



INNOVATIVE WIS. PROGRAM KICKS OFF

The demand for ProAct's services pushes into Wisconsin this summer, with the new Life Opportunities program, an external effort to equip people with disabilities in the Hudson and River Falls areas with daily living skills and work capabilities.

The new endeavor brings active therapies to the fore, one involving horses and a stable in River Falls, and the other at the YMCA in Hudson. Practical skills, including meal preparation and gardening, are also on the list and work tasks in Hudson are part of the program mix, as well.

The program is similar to ProAct's Day Training and Habilitation offerings in Eagan, but is completely based in the community, said Carolyn Dobis, ProAct's Eagan director of programs and services. Wisconsin parents of adult children with disabilities have provided much of the impetus behind the Life Opportunities push, which began this summer.

Activity is the name of the game with this new effort, said Dobis. Therapeutic activities which include horseback riding move to real work when program participants go to SORSA in Hudson. The business is a significant distributor of restaurant products including plates and bowls. Dishes are unpacked and orders fulfilled at the high volume

distribution warehouse.

ProAct expects to increase its partnerships with area businesses and others to maintain a highly interactive system where people with disabilities can become more involved, Dobis explained. Work and job assessments, job coaching and transportation are expected to increase employment prospects for a number of individuals.



Further supports come in the form of classroom training in River Falls. Money



ProAct's expertise moves across the St. Croix River to Hudson and River Falls, Wisconsin with the creation of the Life Opportunities program. Completely based in the community, the initiative mixes work and recreational therapy in multiple settings, and teaches life skills to better equip people with disabilities for productive lives.

management and people skills are covered, as are shopping, healthy habits and positive free-time hobbies.

With added support from ProAct's headquarters, Life Opportunities began with two staff members who lead at the different sites, Dobis explained. She hopes to expand the program over the next year.

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New cookbook features tasty staff recipes

It was more than a novel idea that began with a ProAct leader's concept. The final product was cooked up by ProAct employees themselves.

Tessa Langer, a ProAct case manager in Red Wing, helped assemble "Good Eats," a spiral bound cookbook with an attractive cover offering recipes from ProAct staff members. From 20-minute chicken creole to Snicker brownies and rhubarb custard pie for the sweet tooth, the book tabbed by section is an idea-laden keepsake that can be updated with new culinary creations as they are released. While ProAct has discussed the possibility of producing annual updates, no firm decision was made prior to press time.

Kathy Jonas, ProAct, 204 Mississippi Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066. Bulk discounts are also available by calling Sally Ogren at 651-388-7108, or send an e-mail to sogren@proactinc.org.



With 16 recipes of her own to offer, human service technician Marilyn Books at ProAct in Red Wing tries out dishes from fellow employees. "I made one of Roxy's (McGrath) last night, chicken meat balls." The books sell for \$10.

The \$10 books can be purchased in person, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at ProAct's Eagan, Red Wing or Zumbrota locations, or at SORSA, 581 County Road A, Hudson, Wis. To order by mail, send a check and the requested number of copies to



LATE NIGHT STOCKER KEEPS RETAIL ALIVE

Tony Adler is a meat and potatoes kind of guy, a third shift Walmart stocker in Red Wing who keeps his eye on the goal, but doesn't mind switching gears to help customers as they search for products.

He found the late night post on his own after responding to a newspaper advertisement. ProAct came alongside later to provide assistance.

Moving pallets of merchandise from different carts, Adler joins three or sometimes

fast worker, a good worker and an efficient worker," he responded. The rapidly moving graveyard shift man earned an informal "Super Stocker" title that night.

Adler sometimes taps into a high-powered source of stocking information, a handheld computer called the Telxon, which tells multiple details about store products. Linked to the company's computers, the devices cost \$9,000 each and reveal stock levels, prices and availability.

"This guy here pretty much does it by the book," said Adler's ProAct site supervisor, Del Cook. When Adler waits on a customer,

he makes him feel like he's the only one in the store, as opposed to coming off as too busy to help.

A review by store supervisors coincides with Cook's assessment. Adler exceeded expectations in punctuality, attendance and for the amount of work produced, Cook explained. "Tony has come a long way," said Cook.

While nighttime customers are few, Adler isn't afraid to fill the role of storekeeper when he must. Summertime means more teenagers

are coming in, some to buy items and others to cause trouble, he explained. "We're supposed to kind of control it ... but we can't do anything but call the assistant manager," he said.

