

Ventures Adventure

BARRON COUNTY VENTURES EXPANDING AGAIN

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

Ventures in Rice Lake has been leasing a space on Main Street for 4 years and recently has been busting at the seams due to an increase in referrals. As a result, Ventures was able to purchase an amazing building four miles from Rice Lake in the Village of Cameron. The building is over 12,000 square feet and includes ample office space, a space for another thrift shoppe, commercial kitchen, three garages, and a

commercial laundry space. The opportunities are endless with this new space, and the staff and members are ecstatic. January 3rd,

everyone will show up to work at 700 1st Street in Cameron. An Open House will be scheduled for April.



Director's Corner

Meaningful work is important for every human being. Earning an income helps individuals gain confidence, build self-esteem and foster independence. Through the years, we've had many different work contracts come and go, but the ability for individuals with disabilities to earn a paycheck has remained constant. Over the last 6 months we've been able to add many work contracts from companies like

H.S.I. in Spooner, Parker-Hannifin in Check and Fastenal in Spooner. Add that to our homemade rugs, our bird feeder/seed business (Just For the Birds), shredding and new rag and laundry soap line, we are busier than ever.

Without the dedicated staff, donors, employees, and Board of Directors, we would not be in business today. Thank you for your

continued support. 2012 promises to be one of the best years yet!



Kristin Frane, CEO

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Kerry's Corner

Hello! It is great to be back in the AIM room here in Hayward!!! I started back in AIM in September and we have been incredibly busy! We were lucky enough to purchase an Ipad for our folks here in AIM, and it has been quite a resourceful tool! From using this, we have been able to learn so much more about our employees. Some are very musically talented, some are interested in art, and some in more interactive activities. We are hoping to get an App that will help us to better communicate with some of our employees that are non-verbal.

It truly is an amazing device, and we are lucky to have it.

I have been taking a crew for a year now over to St. Joseph's Church here in Hayward for our cookie baking project. They have a wonderful commercial kitchen, and have been ever so generous in letting us use it for this fun enterprise! We have baked cookies one day each week for businesses here in Hayward such as Foxy Looks Salon, Lynn's Custom Meats, Backroads Coffee, and our Thrift Shoppe. It has been great to see our employees help with the true

process of creating and selling a product!

We are jumping on board with Shell Lake in helping to preserve our environment and are making our own all natural Laundry Soap!! The employees love getting their hands "clean" while making this great economical soap. The fact that we cannot keep it in stock is proof that there is a shift everywhere towards keeping things natural and environmentally friendly! Stay tuned.....)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Shell Lake AIM—It's Happening Here

The Shell Lake AIM room has had a wonderful summer and fall. We all enjoyed the summer picnic. It was beautiful weather and sitting under the shade tree felt nice.

We grew a produce garden this year with tomatoes and green peppers. Our garden gave us so many tomatoes and peppers that we enjoyed home made salsa on many occasions.

Our trip to the Pumpkin Patch was again a highlight of the fall. Visiting the animal barn and petting the animals is a big hit every year. We picked out our pump-

kins, came back and decorated them for Halloween and again decorated them for Thanksgiving, making them into turkeys.

Currently, we are working on raising funds to purchase an Ipad for our consumers. With the success that Hayward has had, we decided that we could use this great tool here as well. Our candy trees are selling for \$8 and the scarves that we are making are selling for \$10. They may be purchased at the Spooner Thrift Shoppe. All proceeds will go to the Shell Lake group for the Ipad.

We would like to welcome aboard Kathy Griffith to our room. She works two days per week with us and has become quickly familiar with everyone and is doing a great job.

We were sorry to see Keith and Dennis go from our program. Keith has gone to Hayward and Dennis is going to retire at the end of the year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Shell Lake AIM!

Ventures Thrift & Gift Shoppe—Hayward

Ventures Thrift and Gift Shoppe in Hayward has been a happening and bustling place. Our donations continue to come in with a lot of fun and unique things! We are blessed to have such wonderful community involvement. We continue to offer our bag sale always on the last Saturday of each month as well as occasionally “pop-up” bag sales. Just watch our

big yellow sign on the sidewalk. We have several new employees, Wade H has joined our team and also Christina H. You will find Wade working hard every Tuesday morning with his job coach and Christina is there at various times each week. Stop in and welcome them, I know they will be glad to assist you with your shopping needs.



