

Pride. Put it to work.

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services

Opportunity Services Annual Report 2017



A Letter from the President

Over the years, Opportunity Services has positively impacted the lives of the people we serve, changing them in many ways. However, one thing has remained the same, our commitment to the Opportunity Services mission:

“to assist people with disabilities to make meaningful, individual contributions in the community”

We have stayed true to our mission as a community service provider that serves people with disabilities in their communities. Our staff takes great pride in the services we provide and that pride is generated from the success that we see our clients enjoy each and every day in the community.

Today our services span eleven offices in Minnesota, three in Florida and one in Springfield, Massachusetts. We help people contribute to their communities through employment, volunteer work or helping others.

Our supported employment services continue to grow. Most adults want to contribute through employment, becoming more independent in their own lives. Opportunity Services served 795 persons in jobs of their own in the community and 376 persons in day services. We assisted 22 persons to move from a group work setting to an independent job. We call this a “quantum leap” when a person moves from being supported daily at work, to performing a job independently.

It has been my pleasure to work with incredible communities, staff, and board members of Opportunity Services. Our current leadership is committed to the continued expansion of our mission into bigger and better community services. Thank you to all the people who have contributed to the success of Opportunity Services and, most importantly, thank you to all the people who have helped our clients bring their pride to work each day.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gurney
President
Opportunity Services



Client Success Story

Meet Alex, Casey and Joseph, employed at Canteen Vending in Rochester, MN. Canteen Vending is the largest automated merchandising company in the United States. They provide all the vending options in the Mayo Clinic network, which equals over 400 machines alone!

Alex, Casey and Joseph pack totes to refill the vending machines. All three individuals were a part of Project SEARCH in Rochester, a high school transition program for students with disabilities. The students had the opportunity to work at Mayo Clinic for their final year of school to gain necessary work skills. When the Project SEARCH students participated in a tour at Canteen Vending, Alex knew immediately that he wanted to work there. After a successful interview, he started on-the-job in June the day after he graduated! Alex really enjoys working at Canteen and is willing to go above and beyond the job. He's very tech-savvy and teaches his co-workers the various technologies utilized while packing the totes.



Casey was hired in September and is also really enjoying the job. He likes his co-workers and being able to cross train in both food and beverage packing. "Everyone is really nice here and they keep the job fun," said Casey. "It took me a little bit to get used to the job and how to do things, but now I love working at Canteen." Joseph was another Project SEARCH student who was on the hunt for the perfect job. After acing his interview, Joseph was hired in October. Betty Lamecker, Opportunity Services Job Coach to Alex, Casey and Joseph is quick to add her praise of Canteen: "they are a wonderful employer and make the warehouse environment welcoming and fun. I truly enjoy stopping by to check in on Casey, Alex and Joseph. I always feel very welcome."

Ask anyone on the Canteen team in Rochester- these guys make a great addition to the warehouse floor! "Alex, Casey and Joseph are important members of our team. They're amazing," said Cecil Bellephant, Warehouse Manager at Canteen. "I'm proud to work for a company that encourages diversity and inclusion, and gives people with disabilities a chance to shine in the workplace." We look forward to seeing the continued success of Alex, Casey, and Joseph at Canteen Vending. The sky's the limit for their achievements on-the-job!



Revenue and Expenses