Some say the "proof is in the pudding," but for Adler, the staying power is in the shopping. After this interview, he stuck around to pick up a few things before returning for his nightly shift. Employees receive 10 percent off their purchases.

Adler is sure to be challenged in the future, as the store is planning a remodel. New tile floors and bathrooms are coming in and some merchandise will be moved.



Tony Adler's third shift stocking performance at Walmart earned high marks in a recent review. He's also earned a reputation for cranking out the work, even when staffing levels are lacking.

four night stockers who maintain a busy small town store. Manager driven goals set the achievement bar, the chief among them being 40 pieces of stocked freight per hour. These include everything from fish food to large kennel boxes and furniture. Stockers perform a late night hustle to help maintain the impression that Walmart never runs out of product.

Focused almost entirely on production, the only thing Adler dislikes about the job is a mandatory lunch hour, which he takes at 1 or 1:30 a.m. Small talk isn't his game, so he spends the time in his car, listening to the radio.

When the store is short-handed on night stockers, Adler can place a large amount of product on the shelves in record time. One night, he stocked 16 pallets by himself. "The manager said, 'How did you do that?'" said Adler. "It's called being a



Adler's duties can span multiple departments, and while stock volume demands stay high, he also must be able to switch gears and help customers.

ProAct Golf Classic 2009

Make Memorable Connections

Shotgun Start/Best Ball ... August 17

Lunch+Golf+Dinner+Silent Auction = \$150

See page 4 for details

From the President...

The news from St. Paul suggests that human service organizations should expect to receive less government funding for the important services provided for people with disabilities and other challenges. Some funding cuts may also impact individuals with disabilities directly. And, as funding reductions reach local governments, it is possible that there will be additional reductions in service levels of some nature. We are operating in very challenging economic times. We will also look for opportunities to pursue as a result of these challenging times.

ProAct has been monitoring the budget issues and is ready to deal with the changes we expect. We have been fortunate to experience growth and have always sought to operate efficiently, and that will continue. I do want to stress that providing quality services will remain our highest priority.

While continuing to meet the needs of our present participants with high competence and concern, ProAct will also seek to meet new challenges and opportunities as they arise. In recent weeks we began a new program in Hudson, Wisconsin, called Life Opportunities. This initiative, discussed elsewhere in People

Achieving, started with a limited number of participants and will focus on a variety of activities to be designed by an advisory group led by parents of young adults with disabilities. I am excited about this innovative program, which adds a new dimension to ProAct.

As summer continues we look ahead to ProAct's only fundraiser of the year, the ProAct Golf Classic. Slated for again be at the beautiful Hastings Country Club, which has proved to be extremely popular with golfers and diners. I hope you will try to join us for a great round of golf and a gourmet dinner, with both live and silent auctions.

Finally, let me say that we received the official report and letter from CARF giving ProAct a three year accreditation for its employment programs and no recommendations, the latter being a distinction received by only 3 percent of agencies surveyed. I credit our staff and our participants for this excellent result. It reinforces our commitment to deliver top quality services. Thank you for your interest and support. It is appreciated.




KEY BUS DRIVER RETIRES AFTER 16 YEARS

Another ProAct legend is moving on to retirement, longtime Eagan bus driver Roger Soule.

He turned in his driving gloves on May 29. A large crowd attended a going away party in his honor. The group provided a steady stream of hugs and handshakes, which were followed by the traditional sheet cakes. It was obvious that Soule will be missed by all.

"I'm going to miss the clients," said Soule. "There are so many who I am familiar with and ... I've driven almost every route they've had." He also has a son, Charlie, who attends ProAct.

Unlike some bus drivers, Soule has been a full-time employee for much of his time here. He also crafted wood projects in his personal shop for use in ProAct's classes.

"We'll fill his post, but we won't fill his place," said ProAct President and CEO Steve Ditschler in a speech to the lunchroom crowd.

Soule ran one of four or five buses in the



Roger Soule, above third from left, retired after 16 years as a bus driver for ProAct. At left is his wife, Marion, his son, Charlie and, at right, his son Greg, daughter-in-law, Kristin, and their five children. Below, Soule is congratulated by ProAct President Steve Ditschler, center, and Transportation Coordinator Jane Snyder.



early days and plotted many of the maps for ProAct's bus routes.

