

PROACT PEOPLE ACHIEVING

Volume 16 Issue 3 August 2019

Working again, for small biz



Cleaning up the floral prep aftermath, ProAct Adult Day Services participant Craig Blake, left, lightens the load for Design n Bloom owner Gayle Kenow.

Craig Blake used to manage a Jiffy Lube service center until a major health event took a toll on his cognitive abilities. He came to ProAct's Adult Day Services program, and now, thanks to an unconventional Employment Exploration class, he's working again.



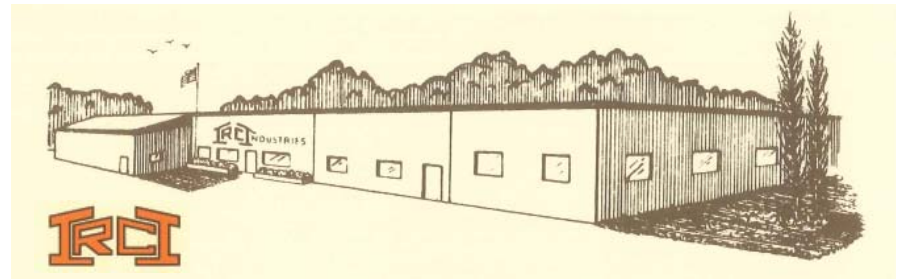
A nearly 20-year Eagan floral business operating from a home welcomed Blake to pitch in. He does, gathering plant matter for disposal, vacuuming, dusting and freshening up the production center.

The owner often returns from deliveries to find a clean shop. "I come here and I am so happy. It makes my day," said Gayle Kenow.

ProAct classroom instructor and direct service professional Cyerra Hanson helped with Blake's job tryout. After visiting several employers, Blake found he liked Design n Bloom the best, and would need assistance from a job coach. "He's such an active guy and wants to be very busy," said Hanson. "And, it's such an active place, so there was a good fit."



50 years serving community- Red Wing



There was an old hospital building on a hill. There were families opening their homes for foster care. And there was a dream to provide work and training for people with disabilities. The city was Red Wing. The year – 1969.

ProAct's location here was first established as Interstate Rehabilitation Center, Inc. (IRC). The first participant arrived on September 1.

Earlier in 1969, IRC's first executive director, Bill Ogren, the husband of now director Sally Ogren, was raising funds for IRC, and scouting out locations, Sally Ogren explains. Community groups and businesses committed cash and a site was found.

In the former administrator's house on the grounds of the old city hospital, IRC began. It was some six blocks west of the city's core, near the current-day Goodhue County Historical Society. Just four months later, more space was needed, said Ogren, who worked in the field and joined IRC in 1974.

In January 1970, IRC set up new quarters at Tower View, now the Anderson Center, in what was Burnside Township. Not long after, the city of Red Wing annexed the area as plans for a new nuclear powerplant some seven miles away were in the works. By December, the nonprofit was serving 27 participants (clients).

For housing, the first IRC social worker, Geraldine O'Reilly, found families to take people in, said Ogren. Some rented rooms. There was a boarding home. Families included people with disabilities in their activities. Ogren said she remembers "Bob" and "Leonard," two men for whom the Ogren's found housing at a neighbor's. Eventually, Goodhue County got involved with licensing and a process, she said.

Swelling to 60 participants, IRC outgrew Tower View by the summer of 1974. Options were being explored for larger quarters. Then, at some point, and the dates were not clear, people with disabilities started coming from the Faribault State School and Hospital. Many were older, in their 50s and 60s. "It was delightful," said Ogren. "Because they were having the time of their lives. They wanted so much to do everything right so they wouldn't get sent back to Faribault. Some had family here and some didn't," said Ogren. "I remember their faces, the people."



Above, Geraldine O'Reilly from rural Goodhue was IRC's first social worker. Below, the work floor in 1976.



Photo: Republican Eagle

Watch for Part 2 of Red Wing's 50 years in the next issue.

Inside- Golf Classic 8/26 – Recognition Banquets



From the President...

Interaction is something that many of us desire. So much of life revolves around relationships with others, be they casual or close.

