

Recognizing Direct Support Professionals

Every year, the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR), a Minnesota statewide nonprofit association representing nearly 100 disability service providers, celebrates Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week by presenting awards to a select few nominated direct support professionals (DSP). This year, ProAct nominated four incredible DSPs, Liz Geyen in Shakopee, Courtney Kummer in Eagan, Caleb Siewert in Red Wing, and Karissa Short in Red Wing. All four are exemplary members of the ProAct team who strive every day to improve the lives of our participants and the disability community.

It is an immense joy to say that two of our four nominees were chosen and awarded this year's DSP Award. Liz Geyen of ProAct Shakopee and Courtney Kummer of ProAct Eagan.

ProAct's mission to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities is impossible without the dedicated and compassionate efforts provided by our DSPs and all the rest of our staff.

Please join us in celebrating their efforts! To Liz, Courtney, Caleb, Karissa, and all DSPs, thank you!

You can learn a bit more about our award winners and nominees below, including excerpts from their nominations.

DSP Award Winner

“

Courtney attends work each day with the intent of enhancing the lives of others with the enrichment activities she creates.

[She] has an elevated level of understanding of what each participant wants to do during their time at ProAct and plans scheduled activities to fulfill those desires.

”



DSP Award Winner

“

Liz has been part of our team for more than 21 years. She focuses on supporting our participants with the highest needs in Enrichment Programming. Her expertise is truly invaluable. Thanks to Liz, we can welcome participants who need Hoyer lifts, tube feedings, and other specialized care. She also trains new staff members who will be working with these participants.

”



DSP Award Nominee

“

We received many messages from family members requesting that Caleb continue to be the Community Specialist to work with their family members.

Caleb is a true asset to our team at ProAct and we are lucky to have such a caring staff member whose first job is to make sure that whoever he is working with that day is happy with the services they are receiving.

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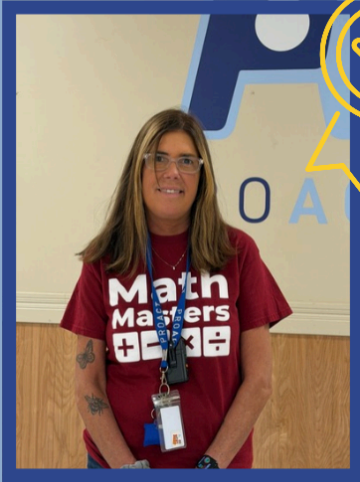
DSP Award Nominee

“

Karissa has supported individuals with disabilities most of her adult life, 15 of those years with ProAct. Karissa has a passion for serving our participants and does so with great respect and a focus on care, teaching, and fun.

Karissa is someone who can be counted on to see what needs to be done and will go ahead and do it. She also is a role model for other staff and helps new staff learn and get comfortable with all DSP tasks. Karissa is an asset to our team!

”



Enrichment Program Highlights

Last Days Of Summer Fun

For the month of August, participants and staff did their best to revel in these last days of summer and enjoy the time out and about and in the sun.

In Red Wing, participants took advantage of good weather when available to go out and spend time with animal friends, like at Como Zoo or out on the farm, spending time with our first responders for National Night Out, or heading out to the County Fair.

In Shakopee, participants headed out onto the water to cast reels and catch fish, hosted a tailgate party, played with water balloons, worked on art projects, and even took time to visit the train museum.

In Eagan, participants used the nice weather to their advantage while taking part in exciting activities like bird watching, outdoor sports, and playing games in the park while still finding time for arts & crafts.

Finally, in Hudson, participants hit the bowling alley (and all the pins too), explored outdoor art displays at Franconia Sculpture Park and Vermillion Park, and even went out shopping.

Check out more photos below!