"He's earned this chance to retire," Ditschler said.

Eagan Lions Club makes \$10k donation

The Eagan Lions Club recently made a \$10,000 donation to ProAct, and the dollars will be used to help offset the cost of new buses purchased through a Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) grant program.

The latest MnDOT grant pays 80 percent of the costs for the buses, and calls for ProAct and its supporters to cover the remaining 20 percent. The Lions Club donation helped ProAct to meet the 20 percent goal.

"We have enjoyed a long time community partnership with the Lions and we're especially grateful for this generous donation during these hard economic times," said Steve Ditschler, president and CEO of ProAct. More information on the Lions Club is available online at eaganmn.lionwap.org.



Customized Vocational Services cater to needs

ProAct's Vocational Services may be the least understood department in the organization. Did you know that Voc Services offers the following:

- Situational Assessments
- Work Adjustment Training
- Job Coaching
- Job Development (placement)
- School Transition
- Employment Readiness
- Long and Short Term Support

Ocean bound shipping for 'the Shoe'



New mirror shoe displays made from barn wood and cowhide for Red Wing Shoe were packaged and shipped to Europe in a labor intensive sequence. A sample was first sent to Spain and then returned to test packaging toughness. Justin Lillie enjoys the detailed work.

Cleanup is second nature



He's a big help to ProAct staff. Eagan client Richie Anderson is often tidying up ProAct's main areas and is highly organized, said Case Manager Kate Schumacher. "He has a place for everything," she said.

PROACT PHOTO BRIEFS:

Healthy snackin' now standard



ProAct in Red Wing eliminated unhealthy food and drink options in its vending machines. It replaced them with fruit juice, water, salads and other offerings. Clients understand and like the change, and sales are actually up, said Sally Ogren, director of programs.

Work assessment spans generations



Eagan vocational specialists Jen Solano and Deb Ulrich, center left and right, with senior citizens at Good Samaritan Home in Inver Grove Heights, performed a vocational assessment for Andy Lepley, right.



Volunteers get meals out to those in need



Led by Site Supervisor Jeremy Tesch, left, ProAct clients in Red Wing deliver "Meals on Wheels" to homebound individuals each day after picking them up at Fairview Seminary Home on a bluff overlooking Red Wing. "It's wonderful and it's very nice," said Nutrition Services Manager Liz Knapp, above, second from right. She manages the kitchen and coordinates the Meals on Wheels program.

Patriots celebrate in Eagan



Eagan Case Manager Mary Stoyke, in back, leads her music class in patriotic songs, "America the Beautiful," and others. Clients played congas and a recorder.

SURVEY: MINNESOTANS WITH DISABILITIES USE TECHNOLOGY MORE THAN OTHERS

While Minnesota households with individuals who have developmental disabilities are as likely to have computers and broadband connections as the general public, these individuals are more than three times as likely to use them to communicate with elected officials, according to a recent survey conducted for the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Tech-savvy households with people who have developmental disabilities are also more likely to use technology to increase their awareness of and

involvement in local communities, the study indicated.

When individuals with developmental disabilities were queried, rather than members of the household, substantially more respondents said they used technology to express themselves and their own creativity than did members of the general population. Similarly, people with developmental disabilities were more likely to believe that technology enhances their inclusion in the community.

The survey, conducted by

MarketResponse International, also found that Minnesota households including people with such disabilities were more likely than the general population to access government Web sites, to spend more time using technology for entertainment and to use Internet phone and video communications.

There was no significant difference reported on one demographic. As with the general public, said Tom Pearson, managing director of MarketResponse International, "younger people are more comfortable using technology and computer services."

Shamus O'Meara, chair of the DD Council, said this participation helps affirm their rights as citizens and free people.

Total spending on technology products, including computers, cell phones, smart mobile and GPS devices and video gaming systems, was also higher among Minnesota households that included members with developmental disabilities. Some 29 percent of these households spent from \$1,000 to \$2,999 in this area during 2008, as compared to 16 percent of the general population spending at that level.

ProAct Board of Directors:

Charles DeNet, Robert Kincade, Paul Kramp, Mary Ellen Leary, Larry Lehman, James Louwagie, Teri McCloughan, Dr. Michael Nanne, Dr. Barbara Rebhuhn and Marty Stapleton.

