



Ventures Adventures

National APSE Conference



June was a very busy month for many at Ventures including Ventures CEO Kristin Frane and Job Placement Specialist Bill Duerkop who serves most of the Barron County Area and is a member of the board of directors for Wisconsin APSE. On June 25th, both Kristin and Bill left the great North Country to participate in the 2012 National APSE conference Held this year in Virginia. The con-

ference was filled with presentations discussing state-of-the-art practices in employment for citizens with disabilities. For the first time, there was a track specifically designed for young adults with disabilities hosted by students for APSE. While the sessions were open to all participants, the information targeted the young adults. Both Kristin and Bill had the opportunity to personally sit down with Dr. Temple Grandin, a scientist, best selling author, and industrial designer – who just happens to have autism. She provided much information to them regarding her own struggles as well as her no nonsense

approach in promoting her own skills and abilities when it came to interviews and dealing with employment related barriers.

This is just another example of how Ventures shows commitment in focusing on persons abilities not their disability and how Ventures continue to advance the training of our staff to think and work “outside of the box” in the advancement of persons with disabilities.



Director's Corner

Working and earning an income is important for the majority of individuals, helping people gain confidence, enhance self-esteem, and encourage independence. This year has been an especially phenomenal year for the crew at Ventures Unlimited because of our ability to add a plethora of work contracts to our production floor. We are so thankful to our many business partners helping us provide meaningful work to individuals with disabilities day in and day out. In addition to our plethora of

meaningful work, we've also been able to expand our services at Ventures by providing services to youth with disabilities (the AHOY program) and to seniors with disabilities (SEED program) both which will be highlighted in our newsletter. Thanks to the staff for their hard work in implementing these programs. I'm celebrating 15 years at Ventures Unlimited and I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support from the Board of Directors, the staff, employees, members and business partners.



With the support of these individuals and businesses, we've been able to grow and expand our business and services beyond our wildest expectations and I'm excited to see what the next 15 years will bring.

Kristin Frane, CEO

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2012

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

700 N. 1st Street
Cameron, WI 54822
(715) 458-5005

Check out our website:
www.venturesunlimited.org

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A.H.O.Y. (Adults Helping Our Youth)

AHOY! mentoring program provides our youth with disabilities, ages 16 and older, the opportunity to work with a caring, responsible adult who will help the youth improve his or her ability to interact in their community in socially appropriate ways.

Ventures Unlimited's mission is to assist people in obtaining development, personal, independence, and employment goals in both facility-based and community-based work settings.

What does a Mentor do?

- Demonstrate and practice appropriate personal hygiene skills with the participant in their home or in a

community setting conducive to the type of activity.

- Demonstrate and practice basic food preparation skills with the participant in their home or in a community setting conducive to this type of activity. This includes the ability to make a grocery list and learning to shop for the necessary food items.
- Demonstrate and practice general housekeeping tasks such as dusting, vacuuming, garbage disposal, etc. This can be done in a participant's own home or in a community setting conducive to this type of activity.
- Demonstrate and practice basic money management skills in a

community setting.

- Demonstrate and practice the use of community resources such as libraries, grocery stores, entertainment establishments, public transportation, etc.
 - Demonstrate and practice employability skill-building opportunities such as how to complete job applications, developing a resume, making potential employment contacts within the community, etc.
- Demonstrate and practice appropriate social peer interactions in community settings.

S.E.E.D. (Seniors Enjoying Every Day)

SEED is designed to provide meaningful community involvement to those senior citizens with developmental disabilities for whom work is no longer a priority.

Individuals in the program will focus on meaningful socialization activities and therapeutic activities that promote community integration, independence, and a sense of well being. Small groups will

participate in a new activity daily including educational outings, leisure activities, Art Therapy, Music Therapy and more.



