# YMURS TEES newsletter

**JUNE 2013** 





#### Get involved!

Develop relationships with your neighbors – with and without disabilities – and make your community a place where everyone participates and is a valued member.

- Start a block club or join your neighborhood association.
- Participate in town hall, zoning, school board and other public meetings.
- Join a book club, church group or social organization.
- Take a class at a local school.
- Be a community volunteer and/or join AmeriCorps.
- Become involved in a local church or synagogue.
- Campaign for a local political candidate or work at the polls.
- Develop and lead an educational program.
- Create a community garden.
- Start or assist with writing articles for a community paper.



# Shares, Inc. Celebrates Disability Awareness Month 2013

Each year during the month of March, Shares, Inc. joins together with other Indiana residents to recognize the accomplishments of persons with disabilities.

We use this time to place emphasis on introducing our services and programs to the community. We also recognize those agencies and individuals that have contributed to the awareness and inclusion of people with disabilities.

This year's campaign theme was "Community Connections." The poster featured a fully connected, livable community with appropriate housing, supportive and accessible community services, and physical and environmental features that allow everyone to live independently.

It reminded us that communities need to be accessible, allow for civic engagement and encourage neighbors to support one another.

This year, all three counties had the opportunity to recognize those agencies, companies and/or individuals who have gone above and beyond in assisting and providing services and support for people with disabilities.

#### **Community Connections**

These are the vital links of a connected, livable community.



Caption: L to R - Adam Wilson MC, Rush Co.; Jerry Bell MC, Hancock Co.; Nisa Hensley MC, Shelby Co.; Shelby County Self-Advocates - Jane Webb, Hancock Co.

#### Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities

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NONDISCRIMINATION ON BASIS OF HANDICAP Shares, Inc. is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination as required by civil rights legislation, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1990 as a result of the organization's commitment to equal opportunity. EOE-M/F Shares, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

# CLIFF'S NOTES

### REPORT FROM YMUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I want to thank everyone who came to our Annual Open Houses to celebrate Disability Awareness Month in March. This year's theme was Community Connections. The amount of people who attended the Shelby, Hancock and Rush Counties open houses, certainly made us feel connected with our communities.

When Shares, Inc. began in 1976, there were no community connections. Our agency felt committed to changing that and today our successes are all because of that community connection.

Our participants are employed in local businesses and we do work for local business in manufacturing, packaging, and inspection. In fact, some of our products such as diesel glow plugs and fuel pump systems go all over the world. Our parts are key to individuals, the government and the military.

We are proud of our successes and the high level of growth and development our participants have reached in our programs. At Shares we concentrate on building our abilities and downplaying our disabilities.

I, and many of our staff, cherish our lives more due to our involvement with Shares, Inc. and our community and hope you feel that way as well.

I want to extend special thanks to our Board of Directors for their vision to set goals to meet the challenges for tomorrow's needs. Coming out of a recessionary period required us to reinvent some of what we do. Sometimes change is not comfortable but without it we would no longer be the viable agency we are today.

Spring is here and our participants are already getting excited about

our upcoming day outing on the Belle of Louisville steamship in June. We are also getting ready for our annual educational vacation trip to Michigan in late August. This year's trip will include Greenfield Village in Dearborn, the Henry Ford Museum, a tour of the F-150 truck factory, Frankenmuth, Mackinaw City, the Grand Hotel and shopping on Mackinac Island, a dinner boat at the Soo Locks, lumberjack show, dinner dance, Gordon Lightfoot impersonator concert and some good food.

Hope you are enjoying your lives and are in good health.

Clifford Strachman, Executive Director





It was just a few years back that she won Employee of the Year. Just a little over a year ago, Esther was diagnosed with cancer. She had a medical leave of absence while she, with the support of her family and some pretty

awesome Bethesda staff, got through the first couple of months with the whirlwind of tests, scans, biopsies, medications, and side effects. She could not be held down; Esther returned to Shares mid-May with the same old smile and outstanding work ethic. Even as her chemotherapy treatments continue weekly, Esther is here, day after day, working and joking and showing everyone what courage is.

Conmunity

Patricia started working at Shares, Inc. on July 30th, 2001 after moving to Indiana from Florida. Patricia is always the first one to say "hello" to you each morning and if she doesn't know your name, she will ask you and at that point you are friends. Patricia's favorite job is packaging glow plugs and she is motivated to

do her best by her hopes of earning a star on her paycheck.

Patricia hates to miss work and if she has cough or may be getting sick (which she would never admit to), the first thing she always asks is if she can still go to work the next day. The idea of not being able to be at Shares is potentially the worst news Patricia could hear, followed closely by not being able to ride the bus into or home to Shares.

# YMUR COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT AWARDS

The Open Houses in all three counties were an excellent opportunity to honor those participants and businesses that made a difference in the communities that we serve.

In Shelby County, we had Sam Gambrel receive the Employee of the Year award and Toray Resin Company and McDonald's the Employers of the Year award.

In Hancock County, we had Rebecca Burton receive the Employee of the Year award and Valvoline Express Care the Employer of the Year award.





Toray Resin Company Shelby Co





Doug has a great personality and exhibits enthusiasm for coming to work and being a part of our work force. Doug has the "spirit" of what makes Shares, Inc. such a great place to be. He can be shy but if he has met you a time or two, he is very happy to greet you and treat you as a friend. Doug likes to involve others and will initiate to engage in conversation. He brings great joy to everything and everyone that is part of his environment.

In Rush County, we had Mariah Babb receive the Employee of the Year award and Fiddler's Three Restaurant the Employer of the Year award.





