

Ventures Adventure

Washburn County

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Check out our website:

www.venturesunlimited.org

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Rewarded Grant brings Relationship Expert to Ventures

Disability Rights-Wisconsin (DR-W) has secured a Bremer Foundation Grant to collaborate with Ventures Unlimited on addressing issues, obstacles, and supports for meaningful relationships for people with intellectual disabilities. Mark Sweet, Ph. D., is a Trainer and Program Consultant for DR-W, and will be heading up this grant project, getting underway in earnest in August 2010. Mark is a well-known and highly regarded speaker throughout Wisconsin and the surrounding region. He has been a great resource for Ventures in years past, providing perspective and insight into a number of complex relation-

ship situations. Mark has a special talent for looking deeper into behaviors and actions to uncover unmet needs, exposing the want of personal and meaningful relationships that every person needs to live a full life. This grant will extend for two years, allowing for in-depth exploration of how we as a supportive community can better interpret the range of assertive behaviors that persons use to express their needs for a sense of belonging and intimacy.

Mark Sweet, Ph.D. has been a special education teacher and a university instructor in teacher education. Since 1985 he has been Trainer and Consultant with DR-W, a federally funded nonprofit designated to protect and advocate the rights of children and adults with disabilities. In this role, Mark works with preschool and summer programs, supported work and supported living organizations, consumer and parent groups, long term care programs and others. Mark is the author of [A Thinking Guide to Inclusive Childcare](#) published by DR-W which is available free at www.disabilityrightswi.org

Director's Corner

The last 6 months at Ventures has been a period of growth and diversification in activities. We have proudly developed partnerships with an art therapist, music enrichment personnel, massage therapists, a nutritional counselor, and personal trainer. This is in addition to the meaningful work provided at all our locations giving individuals with disabilities the opportunity to earn a paycheck every two weeks. Acting today for a

brighter tomorrow, we anticipate re-modeling our Spooner Thrift Store, starting a Special Olympics team and opening a commercial kitchen over the next 6 months.

I am tremendously proud and privileged to serve as CEO of Ventures for the past 13 years. All of our success would not be possible without the incredibly diverse and talented clientele, our staff, and dedicated Board of Direc-

tors. Thank-you!!



Kristin Frane, CEO



Marvin Fleming #81 visits Ventures

On March 9, 2010, we were honored to have Marvin Fleming join us at Ventures Unlimited in Hayward for a presentation. He spoke to our group for an hour about his life in the NFL and how he has learned through his experiences that through hard work you receive great rewards.

He inspired many of the employees as 3 months later they are still asking me about the Green Bay Packer guy and how great he was and they keep asking when he is coming back.

All of the staff and employees were very fortunate to receive an autograph from him as well as a copy of a group photo with Marvin.

Marvin comes with quite a resume: He played with the Green Bay Packers for 7 years under Vince Lombardi and was on the team that played in the *Famous Ice Bowl*.

He also played with the Miami Dolphins for 7 years and during that time they went undefeated

and was the first team ever to accomplish this feat.

During those 14 years in the NFL, he played in the Super Bowls 5 times and was on the winning team thus, having 5 Super Bowl rings.

On July 17, 2010, Marvin will be inducted into the Green Bay Packer Hall of Fame.

The sky is clear
Blue with white clouds drifting
Beautiful with the eagle soaring above
Over the big lake at night
Waterfalls turn into rivers
So, so beautiful like the sunset
And moonlight shines down the middle of the lake to make a path across the ocean floor
Like a flashlight
A walk down a path
In the woods with a cool wind
That makes you feel good
And hearing the ocean splashing up over the rocks
Submitted by:
Carol Gorney

Sawyer County-Vocational Department

My name is Lori Johnson. I was originally introduced to you as the Thrift Store Manager in Hayward. I am now taking on additional duties as an Integrated Employment Specialist. I am very excited about my new responsibilities as well as keeping up with the Thrift Store. Thus far, I have completed the Mike Callahan training for Discovery. I found this to be a very interesting and informative. I have also attended the DVR

meeting in Stevens Point on May 5.

I am still attending customized employment classes in Eau Claire and am also currently working with Shannon Munn and Ann O'Bryan in the Family Led Employment Series.

I look forward to working with Bill, Shirley, Mike and the rest of the supported employment staff.

Farewell to Lori Adams

Ventures-Shell Lake said goodbye to Lori Adams on Tuesday, July 27th. Lori left Ventures to semi-retire. Lori saw a lot of changes and growth during her 20 years here at Ventures. We are all happy to have been able to work with Lori and wish her the best in her next adventure.

