

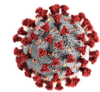
VENTURES UNLIMITED

SUMMER 2020



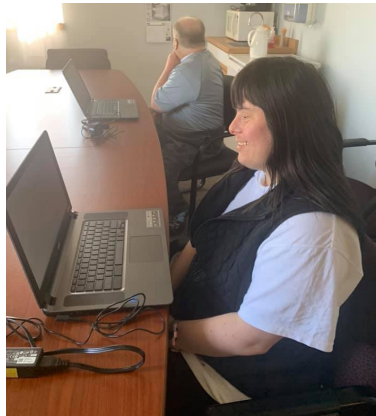
Notes from the Director

As we look back at the first half of 2020, we can hardly process how much our world has changed in such a short time. We temporarily suspended services on March 18th (along with the rest of Wisconsin) and slowly started building services on May 18th even though many of our supported employment employees continued working through it all. While things do not look the same, we are trying to stay positive and work with our new reality. Luckily, we have been able to move some of our services to a virtual platform and those that have returned have graciously accepted our daily health checks, sanitation schedule and social distancing requirements. None of us have been through anything like this in our lifetime, so I'm very grateful to the staff, employees, consumers, and Board of Director's for all the extra hard work and support during the most difficult days. Thank-you!!!



Our generous board member, Barb Muench, donated money that was matched by US Bank so we could purchase Chromebooks to begin some computer training. We are beyond excited for the opportunity!

~Kristin~



With saddened hearts, a decision was made in June to postpone all Ventures Activities and Trips for 2020 for apparent health and well-being reasons. The one exception being Chanassen Theater as they have implemented a no-refund policy with the hopes of being able to reschedule events within the year. Tammy has been working hard to refund all consumers. Those that remain signed up for the Chanhassen trip will be contacted about date and showtime options once more information is received by the theater.

~Colleen~

Cameron News

We have two new participants that started in Cameron, Danny Demico and Tony Leon. Danny previously had worked in Barron at the Day Development Center but has made the switch to Ventures Unlimited. While at Ventures he has been very busy and happy working on Parker parts and building a wind vane in the wood shop with his old friend Phil. Tony has been at Ventures before and just recently graduated from Cameron High School. He is looking forward to doing a variety of leisure and recreational activities and really enjoys bowling, baseball and basically any other type of sports. His mother reports that he has over 100,000 followers on TickTock as she regularly posts cool videos of him and his family doing fun things. The rest of the crew has been busy doing Parker assembly work, making flower pots with spring flowers in them, a variety of recreational activities and catching up on some of the paper shredding duties. In our wood working shop, we have a big order of chairs that we are trying to finish for the city of Cameron. They have purchased 10 chairs for their outdoor swimming pool and splash pad area. These chairs will be multicolored blue, yellow, orange, green and white similar to the colors on a beach ball. The two month break that we had put us quite a bit behind on this project but the group is working fast and efficiently to try to get this order out.

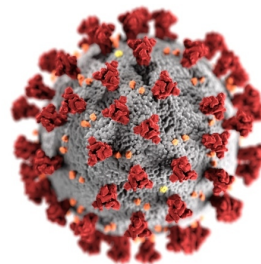
Tony with Cindie



Danny



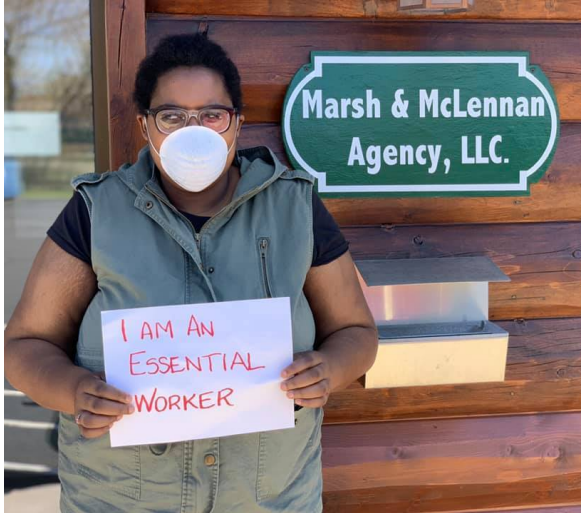
Tim C. showing off
a prototype of a
bat house he
helped put
together.