Adirondack Chairs Available



Ventures Unlimited is proud to announce that we are now building adirondack chairs to sell in our Thrift Stores. The chairs are crafted in a classic design from solid ponderosa pine and ready to finish. They have been wildly successful in our Hayward Thrift Store on Dakota Avenue. Many summer tourists and cabin owners are discovering the exceptional quality that is put into each and every one of

our creations. We have already taken and filled several orders. The chairs are being made in Cameron by clients with various disabilities. The chairs are selling for \$55.00. Stop by Hayward or Cameron or Spooner to purchase or order your chair today!!





Meet Ashley Schurman

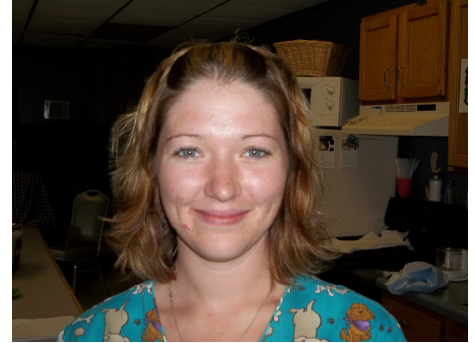
Hi! My name is Ashley Schurman. I live outside of Spooner with my wonderful fiancé, Brian Overby, our dog, Boston and our two horses, Diesel and Cloud.

I enjoy fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, scrapbooking and almost

anything outdoors.

I graduated from Barron High School. I then attended WITC to obtain my C.N.A. License and take CBRF classes.

I really enjoy my work and love to help people anyway I can.



Meet Diane Ruggiero



I was born and raised in Philadelphia, lived in California for twenty-seven years and moved to Wisconsin almost three years ago. While in California, I worked as an accountant for a family owned maritime corporation. After that I served several years in a ministry that helped men and women get set free from drug and alcohol addic-

tions. I have one son and a grandson, who live in California. Over the past few years I have found a love for paper crafting, crocheting and sewing. I really enjoy being part of the Ventures family, where I job coach, work at the Thrift Shoppe and am involved with SEED (Seniors Enjoying Every Day).

Cleaning Big Fish Golf Club

Ventures is now cleaning at the Big Fish Golf Club in Hayward. Our two person crew of Brittany Bunce and Terry DeSmith along with their job coach, clean the clubhouse, Mulligans and Eagles Nest dining room. They have taken great pride in the job they do and received many compliments from the golfers. Our crew cleans every Monday and Thursday from 8:00 am

until noon. It is hard work but the golf course buildings look great. If you golf or just want to see our crew in action, stop in at the Big Fish. They would love to show you what they do. We hope this will be a job that will continue year after year.



Thank You for your Years of Dedication

Ventures Unlimited would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the following for their years of dedication to us.

15 Years

- Kristin Frane
- Melissa Denotter
- Tammy Dahle
- Wanda Severson

10 Years

- Tom Sweeney
- Cindy Rau
- Denise Marquardt
- Dolores Marquardt
- Mike Olsen

5 Years

- Shirley Berlin
- Gail Green
- Mike Grilley
- Barb Jaaska
- Kerry Rothgeb
- Sandy Rommel
- Bill Duerkop
- Kara Breitenfeld
- Stacy Martin





Cameron Thrift Store

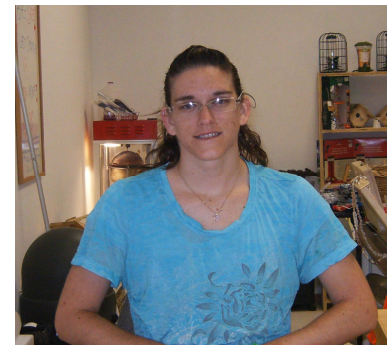
We are excited to say that our Cameron Thrift Store is open and going strong. The Grand Opening was held on June 1st and was a great success. Donations are coming in and Ivy and the crew have things running smoothly. The Cameron store has something for everyone, from clothing (Adults and children's), household items, small appliances to "Just for Birds" items, such as bird houses, bird feeders and bird seed. Be sure to check out our bag sale on the last Saturday of every month. Feel free to stop in and visit us at the new Cameron location, you're sure to find that certain something that you are looking for! Our store hours are: Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM and Saturdays from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM.



eron Thrift Store 4 days per week since mid April. Ivy has proven to be a great asset to the Cameron store and we are very happy to have her here. Ivy lives just outside of Cameron with her husband Kyle and their two children. Stop in and see Ivy and the rest of the Thrift Store crew at 700 North 1st street and see what treasures the Cameron location has to offer.