Rice Lake Day Center

The folks who attend the Rice Lake Day Center have had a great spring and are getting a good start on summer activities. We have gone on many picnics to local parks around the Rice Lake area and have spent two days exploring Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls and Wilderness Walk in Hayward. It was very

cool to see the variety of animals that both have on exhibit for everyone to enjoy. The animals at the parks range from the typical whitetail deer to a Siberian white tiger and prairie dogs to camels. In addition to the large group outings that generally occur on Thursdays we have been going to the Bar-

ron County Humane Society and volunteering our time by grooming cats and dogs and taking some of the easier dogs for short walks.

Even though we partake in many fun arts, crafts and leisure activities, we still manage to have plenty of work opportunities. Paper shredding is still a popu-

Ventures Unlimited Staff

Shell Lake Staff

Michelle Anderson-AIM Aide, Kristy Barbara-Thrift Store, Kara Breitenfeld-Vocational Case Manager, Tammy Dahle-Book Keeper, Paul Davis-Driver, Melissa Denotter-Office Manager/AIM Vocational Case Manager, Gail Espeseth-Woodshop Supervisor, Stacy Martin-Lead AIM Aide, Mike Olsen-RAM, Linda Paulson-Massage, Kathryn Quenette, Floor Supervisor, Sandy Rommel-Thrift Store, Teresa Smith-AIM Aide, Tina Stilwell-Job Coach

Hayward Staff

Debi DeFoe-Greene-Sales and Marketing Director, Dian DeLong-Job Coach, George Drier-Job Coach, Deb Gerich-Job Coach, Janet Gost-Job Coach, Paul Gotmer-Woodshop Supervisor, Ruth Greer-Job Coach, Richard Hanson-Job Coach, Judy Holmes-Fitness Instructor, Barb Jaaska-Job Coach, Lori Johnson-Thrift Store/Integrated Employment Specialist, Denise Marquardt-Program Coordinator, Delores Marquardt-Job Coach, Ellen Palmisano-Job Coach, Sue Pfiel-Nurse, Joan Rainville- AIM Aide, Cindy Rau-Floor Supervisor, Kerry Rothgeb-Floor Supervisor, Vicki Smith-AIM Aide, Tom Sweeney-Program Coordinator, Phyllis Wolf-Massage Therapist

Rice Lake Staff

Shirley Berlin-Job Coach/Integrated Employment Specialist, Bill Duerkop-Integrated Employment Specialist, Mike Grilley-Human Resources, Jessica Holmes-AIM Aide, Tiffany Janisch, AIM Aide, Joe Mier-Job Coach, Linda Paulson-Massage Therapist, Malisa Paulson-AIM Aide,

Ventures Wish List

Washer/Dryer

Arts/Crafts Supplies

Gardening Materials

Drill Press

Painting Supplies

Kitchen Supplies

2010 Staff Service Awards

In 2010, the following Ventures staff celebrated their service anniversaries. Thank you to all staff for your commitment and dedication on behalf of individuals with disabilities.

5 Years of Service

Bill Duerkop, Integrated Employment Specialist, Rice Lake

Stacy Martin, AIM Aide, Shell Lake

Rice Lake Day Center (Continued)

work activity. In our shredding rooms you will find a number of people sorting and shredding paper and pulling staples. In addition, other folks help produce, package and sell Venture's Dog Treats and fire starters. Keep up the great work gang!

Finally, everyone would like to

give a warm welcome back to staff member Tiffany Janisch, who is again working in the AIM program. We also welcome Phil Newman who is working as a mentor and job coach. For all of our staff, I would like to say thank you for all you do in providing quality hands on activities and making everyone feel

welcome and appreciated while attending Ventures Unlimited.

Ventures Unlimited Thrift & Gift Shoppes

The Ventures Unlimited Thrift & Gift Shoppes have been thriving. Donations continue to pour in. Thank you to everyone who continues to show their support by donating and shopping at our stores.

Our Donation Guidelines are as follows:

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**.

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

- *Computers & Printers & accessories
- *TV's
- *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.

Many of the donated items are

sold in our Thrift Shoppes, but during the summer months we run the 25¢ sales outside at Hayward and Shell Lake Ventures. We have also had a plant sale outside in Hayward, featuring plants that were started in our grow room under lights. 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, and watch for surprise bags sales popping up every now and then. We put the "\$2.00 BAG SALE TODAY" signs out in front of the stores on these days.

