



News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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For Immediate Release

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PROACT'S LIFE OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM OPENS NEW FACILITY IN HUDSON, WIS. TO BETTER SERVE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**Eagan, Minn.-based nonprofit started western Wisconsin program in 2009, with
work, life skills and recreation offerings for Hudson and the surrounding area**

To assist a growing number of people with disabilities with employment, life skills, training and other activities, and to provide a more centralized base of operations, ProAct's Life Opportunities program has secured an accessible single story building in Hudson, Wis.

The space at 1202 Beaudry Boulevard is nearly five times the size of its former operation at the Stables in River Falls, a setting where clients continue to do horseback riding and other activities. ProAct's new facility on the city's west side, is across the street from a community based employment site, which has become a base of work operations for ProAct in the western Wisconsin city.

Large open areas, as well as separate classrooms, a dining room, offices and a centralized kitchen, make the new Hudson space highly versatile. Program participants who check in before work in the morning can enjoy some exercise before they head off to a job site, said Teresa Ducheneaux, who coordinates the Life Opportunities program.

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The new operational base will also be home to a new vocational service where people with disabilities will receive assistance in finding outside jobs. At least one new client will be ready for job searches right away. A key ProAct staff member from its headquarters in Minnesota will assist with job seeker preparation, applications and interviews.

Life Opportunities' increased commitment to the western Wisconsin and eastern Twin Cities suburbs has spurred new participants from farther away, Ducheneaux explains. From 20 miles to the northeast, three people are brought in daily from New Richmond, Wis. She also hopes to add people from Woodbury and other cities near the Minnesota border.

The coordinator has hosted numerous tours, increasing ProAct's presence among social workers, schools, families with disabilities and the business community.

ProAct is headquartered in Eagan, Minn. and has additional operations in Red Wing and Zumbrota. Its mission is to serve individuals experiencing barriers to employment and self-sufficiency due to intellectual and developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health, traumatic brain injuries, and other challenges.

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