

**GREEN VALLEY  
ENTERPRISES, INC.**

Growing the Potential in People Since 1968

## Visions from the Valley

January, 2018

### 50th Anniversary Series: The Genesis of Green Valley Enterprises

~Mary Beth Bockhorst

Fifty years ago a group of people were inspired to develop a future for families and individuals with special needs in our community. They put into action a plan that created Green Valley Enterprises, Inc., a non-profit agency that serves over 600 disabled people and their families each year.

Who were these founders and what drove their desire to develop such an organization? It began in 1966 with a group of like-minded people from Dodge County including educators, parents, civic leaders, and organizations, all who believed people with special needs deserved a purposeful life. Originally known as the Dodge County Sheltered Workshop, it would be a workplace, or "sheltered workshop" that would transition people for placement in private industry as soon as their skills reached a competent level. In addition to vocational training, they also provided counseling on how to live independently.

In January of 1967, small group discussions in a countywide "inquiry meeting" brought together those interested in the project. Rev. Richard

Olson from Beaver Dam served as the acting chairman. A key decision from these meetings was that a board of directors should be appointed to provide leadership and guidance. Four individuals were named to select the board of directors, Mrs. Dan Carter, Glenn Mittelstadt, Arthur Cothran, and Rev. Richard Olson.



In 1968, an agreement was developed and approved by the Wisconsin Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. They would provide vocational rehab services and funding for approved clients. The state of Wisconsin certified Articles of Incorporation for Dodge County Sheltered Workshop Inc. on February 12, 1968. The first budget was set with guidance

provided by the Fond du Lac district supervisor of vocational rehabilitation services. With some of the funding secured, the goal of making this special place a reality was coming to fruition. The workshop opened on Rowell Street in Beaver Dam in September 1968.

In 1966, John Kotek was the special education teacher at the high school. He was instrumental in starting the sheltered workshop. Kotek grew concerned for his student's lives after they graduated from high school. He reflects on how it all came together, "Parents played a key role in developing the workshop with their valuable individual experience. This helped tremendously to develop programs that fit each client's specific needs. At this time, there were three main state institutions serving a large segment of this population so a sheltered workshop was a new and attractive idea in Dodge County. There were many challenges to starting a sheltered workshop, namely, finding the resources necessary to make a workshop feasible. We would need good leadership, a facility, equip-

*Continued on Page 4*

## Making a Difference with Modifications in Production

~Mark Salzer

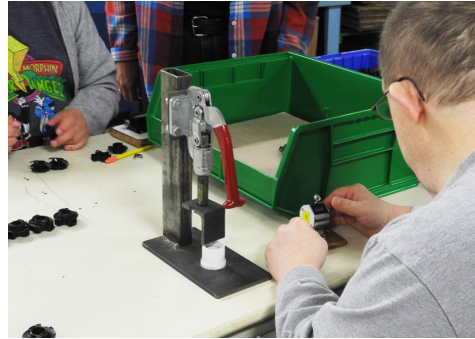
New tooling, fixtures and jigs have been upgraded to meet the needs and various abilities of our participants and at the same time provide quality and accuracy to Green Valley Manufacturing's customers.



One of the accommodations we made allows participants with limited hand use to assemble and package hardware. The fixture holds the bag open

while participants sort and slide required components into the package.

Another fixture allows participants to produce a quality part to meet customer specifications with a high degree of consistency. The fixture allows the perfect assembly of terminal covers each and every time.



The maintenance department has also engineered some creative modifications. A jig was made to use a

modified vice in holding products with a clevis pin and e-clip.



All of the modifications promote ergonomic safety for the participants, with the quality and accuracy that our customers require.

While providing our participants a wide range of training and work opportunities, we are working hard to "Make a Difference in Peoples Lives".

## Looking to Make a Little Extra Money This Winter?



Our production area continues to be very, very busy! **We need part-time and full-time production workers** for assembly and light industrial manufacturing duties. **We are also seeking TEAM LEADERS** for our production department.

This is a very comfortable and clean work environment with first shift hours. You will be working with a team of people who are all mission driven. Green Valley Enterprises has a caring and committed staff who truly believe in the potential of every person who walks through our doors.

*Please tell a friend so we can fill these positions!*

Visit [www.gveinc.org](http://www.gveinc.org) and click on **CAREERS** to learn more!