Introducing Ivy Johnson

We would like to officially welcome Ivy Johnson to our Cameron facility. Ivy had previously worked at the Rice Lake Thrift store one day per week, and has been setting up and working the Cam-



Group SPAM in Hayward

Spam mentor, Janet, and the group spent outings participating in basketball games, bowling, swimming, shopping downtown Hayward. They took a trip to Cable to check out the Cable Natural Museum and their newest exhibit "Star Power."

Janet continues to mentor Terry, Floyd, Pam and Brittany taking them out in the community and working on Daily Living Skills. One of the favorites is playing Bingo on Thursday nights.

Ellen is back and mentoring 3-4 hours a week as Dick is having a summer break to spend time with his family....

Deb G. continues to work with Carol, Charlie and David going to many dif-

ferent events in the community: concerts, bingo, bowling, the latest movies, basketball games, gardening class, out to eat, and even mini-golfing. Ventures is very happy to have Deb on board as she has been working with these three for over 10 years.



Mike K. mentors Terry and Floyd over the weekends and again Ventures is fortunate to have him as a mentor as he worked with Floyd and Terry for a

long time.

Mark B has moved to Spooner, we wish him well in his new place. As of this writing, I talked to Mark's mom and he loves his new place in Spooner.

The mentors do such a great job and Ventures appreciates all their hard work, patience, and understanding.





Cameron Highlights

Hi everyone it's hard to believe we're over half way through the year. The time seems to fly by way too quickly. Many changes have occurred here in Cameron and are still occurring. We hosted our Open House on Friday June 1st and that was a huge success. According to the sign in registry we had 87 visitors and gave guided tours of the entire building to 38 people. Everyone loved the new building and the overall setup of the various training and recreational activity programs that we are offering to the individuals who attend Ventures.

In the midst of setting up this new building, remodeling, fixing HVAC issues, painting, moving the thrift shoppe from Rice Lake to Cameron and doing our regular tasks we have made time for several fun outings each month. The group has gone on fun and educational day trips to: Turtle Lake Casino, Chetek Bowling

Lanes, Irvine Park, Chippewa Moiraine Ice Age Visitor Center, Crystal Cave in Spring Valley, Farm Show at the Cedar mall and weekly trips to Cameron Library and Barron Humane Society.

We have several people who are learning new crafting skills and making some very nice rugs and dog beds that can be seen and purchased at our thrift store.

We are continuing to get new referrals each month and many of these client referrals are asking for more work activities. Keeping the needs of the individuals we serve in the forefront, we have developed several new work areas that are providing individuals with opportunities to develop various work skills and make money along the way.

The first work area is strictly dedi-

cated to the assembly piece work that we receive from our wonderful friends at Parker Hannifin in Chetek WI.

Another interesting area is the wood-working shop where we are mainly building hand crafted Adirondack chairs from solid pine using a classic southeastern Adirondack chair design.

The Thrift Shoppe offers many different types of work opportunities from sorting clothing, sizing clothing, pricing goods, hanging clothing and learning good customer service skills to general cleaning of the store.

Finally, we are making all natural laundry soap product, campfires starters and still working on shredding paper for 5 area businesses.

Thanks again, stop in anytime and have a great summer!!



Hayward AIM Has a New Look

Hayward AIM has a whole new look. Besides painting, the room has been completely rearranged to accommodate the number of clients we have in the program.

"Aimstreet Boys", Carl and JJ are now enjoying the freedom to dance their way around the

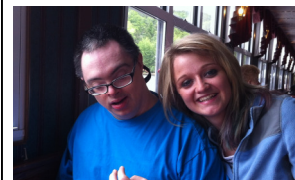


room and watch themselves in the large wall mirrors.

