiving duplicate copies of this newsletter, **PLEASE** let us know.

Ventures Unlimited  
PO Box 623  
Shell Lake, WI 54871  
Phone: 715-468-2939  
Fax: 715-468-4478  
E-mail: [melissa@venturesunlimited.org](mailto:melissa@venturesunlimited.org)

