



**MISSION:**

*Empowering People, Enriching Lives*

Ventures Unlimited, Inc. mission is to provide innovated services for individuals with disabilities so they may lead meaningful lives.

**Ventures Unlimited Board of Directors:**

- Pearl DeBardeleben
- Vera Hoogen
- Wayne Kupsch
- Vern Lokken
- Kate Melton
- Dan Ringwelski
- Robert Washkuhn

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# Ventures Adventures

Summer 2013

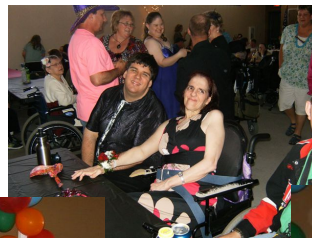
## 2013 Ventures Dance...A Huge Success

Ventures 2013 Prom was held this year on May 16 in Hayward at the Veteran's Center. This year's theme was disco and many people dressed to the nines. Everyone feasted on chicken. Hayward contributed several salads and ap-

petizers. Shell Lake brought yummy deserts and Cameron kept us drinking punch all day. Our DJ this year was our own Mike Klawiter, he did a wonderful job! A lot of folks danced and had their photos taken under the balloon arch. The deco-

rations were beautiful and everyone had a great time. Hayward also invited the Hayward High School Juniors and Seniors, many of whom will eventually attend Ventures. Anita Seiler, the Hayward teacher said everyone from the high school had a great time.

*See inside for more fun photos from our 2013 Ventures Prom.*



## Director's Corner: Kristin Frane, CEO

As I began composing my semi-annual "Director's Notes", it seemed impossible for me to believe how far we've come in the last 16 years. When I was hired 16 years ago, we had 7 staff, \$16,000 in the bank, and one building - my how we've grown! Throughout the years, we've experienced many growing pains (and continue to experience growing pains today), but in the end we have a wide

array of services available to people with disabilities and we are fortunate enough to touch the lives of hundreds of individuals with disabilities on a daily basis.

Although work has always been our main focus, we continue to focus on having FUN! Enclosed in the newsletter we will highlight some of our recreational activities. As always, thank-you for

caring and I look forward to another successful 16 years.



## End of an Era...Mary Emerson retires from Ventures Board

Board Member Mary Emerson has retired from the Ventures Board of Directors after 30+ years. Mary has decided after all of these years to move to Balsam Lake, WI. One interesting fact...Mary

never missed a board meeting in Kristin's 16 years of working with her.

Good luck to you Mary and we will miss you!



**Spooner S.E.E.D. favorite past time, visiting the animals at the Washburn County Humane Society**



## AHOY

Greetings and happy summer to everyone! The AHOY (Adults Helping Our Youth) program is growing and seeing successful matches occur between adult mentors and mentees ages 14-21 years. We currently serve 12 youth throughout Barron, Washburn and Sawyer counties. You may know some of our awesome, caring mentors. They are: Lexye Rose, Michelle Bailey, Samantha Skrypek, Cindie Simon, Courtney Bier, Carolyn Van Buren, Glenda Cherrey, Ali Stone, Janet Gost and Bob Johnson. These individuals go above and beyond their call of duty to be positive, caring adults

who spend time with youth with disabilities on a regular basis. They do fun, social activities such as bowling, going fishing, exercising, shopping, walking dogs at the Humane Society, going to ball games, movies, jewelry parties, and so much more. They also work on skills needed to live more independently such as; budgeting, housekeeping, how to look for a place to live, grocery shopping, paying bills, getting a job, etc.

If you are reading this and think you might enjoy being a mentor, feel free to give me a call at 715-458-5005 or email me at [kari@venturesunlimited.org](mailto:kari@venturesunlimited.org).

At this time we are not seeking mentors, but that can change in a heartbeat, so it's always good to have names and numbers of people who might be interested in mentoring a youth for 2-5 hours per week.

Thanks for reading and please make it a great day!!

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

The Spooner S.E.E.D. Program is currently meeting on every Thursday and the day is filled with various activities. The day always starts with a yummy delight and hot drinks, followed with reading the local paper. During the day we enjoy activities such as games, puzzles, reading stories and doing word books. Crafts are also a weekly

part of our gathering. This includes such things as making cards, painting wood, bead work and other fun crafts. Cooking and baking is also enjoyed. Hardly a Thursday goes by without an outing to the Humane Society, where both cats and dogs are "loved on" in a big way! With the nice weather finally upon us, we look

forward to weekly outings. Lunching by the park and venturing out to visit areas of interest have already begun. We live in such a beautiful area and there are historical and fun places to visit. Enjoying life as a senior is important and we have fun living out that goal.