Many of you are aware of our steady efforts to accompany the individuals we serve in the community. We are there as job coaches, mentors, tour guides, encouragers and teachers.



There's a newer phrase that's been floating around lately which is more familiar to those of us working in the field. It's called life enrichment.

Some may interpret this to mean financial gain, but, getting back to the subject of relationships, it is much more than that.

We are here to help each person to define and live a quality life. Quite frankly, most of the people we serve could care less about the paperwork. They want to know that they're being treated with dignity and respect, that we are here to encourage them and pick them up when they stumble.

I know there are places that are great with paperwork, but struggle with the day-to-day soft touch with people. These are the values and culture that define an organization. You often can't determine them from a website, social media post or brochure. They need to be experienced.

Community-based services for people with disabilities are aptly designed to be "close to home." In ProAct's smaller communities, and even in the suburbs, the staff are often friends and neighbors to the people who receive services.

We are to be professional in our work, but there's also a care and concern for others that transcends our written duties. I believe that's part of why people stick with us for so long.

There's an enjoyable golf event coming up for us on August 26, the ProAct Golf Classic. And, we have a dinner-only option to partake in the festivities after the game. Best wishes to all.

Admission Information

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ProAct's Six Locations

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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

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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 Patty Carlson at 651-289-3149, pcarlson@proactinc.org.

Camp comes to Shakopee



DSP Rebel Rozeboom, left, with Kelly J., a Camp ProAct visitor who loves fashion. At right, Ron C. loves green and yellow colors, which he sports on a tie dye shirt he made. Below, camper Linda S. with her homemade tie dye tee and name tag. Getting to go to "camp" was her favorite, because she isn't able to do actual camping, Rozeboom said.

It's common to hear participants at New Options – ProAct in Shakopee talk about camping in the summer. Some can afford it and go, while others cannot and wish they could. Some talk about it all year long.

This gave direct support professional Rebel Rozeboom an idea. "Camp ProAct" could bring the joys of camping to an entire group, primarily on-site at the center.



"It's an awesome program, just fantastic," she said. For an entire month, there were two camp activities in the morning and two in the afternoon.

Participants went fishing on Prior Lake. There were camp crafts, name tags with photo frames and camp patches to make. A group of eight took part in physical activities, camp games, songs, sensory videos about camping and more, explains Rozeboom.

The DSP also taught one of her favorite past times, tie dying. The result was camp shirts with fuchsia, turquoise and yellow colors.

A solid group of volunteers helped make the offsite events possible. "We've really cultivated special relationships with them," said Rozeboom. Next on the schedule– the Scott County Fair.

How you can help ProAct

- Volunteer
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'Big Boy' steam train dazzles in Baldwin



The 1.2 million pound "Big Boy" steam locomotive rolled into Baldwin, Wis., attracting nearly the entire crew of participants and staff from ProAct in Hudson.

Hundreds of people gathered in Baldwin, Wis. for the arrival of the Union Pacific's "Big Boy," a restored steam locomotive, and ProAct was there to witness history past's intersection with history present.

Staking their morning claim near a rail crossing, ProAct's Wisconsin contingent visited with family and community members as the big steamer on rails was delayed. Known transportation fan and participant Rodney Deck was grinning from ear to ear.



"It is astounding, how many people have shown up," said direct service professional Sandy Linehan. Baldwin has a population of about 4,000.

Participants from the Adult Day Services program in Eagan also caught the train when it was in St. Paul.

Recognition Banquets

Eagan- Envision Event Center - September 27

Red Wing/Hudson/Zumbrota - Treasure Island Resort and Casino - October 4

RSVP with Jane Snyder (Eagan) 651-289-3159

or Pam Veith (Red Wing, Hudson, Zumbrota) 651-327-5613

Upcoming Events

some details at proactinc.org

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

Tapemark Minnesota PGA Pro-Am— Support ProAct and play Southview Country Club again from September 20 to 22. Raffle with prizes. Please see tapemarkgolf.org

ProAct Playhouse presents: "Brave in the Attempt - a story of perseverance and athleticism." at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 8 at Lakeville Area Arts Center. \$15 suggested donation. Tickets at lakevilleareaartscenter.org

Person-Centered Thinking Training: Two-day nationally certified program for continuing-ed credit. October 22-23, Shakopee.