Thrift & Gift Shoppe and
Just for the Birds
25% off ANY thrift purchase
-or-
25% off ANY Just for the Birds suet
product
Offer expires 4/30/10
Hayward Store Only



Fitness with Judy

Here are some tidbits from Health and Wellness...The Ventures staff in Hayward have been reading about the role of sugar and sugar substitutes in the diet. Now that we are “Holding on for the Holidays” all the information that we can get is helpful. Research from the University of Florida indicates that eating dried plums (prunes) each day reduces bone loss. Ten per day are advised, but

even three a day helps. Remember drinking carbonated beverages leaches out calcium from the body.

Also in Hayward, several employees are doing foot-specific exercise that have been very popular since Barefoot Running has made the scene. These exercises improve foot and ankle strength, correct foot alignment and improve body posture.

Snack Central has been very popular since we have a new cupboard that shows off all of the health snacks that are being offered.

Snap Fitness has been very popular and so has Nordic walking this fall. We are looking forward to snowshoeing this winter, and we are doing some indoor workouts to get ready!

Hayward DVR Update



Though the job market has been a tough one, we are pleased that several of our folks from Ventures are still successfully employed in the community. Charlie Bis still at Flat Creek Eatery, Floyd F works at two different jobs in the com-

munity, and Wade H is employed at our Thrift Shoppe. Alex M is employed by the Sawyer County Senior Center as a bus aide. Ride the bus if you get a chance, and let Alex know what a good job he is doing. Hayward

Ventures is now offering job readiness classes to assist interested consumers in preparing for the job market. Several consumers have begun the class with several more showing great interest.

Rice Lake AIM—Trips, Activities, and Work



2011 seemed to go by in the blink of an eye, but we had many memorable times. The group took part in many fun education day trips including the Spooner Train Ride Tour, Stillwater River boat lunch & tour, trips to Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls, apple orchard trips, the Pumpkin Patch, many other visits to local Barron County parks, the Humane Society

and city recreational areas. Even though we partake in many fun community activities, arts, crafts and leisure activities, we still manage to have some time for work opportunities for those that want to work. Our paper shredding rooms are still full, we have Parker Assembly work and are now getting into helping Ventures Thrift Shoppe by sorting and pricing

clothing that comes in the door. We are also making some cool school and team color scarves at the day center. They can be purchased at the Rice Lake Thrift Shoppe for \$12.50 or if you want personalized colors just give Tiffany or Stacy a call at 715-736-6959.

Have a great Holiday Season!!



Hubin's Donations of Antiques and Collectibles



Lynn & Dan Hubin recently made a generous donation of antiques, collectibles, and shelving units to Ventures Unlimited to be divided between the three thrift stores. A barn full of "treasures" gave us many hours of adventure and learning when we explored the many items that were

probably used by our Great-Grandparents in their homes and fields. Several times, we had to go back to Lynn and say "What is this?" The generosity of this gift was a huge boost to our store sales in addition to the work provided for us in preparing the pricing the items. Some items will

also be sold through our Ebay account at Ventures providing work and excitement during the upcoming winter months. The picture shows a piece of artwork painted by Lynn Hubin.

Thank you to the Hubin's for your generous donation.

AIM in Hayward Has Been Busy

One of the most exciting things that have taken place in Hayward is that we have expanded into the exercise room. Our group has grown, and so we had to move to a larger space. We have been dancing on a regular basis and with all the mirrors, the clients love to watch themselves.

In November, we took our clients to Ashland to the Great Lakes Visitor Center. This was a great place to visit. We have also been busy with bird seed and helping with the Meal of the Week program. Another fun activity we all participated in is a Spanish lesson with Roberto, who is a Spanish speaker that came

into do a question/answer session. We have also had many other visitors to teach us about photography, Native American history and language. We are now looking forward to our spa day coming up soon.



Ventures Athletics Special Olympics News

In just one year the Ventures Athletics team has grown to around 30 athletes and counting. For the 2011 bowling season, the team sent 26 athletes to the Hometown games in Duluth on October 15th. Twelve team members advanced to Regionals in Eau Claire November 5th, with five moving on to the finals. The State Bowling Championship will be held in Weston on December 5th. Mark Love, David Kretschmer, Brittany Bunce, Wade Hamlet, and Sarah Mayou all posted scores in

their divisions placing them among the best bowlers in the state. The coaches, volunteers, and community are rightfully proud of the team, for the successes in competitions and also for the way the athletes embrace the mission of Special Olympics.