Vicki has been working with a group of folks at the Hospital Garden this summer. The weeding and watering sure keeps them busy.

Kerry has taken on the task of making the homemade laundry soap which is in high demand in all of our thrift stores as well as our bird stores.

Gone but Not Forgotten

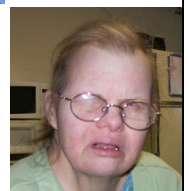


Don Librande

July 5, 2012

Mimi Thorson

May 12, 2012





Shell Lake AIM Have New Friends

It has been a very exciting Spring and Summer in the AIM room at Shell Lake. We have been learning some welcoming songs to get our days off to a good start. Each day we orient to what the weather is like, what day of the week it is, and what our plans are for the day. The morning hours are spent utilizing work programs that have enabled most of us to earn a paycheck. Our work projects have included increasing our shredding program. A corporate endeavor with the Shell Lake Art Club at the high school produced a fantastic sign over our big shredders.

Other work projects involve gardening, starting a basil crop for the grow room, and producing laundry soap. The garden has found several of its areas claimed by individuals as their "specialty." For example: Thomas' Bean Bin, Matt's Rhubarb Patch, Cheryl's Pumpkin Patch, and some community



tomatoes, peppers, radish, and other veggies.

We are having lots of fun celebrating birthdays and doing a monthly birthday board of all employees at the Shell Lake location.

For the month of June we celebrated dairy month with ice cream sandwiches. Father's Day was observed by creating boxes with all of Dad's favorite pictures and a brownie cupcake decorated like a

mini BBQ grill complete with mini hot dogs, steaks, and kabobs out of candies. We also had a luau at the beach for the first day of summer and enjoyed a beautiful day there.



We put on a mini style show for brides for thJune, the month of wedding festivities.

Our brides, Patty, and Cheryl, and our Mother of the Bride, DeNiel were lovely. Our Father of the Bride, Bob was, of course, broke!



Two new members we would like to introduce you to are "Milo & Otis" our guinea pigs. They have become friends that we look after every day. They enjoy (usually!!) all the attention and fresh food we find for them.



We have discovered a wonderful use for our colored shredded paper as small pet bedding.

Ventures Athletics--Special Olympics Team Update

The Ventures Athletics track wrapped up the spring competition season in early June at the state games in Stevens Point. It was a long season, beginning when there was still snow on the ground in March, with indoor practices at the Hayward Wesleyan Church. With 25 athletes on the team and busy work schedules practices became a logistical challenge yet the team managed to get in plenty of quality practices prior to the Hometown Games in Eau Claire on May 5th. The

Hometown Games area a qualifying competition for the State Championships and 20 athletes qualified though the team was awarded 15 slots to state. The team took the top 15 qualifiers to Stevens Point June 7-9.

Individual athletes were very successful at Point, too many medals and ribbons to mention by name. Every athlete won at least one medal, several won three medals, including one triple gold winner, Brit-

tany Bunce. Friendly competition and camaraderie was abundant as we stayed two nights in the dorms, sharing a floor with two other teams. Athletes attended a moving opening ceremony, and competition concluded with a huge dance and closing ceremony. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers and coaches who helped make the season a success, and a special thanks to Bob and Judy Holmes for generously donating bus transportation to Eau Claire and Stevens Point.

Washburn County Vocational Services Update

Ventures Unlimited, Inc. would like to welcome a new DVR Counselor, Anthony Dzialowy, to the area. Anthony will be serving Washburn as well as

Sawyer counties. We are looking forward to developing a strong working relationship with Tony, as well as continuing the joint efforts that are in

place with the rest of the DVR staff in the northern region to assure quality services for individuals in need of job placement assistance.





