



VENTURES ADVENTURE

Winter 2013

VENTURES UNLIMITED PARTNERS WITH MEALS ON WHEELS

Ventures Unlimited is excited to announce the partnership with Barron County Meals on Wheels. One of our big work projects over the last 6 months has been working cooperatively with the Barron County Meals on Wheels program.

Starting January 1st 2014 they will be using our kitchen to prepare meals for the participants in their program and will offer meals to the participants in our Venture's Cameron program for a nominal fee. This project has involved a great deal

of planning over the last 6 months and is getting closer to crunch time. At this time point in the planning we will be constructing a few more walls near the kitchen to create an enclosed storage room for dry food goods and other supplies. Bill Duerkop from Ventures has been in weekly contact with Leslie Fijalkiewicz from ADRC who oversees the meal program. The two have been working together to ensure a smooth transition from Barron County Day Development Center to Ventures Unlimited Inc. and

so far it's looking good for the January 1st start date. We are also excited about the opportunity to have Barron County Meals on Wheels program employ several of the Venture's participants to work in the kitchen and be actively involved in the meal delivery service area. These employment opportunities are directly in line with Ventures mission of providing meaningful work and vocational training to people with disabilities in addition to helping out with a great cause.

Ventures Unlimited Board of Directors:

- Pearl DeBardeleben
- Vera Hoogen, Secretary
- Wayne Kupsch
- Vern Lokken
- Kate Melton, Board Chair
- Dan Ringwelski, Vice Chair
- Robert Washkuhn

Check out our website: www.venturesunlimited.org

MISSION

Empowering People, Enriching Lives

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



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

With each passing year, I have become increasingly aware of the large group of incredible people committed to the mission of Ventures Unlimited. Employees, staff, management, volunteers and Board of Directors alike share a positive en-

ergy that makes me proud to be a part of Ventures Unlimited. Thank-you for your time, energy, talent and continuous dedication.

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to remind everyone that Ventures continues to

modify services and offerings in an effort to meet our mission. We're also interested in your perspective and ideas for service to our community. Let us know how we can improve.

Thank-you!

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NASCAR TRIP 2013

Our trip started from Shell Lake with Donna, Donna's husband, Scott, Paul W, Chris, Paul S, Todd and Billy. We then drove south to Joliet, IL.

When we arrived at the race track, it was breath taking. The track was so large, that it was a site to see. There were semi trailers lined up in rows holding a huge selection of merchandise from each driver.

There was live music playing outside the track for

everyone to enjoy which was a free concert. There were also commercial vendors that handed out free items to anyone who walked by.

Once we found our seats in the stands, we listened to another concert. Just being



there seeing all of the cars and drivers was exciting.

Then it started to rain. Now remember, we had not had rain for weeks but it decided to rain on us at the track. We waited, then the track dryers came out.

That is when we heard "Racers, start your engines." The race

began.

The cars were driving so fast around the track that it was hard to follow your favorite driver.

With the delays and re-starts of the race, we ended up watching the finish at our hotel due to rain. We all had a great time and would do this again if asked.

2014 TRIPS...HERE WE GO!

2014 is going to start off in March with a trip to Wisconsin Dells. This has been a popular trip in the past.

This year, we will be staying at The Wilderness. You will be able to spend 3 days and have your choice of 4 different water parks, 3D mini golf, lazer tag, bumper boats, paint your own pottery, Haunted Town, an arcade and a ropes course.

With April, will come a trip to The Chanhassen Dinner Theater. You will enjoy dinner and "The Little Mermaid."

In May, we are going to Explore Minnesota. This 3 day excursion will make stops at Nickelodeon Universe, Sea Life Minnesota Aquarium, Water Park of

America, Science Museum of Minnesota, Minnesota Zoo and Great Clips IMAX Theater.

June will take us on the Grand Tour of the Apostle Islands. This 3 1/4 hour, 55 mile cruise will take us past extraordinary natural scenery, beautiful islands, lighthouses, standing rocks, sea caves and more.

Our first six day vacation will be in July. This will be our first big trip of 2014. Join us for some rip-roarin' entertainment in Wyoming during Cheyenne Frontier Days. This trip will highlight the PRCA rodeo, professional bull riders, country music concerts, USAF Thunderbirds, parades, pancake breakfasts and

more.

