



**GREEN VALLEY
ENTERPRISES, INC.**

Growing the Potential in People Since 1968

Visions from the Valley

July, 2018

John Deere Horicon Works Receives Partnership Award

Green Valley Enterprises (GVE) nominated and was pleased that John Deere Horicon Works was awarded the Business Excellence Partnership Award sponsored by the Disability Service Provider Network.

According to Brian Jacobson, Executive Director of GVE: "John Deere has truly made a difference in the lives of our participants at GVE through business partnerships, volunteering, and community involvement. John Deere is a strong supporter of our community employment program by offering opportunities for work experiences and the hiring of our participants in competitive employment". Mark Salzer, Production Manager at GVE stated: "For us to increase our capacity, as well as provide a safer work environment for our participants, John Deere assisted Green Valley with the implementation of

our new warehouse pallet racking system." John Deere Horicon Works has been instrumental in GVE's mission to help individuals with special needs, and their families, achieve maximum

potential and independence through an array of programs and services. They are an outstanding community business partner.



From Left: Mark Salzer, Brian Jacobson, Amanda Remley from John Deere Horicon Works, Jeff Kennedy from John Deere Horicon Works, Larry Lange from John Deere Horicon Works, and Craig Henrikson.

Our 9th Year

Another Successful Ham 'N Jam!

Many thanks to GVE employees and those who volunteered to help with organizing, fund raising and jobs during the event! It was a great day and we are so grateful for your support.

PLATINUM SPONSORS (\$1000 +)

Green Valley Board of Directors, Hupf's Repair Center, Culver's, WDS Construction, Johnsonville, Duane and Kathy Foulkes Foundation, Recheck's Food Pride, Inspire Magazine

GOLD SPONSORS (\$500-\$1000)

Mid State Equipment, Gardner, Vollrath, Beaver Dam Chiropractic, Horicon Bank, Neuman Pools,

Northwoods Paper Converting Inc., United Cooperative, John Deere Horicon Works, Schumann Printers, Apache Stainless, White Construction

SILVER SPONSORS (\$250 - \$500)

R&R Insurance, Hustisford State Bank, American Bank

BRONZE SPONSORS (\$100 - \$249)

Parent Dott & Company LTD., Debbie Smith, Delta Dental, AMVET Post 33, Beaver Companies, Larsen Family Dental, Koepsell-Murray Funeral Home

Special thanks to American Bank, Pinnacle Foods, and Leipsic 4H for volunteer support!

Ham 'N Jam



GVE Wins Grant for Promoting Employment of People with Developmental Disabilities

~ Craig Henrickson

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) has announced seven grants statewide designed to help local businesses hire and support workers with significant disabilities. This award is based on a successful, cost-effective strategy showing businesses how co-workers can provide supports to employees with disabilities on the job.

Green Valley Enterprises was interested in the Partners with Business (PWB) model because it provides another tool to assist local businesses in filling open positions, diversifying their workforce, and generating creative solutions for staff shortages.

PWB supports workers with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be successful on the job by using a combination of natural and formal supports, both of which are provided by



the employer. Using this approach, a school or vocational service agency works with an employer to provide initial job training for a worker with disabilities and develops on-the-job supports through co-workers. Once co-worker

supports have been developed and job training is complete, the employer may receive funds from the long-term care system (i.e. Family Care, IRIS, Partnership) or other sources to designate co-worker(s), instead of agency-provided job coaches, to provide necessary ongoing supports.

“The Partners with Business approach has shown success reducing the need for outside job coaches and has demonstrated increased numbers of hours worked per week by employees,” said Beth Swedeen, BPDD Executive Director. “Overall, workers supported through Partners with Business have needed fewer public supports to get and keep their jobs. It’s a win-win employment strategy for people with disabilities in Wisconsin.”

Teamwork – Key to Production Results

~Mark Salzer

Our Production Team consists of more than 100 participants and staff. We have had a very exciting and fulfilling start to 2018. We are strengthening customer relationships, expanding work floor

packaging jobs and creating a very positive, “can-do” culture based on mutual respect and empathy.

GVE staff members have been cross training to learn new assembly jobs and to help create a depth of knowledge for many of our customer orders. This allows the staff to take full advantage of our highly flexible work hours, while also meeting on-time delivery promises and maintaining consistently high levels of quality.