But it's not all fun and games, as the team is finding out. Practices requires a commitment from athletes and coaches alike. And fundraising is fast becoming a year round proposition. Traveling to and

from competitions, meals, and occasional lodging for a growing team can be quite expensive. Team members, volunteers, and coaches have undertaken multiple fundraising projects in the past year, helping buy and upgrade equipment as well as lessen competition and travel costs. Everyone associated with the team sends his or her heartfelt thanks to the community for supporting us, through our fundraisers or by just being a fan. Your encouragement makes all the difference. Thank You!!

Rice Lake Thrift Shoppe—New and Exciting



What a great fall it was! Rice Lake was very busy and still is with our new Thrift Shoppe. In early September, Kristin and I took a look at a building across the street from Rice Lake High School with the idea of a new space for the Rice Lake Day Center but after evaluating the space, we determined that it was too small for that purpose, but it would be ideal for a small retail store. With that in mind, we did more thinking and talking and (more thinking and talking) and decided to give the store idea a shot. On October 6th, we did a “soft store opening” and later on October 20th, we held the grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony from the Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce. We offered free coffee and popcorn, \$3.00 bag sales and we were off and running on Ventures’ third Thrift Shoppe. With a lot of hard work from our staff and consumers we

were able to fill the store with a variety of quality goods ranging from donated designer jeans to antique dishes, tins and collectibles that Kathy Greschner procured from the Antique Barn in Spooner that recently closed their doors.

The store not only provides great items at low, low prices for Rice Lake shoppers but it also provides Ventures Day Center and DVR participants the opportunity to learn new vocational skills in a community retail store setting. Some of the vocational tasks the participants can receive training on include; taking and sorting donations, organizing goods, sizing clothing, pricing goods, hanging clothing, general cleaning, setting up store displays, customer service and making retail transactions. The list even goes on from there, as we have all those out-

door tasks which I won’t go into but you know who they are...anyway, it’s been really fun to see the staff and consumers pull together to get this store off to such a good start, thanks to everyone who pitched in.

Finally, everyone at Rice Lake Ventures would like to give a warm welcome to several new staff members that came on board within the last few month: Reese Rutherford who is working at the Thrift Store and Stacy Roth who works at the Day Center and has been with us for awhile but I missed her when I wrote the last article (sorry Stacy). For all of the Ventures staff new and old I would like to say thanks for making all of the participants feel welcome and appreciated while they attend Ventures Unlimited.

Have a great holiday season!!



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25% off ANY thrift purchase
-or-
25 % off ANY Just for the Birds suet product
Offer expires 4/30/10
Rice Lake Store Only

Independent Living Skills

Teaching independence is what the mentors strive for and that's what Janet has helped Brittany do by obtaining her driving permit for her scooter. Janet took Brittany to the library many times so she could study to get her driver's permit. And, on August 5th, Janet drove Brittany down to Rice Lake where Brittany received her driving permit.

It was pretty neat seeing

Brittany drive her scooter to work that first day and each day thereafter...now it's stored for the winter, but I'm sure we will see that yellow scooter the first day of spring. This is just one of many success stories that the mentors have...Good job Brittany and Janet.

The mentors do a great job in making sure the mentees get their shopping done, and assist

them with cooking and cleaning. As well as getting them out in the community; going to movies, out to eat, bowling, to community plays and concerts, to the library, attending high school games, and on and on. The mentors are very active in each of the mentees lives and do such a wonderful job. Again, I cannot thank the mentors enough!

So, THANK YOU!!



Shell Lake Work

The Shell Lake work floor has been bustling with work. Ventures is delighted and privileged to hold a work contract with Parker Hannifin. Our employees are assembling valves both by hand and by a press. The employees have



explored the jobs and learned where they work best in the process and truly do a wonderful and effective workload throughout the day. Combine that with the literature from Nexen, sanding disks from 3-M, the wire stripping,



Floor Update

shredding and suet line, we all work very hard all day long to make sure that all of the deadlines are met. Thanks to each and every one of our employees for doing a great job.



Ventures Annual Picnic...August 25, 2011

Once again, we were blessed with a beautiful summer day for the annual summer picnic held at Totagatic Park in Minong. The setting was picture perfect and everyone had a blast.

We enjoyed a wonderful picnic lunch, which consisted of chicken, potato salad and plenty of desserts made by each of the AIM rooms.

swimming, dancing, playing catch football, face painting, massages, or just listening to the music. It's a great get together for all of the employees and staff.

