

PROACT PEOPLE ACHIEVING

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Employer partner finds match



Culver's GM Tara Vonte relies on Brandon Marcks, who washes dishes on weekday afternoons and helps keep the restaurant clean.

Brandon Marcks at ProAct in Red Wing was ready for a community job. Little did he know that a part-time gig would come his way through a local employer who knew where to turn.

The owner from Culver's called with a need for an afternoon dishwasher. The ProAct participant was recommended by employment specialist Sam Kapala, who came to an interview with Culver's General Manager Tara Vonte.

There were the typical questions, and Vonte shared what she was looking for, Kapala said. She went through some job logistics, work hours and other items. At one point, Marcks asked her to rephrase a question, taking the initiative to admit that he didn't understand, said Kapala. "He showed a lot of good composure."

Marcks had worked for other businesses in the community on crews and in-center at ProAct. At the restaurant, the nonprofit would provide job coaching and bi-weekly visits. After he completed company training, much of the prep involved setting up a routine and structure.

"I wash a lot of things in the kitchen, knives, trays, containers and tubs," said Marcks. "It's just fun, really fun." He works from 2 to 5 p.m. on weekdays. "They're happy I'm there and I'm happy I'm there," he said.

Vonte said structure works well for Marcks, and there's more of that in the back of the restaurant than in front. Interactions abound, and are encouraged. Employees are required to say hello when they arrive and goodbye when they leave. Marcks is motivated to complete his tasks, knowing that he can leave early if he completes them in less time.

The job has enhanced his confidence and helped him to develop a sense of accomplishment, Kapala said.



Great host, her skills fit

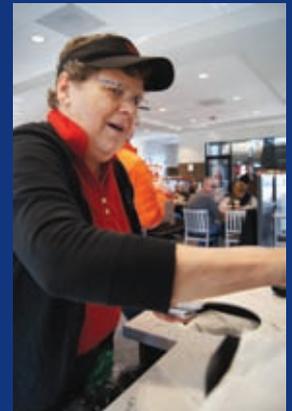
The lunch crowd can line up all the way out the front door at Chik-fil-A in Maplewood, and as the food comes out, ProAct's Virginia Moorhouse is there to keep the dining room tidy and pleasurable.

"She's one of those shining stars who we've got going," said job developer Ted Stam with ProAct. Moorhouse moved to the area to be near family, said Stam, bringing years of similar experience along to her new job.

"She fit the culture so well," said Stam. Moorhouse teamed up with a long-term dining attendant and the two are really good together.

With a dark wood theme, cow campaign signs on the walls, and tables under tear drop lamps, there are condiments and plastic silverware to stock, and straws. Moorhouse is steady and diligent, always on the move.

"She's a great host, a really good team member with our guests," said Owner Bob Lee. "Our culture, or my mission in life is making the impossible possible." Stam said Lee was "open arms" to Moorhouse and ProAct, offering "whatever you guys need or want to bring her on board." Southern hospitality is the norm at Chik-fil-A, where staff often use the phrase "my pleasure" when responding to guest requests.



Chik-fil-A franchisee Bob Lee with Virginia Moorhouse.

Inside— AmazonSmile, ProAct Playhouse

From the President...

It is always gratifying to contribute to the success and satisfaction of the people we serve. It is one of the reasons many of us chose to work in this field. Sharing a few of the examples of success through our newsletters is a way to give you an idea of what we are doing.



We realize that we are only part of an effort by many to support the accomplishments of our participants, and that they are at the very core of successful outcomes. I believe that when they are at the center of choosing their desired outcomes, it

increases the chances for success and satisfaction.

People are at different points in their lives, with different expectations, and all of us are unique. That is partially why we shouldn't assume everyone wants the same outcomes. A "one size fits all" approach isn't reasonable. I think we should try to meet people where they are at and do our best to tailor our services to support the accomplishment of their individual plans. We also need to be flexible in delivering services, because people and situations frequently change. Life is dynamic in nature.

We are committed to offering a wide array of services based on the needs of our participants, and key stakeholders, while continuing to evolve and embrace change. Thank you for your continued support.


Steven Ditschler

Admission information

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ProAct's six locations

- 3195 Neil Armstrong Blvd.
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- (West) 3225 Neil Armstrong Blvd.
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- 204 Mississippi Ave.
Red Wing, MN 55066
- New Options- ProAct
792 Canterbury Rd., #132
Shakopee, MN 55379
- 1202 Beaudry Blvd.
Hudson, WI 54016
- 224 S. Main St.
Zumbrota, MN 55992



ProAct is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.



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

Observant employee discovers crash



Stopped behind a school bus and riding with participants one late afternoon last fall, ProAct direct support professional Amanda Anderson peered out of the bus window and saw a couple of wheels turned upright, deep in a Red Wing ravine. She called 911.