Participant performance has been improving. More than 50% of our participants have seen improvements in productivity scores, are learning new skills and have the opportunity to work on many new customer jobs. Communication skills, respectful dialogue, and the use of various problem-solving approaches are

reinforced daily. Our safety habits, safety awareness and observation reporting has increased as well and recognition through quarterly “Top Shop” meetings helps boost morale while rewarding positive behaviors and outcomes.

We appreciate the efforts, care and compassion of our strong leadership team consisting of Rebecca, Sara, Tracy, Gerett, Stacy, Nancy and Krystal. Working together every day, they set a positive example and help keep our operations strong, while reinforcing our Mission and purpose.

Thank you!



A New Start for Birth to 3 ~ Cassi Hurst

Hello! My Name is Cassi Hurst and I am the new GVE Birth to 3 Manager for Dodge County. I have been working in Birth to 3 for the last five years as a Child Development Specialist for Washington County's program. I graduated from UW Oshkosh with a dual degree in Early Childhood Special Education and Elementary Education. In 2015 I was fortunate enough to participate in the Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Capstone program offered at UW Madison. Since completing this course, I have been endorsed as a Level 2 Family Specialist through the Wisconsin Alliance of Infant Mental Health (WIAIMH).

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my husband, Randy Hurst, and my daughter, Berkley. We love to spend time as a family out on Fox Lake or at the golf course. I am very excited for this new adventure at Green Valley Enterprises.

One of the focus' of Birth to 3 is family

engagement and empowerment. Dodge County Birth to 3 has partnered with the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation to create the "Every Child Thrives" campaign. Through this collaborative effort with Jefferson and Dodge County we are focusing our efforts to ensure that all children are healthy, all children are ready for kindergarten and that all children are reading at grade level by 3rd grade. *TalkReadPlay* is one of the community awareness campaigns focused on helping meet these efforts. *TalkReadPlay* teaches parents and caregivers about

the science of early brain development and helps them create more brain building opportunities with their babies and young children. In June the Birth to 3 staff was trained as *TalkReadPlay* Trusted Messengers. We will be working toward empowering families to become their child's number one brain builder through every day interactions with their children. Children do not need the 'newest' toy to learn a skill; we as parents already have what it takes to help our children learn. We are very excited about this collaborative effort and cannot wait to start sharing these new resources with our families.



Trösten Haus Adult Day Care ~Mary Weiss

Trösten Haus Adult Day Program provides services to Dodge County's aging population, serving individuals who have symptoms of dementia and Alzheimer's, individuals with physical disabilities, brain injuries or require routine supervision. The adult day care program is a holistic personalized service that allows the individual and caregiver a long-term care option. It also provides a community based outlet to minimize the social limitations of home confinement.

At Trösten Haus, caregivers and family members are able to receive respite from their care giving duties while their loved one receives personalized services and activities that accommodate their physical and social needs.

Trösten Haus' daily programming activities are intended to appeal to a wide range of interests. The activity program offers educational and recreational

activities that challenge minds, keeps bodies moving and spirits lifted in a safe, caring, disability-friendly environment. A typical day may include: Coffee and News, Maintain Your Brain, Sit and Be Fit, Group Games, Musical Entertainment, Social Activities and Outings.

Bathing services are offered in a spa-like environment, with easy and safe transferring in and out of the tub, whether independent or with staff assistance; whirlpool jets; essential oils; clarifying soap and shampoo. Bathing staff provide minimal to maximal assistance.

Foot Clinic service is provided every other month at Trösten Haus as well. Nurses from the Beaver Dam Community Hospital offer this service to interested participants.

Trösten Haus continues to be a necessary aspect of total success of care

for aging individuals and their caregivers. At Trösten Haus, we strive to make people feel at home, like family, providing services and activities in a safe, comfortable setting.



Meaningful Work Makes A Difference

Are you interested in working at a mission driven organization and serving people with disabilities of all ages? Green Valley Enterprises has a caring and committed staff who truly believe in the potential of every person who walks through our doors.

Our standing in the Beaver Dam, Wisconsin community, the important people we serve and our employees help shape the values and culture of our organization. We are looking for talented people who want to work in an environment where they are called upon to help people; from teaching them how to perform a task to helping them with personal cares.