### Cameron AIM...Always On The Go!

All of us from the Cameron Ventures AIM program are very happy that summer has finally arrived! We have been on many exciting outings. Many have "ventured" out for bowling & pizza at the awesome lanes in Chetek, some fun at the casino, a relaxing day on the Stillwater Boat Cruise, shopping in Eau Claire, learning about fish at the Duluth Aquarium and some animal watching at Irvine Park.

We continue working on our money budg-

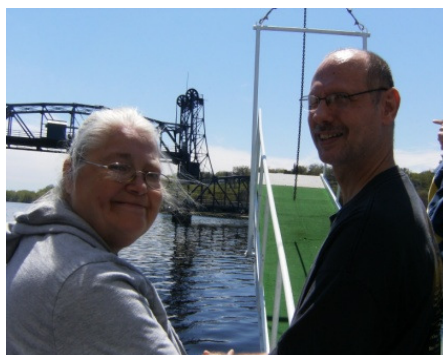
eting skills on our coffee clutch outings and Walmart trips. With a thrift store right here in our building we get many opportunities to "budget" every day!

Just this week we adopted some hermit crabs into our family. We are all very excited to watch them grow and change shells. It was very fun to paint many shells for them to choose from.

Along with all the fun we have on our outings we also work hard on paper shredding for several area

businesses. The thrift store continues to provide work with hanging and tagging clothes, pricing and sorting donations. We continue to make fire starters, laundry soap and Adirondack chairs to be sold at our thrift stores. We also are excited to announce that we have started making homemade body soap and body scrub to be sold in the thrift stores.

Everyone is anticipating all of our adventures to come to make more wonderful memories!



## Hayward Thrift Shoppe Ready For the Summer Rush

Ventures Thrift and Gift Shoppe in Hayward is in full swing this summer. This year we are again featuring our Adirondack Chairs made in Cameron's woodshop. They are very popular among our lake

residents and business's. Recently West's Dairy purchased several chairs, as did Lumberjack Village earlier this spring. Thanks for supporting Ventures! Donations are very strong this summer, keeping our staff

very busy. We have recently trained a new cashier, Holten Wiidmar. Holten has joined Ventures Unlimited and is trying out cashiering as a career option. Stop in and see Holten, let him know what a good job he is doing!!

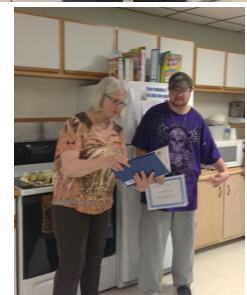
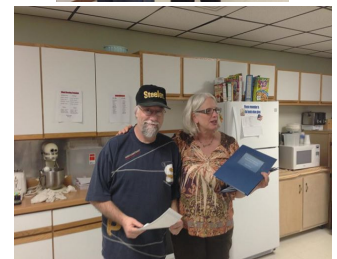


## Services Driven by Employment Plans

Ventures supports over 150 adults with disabilities every day. Many of these individuals take part in our Prevocational Services and each of these clients has an employment plan if they are with NorthernBridges. This plan reflects not only their short term goals but their long-term career goals as well. This plan is created with the help of family, care providers, care managers and a Ventures team member.

opportunities to obtain skills needed to meet these goals.

Ventures Staff, Kathy Greschner, has taken on the Career Education Readiness Class which teaches our clients about what is needed to become ready for community employment. They also explore different community jobs to see what is available. The photos on the right are of our most recent class graduating from Career Education Readiness Class.



The employment plan assists Ventures to provide the services that the client needs to achieve their goals. Many of our clients hope to one day work in the community. Ventures provides many

## 2014? It's Time to Plan

Is it just me or does it seem like we just had snow a month ago and now I am starting to think ahead which means more snow.

Plans are beginning for the 2014 travel season with Ventures. I have had some great ideas come to

me through a few of our consumers. I am always looking for new and exciting adventures to plan for us all to share.

So...do you have a special place that you would like to travel? In 2014, I am going to choose one large trip as we have

done in the past. Where will it be? Washington DC? Montana? California?

Tell me where you would like to go.