In August, adventure to Milwaukee and enjoy the Wisconsin State Fair, Milwaukee Zoo, Milwaukee Public Museum and hopefully we will sneak in a Brewer game if they are at Miller Park.

Our 1st Ventures Palooza was a success. We are going to plan it again. We will once again be offering an overnight stay with a two day conference of workshops, social events, meals, t-shirt and souvenirs from each of the workshops. Join us on this fun filled adventure.

Our second vacation for 2014 will be to Florida to

Disney World. Our first vacation was spent in Florida and we have had some show interest in returning. If you decide to join us, you will stay at a Disney Resort, enjoy rides, meals and all that Disney has to offer.

Our annual trip is planned for early Christmas shopping to the Mall of America in Bloomington, MN. Come and enjoy a day full of shopping with over 400 different stores. You are sure to find something you want.

2014 is looking to be a great year for travel. Sign up early for the trips that you want so that you don't miss out on the fun.



VENTURES FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

The consumers in Shell Lake were gathered together to discuss their favorite Christmas memory and/or present.

Victoria M. "My favorite Christmas present was the crayon maker that I got."

Kaylee M. "My favorite Christmas memory was when my nephew was first born. We were all together and each took turns saying how thankful we were for each other."

Chris P. "My favorite

Christmas present was a metal detector.

Emma S. "My favorite Christmas present is anything from Bath and Body Works. I always go to Grandpa and Grandma's for Christmas."

Gage C. "My favorite Christmas present was my music player."

Skyler J. "My favorite Christmas present was my first Vikings starter jacket."

Billy T. "My favorite Christmas was a Packer football

blanket and a DVD/VCR player."

Diana S. "I like to spend Christmas with my brother John."

Darren L. "I like to make gingerbread houses for Christmas."

Karissa B. "I like to sing Christmas songs, give my family presents and make Christmas cookies."

Ed R. "I loved my BB gun that I got one year."

Rosemary M. "I love Christmas."

DeNiel M. "I have a box of treasured ornaments that were my mom's."

Patty W. "I love Santa Claus with a hat, coat, belt and boots."

Chris R. "My favorite Christmas present was a Wisconsin Badger sweat-shirt from my mom and angels that lit up from my friend, Ed. My favorite memory is of my and mom making Christmas cookies, which we did every Christmas."

DENIEL'S POETRY

Halloween comes but
once a year

Thanksgiving reminds us
to be thankful all year

When Christmas comes
the children will cheer

For all the presents they
will get this year

New Year's arrives with
blustery glory

What we will do is another
story

Mind your manners and
always be true

For what happens will
reflect on you

~DeNiel Rae~



TABBY'S TOON





VENTURES SUMMER PICNIC

The annual Ventures summer picnic was held this year at the Shell Lake beach. The location was nice and the food was great. Randy brought his pontoon and Dick brought his fishing boat and gear. They were able to entertain with rides around the lake. It is unsure if there were actually any fish caught because there were no tales

told. For those that chose to dance, we also had music provided. Thanks to the Shell Lake AIM staff for planning a few games to take part in too.

The Employee of the Year awards and AIM Employee of the Year awards were handed out. This year in Shell Lake Angie J and David S, Tim C was chosen in Cameron and in Hayward

David and Melvin took home the coveted prizes.

A good time was had by all. With each of our facilities growing each year we have found that it is getting more difficult to find a centralized venue large enough to house us all. We have decided that next year, we will try and separate the picnics.

The Ventures Staff would like to thank each and every one of you for doing such a great job and helping us to meet our goals with each of these work contracts. Without you, it would not be possible.



VENTURES STAFF OF THE YEAR



Congratulations goes to Randy Fossum as Staff of the Year from Shell Lake. Randy is the Parker Supervisor on our work floor.

Randy has been with Ventures since 2011 and has worn different hats since his hire date. Randy brings a personality that inspires the consumers in Shell Lake. Each day Randy brings a positive attitude that rubs off on the clients that he works

with. Randy, you do an awesome job and we are lucky to have you here.



Kari Koenecke has been instrumental in developing and coordinating the AHOY program over the last

year. Her 20 plus years of experience in the social services field makes her a great asset to have at Ventures as she is always willing to assist all staff with challenging cases. She is

always willing to fill in or just to lend a helping hand to all staff or substitute if a staff is absent. She has done an incredible job working with all Venture's clients. We couldn't be more happy to have her on board, congratulations Kari!