We offer the following benefits for our part-time positions: Paid PTO, Holiday Pay, 401K Retirement, Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), and Flex Scheduling.



Available Job Offerings:

Part-Time Skills Trainer

Supports clients in employment settings, with a focus on developing their work skills, confidence in their abilities, and a sense of responsibility to their employer and assist in the preparation of individualized client plans.

Full Time Client Care Specialist - Adult Day

Work in this position primarily involves support and instruction for clients in our Adult Day program., such as providing personal care, assist with feeding and other daily activities, and organize and conduct various activities and day trips.

Part-Time Production Specialist

Anticipate openings in the fall.

Organize and assist participants with tasks such as light industrial assembly, ensure safety on the production floor and maintain high levels of quality.

Call Mark Salzer for more information on Production positions (920) 887-4282 ext. 113

"Our participants genuinely appreciate the opportunities GVE gives them and no two days are ever the same."

-Stacy Rauscher

TO APPLY, VISIT

www.greenvalleyinc.org/careers

Samantha Stam is MPTC Gold Award Winner as volunteer for GVE

Moraine Park Technical College introduced an Experiential Learning Program. This program is based on the belief that Experiential Learning is a key element of a college education, enriching the student experience for greater academic and career success. It might be service learning, student organization leadership, internships, study abroad, and more! All of these experiential learning opportunities connect students with local or global business and non-profit partners, cultivate connections and collaboration, and serve community needs while impacting individual student success.

Samantha (Sam) Stam has devoted countless hours volunteering at Green Valley Enterprises (GVE). Her volunteering has earned her status as a Gold Award Winner.

Samantha Stam said, "Working with Green Valley the past two years has not only taught me needed skills for

the workplace but has given me a true sense of accomplishment. Green Valley is such an amazing facility. I

am so glad I could gain business experience in this volunteer opportunity."



Pictured from Left is Brian Jacobson (Executive Director at GVE); Stam; Cindy Bernhard (MPTC Instructor); Mary Vogl-Rauscher (MPTC Instructor).

The Pilot For Meaningful Day Continues ~ Brooke Wielgosh

This summer we are spending our days touring and exploring a wide variety of organizations within the community and surrounding area. We have visited the fire department, post office, the hospital, numerous greenhouses, and the Madison Zoo. Several participants have

joined the Watermark and are taking classes. Members of our group continue to volunteer at Church Health Services and the Humane Society and some of our participants have become members of The Y. This gives them additional opportunities to meet different people and expand their horizons.

There are many trips planned for the future. One that many are looking forward to is our trip to the Botanical Gardens in Madison for many love gardening.



SNAP - Achieving Goals One Step at a Time ~ Meg McKnight

The SNAP department works with clients, families and caregivers to provide a meaningful and productive day for every individual. Every day is full of activities and adventures while at the same time meeting the specific needs of each participant through personal cares and services including bathing, feeding, toileting, and behavior management. Outings are also a prominent feature of the SNAP experience as we travel into the local (and outlying) communities 3 to 4 times a week. Outings are an important part of our week and a stepping stone to a more diverse lifestyle that includes many new experiences and opportunities. Just as important is the respite and peace of mind that caregivers experience knowing their loved ones are busy, happy and safe.

The SNAP department caters to a client base that not only includes a wide range of abilities but also a diverse combination of ages, cognitive and physical disabilities as well as emotional and behavioral challenges. We are constantly



developing the potential of our participants, believing in the abilities inherent in each individual. Our goal is to find the strengths and interests of each individual and give structure and meaning to their day with the best service/combination of services possible. Some SNAP participants work on the production floor as well as take advantage of the activities, outings and socialization opportunities in the SNAP department.

We offer a structure in our program that allows participants to be successful, giving them high expectations and challenges that push them beyond what they believe they can achieve. We have participants who now sit in group instead of wander; others that listen to all staff instead of a few or participate instead of watch. The little achievements are endless: eating by themselves instead of being fed, coloring AND cutting their craft projects, writing their own name, recognizing colors for a game of UNO or throwing the dice alone. There are others who have progressed from being bossy to helpful, those who ask instead of acting out, and disruptive behaviors that are fading with the help of charts and positive encouragement. And the list goes on... The SNAP Department is proof that the best way to achieve big goals is to take small steps. And we do that every single day.