ProAct briefs:

Key customer visits for video, helps homeless

Savage-based RPM Drymate, a production customer of ProAct in Red Wing, made a special visit to shoot video for a promotion.

The company was featured this summer on FOX 9 News for its role in donating blankets to the nonprofit Loaves and Fishes Minnesota. Walmart highlighted the Minneapolis charity in a recent television ad. ProAct prepped the product at a reduced cost.

The Red Wing operation has served RPM Drymate since 2003. It uses high tech equipment to cut more than 2 million mats each year in more than 450 styles. Many are available in retail stores. More than 35 people with disabilities are steadily employed to fulfill RPM's needs, according to Dee Bigelbach in sales.



Native American education in Red Wing

A cultural session at ProAct in Red Wing took a native turn this summer, when members the Prairie Island Indian Community donned their traditional clothing for an interactive program.

"The children of the family were dressed in their regalia and they discussed how the oldest son became a 'Brave,' and what he had to do to run for the Brave title," said direct support professional and organizer Phaedra Raethke. For the daughter, the focus was on becoming the "Elder's Princess." She wore a beaded crown, Raethke explained. The children demonstrated cultural dances and how their regalia matched the movements. Individuals with disabilities joined them.



After Golf Classic, consider Tapemark Pro-Am

The Tapemark Minnesota PGA Pro-Am has provided consistent annual support to ProAct, and this year's event returns to Southview Country Club from September 20 to 22.

There are men's and women's Pro-Am events and prizes, and the tournament will assist in finding golf partners or partner leads. Contact Jeff Hintz at jhintz@pgahq.com. For more info on the tournament and registration, see TapemarkGolf.org.



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Join us for ProAct Golf Classic Aug. 26

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Join us
for dinner



Golfers and sponsors for ProAct's major annual fundraiser are looking forward to the ProAct Golf Classic at Southview Country Club on Monday, August 26.

The "best-ball" event with golfers in foursomes is a hit with both the experienced and more casual golfers. And, fun amenities, fine food and a lively auction provide added entertainment. The cost is \$150 per golfer. See proactinc.org.

In addition to the Dinner and Lunch Sponsors shown above, ProAct wishes to thank its Gold Sponsors: the Bordas family, North Central Bus & Equipment, Jeff and Wendy Thames and Waterous Co. The nonprofit also appreciates its Silver Sponsors: The Schneider Company, Great Northern Corporation and Dan Larson Do-All. See you on the course!



Read about Mary Klein's job at Old Navy, get ProAct's take on the legislative results, learn about some fine young volunteers in Zumbrotta and more in the ProAct Post, a publication delivered by email.

To sign up text ProAct to: 22828



Controller attracted by services

Aimee Sandy is the new controller for ProAct, filling a post that was held by Pat McGuire for 27 years. He retired in April.

She was attracted to ProAct by its services for those with disabilities. Sandy lives with a mild case of cerebral palsy.



She was previously an accounting director for Lutheran Social Services (LSS), where she handled financial statements for the board of directors and prepared for fiscal audits and filings. Before LSS, she was the financial manager for Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties, where she prepared monthly financials and had payroll responsibilities. In addition, she has experience with Target Corporation and Ernst & Young, LLC.

The finance professional is focused on the future for Minnesota nonprofits. Sandy said it is prudent for organizations like ProAct to develop additional funding sources to prepare for possible interruptions in government funding.

The new controller was raised in the east-central small town of Mora, Minn. where her family joined the festivities for the annual Vasaloppet Cross-Country Ski Race. She was honored to help hand out medals to the competitors.

Learn more about Controller Aimee Sandy at proactinc.org

ProAct Playhouse rolling out "Brave in the Attempt"

Bravery in the face of obstacles is the theme of the next ProAct Playhouse original production: "Brave in the Attempt."

Another prevailing theme is teamwork, said Co-director Amanda Thomm. There's conflict, humor and a backstory that audiences won't want to miss. It plays October 24 in Lakeville.



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