There was something for everyone; fishing,



The Laundry Soap Adventure

The Ventures members have begun a new enterprise of homemade laundry soap. A very natural and environmentally friendly recipe was found and tested. After a few revisions and experiments we are thrilled to announce that we now have a liquid laundry soap that rivals many of the leading

brands. Ingredients include FelsNaptha bars soap, Arm & Hammer Washing Soda, and Borax. We are now stocking this product in the Ventures Thrift Shoppe in Spooner and the 20 Mile Store in Barronett. The price is very reasonable and a real value at only 1/2 cup per average load. It is non-

sudsing and has a nice clean scent with no coloring or fragrance added. It has been a very fun project that many participate in doing 5 gallons at a time. Lots of hand stirring makes a consistency that we proud of and dissolves nicely in the wash. We invite you to try it and see for yourself!



2012-Look What's In Store For You

The 2012 Ventures trips have been announced. We have 9 total trips planned for 2012 and there is a variety of adventures planned.

play a home hockey game at the Xcel Energy Center.

the best in country music at CountryFest USA.



Abba will come alive in front of our eyes when Mamma Mia comes to the Ordway.

July will be our first summer vacation to Wisconsin Dells to enjoy the outdoor activities.

The first trips will be planned for February to see the World's Toughest Rodeo.

In May, ValleyFair, Como Zoo and the Minnesota Twins will be the trip of the month.

In August, we will plan a day to go and explore the Minnesota State Fair.

March not only brings wild weather but also a trip to see the Minnesota Wild

This June, a group will visit Cadott, WI to enjoy

Our big trip for the year will be in September when we visit Tennessee and the (Cont. on Page 9)



2012 Trips Cont.

beautiful mountains.

And last but not least is our 1st Annual South Dakota Elk Hunt.

Whether it be your first trip with us or your 3rd or 4th, you will be sure to enjoy yourself.

Each of our employees will receive a pamphlet with all of the trips explained. It will also include the new traveling guidelines and payment plan options.

Join us for the time of your life!!



Hunt Club Registration

A "Hunt Club" is being proposed to start in 2012 (only a month away!!). The club is being limited to 4 members on a first come basis. (One wheelchair occupant space available.) It will consist of \$800 per year to participate in:

- January: Watch a hunting video per week at Ventures
- March: Visit a taxidermy shop
- May: Fishing
- July: ??? Up for suggestions
- September: A big game hunt at a handicap accessible Elk Ranch in South Dakota. One member would shoot the elk and others would en-

joy the trip and receive other nice "elk related" item to bring home. Each member would bring home (wrapped and frozen) approximately 1/4 of the elk meat. This would involve two overnights in the lodge provided at the ranch, locker processing, and all meals and staff assistance and transportation for the three day trip. Anyone wanting to know more about this trip can contact Kathy Greschner at Ventures Unlimited in Shell Lake at 715-468-2939. This trip is reserved for Ventures Employees only.

and movie offered at Ventures Unlimited in Shell Lake.

A \$200 deposit can be used as a Christmas or birthday gift and would come with a gift card explaining this membership and a small gift (hat or t-shirt) with their name on it. The membership will be extended to the first four individuals putting a deposit down.



Spooner Thrift Shoppe-New Look

Come on in and check us out. We have a new and improved look. Thanks to JC Penneys in Rice Lake for the generous donation of the new clothes racks. We have made use of almost all of them.

What turned into an outside painting job turned into a total remodel of our store. The store was painted inside and out, the carpets were cleaned and all new racks were installed.

Thank You to all of you for donating your treasures to us. We continue to receive donations on a daily basis and have actually seen an increase this year.

We continue to have our bag sale the last Saturday of every month with "Pop Up Sales" now and then.

The Thrift Shoppe staff would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and

Healthy New Year.



Thrift & Gift Shoppe and
Just for the Birds
25% off ANY thrift purchase

-or-

25 % off ANY Just for the
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Offer expires 4/30/10
Spooners Store Only

2011 Ventures Adventure to Chicago

On Sunday, September 11th, a group left for our 3rd annual trip. This year, it was decided that we would go to Chicago and visit the Windy City. We arrived in Chicago at 3:00 pm and checked into the Embassy Suites Hotel, which was very nice. We got settled, went out for dinner and called it a night.

Monday, September 12th, we woke early and had a wonderful breakfast at the hotel then started our venture to downtown Chicago. We took the subway, that we all decided was a little scary at first but after the first two hours, we were pros!

Our first stop was the Field Museum, we had a great time. We were able to enjoy a dolphin show while we were there. Everyone enjoyed the different fish from the Great Lakes.