## GVE Approved For Two Medium Buses

~Bob Anderson

Green Valley Enterprises has been approved for two medium buses through the 5310 Government Grant. We expect the buses to arrive sometime early 2018. We are also waiting to hear back from the state on the grant that we wrote this year. That grant includes a mid bus and a five ambulatory passenger and two wheelchair accessible Transit van. If we're approved for this grant, the vehicles should arrive late 2018.

Now that Winter is here, we need to talk about weather conditions. Whether we like it or not we will be dealing with fog, ice and snow. What may come along with these conditions are possible delays in our transportation routes. As always, Green Valley puts the safety of our clients and drivers first. There are times in certain situations that the drivers will need to slow down which will cause a delay on our morning and afternoon routes by hopefully only a few minutes. If we need to have a two hour delay in the morning an announcement will go out to all the families and group homes by two o'clock the previous day. This will allow everyone riding our transportation to schedule their mornings as they see necessary. These announcements will be sent out through our Alert-Now phone system. We will take whatever safety precautions necessary for your loved ones while riding GVE transportation.



## Pre-Vocational Lessons Learned with Time for Holiday Planning

~Craig Henrickson

On Wednesday, Nov. 8, eight participants in the LESSONS (Learning Soft Skills to Obtain New Strengths) Program, Module II, volunteered their time to support our troops that serve our country overseas.

The participants assisted with the "Christmas in a Shoebox" drive, held at MPTC, where volunteers packaged over 100 shoe box sized parcels that will be delivered to our servicemen and women during the holidays. Individuals packed personal items such



as Q-tips and deodorant, as well as snacks, magazines, card games, and canned goods. They also enclosed a hand written message in a Christmas

card letting service members know that they're remembered during the holidays.

This is the second year that the LESSONS participants volunteered for this event.

### Life Academy

'Tis the season at Life Academy and the participants have been decorating the facility and discussing their plans for the holidays. We asked three participants what they looked forward to the most this holiday season:

Austin said, "I want to get my baby nephew, Wyatt, a tractor to play with next summer."

Cameron said, "I can't wait to spend time with my family and friends and buying them gifts. It makes me happy."

Destiny said, "I have been waiting to decorate for Christmas since summer time. I love decorating for Christmas. I love decorating our house."

The participants enjoyed spending time with their families and friends at the Life Academy Holiday Open House on December 15. The students made homemade candy and foods and had the opportunity to show all of the wonderful skills and projects they have been working on throughout the first half of the school year.



*Employer pose at our Employer Breakfast last October. Thank you for your continued support!*

## Santa Visits Birth-to-3 ~Kathy Clark

The Birth-to-3 staff held a Holiday Party for the Birth to 3 participants and their families. Santa is definitely the focal point. For most, this is their initial exposure to Santa. Our Santa, Lloyd Clark, helped us make this first meeting with Santa eventful. As you may know, it is not unusual for a child to be a little apprehensive of sitting on the lap of a big jolly bearded man in a red suit for the first time. Well intentioned parents are always eager to sit their child on Santa's lap and stand back to snap pictures while their child may be struggling to understand why they are being abandoned on a stranger's lap. Our environment allows children to approach Santa on their own terms

when they are ready, not just when it is their turn in line. It is not uncommon for a child to return two to three times before they are comfortable enough to actually visit with Santa. Birth-to-3 therapists help the child to act as Santa's helper which helps put the child at ease.

Other activities included decorating cookies, snowman bowling, ice fishing on bubble wrap, crafts, a playdoh activity and a large scale drawing activity. Our Birth to 3 staff assisted children to interact with families. It is always fun to see some of the children who have aged out of our program catch up with their families along with the



children that are currently in our program.

To date our Birth-to-3 Program has served 345 children in 2017. I hope Santa is resting up!

## The Genesis of Green Valley Enterprises cont.

ment, staff, and money. We hired several staff strictly through donations from various organizations. It was very rewarding to witness the willingness of many individuals who wanted to make a sheltered workshop a reality...even though they had little background or experience in making something like this happen", said Kotek. The community's involvement was paramount as many civic organizations joined the effort to raise funds in its formative stage.

John Kotek, a Board member for 42 years says it best, "The organization's leadership, parent input, and community involvement were key to providing quality services to individu-

als with special needs. It was true 50 years ago, and it is just as true today."

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A note from Brian Jacobson, Executive Director "I really enjoyed reading the Genesis of GVE (Green Valley Enterprises). GVE's volunteers showed an amazing degree of foresight. Their mission to transition people into private industry is still as relevant today as it was fifty years ago. A quote from Margaret Mead comes strongly to mind, 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has.'"