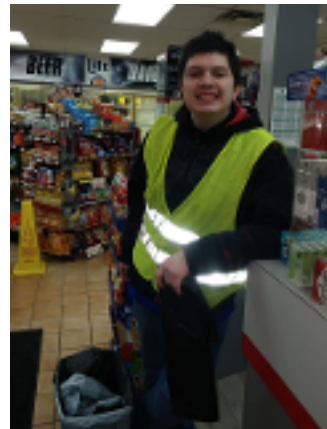
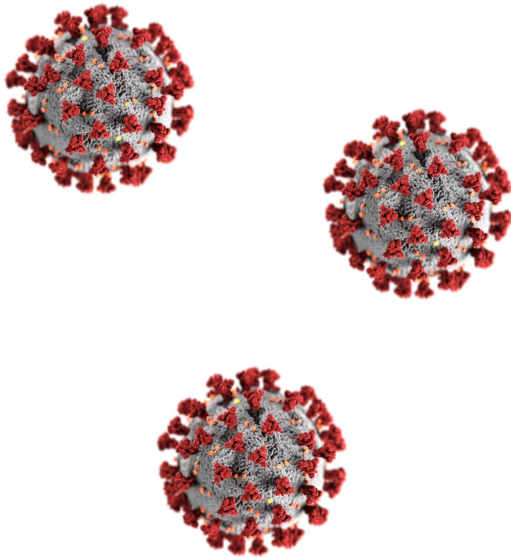
The Parker enclave group started back to their regular schedule on June 2nd and they have been very busy with assembly and packaging duties at the Parker plant in Chetek. The plant has many new safety rules and policies that have been put in place and our group must follow them just as any plant employee does or visitor. Jeff continues to be the main job coach and is providing training and guidance to the group on some new tasks and soft work skills that are so essential in an business. Great job to everyone!!

~Mike~

Hayward News



We are so proud of our essential workers Stan and Ryan both working hard at Marketplace, and Whitney at Marsh&McLennan as well as Snap Fitness.



Rob is essential!
He provides services at Victory Lane in Minong, with all safety and precautions in place!

Congratulations to Floyd Fleming who retired from LCO Country Store after nearly 20 years of employment. A special thank you to Ventures job developer Tysa, for placing him so many years ago.

Thank you Floyd & LCO for your hard work and support.



Shell Lake News



Our Day Services program had fun doing some planting in Shell Lake when they returned!! Great job! Pictured left to right; Lila S., Jason B., Chris T.



At left: Lila, Chris, Jason, Steven, Trevor and Thomas relax on the new patio donated by Thompson Masonry. At right is a picture of the slab being poured this Spring. Thank you Steve Thompson!



Shell Lake returns to work making Parker parts by both hand and press assembly. Paper is also getting prepped for shredding. We are anxious to get our first literature order from Nexen since returning back to work.



More News

Before Covid-19



Since Covid-19



Highlights

Since April, Ventures has been providing virtual services to consumers using social platforms such as Facebook and Zoom. It has been a new and exciting way to connect with everyone during the COVID-19 "Safer at Home" order by Wisconsin Governor, Tony Evers. We plan to continue and expand this new and innovative service.

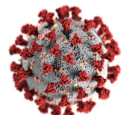
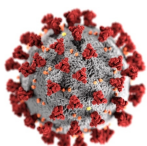
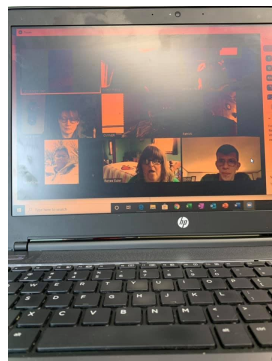
During the height of the stay at home order, many of our consumers connected with staff using the virtual services. Classes included a cooking class, pre-vocational job development, hobby/art classes, health and wellness, essential job skills training and Skills to Pay the Bills. A few times a week, a more social interaction with trivia, current events, or a story by Carolyn of Cameron were offered. Classes were taught and moderated by all three program directors, job developers, staff members, and Kristin Frane, Director of Ventures Unlimited.

Renee E. and Victoria M. from Shell Lake were asked what they liked most about the virtual classes. Victoria stated that being able to, "see others and connect" with the Zoom conferencing platform was her favorite thing about the classes. Renee agreed that connecting on Zoom was her favorite, but that she, "really liked the exercise class on Wellness Wednesday". Neither Renee nor Victoria had anything they disliked about the virtual programming and Renee went on to say that she hopes Ventures continues with the classes everyday as well as during holiday breaks!



Ventures will continue to use this learning experience as a stepping stone to offer future opportunities in virtual services for current and new consumers. The services are a method of fostering social connections during a time of isolation. As well, virtual offerings promote service continuity in lieu of in-person interactions that is open for ventures staff and consumers to have real-time discussion with two-way question and answer time allowed by the virtual platforms.

~Colleen~



Ventures Unlimited Board of Directors

Dan Ringwelski

Vern Lokken

Wayne Kupsch

Phil Soltis

Barb Muench

Robert Washkuhn

Mission Statement

Providing innovative services for individuals with disabilities so they may lead meaningful lives.

Indianhead Community Action Agency Food Pantry at Shell Lake Ventures.

Open on Friday and Saturday's

9:00 -Noon.

Contact information: tammy.magdzas@indianheadcaa.org

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