We then jumped on a trolley and went to the Willis (Sears) Tower where we took a ride 101 floors to view Chicago from the top. It was quite the scenery.

We finished our evening with dinner at the Cheesecake Factory. The food was so good! We then took the subway back to our hotel, which took two hours. By the time that we got to our rooms, we were all pretty tired.

Tuesday was spent at the Brookfield Zoo. There were many different animals from around the globe and we all had a great time.

Wednesday, we once again took the train downtown. We visited the Planetarium, Navy Pier, John Hancock Tower, the Magnificent Mile and had dinner before making our way back to the hotel.

Thursday was a sad day as we had to leave for home. We got up, had breakfast and were started our trek home!



Ventures Staff

Shell Lake Staff

Michelle Anderson-AIM Aide, Shirley Berlin-Job Developer, Julie Blatterman-Job Coach, Kara Breitenfeld-Production Coordinator, Tammy Dahle-Book Keeper, Paul Davis-Driver, Melissa Denotter-Vocational Case Manager, Gail Espeseth-Woodshop Supervisor, Randy Fossum-Floor Supervisor, Gail Green-Job Coach, Kathy Greschner-Floor Supervisor, Kathy Griffith-AIM Aide, Stacy Martin-AIM Aide, Kimberly McFarland-Thrift Store, Tresa Mitchell-AIM Aide, Mike Olsen-RAM, Linda Paulson-Massage, Kathryn Quenette-Floor Supervisor, Sandy Rommel-Thrift Store, Wanda Severson-Thrift Store

Hayward Staff

Sandy Blake-Thrift Store, Deb Gerich-Job Coach, Janet Gost-Job Coach, Richard Hanson-Job Coach, Christina Henkel-Thrift Store, Judy Holmes-Fitness Instructor, Barb Jaaska-Job Coach, Lori Johnson-Job Developer, Mike Klawitter-Mentor, Denise Marquardt-Program Coordinator, Dolores Marquardt-Job Coach, Kimberly McFarland-AIM Aide, Kristy Osius-Thrift Store, Ellen Palmisano-Floor Supervisor, Susan Pfeil-Nurse, Sandy Pejka-Mentor/Job Coach, Joan Rainville-AIM Aide, Cindy Rau-Floor Supervisor, Kerry Rothgeb-AIM Aide, Vicki Smith-AIM Aide, Tom Sweeney-Program Coordinator, Phyllis Wolf-Massage Therapist, Xan Ziengenhorn-Thrift Store

Rice Lake Staff

Vicki Anderson-Job Coach, Shirley Berlin-Job Developer, Bill Duerkop-Job Developer, Gail Green-Job Coach, Mike Grilley-Human Resources, Jessica Holmes-AIM Aide, Tiffany Janisch-AIM Aide, David Johnson-Office Staff, Joe Mier-Job Coach, Linda Paulson-Massage Therapist, Malisa Paulson-AIM Aide, Stacy Roth-AIM Aide, Carolyn VanBuren Simons-Job Coach



Tree-Shaped Crescent Veggie Appetizers

2 cans (8oz. Each) Pillsbury refrigerated crescent rolls or 2 cans Recipe Creations refrigerated seamless dough sheet
1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup sour cream
1 tsp. dried dill weed
1/8 tsp. garlic powder
3 cups finely chopped assorted vegetables (bell peppers, broccoli, carrot, cucumber, green onions, tomatoes, etc)



Heat oven to 375. Remove dough from cans in rolled sections; do not unroll. Cut each section into 8 slices (16 slices from each can.

Place slices, cut side down, on ungreased cookie sheets to form trees. To form each tree, start by placing 1 slice for top; arrange 2 slices just below, with sides touching. Continue arranging row of 3 slices, then row of 4 slices, ending with row of 5 slices. Use remaining slice for trunk. Refrigerate one tree while the other bakes.

Bake one tree 11 to 13 minutes or until golden brown. Cool 1 minute; carefully loosen with pancake turner and slide onto cooling rack to cool. Bake and cool second tree.

Place each tree on a serving platter. In small bowl, mix cream cheese, sour cream, dill and garlic powder; blend until smooth. Spread mixture over both trees. Decorate trees with assorted vegetable pieces. Refrigerate until serving time. To serve, pull apart slices of the tree.

Event Calendar and Vacation Days

Presidents Day.....Monday, February 20th

Easter Monday.....Monday, April 9th

Memorial Day.....Monday, May 28th

Summer Break.....Monday, July 2nd – July 5th

Ventures Unlimited Board of Directors:

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

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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