

FALL 2022

VENTURES UNLIMITED MAGAZINE

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Notes from the Director - *Kristin Frane*



Summer Update - 2022

Celebrating 25 Years!

Time flies when you are having fun! Yes, I can hardly believe that 25 years have passed since I started at Ventures in 1997 but when I look back, so many wonderful things have happened and we've been able to make a difference in the lives of so many. If you'd like to see what we've been up to over the last 25 years, here's a video:

<https://youtu.be/XOSUUOdraQM>

or scan this code to view



We are pleased to report that we are back to capacity following an interesting few years! We have resumed most of our volunteer sites, and community employment, and our work center is really busy which helps keep those we serve happy!

Here are some highlights from this summer:

○ We hired a new Program Manager in Hayward, Chesney Shutt! Chesney replaced Tom Sweeney is doing case management, scheduling and managing the Hayward staff.

○ Project SEARCH will resume in the fall of 2022! Project SEARCH is a 9-month internship program held at Rice Lake Weighing Systems in Rice Lake. We are so proud of all of our previous graduates who are working successfully in community jobs and we look forward to working with the next set of interns.

○ We look forward to taking our folks on small day trips and also our big trip to Moab, Utah! Over the years, we have been able to take people with disabilities many places including Las Vegas, Walt Disney World and the Smoky Mountains to name a few.

○ Our 8th annual Ventures Palooza was a wild success!! More information can be found in this newsletter

We love our mission statement:
"Providing innovative services for individuals with disabilities so they may lead meaningful lives."

Without the work of our incredible staff, our ability to positively impact people with disabilities would not be possible. We also have a wonderful Board of Directors committed to making sure we make all business decisions with our mission statement in mind.

Thank-you!

Dates to Remember

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●
SEPT 27 TO OCT 1
Moab, Utah Adventure

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NOVEMBER 10
Veteran's Day
VENTURES CLOSED

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NOVEMBER 23-24
Thanksgiving
VENTURES CLOSED

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●
DECEMBER 26-29
Winter Break
VENTURES CLOSED

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●
JANUARY 2, 2023
New Years Day
VENTURES CLOSED



Cameron News

Hello from Cameron Ventures Unlimited!



Mike G leading stretching exercise



Stretching exercise in Cameron





Hayward News

Ventures in Hayward has had a major change this summer. Tom Sweeney who had been with us for 20 1/2 years decided to move on. While we are sad to see him go, we are happy for all he did for us for so many years. We didn't even realize that he did the dishes for us every morning until after he left. Chesney Deyo Shutt will be our new manager at our Hayward location. Chesney has an associate's degree, she worked as a special ed aide at the school and has worked as a manager at Maurices. We are excited to have her on board!

In work news, Hayward has been busy with Parker parts, packaging fishing lures, shredding, BBQ pellets, Cabella bags and also helping with a mailing. Not only has Hayward been busy with work, but there's been a lot of fun built into the day including garden club, weekly flea market, monthly movie outings, library outings, walking group, wellness group, and current events group.

In addition to the scheduled daily activities, Ventures in Hayward has pulled off some bigger fun outings too. Last week they went to the sunflower maze in Sarona, this week a fun picnic and art event in Cable and of course we are prepping for Ventures Palooza. We have a 90% participation rate in Ventures Palooza this year and we are very excited for the day.

Last but not least, we need to give out a shout-out to our staff in Hayward. We lost our manager, but despite the stress and uncertainty, our staff carried on with confidence and integrity. They work so hard day in and day out and deserve many kudos for their commitment and dedication.



Ben holds banana peppers grown in the Hayward garden.



A Little Sunshine Helps To Add Smiles To Your Day!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Anthony



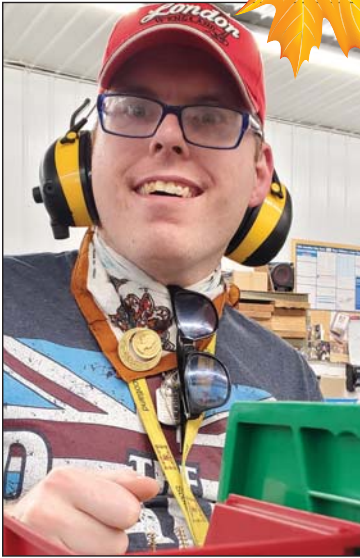
Anthony Denunzio graduated from high school in 2018 and started attending Ventures shortly after graduation! Tysa Goold placed him in a job at the Hayward Cinema but his hours were cut during the pandemic. Currently, Anthony is a very active volunteer working at both the Food Shelf and the Hayward Sports Center with his coach and grandma, Pam. He's a very hard worker! After his time at Ventures, he participates in activities with his Ventures mentor, Deb Gerich.