"GVE has a long list of people to thank for its success over the last 50 years, including: A supportive community, strong board of directors, talented and determined staff and leadership, and parents and caretakers that have steadfastly advocated for their loved ones."

*In celebrating Green Valley's 50th anniversary, all 2018 newsletters will highlight a series of articles, including: The Genesis of Green Valley, The History, Our Programs and The Future. All articles will be available on our website at [www.gveinc.org](http://www.gveinc.org).*

## We Need Volunteers for our Upcoming Events

We have some exciting events coming up this year and we need volunteers for all kinds of activities:

- Typing and data entry
- Greeting and answering questions
- Selling raffle tickets
- Helping to collect raffle prizes
- Hanging signs and banners
- Setting up chairs and decorations
- Helping to direct parking
- Selling and serving food
- Passing out flyers
- Taking tickets
- Cleaning up after event

**Please Contact Craig  
Henrickson  
to get started!**

**920-887-4282**

**[chenrickson@gveinc.org](mailto:chenrickson@gveinc.org)**

The time commitment may be as little as a few hours before and during the event, which are:

- **50th Anniversary Open House**  
Business After Hours  
1223 Madison St., Beaver Dam  
March 21st, 5PM—7PM
- **Radiothon / Neil Diamond Event**  
Partnering with ARC  
April 7th at Bayside Supper Club
- **Ham 'N Jam**  
May 19 19th 3pm—8pm  
The Watermark Community Center





## 50th Anniversary Open House and Business After Hours



Bring A  
Friend!

### Business After Hours

*50th Anniversary*

**March 21, 2018 5pm-7pm**

1223 Madison Street

*Enter through Trösten Haus*

*Free to attend, please RSVP to the  
Chamber of Commerce at 920-887-8879.*

*Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 21st!* In honor of our 50th anniversary, we are opening our doors “after hours” to businesses, agencies, supporters, friends and family, from 5pm to 7pm.

- Facility Tours Showcasing Program Areas
- Appetizers and Refreshments
- Everyone who attends and registers at this event will have a chance to win a Beautiful Hand-made King Size Quilt or a \$250 cash prize—both donated by a private individual
- The first 100 people will receive a 50th anniversary Green Valley coffee mug (1 per family)

## Holiday Events Round Up Activities at Trösten Haus

~ Mary Weiss

Adult day participants visited Waldvogel's pumpkin farm in Juneau in October. Participants and staff took a hayride through the pumpkin fields and took a tour of the farm. They also fed goats and picked out baking pumpkins to bring back to Trösten Haus. When participants returned from the outing, they dried and roasted pumpkin seeds for a healthy afternoon snack. Participants also used the pumpkins to make fresh pumpkin pies to serve at our pie social the end of October.

Every November, staff and I take pleasure in planning and serving up a traditional, family-style Thanksgiving dinner for the adult day participants; turkey, real mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie were on the menu. Don't forget the warm rolls! This November, participants and staff



gathered around the table and gave thanks. They reflected on all the blessings and good times we shared together at the Trösten Haus this year; good friends, fun activities and outings and time well spent together. We also honored and remembered Trösten friends who are no longer with us and gave thanks for the time we shared with them. Everyone enjoyed the well prepared meal!

December festivities keep adult day participants and staff busy. Trösten Haus is starting to resemble the North Pole with all the decorations. The family Christmas party is always a jolly good time with Santa, Christmas caroling and Christmas goodies.

Another year has come and gone so quickly. The adult day staff and I look forward to continued success in 2018.

## Deck The Halls ~ Meg McKnight

For those who are unable to read a calendar it is the events and holidays that help participants move forward through the days.

In SNAP we understand the importance of celebrations and take pride in the ways we help our participants keep their bearings and negotiate the year. From seasonal and holiday worksheets and crafts, to cooking groups, department events, and outings, we offer continuity, anticipation and excitement for those times that are to come.

Once a month we have Fun Friday. We recognize birthdays during the month with a piñata and party

games. We also celebrate the end of Summer, Halloween, Spring and Christmas.

We decorate our halls for the seasons. Our favorite holiday has to be Christmas (of course) and the staff work with participants to make snowflakes, wreaths and garlands to create a "Winter Wonderland"! When the last snowflake is hung it is though the frosty winter air has magically been transported inside to create an enchanting place to work and play.