GVE Continues to Improve Facilities and Transportation

~Bob Anderson

This year GVE replaced the roof at our Life Academy location at 110 East Burnett Street. The roof replacement was needed to protect the extensive remodeling that had taken place when we purchased the building last year. We also added sound proofing material to the ceiling. With the number of people and activities at that facility, the sound proofing greatly cuts down the noise within the building.

In the next month, or so we will be starting a floor replacement at our 1223 Madison Street facility. This will be completed by using a three year plan and will begin by replacing the flooring in the client and staff breakrooms. The new flooring that we will be installing is a vinyl tile. This tile is very durable and slip resistant. The floor will have a wood grain appearance similar to

the flooring in our special needs area that we previously replaced.

Our transportation fleet has and will continue to take on a new look. This year we received two new mid buses through a 5310 government grant. These grants pay for a percentage of the vehicles and GVE pays a percentage. These two vehicles have replaced two of our older high mileage school buses. By eliminating the two larger school buses it gives our drivers more flexibility when picking up and dropping off our clients. This Fall we will be receiving a mid - bus and a five passenger two



wheelchair accessible van. We have also added a seven passenger van to our fleet. As GVE continues to grow and add new programs for our clients, we will continue to update our fleet accordingly. GVE is one of the few nonprofit organizations that has this large of fleet to better serve our clients. Whether we're transporting clients to and from their homes to GVE or to job sites or on community outings, we will continue make our clients as safe and comfortable as possible.



FROM THE DESK OF THE *Executive Director*

BRIAN JACOBSON



As many of you know, GVE is celebrating its 50th year of providing services. In our last two newsletter issues, I discussed GVE's Genesis and History. In this edition I am going to discuss what is presently taking place at GVE.

Birth to 3 has a new manager; Cassi Hurst. Cassi is in the process of utilizing a new data base that GVE has created. Not long ago Birth to 3 staff had to provide separate data for the County, State and GVE. This reporting process involved a lot of time, redundancy and increased the chance of errors. Our new system eliminates these issues and allows GVE staff to spend more of their precious time where they belong, with families.

Our Community Integration Department has been very busy this summer. GVE has completely revamped its summer Life Academy Program which now features numerous paid work experience sites. Craig Henrickson has also started a new program called Meaningful Day. This program exposes participants to many aspects of their community. The programs goal is to have participants achieve a balanced life through community based work, volunteering, recreational and social activities. Feedback from participants, families, staff and worksites has been overwhelmingly positive for both programs.

SNAP also has a few new projects taking place this summer. Meg McKnight is finishing up our sensory room. Participants should find the new room to be very interesting and enjoyable. Meg also started a summer program for students which is off to a very promising start. In addition, SNAP participants are spending even more time in the community.

GVE's Production Department might be hard to recognize if you have not seen it for a while. Mark Salzer has brought in many new jobs and completed

some major shop floor reorganization. Our participants are earning more money and have a wider variety of work which helps them to learn additional job skills.

Adult Day offers activities to help participants remain socially, physically and mentally active in a cozy and relaxed environment. Staff work diligently to make participants feel like one of the family. If you are a caregiver who needs some respite time; GVE's Adult Day program may well meet your needs while providing a safe and fun place for a loved one. Be sure to call and set up a tour of the Trösten Haus with Mary Weiss, you will wonder why you didn't do so sooner.

Government Regulations continue to emphasize community integration and GVE continues to evolve to offer what we believe are some of the best programs in the state. GVE's 2018 Mission Fulfillment Survey compiled by MPTC was completed by 104 program participants and comprised the following results:

- 99%** indicated that GVE was a safe comfortable place
- 95%** indicated GVE supports the achievement of individual goals
- 94%** indicated GVE programs promote independence
- 92%** indicated GVE Programs provide community integration
- 98%** indicated they would recommend GVE service to others

At GVE we strive to make our participants and their families satisfied. If you should have a question, issue or a comment please don't wait until our next survey to make us aware of it. Don't hesitate to give us a call at (920) 887-4282 and have a great summer!



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ENTERPRISES, INC.**

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Beaver Dam, WI 53916

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Our Mission:

We help people with special needs, and their families, achieve maximum potential and independence



Birth to 3



SNAP



Manufacturing



Employment



Adult Day Care

Watch us on



Watch 50 years of Green Valley memories on our YouTube channel!

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