See or call Melissa at 715 -468-2939 or email her at [melissa@venturesunlimit](mailto:melissa@venturesunlimit)



### Focus on...Kelly K. from Hayward

Ventures Unlimited is blessed with an abundance of excellent employees. In Hayward one of the more versatile and reliable employees is Kelly Kinsel. Kelly is entering into her 11<sup>th</sup> year of employment at Ventures and her upbeat attitude and awesome smiles

never waver. Kelly is a solid contributor to every works project available, including: suet, clothing donation processing, cleaning crews, rug weaving, and Parker. Kelly also work part time at the Sawyer County Highway Shop, a job she has held for over 6 years. In addition

to being a great employee, Kelly is also a great co-worker—always willing to help others, unselfish, and ever the peacemaker. Kelly is a great asset to Ventures and has matured into a wonderful role model.



### Hayward Special Olympics Participates in State Games

Special Olympics events have been snake-bitten this year. The Winter Games in January were cancelled due to a lack of snow, so the team practiced but did not get to compete. The lack of a Spring in the north led to a very limited practice season, and naturally the Regional Track Meet in May was cancelled due to snow.

But the team was able to send 14 athletes to the State track meet at UW-

Stevens Point June 6,7, and 8. Despite the lack of training, individual athletes placed very well including: Pam Carlson Silver and Bronze, Floyd Fleming Gold and 5<sup>th</sup>, Mary Ellen Gordon Silver and 5<sup>th</sup>, Carol Gorney Bronze and two 4ths, Wade Hamlet Silver and 4<sup>th</sup>, David Kretschmer Gold, Silver and Bronze, Luke Kupsch Gold, Silver, and Bronze, Johnna Jensen Gold and 4<sup>th</sup>, Paul Ludzack 3 Golds, Alex Mann Gold and Bronze,

Sarah Mayou Gold, Silver, and 6<sup>th</sup>, Ryan Nadelhoffer Gold and Bronze, and Dan Sebek 2 Bronze. In addition the 4x100m Walk Relay won Silver medals and the 4x100m Run Relay won a Gold.

It was a great competition punctuated with good sportsmanship and great camaraderie. Athletes are already looking forward to the Bowling season, which starts in a few short months.



### Spooner Thrift Shoppe...Busy Start to the Summer

The Spooner Thrift Shoppe has started the summer off with a bang! We have been keeping busy with customers and the donations have been plentiful. These not only keep our Thrift Shoppe staff busy but also gives a number of consumers at Ventures in Shell Lake the opportunity to learn

the sorting process. Many of our consumers then take those clothes to the store and help with hanging and/or cleaning. We try to keep our shoppe tidy and customer ready.

Please stop in and check out our daily sales.

Stop in today and see what we have to offer. New items are added daily.

And as always, donations are accepted during business hours.





## SMART Art Exhibition

On June 13<sup>th</sup> a number of budding artists were able to participate in the SMART Art Expo at the Cable Recreation Park. The 'See My Art', SMART expo is the brainchild of Art Therapist Sara Balbin, and was beautifully staffed by a number of Cable area artists. SMART's mission is to increase awareness of

the untapped talent that lies in all of us, but specifically the overlooked gifts of people with disabilities. 'Opening Doors' was the apt theme, as Ventures employees were able to paint doors that expressed a wide range of feelings and visions. Each employee worked closely with a professional artist, and were given ad-

vice on techniques and color schemes and subject choices. The culmination of the event was a fundraising auction of the pieces on June 29<sup>th</sup>. This looks to be another great annual event with lots of potential for growth. The volunteer artists were great, and the venue was perfect.

## South Dakota or Bust



Kitty, Deb, Maxine, Bev and Tim started their five day vacation on June 17<sup>th</sup> heading for South Dakota.

They arrived in Sioux Falls and spent their first night. Before heading for bed, they visited Falls Park located in the heart of downtown Sioux Falls. After getting some much needed rest, they got up ready to venture to Rapid City bright and early Tuesday morning.

First stop was in Mitchell SD. at the one and only Corn Palace. After our short visit we continued on to Al's Oasis in Chamberlin, SD. where we had a great lunch. We then drove through the Badlands where we took in some beautiful sites. Our next stop was at Wall Drug, where we did some shopping. We arrived in Hill City where we would call home the next two days and found a cute little family owned place for dinner called Desperados. What a great place to

dine, the food was awesome and the staff were so nice. We would highly suggest if you ever get to Hill City you stop in there for a great meal.

We found our hotel, unpacked the car and then our heads hit our pillows.