See for yourself! SNAP will be having a **Christmas Open House** for GVE staff, caregivers, family and friends on **Friday December 29<sup>th</sup>**



**from 1:00 until 3:00 pm.** Join us for hot chocolate and cookies and enjoy the sights and sounds of a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, SNAP style!



## FROM THE DESK OF THE *Executive Director*

**BRIAN JACOBSON**

2018 is a very special year for Green Valley Enterprises (GVE). Fifty years ago in 1968, Green Valley Enterprises began its existence as the Dodge County Sheltered Workshop, Inc. Over the years much has changed in terms of the scope and types of programs offered, the agency's location, funding sources and even our name, but what has remained amazingly consistent is the purpose on which GVE was founded.

When Green Valley was incorporated as a 501(c) not for profit in 1968, our stated purpose was to "Provide training, educational and recreational facilities for the mentally and/or physically handicapped without regard to race, color, sex or creed which may develop employability for placement in competitive extended remunerative employment as needed." The terminology has changed over the years but GVE's emphasis on employment has not.

It is very hard for us to imagine today how much courage it must have taken for our grass roots founders to embark on this uncharted journey. In 1968, many people with cognitive disabilities were removed from their communities to large state operated facilities where they lived their lives in total segregation. Others lived at home but often had limited opportunities for employment and social integration. GVE's founders had to be true visionaries to see their dreams come to fruition.

In order to commemorate GVE's 50th Anniversary, we are going to participate in a year long celebration. Planned activities include:

- Researching and creating a timeline of historically significant GVE events and presenting the timeline at GVE's upcoming open house.
- Creating a series of articles on GVE's grass roots genesis, GVE's history, GVE's present services and GVE's future.

- Setting up a GVE Open House for March 21st as a Chamber Business After Hours event. Tours of the agency, including our John Deere home maintenance kit assembly line, will be conducted and other enjoyable activities will take place as well.

If you have knowledge about GVE's history or have any old photos that you may like to contribute, please give me a call at (920) 887-4282. ***Please plan on celebrating GVE's 50th anniversary with us by attending GVE's Open House on March 21st.*** I promise you will have an educational and enjoyable time!

Have a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season and we look forward to sharing our 50th year with you!



*We had an extremely successful Business After Hours event at our Life Academy on November 8th. We had almost 60 people from the community attend including caregivers, agency colleagues, government representatives, supporters, board members, staff and many businesses. Green Valley partners with the Chamber of Commerce for the Business After Hours events to gain awareness of our programs and support from the business community. Thank you all who were able to attend! Please plan to attend our next Business After Hours—50th Anniversary Open House in March 21st at our 1223 Madison Street location.*

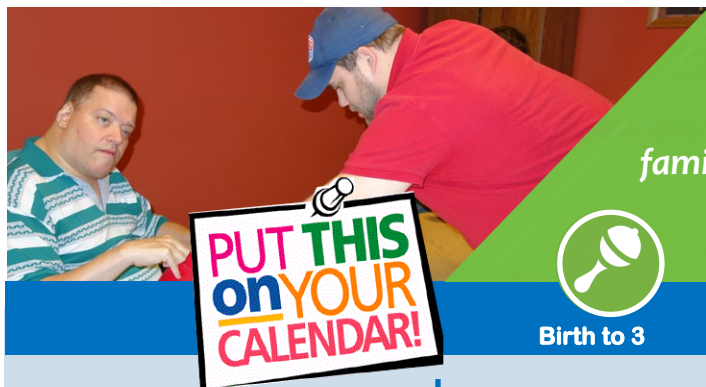




**GREEN VALLEY  
ENTERPRISES, INC.**

1223 Madison St.  
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

#### **Annual Meeting**

Jan 25th, 4pm at  
Green Valley Enterprises  
1223 Madison Street

#### **Business After Hours**

**50th Anniversary Open House**  
Wed., March 21st  
1223 Madison Street

#### **Radiothon / Neil Diamond With ARC Event**

April 7th, Bayside Supper Club

#### **2018 Ham 'N Jam**

May 19th 3pm-8pm  
The Watermark Community  
Center

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President—Jay Vanden Boogart  
Vice President—Dave Luepke  
Treasurer—Greg Armstrong  
Secretary—David Genereaux

#### **DIRECTORS**

Mary Beth Bockhorst  
Shirley Kitchen  
Larry Lange  
Andrea Larson  
Patricia Ninmann  
Diana Schneider  
Laurie Zacharias  
Richard Zieman

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