What are your dreams? What have you done today to achieve your dreams? What if no one took a chance to make their dreams come true?

Most people have dreams. Dreams are our wishes, hopes, and desires for our future. Is your dream to live more independently, go on a vacation, or to learn a new job?

Each year during the month of March, Shares, Inc. holds an Open House in each of the three counties and invites the community in order to highlight the accomplishments of persons with disabilities. We also recognize those agencies and individuals that have contributed to the awareness and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Don’t ever forget about your dreams. Our dreams inspire us to achieve the impossible. Without dreams, what would our world look like today?

The 2014 Disabilities Awareness Campaign theme was “Dream to Dare”. It inspired and encouraged all of us to challenge each other to be a force for change in our communities. The theme invited everyone, with and without disabilities, to join their neighbors and help each other rethink and revitalize our communities.

Don’t ever forget about your dreams. Our dreams inspire us to achieve the impossible. Without dreams, what would our world look like today?

Caption: L to R - Shelby County Open House Greeters; Dick Fero, MC for Shelby County; Jerry Bell, MC for Hancock County; Brian Sheehan, MC for Rush County; Shelby County Open House

Six steps to achieving your dreams

1. Really want it; be passionate about it
2. Picture yourself achieving your dream
3. Make a plan and timeline
4. Do research and talk to others
5. Get support from your family and friends
6. Don’t give up

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REPORT FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Each March, Disability Awareness Month is celebrated throughout Indiana. And, given that adults and children with disabilities represent slightly more than 19 percent of Indiana’s population, disability awareness is important for all of us. Led by the Indiana Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities, the goal of Disability Awareness Month is to increase awareness and promote independence, integration and inclusion of all people with disabilities. The Council develops a unique theme for this annual event and produces campaign materials that are available free of charge to Hoosiers who want to help make a difference.

The 2014 campaign theme is “Dream to Dare.” The poster art features a simple, meaningful poem to frame our attitudes toward what we all want to achieve—communities that are sustainable, accessible, and economically viable and encourage civic and social engagement for all. The text at the bottom of the poster challenges us to “be a force in our community” by learning more about smart growth as we rethink and revitalize our communities. This year Shares, Inc had open houses in all three counties of our agency and celebrated the successes and goals achieved and exceeded by our participants. We challenged our participants to dream big and take new challenges.

In March we recognized their achievements. We awarded many partners from our community who have helped us and our participants succeed. Some of these awards were given for hiring our participants as their employees, some for giving our work centers jobs we could perform for them, some for community people who helped train our staff and employees in jobs we could perform for them, some for community events we could host for them, some for community projects we could implement for them, and lastly some for the partnerships people who helped train our staff and employees in jobs we could perform for them, some for community events we could host for them, some for community projects we could implement for them.

The 2014 campaign materials that are available free of charge to Hoosiers who want to help make a difference include the poster art and poem, a public service announcement, a press release, a fact sheet and a digital resource guide. These materials are available online at DisabilityAwarenessMonth.org.

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Congratulations to YOUR 2014 SPIRIT AWARD WINNERS

SHELBY COUNTY SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
ELAINE HANSEN
Elaine, who has worked at Shares for 18 years, always goes out of her way to greet people and to compliment others. Elaine always stands up for what is right and fair.

HANCOCK COUNTY REACH FOR THE STARS WINNER
MIKE GRAY
He has come a long way since beginning work at Shares in 1993. In his teens he lived in a foster home, lost his brother, and lived in a nursing home. And this year he moved into a waiver home. Mike enjoys working, especially payday, and taking the annual Shares trip.

RUSH COUNTY SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
GREG GRIFFIN
Greg Griffin represents the true spirit of the McGraw Industries Spirit award. He is a diligent worker, an amiable co-worker and pleasantly interactive in any activity whether at work or in our community. He is friendly and a great advocate for himself and his surroundings.

A. Angel Yager is helping the participants in living skills classes learn the beat of the drums. There are many great benefits of drumming such as reducing tension and anxiety, creating a sense of connectedness with self and others, encouraging self-expression, and releasing negative feelings. The participants have enjoyed the drum classes and always look forward to Angel’s next visit.

B. Dr. Talessa Powell teaches a jewelry class to the Hancock County living skills participants. The participants enjoyed creating bracelets with their choice of beads. Dr. Powell, a local Greenfield doctor and jewelry creator, taught the class and instructed the students on how to place the beads on the wire. This class was the perfect opportunity for these participants to explore their talents.
SHELBY CO.

A. Chris Gilpin, Tammy Commer, Annie Coissins, Andy Coblentz, Larry Jones, and Ryan Haas were recognized for their Volunteer Work.
B. Tommy Brindle received the Longevity Award for 25 years of service.
C. Tammy Commer receives the Quality Award
D. Mary Beth Hughes is awarded the Quality Award
E. Larry Jones receives the Quality Award
F. Jeff Goodin, Harold Renollet, Joe Carman receive the “I Dream” Award
G. Flat Rock River Lodge accepting the Community Employment Services Employer of the Year award
H. Jamie Chell is awarded the Quality Award
I. Kelli Leising accepting the Community Employment Services Employee of the Year award
J. Mike Pavey – Mayor of Rushville presenting the Mayoral Proclamation

HANCOCK CO.