Our summer hours are now in effect:

Spooner:
Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm

Hayward:
Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm
Sunday 11am-4pm

Both stores are off to a good start this year. The Hayward store is reporting record numbers. Thank you to all of our employees and staff for their continued hard work. Stop in to see us and bring in this coupon for valuable savings!

Just for the Birds will be celebrating 10 years in October. Look for special events and in store specials to celebrate. The suet sales continue as we move into the summer months. We appreciate regular business from our local supporters, and the traffic the tourist season brings. Thank you to all of our employees who have worked so hard in the suet line and wood shops to build up inventory to get through the summer

months.

We continue to purchase our black oil seed and deer corn locally. Special thanks to Tom Perlick of Sarona 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 plastic jugs to package our own seed mixes. The milk jugs should be rinsed thoroughly and air dried before bringing them in to Ventures. Thank you for helping us re-use and recycle milk and water jugs.

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. We have something for everyone.



Thrift & Gift Shoppe
And
Just for the Birds

Buy ONE Get ONE FREE
On all Thrift Shoppe merchandise
Equal or lesser value item is free
- limit 10 items
Offer expires 10/30/10

Ventures Prom—Las Vegas Style

Thursday, May 13th was the big day for all of our Ventures employees as it was our annual Ventures Prom at the LCO casino.

With Hayward making the plans, we all knew it would be a great time. They decided on the theme “Viva, Las Vegas” and everyone was dressed in their best with Elvis even making an appearance.

Preparations began weeks in advance with designing and coloring invitations, making

jewelry, planning the menu, etc.

Harold Stone once again provided us with some great dancing music.

We dined on a great lunch of spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad and desserts. Taco Johns had provided free chips and salsa to have during our dance as well.

Our roulette and black jack tables were a big hit. The employees could play to win chips, and turn them in for prizes. Congratulations to all of our

winners.

We also had a Royal Court to reign over our prom.

Prom Queen: Renee B.

Princess: Angie J.

King: Floyd F.

Prince: Jason B.

A huge thank you to Glenn for being our blackjack dealer, to Harold for being our DJ for the day and to the LCO Casino for their generosity in allowing us to use the ballroom.



Tonya and Jennifer, friends enjoying the dance.

Health and Wellness

Health and Wellness continues in Hayward both in group activities and through personal training and coaching. Pilates-type exercises, weight-training, and ab workouts and walking have been the focus for groups. Personal choices and goals are the individual focus including exercise preferences and dietary guidelines.

The staff, in the meantime, has been involved in our own version of “The Biggest Loser” as a part of the Worksite Wellness Initia-

tive through Lakeview Medical Center in Rice Lake. Over 20 businesses competed with 102 4-member teams during a 12-week period. Weigh-ins occurred weekly along with documenting weekly tracking sheets to encourage participation in healthy lifestyles and exercise opportunities. Monthly prizes were awarded to top team weight losers as well as individuals. Team “Steadfast Muffins” of Ventures in Rice Lake lead the 5 Ventures’ teams to place eighth out of the 102

teams. Way to go!

Top individuals were Bill Duerkop 54 pounds lost, Cindy Rau 23 pounds lost, Kristin Frane 14 pounds lost and Shirley Berlin 11 pounds lost.

Malisa Paulson has since competed in her first triathlon, Kristin Frane is training for a marathon and Bill Duerkop is working toward a bike tour. Congratulations to all participants, you are an inspiration!



Mary, Jane, Diana and Renee dancing to the music.

Shell Lake AIM Has Been Getting Creative

Shell Lake AIM has been busy in very creative ways.

In January we worked with bird seed and made seeded animal pictures. February came and we made candles and enjoyed a pajama party with the folks from Rice Lake. March brought wind and so we made kites to decorate our room. With April, we finally had some nice

weather and got to enjoy our first spring picnic. We also painted flower pots for Mother’s Day. We made May Day baskets for the Ventures staff and then we all enjoyed the prom at LCO casino. For Father’s Day in June we made nuts and bolts wind chimes out of recycled nuts, bolts and snack cups. We also took a trip to the Palace

Theater in Spooner to see [Toy Story 3](#).

It has been a great summer and we are all looking forward to the upcoming fall months.



Blackjack, anyone? Get 21 and win a prize!

Event Calendar and Vacation Days

Veteran's Day.....November 11th
Thanksgiving.....November 24th & 25th
Christmas.....December 24th - January 3rd

Ventures Unlimited Board of Directors:

Kate Melton, Board Chair

Mary Emerson, Vice Chair

Vera Hoogen, Secretary

Pearl DeBardeleben

Wayne Kupsch

Vern Lokken

Dan Ringwelski

Robert Washkuhn, 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

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

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