Congratulations to Deb Gerich. Deb is one of two work floor supervisors at our Hayward facility. Deb not

only works on our work

floor but also is a mentor in the community. Deb has proven to be a great asset to us and is willing to do whatever possible to make Ventures a great place for our clients to come every day. Deb has stepped up when needed to travel with our group to South Dakota, Green Bay and a couple other of our Ventures Adventures. Thanks Deb for everything that you have done and continue to do to make Ventures a fantastic place to work.

HAYWARD AIM ARE BUSY AS BEES

The AIM group in Hayward have ventured out on many different outings in the past six months. They have visited the ranger station and learned about identifying the different wild flowers of Wisconsin. They traveled to Spooner with small groups and visited the fish hatchery park and also picnicked at the beautiful park. An inter-

esting place that we found was Garmisch, which is a Bavarian Resort. We also enjoyed lunch at the Sawmill Grill in Seeley. A trip to the Barron Farmer's Market was on the schedule too.

The group has been busy making seasonal decorations. We have created porkeypines from pine cones and mice and cats

from pumpkins. We enjoyed a home canning segment with our master canner, Deb H.

We do exercises with Richard Simmons, educational updates with computer searches and current events weekly.

The AIM group has also been sponsoring a monthly lunch, with celebrating Ok-

toberfest being the most recent.

Soap making, filling bird seed jugs and now working on Hampton also have our group busy as bees.





1ST ANNUAL VENTURES PALOOZA

The 1st Annual Ventures Palooza was held August 15th and 16th. The 25 consumers that signed up to attend our conference were in for a great time. We had perfect weather and a lot of fun. Thursday started out with entertainment from local favorite, Ian Okamoto. A picnic lunch was served



and then it was off for fun and learn-

ing. Our most popular class was the tie-dyeing t-shirts. Everyone was able to show their creativity and make themselves a shirt that they could bring home and wear for years to come.

Hunt Hill prepared a wonderful dinner that included chicken fettuccini alfredo. This was a popular hit with many.

Tom then started our camp fire and Mike arrived with his equipment and the

dance began. We have many great entertainers at Ventures and they were able to show off their talent whether it was dancing or



singing with the karaoke.

With morning came an autumn chill in the air. We all again gathered around the fire and waited for the

breakfast bell to be rung. Again,



HuntHill provided us with an array of wonderful breakfast foods.

With two more sessions and the closing with wild animals visiting, staff and clients are excited to attend again next year. Thanks to everyone for making this event fun!

FOCUS ON ALEX M.

In this newsletter, we are going to Focus on...Alex M. Alex is 21 years old and works at Ventures in Hayward. He works multiple jobs, including woodworking, suet production, sorting clothes and will also volunteer some of his time in the AIM room reading to the clients.

Alex supports the Hayward community by working on

the Senior Transit bus. He assists the individuals on and off, whether they need help on the lift or just an arm to hang onto.

Alex has been living on his own for the past two years.

Alex likes to fish. He feels that it allows him to time to enjoy nature. His favorite sport is football with his team being the Pittsburgh Steelers. His favorite food

is crab meat. His favorite song is "Soldier" and his favorite singer is Gavin DeGraw. Alex would love to vacation at Universal Studios.

Alex's passion is the military and he is a Lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol which meets on a weekly basis. Alex said "I am more dedicated to my country than most people know."

See Alex's success video and other videos about Ventures on YouTube.



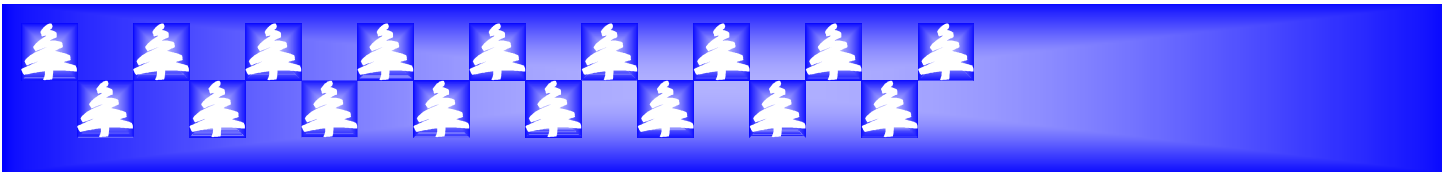
HAYWARD THRIFT SHOPPE NEWS



Our Hayward Thrift Store continues to stay busy and active. As the holiday season approaches we are working hard to get our Christmas merchandise on the shelves. This year, Hayward is again featuring a decorated Christmas tree with stand, skirt and ornaments for sale at a very reasonable price. We started