Manufacturing vet joins ProAct production

New ProAct sales representative Paul Mummert is hitting the books hard, the manufacturers registers to be specific, to let companies know what ProAct's Red Wing facility can do.

Much of his task involves getting ProAct's name out before the business world's eyes. He doesn't see ProAct's production services as different from the for-profit business world, and seldom backs down from a challenge. "Whatever we get, we can do," he explained.

Potential clients can vary in size from business startups to larger companies which don't want to "tool up" for a particular product and choose to outsource instead. Although smaller and mid-sized companies are ProAct's more typical customers. Mummert also has many friends in the automation industry.

While the current economy has left



A 15-year sales veteran in southern Minnesota and Wisconsin, Paul Mummert previously offered manufacturing and welding equipment. He also volunteers to help teens through a court ordered program in Rochester.

some companies hesitant to ramp up production, Mummert sees an opportunity for ProAct to get involved when leaders make these decisions, and then retain the business for the long term.

He said he's pretty low pressure when it comes to sales. "I'm a firm believer that people like to buy; they don't like to be sold," he said. Attentiveness and flexibility are added hallmarks of the new

representative's work ethic.

The new face in ProAct production has also had volunteer experience with juveniles who have committed misdemeanors in Olmsted County. As part of a diversion program, children write letters of apology and follow other recommendations to turn their lives around, Mummert explained. The Rochester based system serves as an alternative to the courts.

CARF REPORT MAKES FINDINGS OFFICIAL

The official findings of an extensive peer survey have left ProAct with a glowing three-year accreditation and a significant achievement, according to the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

ProAct received no recommendations from CARF, and was in full conformance with industry standards. "This is an extraordinary accomplishment, as only 3 percent of CARF

surveys result in no recommendations," said CARF President Dr. Brian Boon in a letter to ProAct President and CEO Steve Ditschler. ProAct achieved the same result in 2006, a fact that makes the latest achievement even more notable.

ProAct was accredited for employment services in several areas: job development, job supports, job-site training, employee development and planning and organizational employment.



Get to know us

Admission Information

Eagan- Katie Mark
651-289-3151
Red Wing- Pamela Veith
651-388-7108

Production Services

New Business- Eagan
Nat Reidel, 651-289-3157
Dave Cavalier, 651-289-3158
Red Wing- Paul Rodewald
or Paul Mummert
651-388-7108

Need Employees?

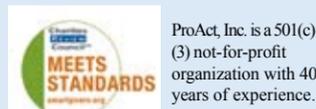
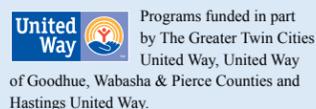
Eagan- Catherine McCoy
651-289-3170 (groups)
Eagan- Ken Gray
651-289-3163 (individuals)
Red Wing- Pamela Veith
651-388-7108

Donation Opportunities

Heidi Anderson
651-289-3149

ProAct's Four Locations

3195 Neil Armstrong Blvd., Eagan, MN 55121
204 Mississippi Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066
224 S. Main St., Zumbrota, MN 55992
N 8424 A 900th, River Falls, WI 54022



Enclave endurance: Capital Safety's veteran crew



Bob Dohrn, left, and Jerry Larson, center, each have more than 10 years in on the crew at Capital Safety. At right is the company's shipping department supervisor, Randy Klein.

Many Capital Safety fall protection devices and their related components have passed through the hands of ProAct clients in Red Wing, as they have performed essential final and sub-assembly functions here for almost 13 years.

The relationship between the nonprofit and its neighbor has been so steady and steadfast that there are several individuals who can lay claim to Capital as their every day employer for more than 10 years.

"It's been a fantastic relationship," said Shipping Department Supervisor Randy Klein from Capital Safety. "They're able to do so many different things for us." ProAct's closeness allows Capital a high level of staffing flexibility, and ProAct supervisors have been very stable, according to Klein. "They're able to go into the system, see what needs to be done and take care of it," he said. The supervisor said ProAct has been able to do more and has increased its flexibility.

When there's a rush for an order at the end of the day, ProAct's crew comes through. "We ask if they can do it and they pretty much usually can," he said. Longtime ProAct workers are in it for the duration. "I'm going to work as long as I can," said ProAct client Bob Dohrn, 68. "Retire? Not yet ... I feel too good."

