



News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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ProAct, Inc.

For Immediate Release

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PROACT, INC. HIRES JOB DEVELOPER IN EFFORT TO EMPLOY MORE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Red Wing native Jim Bohmbach, well known in sports circles, managed human resources at Red Wing Shoe and served people with disabilities in the schools

To assist in its efforts to employ more people with disabilities in community work settings, ProAct, Inc. in Red Wing has hired job developer Jim Bohmbach to seek out positions and place people in satisfying work.

A well known coach in three sports, primarily baseball, Bohmbach is taking his competitive drive to the employment field and plans to use his extensive human resources background to help ProAct individuals with the interview and application process. "A lot of companies are short handed," said Bohmbach, who has spent most of his life in Red Wing. "They haven't replaced anybody for a long time and there's a lot of work sitting there."

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ProAct's Red Wing Director of Programs, Sally Ogren, said Bohmbach has an important combination of job experience, personality and integrity. "He's well known in the community, he understands our mission and he enjoys working with people," said Ogren.

Bohmbach served as a human resources manager for Red Wing Shoe for a dozen years, worked as a teacher's assistant at Red Wing High School and continues as head coach of the school's varsity baseball team. He's worked in human resources at group homes for people with developmental disabilities and in youth programming at the Eagan YMCA, as well as serving as an assistant baseball coach at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

The employment world resembles the playing field as leaders pick out individual skill sets and strengths and then urge and persuade people to use them to the fullest, Bohmbach explained. Sometimes, it's just a matter of confidence. "I believe in positive reinforcement all the way," he said. Leaders have to earn the trust of the people they're trying to help, and that's why the job development position also involves job coaching, he said.

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The Red Wing community is open to hiring people with disabilities, Bohmbach explained, and understands the need to give them opportunities to grow. After graduating from Red Wing High School in the late 1970s, he left the city to pursue a degree in business administration from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and later earned a Bachelor's degree in business management from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee.

ProAct is headquartered in Eagan and maintains additional sites in Red Wing and Zumbrota. Its mission is to serve individuals experiencing barriers to employment and self-sufficiency due to developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, mental health issues, physical limitations, impairments that interfere with vision and hearing, and other related conditions. More information is available at www.proactinc.org.

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