this tradition a few years ago and it always seems to be appreciated. Of course, we are also trying to keep up with all the generous donations that keep coming in. The Thrift Store continues to train and employ anyone from Ventures who wishes to work there, currently Holten, Mary Ellen and Tim are there on a

regular basis, stop in to say hi to them. And don't forget to stop and say hi to our staff, Barb, Christina, Marty, and Sandy; they are always happy to help our shoppers.



JUST FOR THE BIRDS UPDATE



Just for the Birds is again starting up its suet production at full steam. We con-

tinue to supply local businesses as well as some folks in Minnesota. We are working hard to increase our wholesale business and get our products out to as many customers as possible. Last year we introduced some new items. In the suet line we offer "Tweety Pies" and "Suet Eggs", both sold in a three pack and a wonderful gift

idea. Our woodshop is also making some new feeders. We now offer a 10" feeder



and a Deluxe Double Cob feeder. Our 10" feeder is a smaller version of our 16" feeder and can be purchased with a natural or green painted roof. Our Deluxe Double Cob feeder is set up for 2 corn cobs to keep those squirrels busy. Stop in any of our JFB stores to check these items out.

CAMERON ACTIVITIES

As yet another year comes to an end we look back at all the experiences we have shared at Ventures Unlimited in Cameron.



Some of us have been working hard in the wood-

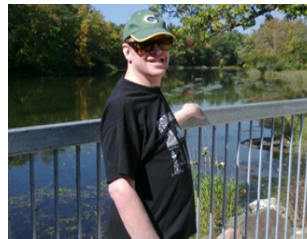


shop with Mike, Lex and Dale. For others it has been working for the thrift store sorting, pricing and hanging clothes with Sue and Stacy. And some have been putting in many hours with Gail in the small parts area, completing orders for

Hampton. Many of us have worked with Kathy making caramels and growing basil in the grow room. While others, they have helped Cindie with the production of our homemade laundry soap and fire starters. We continue to enjoy our



community based instructional outings which include; coffee club, bowling and pizza, fishing, pontoon rides, visits to local libraries, casino with buffet lunch, and SO many more. As the cold weather sets in, our picnics and outdoor walking groups have unfortunately come to an end. We are excited to start walking at the Barron Area Community Center on the



indoor track. We are planning to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with parties and activities that everyone will enjoy. In October Kari began a 10 week class entitled "Healthy Relationships", and Bill just finished a "Career Building" class.

We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus of



Cumberland for a new flat panel TV and DVD Player for our day services room.

Everyone really enjoys playing Wii games and watching movies on it! I'd like to give a shout out to the amazing AIM room staff; Stacy, Cindie, Gail,



Kathy, Carolyn, Diane, and our newest member to the team, Jennifer. All of you are key contributors to the success of our day services and work programs. Thank you for all you do for the people we serve!!

~Tiffany~



MIKE'S REFLECTIONS

Hi everyone! As winter takes hold across the state and we move into the holiday season, everyone is busy with multiple projects both in their personal lives and at work.

At our Cameron location we continue to provide "retail store" vocational training in our Thrift Shoppe where the participants can learn and earn in a real life retail store situation. Stop in and check it out, the store is packed to the ceiling with great clothing items, household goods and holiday decorations that are gently used and priced to sell.

Our basil growing operation is in full swing which provides addition work and therapeutic benefits to several folks that attend our Day Center. Our woodshop crew is busy building adirondack

chairs, foot stools and side tables to sell next spring. In fact last summer we sold over 110 chairs and were unable to keep up with the demand, so get your orders in as soon as possible for these hot items.

We continue to partner with some area businesses that keep us supplied and busy with assembly and packaging work. Venture's staff members have also been busy developing and offering some new classes for participants which include: community employment, healthy relationships and healthy snacks. Each class focuses on learning important skills and values that can be used throughout the participant's life.