Wide reach: Red Wing stores, ships product

ProAct in Red Wing handles shipping for all of the U.S. and some international orders for Wallwik wallpaper removal products, a former Wisconsin company that's now based in the United Kingdom.

A well orchestrated inventory control system is utilized where Wallwik products are assembled in four kit combinations by ProAct participants and checked by staff members. Kit contents are checked a second time when the orders are fulfilled. Additional products are included based on customer requests.

"It's a win-win situation," said Paul Rodewald, director of production in Red Wing. Orders are shipped the same day four days per week and ProAct fulfills larger requests for shipment using LTL (less than truckload) carriers and ocean containers for overseas transport.

Typically, crews numbering 10 to 12 assemble Wallwik's product kits. Key components to the Wallwik system, the popular Heavy Duty Wallpaper and Paste Removal Sheets, are folded and packaged for customers, who now number more than one million worldwide.

Business has been picking up, as people take on more home remodeling projects, said ProAct's Roxanne McGrath, who coordinates product packaging efforts at the order fulfillment center. Many of the orders ship to residential customers, but the center also prepares packages for retail stores.

Wallwik keeps ProAct well-stocked with product to meet increasing customer demands. Rodewald said



Red Wing Customer Information Specialist Polly Hauschildt prepares Wallwik wallpaper removal kits for same day shipping via FedEx. The kits are prepared by people with disabilities, checked and modified based on customer orders.

growth in Wallwik sales has been consistently strong. ProAct has had a relationship with Wallwik for a number of years. In addition to quality and accuracy, ProAct's strength as an



ProAct staff members discuss packaging plans for 10 count Heavy Duty Wallpaper and Paste Removal Sheets, an exclusive Wallwik product. From left are Roxy McGrath, Missy Seipel, Tiffany Oien, and Dawn Bakken.

order fulfillment house lies in its staffing flexibility, the ability to cover the ebbs and flows in volume that are common to many industries. "The key to the success of this is that we can deliver whatever manpower is needed at the time," said Rodewald. Orders are taken via the Internet and by phone.

Wallwik plans to feature a ProAct page on its Web site: Wallwik.com.

Zumbrota: self taught piano player pressing on

Looking intently at the notes on a printed page, Patti Kennedy carefully taps her fingers on the keyboard to the tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" among the instruments and program participants at ProAct in Zumbrota.

A beginning pianist who is self taught, Kennedy's musical talent is growing. Music leader and human service technician Pete Boysen makes an occasional stop at her keyboard to touch on the basics. He showed her how to count eighth, quarter and half notes up to a whole. "We're keeping it very simple at this point, keeping it in the key of C," said Boysen.

Kennedy practices on the keyboard on most days when she's in Zumbrota, and Boysen hopes to find someone to donate a keyboard for her to use at home. She's also saving up to buy one.

Coming off regular five-day weeks at ProAct in Red Wing, Kennedy switched to three days there and two in Zumbrota. The quieter small town environment has proven ideal.

Though she's a woman of few words, Kennedy did express her satisfaction with the piano. Her interest is far from out of the blue, as her older and younger sisters both play, as does her daughter. Musical talent is often inherited, and Boysen, who plays several instruments, said Kennedy can sight read music better than he can.

"The amazing story with Patti is that she's a very hard worker," said Boysen, and that she always meets her production goals.



Human service technician and musician Pete Boysen joins Patti Kennedy, who works regularly on her piano skills. Kennedy is self taught, and, like Boysen, uses music in a therapeutic manner for the enjoyment of others.

This work ethic is easily transferred to Kennedy's piano pursuits. "I'm very particular and don't like to make mistakes, and that includes all my assembly work," Kennedy said.

"When she first started out, some of the songs were not recognizable," said Boysen.

Kennedy has continually improved. "And, that's all on her own," he said.

She also spends time doing crafts. "She's just motivated to entertain herself," said human service technician Maureen Byrne. "She loves learning new things."



Kennedy sharpens her ability to translate music from notes on the page to pleasing sounds in the ear. She hopes to one day have a keyboard of her own.

Maintenance employee Richard Brooks, who is also a musician, said Kennedy is serious about her learning. Tunes with greater complexity are likely to be a part of Kennedy's future. "It's just a matter of time, now," said Boysen.

877-245-0405 toll free

Comments and alternative formats

Upon request, this publication is available in alternate languages and formats. Comments are welcome. Contact Heidi at 651-289-3149, hlanderson@proactinc.org.