"The rest of the vehicle was pretty much down in the bushes, stuffed down in there," she said. Inside was a mother, who had died, and her three young children, who were alive. They had been missing since the mom left for work at 4 a.m. Anderson said if the bus hadn't stopped at that spot, the crashed car likely wouldn't have been discovered. She had gone past the location on a morning route and no one saw it.

Anderson was recognized by the city of Red Wing with a plaque, and a pin from the chief of police.

You can support us through Amazon



A portion of your Amazon purchases can support ProAct if you buy using amazon-smile.com. ProAct is registered. Simply log in and choose us as your organization to support.

Thanks to all who supported ProAct through the Give to the Max campaign in the fall. Contributors gave more than \$2,600 for life enrichment programming.

Join us on August 26 for the ProAct Golf Classic. The 18-hole event at Southview Country Club in West St. Paul offers fine food, a raffle, auctions and extra game challenges. Don't miss it!

ProAct Playhouse



Actors with ProAct Playhouse took in the sets and ambiance of Chanhassen Dinner Theatres.

Disability realities, humor, return to stage April 25

Based on interviews and real experiences of people with disabilities, ProAct Playhouse brings “Welcome to Our World” to the Lakeville Area Arts Center on April 25 at 7:30 p.m.

New and established actors will present fresh scenes showing the stereotypes, job challenges, bullying and a little romance. \$15 suggested donation - lakevilleareaartscenter.org.



Upcoming Events

Holiday Lights Recycling— Drop off sites continue through February 8. See locations at proactinc.org

Valentine’s Balloon Sale— Scott County Government Center, supports New Options- ProAct, February 14, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Disability Services Day at the Capitol— Tuesday, March 12, rally at 10 a.m., visits with legislators to follow. Please register at mohrmn.org.

ProAct Playhouse— *Welcome to Our World* an original play written and produced by ProAct’s theater program participants, April 25, 7:30 p.m. Lakeville Area Arts Center, \$15 suggested donation. More details online.

ProAct Golf Classic— August 26- Southview Country Club, West St. Paul, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sponsorships available.

ProAct briefs:

Lights recycling looks to exceed 2018 level



With 32 drop-off locations, the Holiday Lights Recycling campaign continues through February 8, and ProAct is hopeful that collections will exceed 2017-2018 totals. More info at proactinc.org and on Facebook.

Volunteerism helps build job skills



Marta Susag, left and Tom Taylor, right, gain job skills as volunteers at Thrifty Sisters in Bay City, Wis. ProAct Coordinator Gloria Solsaa said Owner Pam Wilkins, center, is “wonderful, so respectful to the individuals and to us.”

Grant for wellness brings stand-up desks



“Sit-to-stand” computer desks came to ProAct in Red Wing thanks to a grant from Goodhue County and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).

“It’s fantastic,” said Designated Coordinator Rachel NaSal. The desk helped her posture and her back.

It’s part of “Life Well— Goodhue County,” which paid for 75 percent of the cost for the new units.



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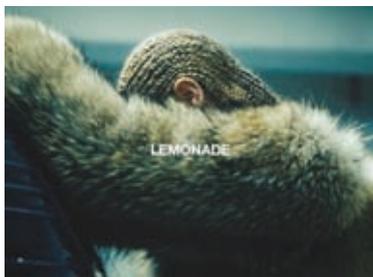


Read about Curtis at Cabela's, view holiday photos and other news in the ProAct Post, a publication delivered by email and filled with updates from the leading disability nonprofit. The ProAct Post provides important information about person-centered efforts and accomplishments to those who care about ProAct.

It's easy to sign up. From your mobile phone:

**To sign up text ProAct to:
22828**

Valued partner



Quick turnarounds, elaborate record jackets and imported vinyl from France are par for the course for Noiseland Industries.

The company calls on ProAct to package new and re-released albums in classic 12-, 7- and 10-inch formats.

ProAct in Eagan is where the components come together, explains Business Services Manager Mary McGeheran. The products are made by other vendors and ProAct puts them together, often on tight timelines.

McGeheran came to ProAct from Noiseland, where she learned about the nonprofit through a custom record project. "ProAct came up with a great solution, did it flawlessly and delivered." Individuals with disabilities have assembled nearly 3 million records for the company, with more to come.



ProAct CEO Steven Ditschler presented the "Elmer Bester Award" to George Thomas.



Eagan's Zoua Her and Mike Burgess received Congeniality Awards at the Recognition Banquet.



The top Red Wing Service Award of 40 years went to Larry Bale, pictured above left-center with Director Sally Ogren and Board Chair Jim Louwagie. Teresa Christ in Eagan celebrated 35. Sue Carlson reached 40, but did not attend.

Recognition Banquet honors