Finally, as I reflect back on the year, I think of all the fun moments that have occurred like the "Palooza" last summer where staff developed and ran a two day activity camp at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary for people with disabilities. The camp provided many different fun activities from arts and crafts to outdoor activities and dancing, all of which were taught by Ventures staff. The whole event took months to plan and many headaches to overcome but was worth every one. I think of the smaller day to day neat things that staff do with clients that enhances their lives or brightens their day like the CBI's Community Based Instruction outings to the Mall or the local cafe. But as an unplanned result

of our work, teaching, assisting, developing classes or planning and running a structured activity..., a pure, unexpected result occurs to the staff. A result of self-fulfillment, laughter, self-worth, joy and self-accomplishment, those things that cannot be measured by others but makes a difference in our life. A result of knowing that you have just affected someone positively from something that they just did or learned, no matter how big or small their accomplishment was "you made a difference" in their life.

Thank you to all the participants and staff for the difference you make every day.

THE VALUE OF WORK

Ask any retired person what they miss most and many will tell you it is their friends from work. Others may say they miss the sense of value they got from doing meaningful work. For every person that grumbles about going to work there are 5 people that would love to take their place. Human beings thrive on productivity and purpose and challenges. A job you love provides and those things and more. Whatever your per-

spective there is no question that meaningful work is an important part of a full life. This past six months has been very busy for the employees at Ventures. We have been given the opportunity to meet production goals for manufacturing companies such as Parker-Hannifin and Hampton Industries. Just for the Birds products are seeing growth in demand. Clothing donations are at an all-time high, with traffic at the Ventures'

thrift stores also robust. The demands on employees have increased dramatically and the response has been impressive. Many employees have been asked to step out of routines and comfort zones to work on high-priority projects—and to their surprise (but not the supervisors) they have risen to the challenges. Providing quality work efficiently is the hallmark of successful companies, and Ventures has

been able to meet the demands of discerning customers only because of committed employees. Paychecks and attitudes are improved as well, but most importantly employees are embracing a can-do attitude, something that serves people well in all aspects of their life. Great job everyone, and be ready for more challenges in 2014.



HAYWARD VOCATIONAL NEWS



Denise Marquardt has taken over the position of Job Developer in Hayward. She has worked for Ventures for many years and has moved into the position

nicely. August was her first success story as Flat Creek Inn and Suites hired one of her clients as a laundry attendant. She has been there 3 months and is doing an excellent job.

Namekagon Transit moved into a new building on Highway B at the end of August and they hired Terry D, and Kelly K. to clean the offices and the common areas.

We appreciate the opportunity for the work experience and look forward to working with them in the future.

Also, after working at RJF Agency for nearly 12 years Karen Weingarten decided to retire in September.

Pam C. has stepped into that position and is being job coached by Barb Jaaska. Thank you Karen, Pam and Barb for all your

hard work!

Denise is currently working with many of the employees by assisting them with completing their application for DVR services. Denise looks forward to working with the employees and assisting with finding community jobs for the many individuals that are seeking employment!

VENTURES VOCATIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

We have been very busy over the past several months meeting and speaking with local employers, regarding placement opportunities for the individuals we serve in our communities. It is important to realize that many of the people we serve shop and purchase both goods and services from our local businesses. There are many reasons why it makes good business sense. By hiring per-

sons with disabilities it meets the organizations personnel needs by filling much needed vacancies. Hiring persons with disabilities benefits a company's long-term viability and profitability by enhancing the corporate image and by demonstrating a commitment to the community. It affects organizational values by, reflecting the organizations social responsibility, and is viewed as the

right thing to do; the benefits to the companies are of secondary importance in comparison to the outcomes expected for the employee with a disability and for the community at large. The staff at Ventures Unlimited is committed to educating and working closely with our clients and business to enforce positive outcomes for the individuals and communities we serve. We are grateful

to the local employers we have built positive working relationships with, the opportunity we have had to network and learn about local industry and the goods and service they provide to all they serve.



WELCOME, NEW STAFF!