Wednesday morning, we got up, ate breakfast, then hit the road. Our first stop was Mt. Rushmore which was breathtakingly beautiful. From there, we continued to Crazy Horse which was another great choice. Our next stop was to Custer State Park. BEAUTIFUL is all we can say to describe that! The mountain goat and buffalo kept us entertained. We then went for dinner at Ruby Tuesdays where we enjoyed another wonderful meal before heading to Deadwood, SD to visit Kevin Costner's Casino. After a very long day full of new sites, it was time to go back to our hotel.

Thursday, after the van was packed we left for home. Once on the road, we stopped for breakfast before heading to Bear Country. This park was AMAZING. We were told to keep our windows up and doors shut at all times because the animals were free to roam throughout the land. We enjoyed watching the cubs play in their own little area.

Then the journey home began. We drove six hours and then found a hotel for the night in Minnesota. We had our final meal together in Shakopee, MN at the Pizza Ranch before driving the rest of the route home.

Thanks to everyone for making this a wonderful fun week!!!

~Deb and Kitty~

## Welcome to Ventures

Hi everyone, it's hard to believe we're half way through 2013. Here at Ventures we've added several new staff over the last six months to fill open positions and several new positions due to expanding service needs. In the Hayward area we hired Mike Galloway, Bob Johnson, Glenda Cherrey and Dave Langham. In Cameron we have hired Cindy Simon, Courtney Paul and Samantha Skrypek. Finally, in Shell Lake you will find Barb Turpin

and Donna Belcher who are working in the AIM room and providing transportation on the Birchwood route.

Most of our training for new staff is working alongside veteran staff to learn the job and become familiar with individuals they will be working with. We also have been busy offering a variety of training to keep our staff up to date with licensing requirements or new methods of working. Some of

the trainings that were offered included Safe Driving, First Aid/CPR, AHOY Mentoring 101, Sexuality for Adults with Developmental Disabilities and Community Integrated Employment. Pictured are Cameron and Shell Lake staff at a First Aid/CPR training that was held in Shell Lake in April.



## Shell Lake AIM...New Staff = New Ideas

We would like to start off by welcoming 4 new people to the AIM program. Donna Belcher joined the AIM staff in April and Barb Turpin came to us in May. Brothers, Josh and Jared, from Cumberland high school have recently started the transition process to Ventures and are becoming quite involved with everyone.

In other news, Kathy Gerschner is now bringing her collie, Snickers, for weekly visits. It has been fun for everyone to watch him grow and help with all

the responsibilities that a dog brings.

This year for Mother's day we painted mason jars with a glue and paint mixture creating sea glass. That quickly gave us ideas to give old vases from our thrift store a new look. Everyone has been involved with creating new ideas for the old vases. Whether adding lace, yarn, buttons or even spray paint it has been a lot of fun. Once

the vases are redecorated they are taken back to the thrift store to sell.

With the warmer weather, comes outdoor activities. Our garden is growing large and starting to produce which is exciting to see.

We are hoping to enjoy the beautiful weather with picnics, walks and other outdoor activities. Have a great summer!



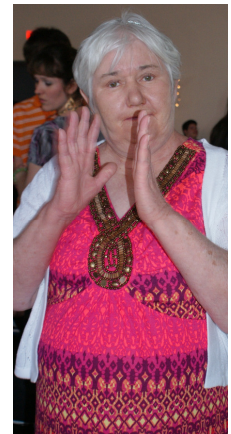
## Hayward AIM is Getting Ready for the Fair

The AIM program in Hayward is starting to gear up for the fair. In collaboration with the wood shop, they are building a small house furnished with recycled items. Plans are being made to continue with fair projects, included

are baked goods, canning and possibly cut flowers. This group is very ambitious.

We would like to welcome Autumn and Ben for the summer. Deb has been busy with

many different helpers creating laundry soap. Busy bees we will be!





## 1st Annual Ventures Palooza...Come Join the Fun

Ventures Unlimited has put together our first annual conference, Ventures Palooza.

The purpose for this conference is to bring people with disabilities together and facilitate an experience that allows them to be with friends and participate in new activities.

This is a two day conference being held on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary.

Folks that attend will participate in four different workshops throughout the two days and receive a souvenir from each one!

The workshops that we are offering include, Geocaching, Assisted Gardening, taking a ride and relaxing on a pontoon, Tie Dyeing a T-shirt, Fishing,

Photography, Making Healthy Simple Snacks, Nature Hike, Card Making, Campfire Cooking, Lost in the Woods Training, Making a Survivor Bracelet and Wine and Cheese Tasting.

There will be a big dance and bonfire at night and everyone is encouraged to dress up in western attire.

The staff at Ventures are excited to offer this opportunity to our employees and have planned every detail with them in mind.