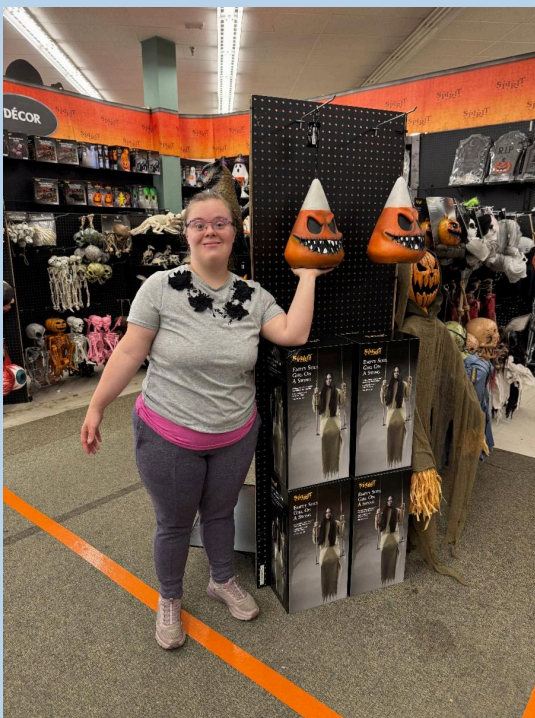




Nature Center Crafts



Franconia Sculpture Park



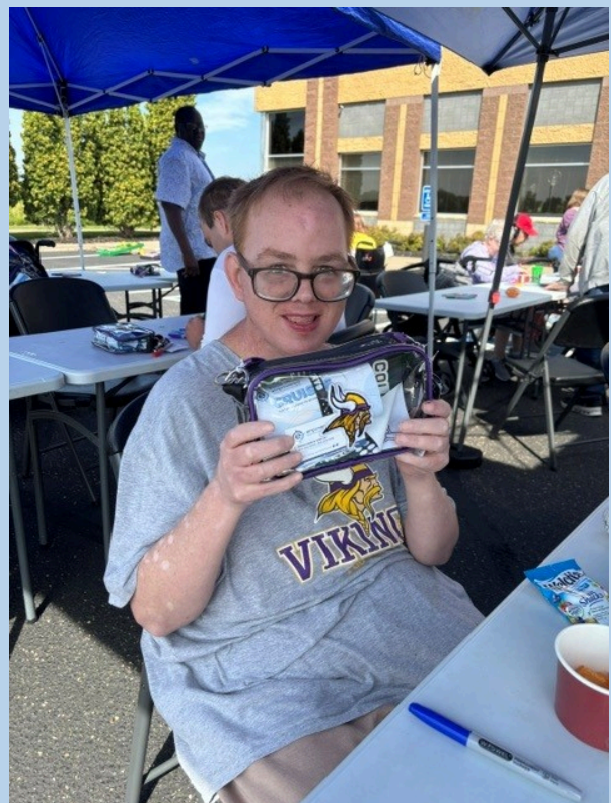
Halloween Shopping



County Fair Fun



Furry Friends



Tail Gate Party



Train Museum



Arts & Crafts Time

ProAct Testimonials

“The experience far exceeds my expectations. My son was engaged, did not seem frustrated or resentful when given guidance, and most importantly, was always ready to go.”

- Parent Of A Production Skills Participant



August by the Numbers

Total Hours: **49,808**
Participants Served: **727**
Independent Hires: **3**

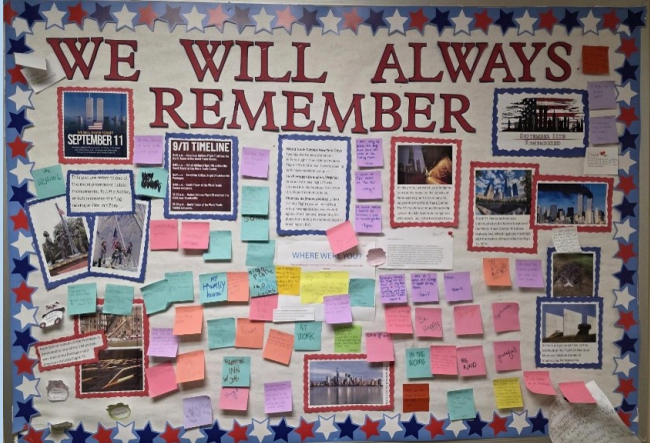


Make a Donation

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Activities

Monthly, ProAct’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee focuses on educating staff, participants and stakeholders in areas of culture, diversity, and disability. The committee chooses one diversity related area and a disability as its educational focuses for the month. Bulletin boards, e-mails, class projects and other tools are used to educate staff and participants at each of our four locations.

The committee chose **September 11th, where were you? And Alopecia Awareness Month** for the month of September.



Are you or someone you know looking for a new job? Explore the amazing career opportunities at ProAct and join a team dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities.



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