Ventures Unlimited Inc. would like to introduce and welcome the following new staff to our organization. Over the past quarter we've added several new staff to fill open pre-existing positions and have added several new positions due ex-

panding service needs. In the Hayward area we hired Lesa Raimer who was hired as a Job Coach and Mentor. In Cameron we have hired Jennifer Kitchen AIM/ Job Coach, Tenille Roper AHOY Mentor, Danelle Jackson AHOY Mentor,

Brooke Zurek AHOY Mentor and Tracy Miller Job Coach. In the Shell Lake area we have hired Chandra Harmon who is working as a Job Coach and Production Floor staff and Julie Kittleson as an AHOY Mentor. We at Ven-

tures are pleased and proud to have you all on board to help us work toward our mission of "Providing innovative services for individuals with disabilities so they may lead meaningful lives".



VENTURES ATHLETIC UPDATES

The Ventures Athletics Bowling team is putting the wraps on another great season. 20 + athletes travelled to Duluth to compete in the hometown games on October 26th. In what became a very tough competition 6 bowlers were able to advance to the regional games in Eau Claire November 16th. Wade Hamlet and Dan Sebek placed 1st

in Eau Claire, David Kretschmer 2nd, Pam Carlson and Woody Sebek took 4th, and Kyle Baird placed 8th. The team displayed great sportsmanship throughout the season. Athletes love the spirit of the games and are able to rekindle friendships with athletes from across the state at each competition which is truly the best thing about Special

Olympics.

The Cross-Country ski and snowshoe teams began practicing for January competitions in late November. Dry land and endurance training will give way to practicing technique and strategy sessions as snow conditions permit. Cold and snow may discourage

some, but this is a hearty bunch, looking forward to cold clean air, fresh snow, and camaraderie unique to Winter sports enthusiasts. Their first competition in mid-January at Mt. Ashwabay, with the WI State games to follow at the Nine-Mile Wilderness area in Wausau.

HAYWARD MENTOR REPORT

The focus on improving daily living skills and developing connections to the community is nothing new to the Ventures' mentors. What is new is the increased freedom to be flexible and creative in assisting folks in meeting everyday needs along with promoting life skills, wellness, hobbies, recreational interests, and volunteer opportunities. Helping people develop "full lives" is the focus of the

evolution of mentors' roles, encouraging a person to make independent, thoughtful and responsible decisions—and live with the consequences. Individuals have more freedom to make choices--informed choices-- regarding finances and diet, activities and friends, and how they spend free time. Life has inherent risks and actions and decisions have consequences. The role of the

mentor no longer means making decisions for people—it means offering opportunity and options, giving advice when requested, and providing support when needed most. The result: more smiles, more self-confidence, greater self-esteem. Mentees are learning that there are not limits to what they can do around Hayward—volunteers for the Salvation Army, the Civil Air Patrol,

church groups, the Humane Society, and the library are but a few examples. Giving is contagious, people are inspiring others to give back. And the mentors? What could be better than helping a person reach for a goal that they might not have considered possible just a few years ago?

CANDY CANE CAKE RECIPE



1 box white cake mix
Water, vegetable oil and egg whites called for on cake mix box

½ teaspoon red food color
ICING

½ teaspoon peppermint extract
1 cup powdered sugar
1 tablespoon milk or water
½ teaspoon vanilla, if desired
Crushed candy canes or crushed hard peppermint candies

Heat oven to 350°F (325°F for dark or nonstick pan). Generously grease and flour 12-cup fluted tube cake pan. Make cake batter as directed on box. Pour about 2 cups batter into pan. In small bowl, pour about ¾ cup batter; stir in food color and peppermint extract. Carefully pour pink batter over white batter in pan. Carefully

pour remaining white batter over pink batter. Bake and cool cake as directed on box.

In small bowl, mix white icing ingredients. If necessary, stir in additional milk, 1 teaspoon at a time, until smooth and spreadable. Spread over cake. Sprinkle crushed candy on top. Store loosely covered.



SHELL LAKE AIM

The AIM program in Shell Lake has started a new monthly activity calendar. Each month a new calendar goes home with each consumer. With the help of a parent or caregiver, they choose which activity or

outing they would like to participate in. Each activity/outing has a limited



amount of space available. This helps to focus on each individual's

needs. Some of our favorite outings were fishing, coffee clutch, humane society, apple orchard, pumpkin patch, going out to lunch, Irvine Park, casino visits,

bowling, and the Wisconsin Great Northern railroad train ride. We have had a great response with the community based activity/outings. We look forward to another exciting year.