Welcome to People Achieving,

an inside look at the activities and programs of ProAct, Inc., serving people with disabilities in and around Minnesota's Twin Cities, in communities along the Mississippi and in southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.



THE BIG EVENT: PROACT GOLF CLASSIC AUGUST 17

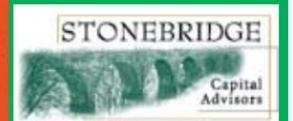
Camaraderie, a great cause and a phenomenal course are all in the game plan for the ProAct Golf Classic, set for August 17 at Hastings Country Club.

Leading sponsors for ProAct's major fundraising event include Anchor Bank, Wells Fargo, Stonebridge Capital Advisors, Thomson Reuters and Langer Construction. "We are delighted to have companies showing enthusiasm for ProAct," said Catherine McCoy, ProAct's employment manager and event organizer. The 18-hole event begins with registration from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and an early lunch at 10:45 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 11:45 a.m. Golfers receive special items on the course and an auction and a gourmet dinner will follow the game.

The cost is \$150 per golfer, or \$35 for the dinner only. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available and ProAct welcomes donated prize and auction items. For full details, go to proactinc.org, click on ProAct Golf Classic and view the brochure link, or contact McCoy at 651-289-3170, cmccoy@proactinc.org.



Major sponsors:



Board vet impressed with ProAct stability

ProAct board member Marty Stapleton has seen the organization through times of difficulty to times of stability and even uncertainty.

The ProAct veteran said he's seen a lot of good change and a lot of growth. "We've firmed up our financial footing and increased the scope of our service area and the breadth of our mission," he said.

The board of directors is a very intelligent group with differing backgrounds, explains Stapleton. "I enjoy it, the challenge and being involved."

A retired attorney with expertise in corporate real estate and financing, he expanded his influence on the board by recommending his partner and fellow attorney Teri McCloughan, who joined the board in recent years. Even when he's out of town, he talks to McCloughan regularly and gets updates. "She's great, she's absolutely



ProAct board member Marty Stapleton, left, with Chair Jim Louwagie and board member Dr. Barbara Rebhuhn.

great." Stapleton spends about seven months per year in Florida.

While in Minnesota, he continues to attend most of the board meetings. "We want to expand the reach of our mission," said Stapleton. "And keep that going. That's

really why we do this."

The longtime board member remembers the days when ProAct in Eagan, then Owobopte, was on Highway 13. He helped plan for the current headquarters building and worked through the merger process with Interstate Rehabilitation Center in Red Wing.

He first learned about ProAct from a former marketing director of the Mendakota Country Club, where he served as president.

Many ProAct staff leaders from that time remain in place, which, in Stapleton's view, makes ProAct an even stronger organization. "It's really a top notch staff, which makes our job a lot easier.

HIGH MARKS FROM 20-YEAR CUSTOMER

Boston Scientific, a 20-year customer of ProAct, gave the organization a 100 percent rating for its on time delivery, order fill rate and lot acceptance rate.

The results were part of the company's Supplier Report Card, and were reported in LifeScience Alley News, a trade association publication that covers the life sciences in Minnesota.

ProAct has worked with Boston Scientific's Cardiac Rhythm Management group since 1994. The nonprofit produces a pacemaker return kit for use in the United States and in Europe.

"You have no idea how excited I was," said Eagan Job Supervisor Gwen

Nelson, who worked extensively on the return kit project. Her department creates jigs or devices to smooth out processes and increase quality control.

ProAct's performance review was affirmed at a recent annual meeting with Boston Scientific, which reaffirmed that the provider is doing a good job of keeping above its goals, said Nat Reidel, director of business development for ProAct. The medical device company works with International Standards Organization (ISO) guidelines that are specific to the medical industry, he explained.

Eagan's director of production, Dave Cavalier, said ProAct has not had a production error for Boston Scientific in 8 to 10 years.



ProAct's 'American Idol'

Staff members in Red Wing put on their own "American Idol" event during the location's June picnic, and judged client singing performances. With placards, from left, are Kareem Lipscomb as "Randy," Leah Ellingson (Kara), Karissa Diercks (Paula) and Steve Whitmore (Simon). Participant Jason Luckett, at right, won the competition. Area businesses donated prizes.