Ventures Unlimited Staff

Shell Lake Staff

Dennis Barbour-Job Coach, Shirley Berlin-Job Developer, Julie Blatterman-AIM Aide, Kara Breitenfeld-Production Coordinator, Tammy Dahle-Book Keeper, Melissa Denotter-Program Director, Gail Espe- seth-Woodshop Supervisor, Randy Fossum-Floor Supervi- sor, Kathy Greschner-AIM Aide, Stacy Martin-AIM Aide, Robyn Melton-AIM Aide, Mike Olsen- RAM, Linda Paulson-Massage Therapist, Kathryn Quenette- Floor Supervisor, Sandy Rom- mel-Thrift Store, Diane Ruggiero- Job Coach/Thrift Store, Ashley Schurman-AIM Aide, Wanda Severson-Thrift Store

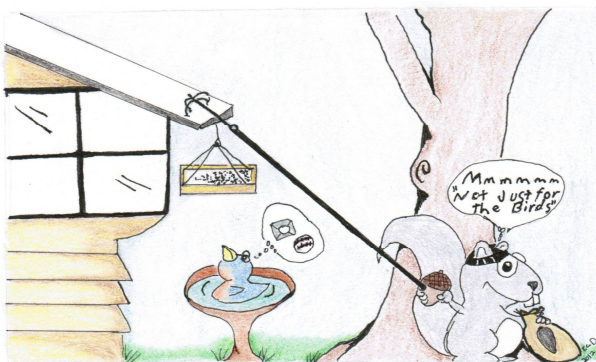
Hayward Staff

Sandy Blake-Thrift Store, Martin Buck-Thrift Store, Deb Gerich- Job Coach, Janet Gost-Job Coach, Richard Hanson-Job Coach, Christina Henkel-Thrift Store, Barb Jaaska-Job Coach, Lori Johnson-Job Developer, Mike Klawitter-Mentor, Denise Marquardt-Program Coordinator, Dolores Marquardt-Job Coach, Kimberly McFarland-AIM Aide, Robyn Melton-AIM Aide, Betty Overfors-Thrift Store, Ellen Palmisano-Lawn Mowing Super- visor, Sandy Pejka-Mentor/Job Coach, Joan Rainville-AIM Aide, Cindy Rau-Floor Supervisor, Kerry Rothgeb-AIM Aide, Vicki Smith-AIM Aide, Alexandra Stone-Floor Supervisor, Tom Sweeney-Program Director, Julie Veness-Nurse, 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 John- son-Office Staff, Linda Paulson- Massage Therapist, Malisa Paulson-AIM Aide, Lexye Rose- Job Coach, Stacy Roth-AIM Aide, Carolyn VanBuren Simons-Job Coach

Tabby's Comic



Artist: Tabitha DeBardeleben

Tabby started at Ventures in 1992 with the help of Board Member, Kate Melton.

Tabby's hobbies include sculpting clay, water colors, pastel, chalk, pen, ink and color pencil art. She also enjoys woodcrafts, acrylic painting, collecting rocks, bird feathers and anything that

has to do with nature.

In her free time, Tabby enjoys working in her rock garden. She likes to read, fish and spend time with her loved ones. She enjoys being in nature and tries to understand what it is telling her.

2013 Trips...Planning has started

Plans are being made for the 2013 trips. At this time, it is planned to visit South Dakota for a long weekend and see Wall Drug, Bad Lands, Crazy Horse,

Bear Country and Mount Rushmore. Green Bay will be on our list as we attend another Packer football game, and New York City is the trip of the year.

If any of you have ideas of spots that you would like to visit, please call or email Melissa so that we all have input on where to go.



Event Calendar and Vacation Days

Summer Picnic.....	August 23rd
Labor Day.....	September 3rd
Veteran's Day.....	November 12th
Thanksgiving Break.....	November 21st and 22nd
Christmas Break.....	December 24th through January 1st

Ventures Unlimited Board of Directors:

Pearl DeBardeleben
Mary Emerson, Vice Chair
Vera Hoogen, Secretary
Wayne Kupsch
Vern Lokken
Kate Melton, Board Chair
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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