A. Chuck Fewell - Mayor of the City of Greenfield presenting the Mayoral Proclamation
B. Brandon Lynem - Community Employment Services Employee of the Year
C. Florida Cracker - Community Employment Services Employer of the Year
D. Allison Murphy - Most Outstanding ADLS Award winner
E. Jeff Carter - Most Outstanding Day Program Award winner
F. Veronica Vail - Most Outstanding Overall Living Skills Award winner

RUSH CO.

A. Tom DeBaun - Mayor of the City of Shelbyville, reading the Mayoral Proclamation
B. Larry Hansen - Increase in Independence Award winner
C. Lacy Carlton - Living Skills Participant of the Year
D. G&H Orthodontics accepting the New Customer of the Year for Shares Shredding Services
E. Kristy Anderson - 25 Years of Employment
F. Shelby County participants and Morgan Gibson performing “Life’s a Happy Song”
G. Rochelle McKay and JoLynn Pendleton accepting the Customer of the Year Award for Zee Medical
H. Kimberly Hankins - Top Gun Award for her quality on the job
I. Jeff Crouch - Employee of the Year for Shares Finishing Services Trane received the Industry Partnership Award
J. Billy Mark accepting the Employee of the Year Award for Shelby County
K. Vickie Roberts and Sherry Spires from Indiana Grand Casino receiving the Community Employment Services Employer of the Year Award
L. Brian Carrico receiving the Community Employment Services Employee of the Year Award for his work at Pizza Hut

G. Chuck Ward - Most Outstanding Masters Award winner
H. Laura Dean - 25 Years of Employment
I. Terry Tappy - 25 Years of Employment
J. Shay Beatson - 25 Years of Employment
K. Freudenburg - Customer of the Year
L. Patty Richardson - Employee of the Year winner
Each year Shares, Inc. recognizes community partners who are making a difference in the lives of our participants. These companies – large and small – have provided training, special services and continued support. Their interest and enthusiasm mean the world to us!

**SHELBY COUNTY**

A. Kyle Pruitt - Kyle is a fire fighter and EMT for Greensburg and he volunteers for Waldron Fire Dept. Kyle volunteered his time and equipment as he provided fire extinguisher training for Shares for all three counties last August.

B. RTAP—Rural Transit Assistance Program - Megan Lawson, Assistant Coordinator, Barb Zimmer, Assistant Coordinator, and Vicky Warner, Manager. This group provides training to our drivers in all three counties on Passenger Assistance and Wheelchair Securement twice a year and are available by phone or email at all times to answer our safety questions.

C. Reflections - Kelly Balting, Brenda Covington, Lisa Kitchen and Ashley Corners. Last August, shortly before our Shares Trip, Reflections Salon offered a “Pre-Trip Beauty Day”. The afternoon consisted of manicures and haircuts for any participant that was interested. Everyone had a fantastic time and are looking forward to the possibility of repeating the event this year.

**HANCOCK COUNTY**

Noelle Steele, Tom Russo, and Jim Mayfield of the Greenfield Daily Reporter were chosen as our Outstanding Community Members for the excellent coverage that our local newspaper has provided on activities at Shares and the successes of our participants both in the workshop and in the community.

Hancock County Animal Management has partnered with Shares by accepting several participants into their volunteer program. Volunteers go to the animal shelter twice a month and assist with various activities including cleaning cages, feeding and socializing animals, and any other work that is needed.

Hancock County Animal Management

Hancock County Animal Management

Hancock County Animal Management

Hancock County Animal Management

**RUSH COUNTY**

A. BMO and B. Wells Fargo deservedly received this year’s Community Connection award. These businesses represent our community putting into action Rush County’s desire to be an inclusive community by their example of going the extra mile for all people.

B. Canary Creek Cinema was chosen for this year’s Community Connection award for their great kindness and respect that is shown to us as individuals in the community.

**SWEET DREAMS...**

The Ojibwe people believe that a dreamcatcher changes a person’s dreams. According to legend, only good dreams would be allowed to filter through the dreamcatcher. The good dreams would pass through and slide down the feathers to the sleeper while bad dreams would become trapped in the net, and disappear with the light of day.

The dreamcatcher hangs above the bed and is used as a charm to protect sleeping people, usually children from nightmares.

To read the enchanting legend of the dreamcatcher, go to www.dream-catcher.org.

**“If you can dream it, you can do it.”** - Walt Disney
MISSION
“Shares, Inc. provides service and support for people with disabilities to enhance their successful inclusion in the community.”

CURRENT EVENTS

Shares, Inc.
Board Meeting at 7:30 PM
July 14, 2014 Shelbyville

Aktion Club Meetings
2nd and 4th Tuesday
of the month at 6:30 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Briley Family Center,
741 Fair Avenue, Shelbyville

Memorial Day
Monday, May 26, 2014
Agency Closed

Father’s Day
Sunday, June 15, 2014

Summer Begins
Saturday, June 21, 2014

4th of July
Agency Closed

Self-Advocate Picnic
Friday, July 18, 2014
Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis

2014 Educational Trip
Branson, Missouri
August 21 – 29, 2014