~stacy~



As you will see on the next page of our newsletter, we have lost a member of our "family." Bob Rask was a huge part of our program and is going to be sadly missed. The poem that you see in "Remembering 40 years of Bob Rask" was written another member of our program, DeNiel. She is quite talented and wrote and read the poem at the memorial service that was held for Bob here at Ventures.



AHOY (ADULTS HELPING OUR YOUTH)

Things are going great for the AHOY mentoring program at Ventures Unlimited. We currently have 10 youth matched with a mentor in Barron County, 2 youth in Washburn County, and 1 in Sawyer County. We have the best group of mentors EVER!! Giving a shout out to Cindie, Lexye, Tenille, Carolyn, Brooke, Courtney, Dani, Glenda, Deb and Julie!!

I am often asked "What does a mentor do?" So I thought the newsletter would be a good place to write a response to this great question. Our mentors are matched with one or two youth who have some type of disability. It

may be a physical, developmental or emotional disability. We receive most of our referrals from the Children's Waiver program at the counties. What we do with a "mentee" varies significantly, depending upon his or her goals. For example, a youth might be 17 or 18 years old, and is hoping to get a job and live independently after high school graduation, but not possess the skills necessary to make this happen. A mentor can assist this youth with learning skills he or she will need in order to reach their goal of employment and independent living. Schools do their best to prepare youth for this life transition, but often times

the youth require further education and training. Mentors assist a mentee with this type of goal by helping them create a monthly budget, assisting them with smart shopping, providing them with baking and cooking opportunities (often times at Ventures in Cameron), teaching them housekeeping skills and so much more. Mentors can also assist with looking for jobs, applying for jobs, conducting mock interviews and creating a resume.

Another example might be a mentee who struggles in social situations. He or she may have few or no peer friendships, but may want to learn how to go about

making friends. In this type of situation, a mentor can become the mentee's friend, and create opportunities for the mentee to meet peers in a social situation. Friends can be found at libraries, bowling alleys, dances, school-related events, card clubs, chess clubs, non-alcoholic bars and other appropriate settings.

I hope the above examples give everyone an idea of what an AHOY mentor does with and for the youth we serve. If you have any questions, or would like to become an AHOY mentor, please call Kari at 715-458-5005. Thank you!





SPOONER THRIFT SHOPPE NEWS

The Ventures Thrift Shoppe has been busy this summer with many of our reoccurring customers but also a lot of new faces too. We have started a monthly sales calendar. When you come in and shop, we will place one in your bag. This way, you will know what the sales days will be. Another popular item at our store has become our Customer Appreciation Cards. Purchase clothing items to have your card punched and once filled you will re-

ceive one free article of clothing. There is also a card for the jugs of seed. Purchase 10 jugs and receive one free.



One more popular find in the Thrift Shoppe is our "Fashion Wall." This wall is behind our sales counter and showcases our Higher End items of clothing.

We are looking forward to a busy holiday season.

Come in and visit with Beth, Channy, Sandy and Diane. Let them help you find what you need for the upcoming winter season.



*From all of our staff
at Venture Unlimited Thrift Shoppe
in Spooner*

REMEMBERING 40 YEARS OF BOB RASK



Bob is gone but not forgotten,
Seeing his empty chair is rotten.
He has gone to a better place,
Off to heaven which is a new space.
He liked the red Chevrolet trucks,
The ones that cost the really big bucks
Bob would tell a fishing story,
That is when he was in his glory.
Near the end with all his might,
Bob would still ask..."Do you want to fight?"



SHELL LAKE WORK NEWS

The Shell Lake production area has been especially busy this summer with the addition of a screw packaging job from Hampton International. This job has us packing screws, pins and door closers for screen doors. Combine this with our work from Parker Hannifin,

shredding for various local businesses, Nexen and 3-M, that makes our days fly by. We really enjoy all of the work we have been given. We still try and fit in a little fun once in awhile such as on Halloween when we had the opportunity to dress up.

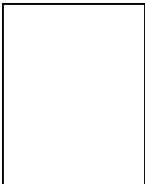
All of us at Ventures would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Event Calendar and Vacation Days

President's Day	Monday, February 18
Easter Monday	Monday, April 14
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26
Summer Break	Monday, June 30—July 3

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.



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