Deb takes Anthony to movies, out to eat, volleyball and basketball games and they frequently work on a craft project together. Turns out, Anthony also loves art! When Anthony isn't involved with Ventures activities, you will find him everywhere in the community with his family. Whether it's a hockey game, cross country meets, community dances, graduation parties, or weddings, Anthony is always there! We are grateful to know Anthony!



Shell Lake News

Shell Lake Shining Star **MIKE P.**



Keep up the great work Mike!

This newsletter, Shell Lake salutes Mike P. as our shining star! Mike works at Ventures Monday-Wednesday, mostly on the press, but also does some hand assembly work. He has recently been on a hot streak, breaking his own personal records repeatedly (6 times since May of 2022) on the press after a lull since 2017. He has also managed to break his hand assembly record once this summer.

Mike thoroughly enjoys reading about the Royals and American history, and can tell you some very interesting things about Abe Lincoln. He is fascinated by trains and reads and shares the information about our local railroad history too. He likes shopping with his aunt at the Spooner Thrift Store when he has a day off.

Thank you Mike, for being a great employee!

As the summer wanes, Shell Lake Ventures continues to provide pre-vocational training to many individuals who have a long-term goal of community integrated employment. The usual volunteering opportunities are keep people active, and offer the instance to help the community, hone skills and meet new people. The Spooner Thrift Store is popular for consumers to practice cleaning, sorting and inter-personal skills. The store's staffs are truly gems that guide and nurture those that come in to help. Classes that touch on people skills are taught by Vanessa W.; the latest topic being about personal and work boundaries. Whitney B. learned that it is okay to say no when it comes to personal space. Josh B. learned that it is healthy to have boundaries and to be able to express them to others.



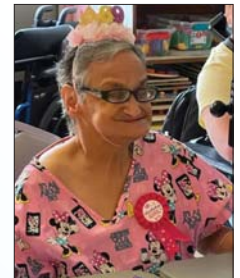
Brooke Crafting

In June, a group interested in growing plants took a trip to the Shell Lake High School where Josh Schmidt, the food service director, showed them how the school grows lettuce by hydroponics. Fascinating stuff!

July was a busy month with a 58,000+ piece collating job which kept employees and

staff busy! Collating, stapling, counting, stacking, and boxing each piece to completion! It is amazing the number of skills it took to see the job through to the end. This job was in addition to the usual press and hand assembly work that is done daily. We love the challenges and welcome them as a change of pace.

Day Service participants keep busy everyday with various activities like making wind chimes, which decorate the outside of the building now. Shania of the Shell Lake Library led participants in decorating writing journal/notebooks and sun catchers during the summer months.



Lila Celebrating Her Birthday In July



Angie Bodzislaw asks us to help sort and bag the donated items for the Spooner library and we are so grateful for the experience!



SPOTLIGHT

ATTENTION VENTURES EMPLOYEES:

If you are unable to
come in to work
on any day,

PLEASE CALL IN
to let the staff know.

Cameron Ventures
715.458.5005

Hayward Ventures
715.934.3035

Shell Lake Ventures
715.468.2939



Caz learning about hydroponics



Luke working hard and getting it done at Hidden Bay Graphics

Wind Chimes



Volunteering at the Sawyer County Humane Society



Vanessa's boundaries class

HIGHLIGHTS

Mall of America!

On June 17, friends from Hayward, Cameron and Shell Lake gathered together for a trip to the Mall of America. They lunched at Cowboy Jacks, and shopped the Mall until everyone was exhausted. Check out the photos!



Shopping Fanatics



VENTURES PALOOZA!

The latest Ventures activity for all 3 locations to come together and participate in was the Ventures Palooza. In the past this event was a 2 day activity where we stayed overnight at Hunt Hill. This year, we changed the format to be a one-day, action packed extravaganza! Sean and Ian

Okamoto delivered awesome entertainment and the pontoon ride was an adventure! Thank you to Hunt Hill for providing such a great setting/environment for us to have some fun. Check out the photos of all the great things there were to do and the fun that was had!



It Was So Much Fun!





110 N Industrial Drive
PO Box 623
Shell Lake, WI 54871

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Ventures Board of Directors

- Dan Ringwelski
- Vern Lokken
- Wayne Kupsch
- Phil Soltis
- Barb Muench
- Robert Washkuhn

Indianhead Community Action Agency



Food Pantry

at Shell Lake Ventures
Open Friday and Saturday's
9:00-Noon

Contact Tammy at
tammy.magdzas@indianhead.org
for more information
715.415.0384



Winter is for the Birds!

JUST FOR THE BIRDS

*Visit Your One Stop Bird Feeding Shop!
Three Great Locations!*

SHELL LAKE	110 N Industrial Drive, Shell Lake, WI	715-468-2939
HAYWARD	10140 Highway 27 S., Hayward, WI	715-934-3035
CAMERON	700 N 1st Street, Cameron, WI	715-458-5005