This is all about offering a relaxing and special time to get out of the usual routine and let loose before old man winter comes for us again!

Itinerary for Ventures Palooza:

**Thursday August 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 9:00-10:00 Arrival sign-in  
 10:15-11:00 Welcome/ Keynote speaker  
 11:30-12:30 Lunch  
 1:00- 2:30 Workshops  
 3:00- 4:30 Workshops  
 5:30 Dinner  
 7:00-10:00 Dance/ bonfire

**Friday August 16<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30-8:30 Breakfast  
 8:45-10:00 Workshops  
 10:30-12:00 Workshops  
 12:30-1:30 Lunch  
 1:30-3:00 Entertainment/ time to say goodbye.

For more information, please contact Ventures. We hope to see you there.

## SPAM Outings Enjoyed by All

The latest group outings have included bowling at Riverside, Swimming at Comfort Suites, a trip to the Cable Natural Mu-

seum which included checking out a few shops in Cable. The group also went to Wilderness Walk where they enjoyed the

animals and yet to come is a movie, mini-golfing and a Lumberjack Show yet this summer!

## SAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS

After working at Ventures for 3 years, Janet Gost has decided to move to Florida. We lost an awesome mentor and we miss her greatly. We had a small going away party for Janet however, Alex couldn't make it and she showed up later with 6 yellow roses for her.

Janet did an excellent job at Ventures and helped many of the mentees gain independence through mentoring. See attached picture.

Mike Galloway was hired as the new ment, he works with Terry, Floyd, Alex, Seth, Woody and Ray. Mike is also working

in the AIM room as well as subbing on the work floor. A huge WELCOME to Mike.

The list of mentees has grown to 20...plus we have the 3 AHOY mentees in Hayward. So, the mentors are kept busy, busy!



# Ventures Unlimited Staff

## Rice Lake Staff

Vicki Anderson-Job Coach, Courtney Berlin-Thrift Shoppe, Shirley Berlin-Job Developer, Bill Duerkop-Job Developer, Andrea Englund-Job Coach, Gail Green-Job Coach/AIM Aide, Mike Grilley-Human Resources, Sarah Hansen-AIM Aide, Tiffany Janisch-AIM Aide, Kari Koenecke-AHOY, Courtney Paul-Mentor, Linda Paulson-Massage Therapist, Lexye Rose-Job Coach, Stacy Roth-AIM Aide, Samantha Skrypek-Mentor, Susan Stoeberl-Job Coach/Mentor, Kevin Stream-Janitor, Judy Thunberg-Job Coach/Mentor, Carolyn VanBuren Simons-Job Coach

## Shell Lake Staff

Donna Belcher-AIM Aide, Shirley Berlin-Job Developer, Julie Blatterman-AIM Aide, Kara Breitenfeld-Production Coordinator, Tammy Dahle-Book Keeper, Melissa Denotter-Program Director, Randy Fossum-Floor Supervisor, Kathy Greschner-AIM Aide, Stacy Martin-AIM Aide, Mike Olsen-RAM, Linda Paulson-Massage Therapist, Kathryn Quenette-Floor Supervisor, Sandy Rommel-Thrift Store, Diane Ruggiero-Job Coach/Thrift Store, Ashley Schurman-AIM Aide, Wanda Severson-Thrift Store, Barb Turpin-AIM Aide

## Hayward Staff

Sandy Blake-Thrift Store, Martin Buck-Thrift Store, Mike Galloway-Mentor, Deb Gerich-Job Coach, Debra Hammerel-AIM Aide, Richard Hanson-Job Coach, Christina Henkel-Thrift Store, Barb Jaaska-Job Coach, Lori Johnson-Job Developer, Mike Klawitter-Mentor, Dave Langham-Job Developer, Jane Mandli-Job Coach/Mentor, Denise Marquardt-Program Coordinator, Betty Overfors-Thrift Store, Joan Rainville-AIM Aide, Cindy Rau-Floor Supervisor, Vicki Smith-AIM Aide, Alexandra Stone-Floor Supervisor, Tom Sweeney-Program Director, Julie Veness-Nurse, Xan Ziengenhorn-Thrift Store

# Tabby's Toon

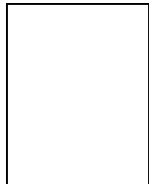


## Event Calendar and Vacation Days

Labor Day	Monday, September 2
Veteran's Day	Monday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Wednesday, November 27 And Thursday, November 28
Holiday Break	Monday, December 23rd - Wednesday, January 1st

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.



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