All of the award winners this year were an excellent example of what our program stands for in providing qualified individuals who are dedicated to their jobs and employers that provide the supports and diverse work opportunities in the community.

It is our job to be an advocate to the participant as well as an employment resource to each employer. We are available

to work with individuals to obtain their employment goals as well as meet the staffing needs of the employers by providing them with qualified applicants who have the skills and abilities, as well as the determination to succeed.

If you would like more information on the Community Employment Services program, please contact me at our corporate office at 317-398-8218 or toll free at 1-877-398-8218.



Brian Montgomery,
Director of Employment Services

"I was so glad that everyone showed up to see us." - Jeff G., Rush Co "I was proud of everyone." - Holly B., Hancock Co

"I enjoyed it, loved it, and excited!" - Mary Beth H., Rush Co

"I got an award!" - Patty M., Shelby Co

# YMUR INDUSTRY AWARDS

# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Shares, Inc. recognizes those employees who are always willing to do their best, exhibit a positive attitude, are hard workers, have exemplary work effort, show respect for their peers and supervisors, and are willing to try new jobs when needed.

- A. Howard Hatton, Shelby Co.
- B. Lori Monroe. Shelby Co. Plant 2
- C. Brandon Lvnem. Hancock Co.



## **QUALITY AWARD**

These employees were recognized at the 2013 Open House for the outstanding effort they put into their work, being thorough and careful to do things well, and always showing effort and determination while on a job.

A. Cathy Headlee, Shelby Co.

B. Mike Wine. Rush Co.





C. Nick Coleman, Rush Co.

D. Henry Burris. Rush Co.

## COMPANY/PARTNERSHIP AWARDS



- A. Emerson Climate Technologies
- **B.** Trane
- C. NEW CUSTOMER OF THE YEAR -**World Media Group**



Shares, Inc. thanks those new and existing companies for their continued support and partnership.



# YNUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARDS







Each year, Shares, Inc. recognizes those individuals who have made significant contributions to services and programs for people with disabilities. These individuals have worked "beyond the call of duty." Their efforts

#### SHELBY COUNTY

- A. Carolyn Gore, Shelby County
  Athletic Club
- B. Elaine Haehl
- C. Dorothy Smith, Indiana Fitness Works & Especially Kidz
- D. Don Collins & Holly Forville (Not pictured)

#### **RUSH COUNTY**

E. TRI-KAPPA

F. Shauna Smith accepting for Exhaust Plus.

have made a difference, through their advocacy, to insure that people with disabilities have the opportunity, supports, and access they need to become fully included in society.

#### HANCOCK COUNTY

(Not pictured)
Beth Burkhardt
Eileen Pfeiffer
June Ulery
Debbie Van Briggle
Jerry Bell
Warren Driver
Brian Hatfield
Don and Shirley Collins
HART representative
Phyllis Eberhart







Tim Hauk, Jane Ann Wheatley, Kim Lux, Stefanie Richards (not pictured)

# YMUR LIVING SKILLS AWARDS



# OUTSTANDING ADULT DAILY LIVING SKILLS (ADLS) AWARD

#### A. JoAnn Modesett

JoAnn is always eager to attend class and looks forward to her activities. She is a joy to have in class and often identifies the needs of others and asks the instructors if she can assist her peers. JoAnn attends math and cooking classes. She also goes on one outing per month to work on pedestrian safety skills.

# OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD

#### **B. Judi Leonard**

Volunteering comes naturally for Judi. She gives her all to any situation and is a role model for her peers. When Judi goes to the library and Brandywine Nursing Home to volunteer, they all know Judi by name. She is a hard worker and always asks how she can help. Judi really enjoys volunteering at the local hospital once a year to stuff the bags for the Heartbeat festival.

#### OUTSTANDING MASTERS AWARD

#### C. Jackie Parsons

Jackie has opened up tremendously through the use of sign language which he works on several times a week in class. He has become interested in puzzles and has gone from 100 to 500 piece puzzles, working with others to complete the puzzles to be glued together and hung on our classroom wall!! Jackie works diligently to complete activities, even when they are difficult for him. He is enthusiastic and positive!

# OUTSTANDING DAY PROGRAM AWARD

#### D. Mary Hugill

Mary was chosen as the Day Program award winner because she is always tolerant of new experiences and has a sweet disposition. She seems to enjoy coming to Shares. She will participate with hand over hand assistance and has been with our program for many years.

#### TOP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR THE LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM

#### E. Janet Holden

Janet is a joy to have in class. She is positive, enthusiastic, always happy and loves to come to class. She also loves to do puzzles, working as many as ten 25 piece puzzles in a class period. She also loves to color and make crafts. Janet never seems to have a bad day...which is contagious!

"I got to see my friends and staff and it was fun." Kimani L., Hancock Co

"I was embarrassed, but happy to get my award." - Lori M., Shelby Co

#### SHELBY COUNTY

#### 2013 LIVING SKILLS DAY PROGRAM'S MOST IMPROVED AWARD

#### A. Rachel Laws

Rachel began coming to Shares in 2003 and would only interact with staff. Over the past year, she has begun to open up and participate in group activities with peers, interact with community members when they speak to her, and talk much more. When staff describe her they use words like "happy", "friendly", and "gorgeous smile."



# LIVING SKILLS PARTICIPANT OF THE YEAR

#### **B.** Diann McNeely

Diann started in our program in December 1986 and since that time she has participated in a variety of living skills classes in both the facility and community. She is always excited to come to class and gives her all while she is there. When asked what her favorite living skills activities were she said, "Going to the health food store, looking up Gluten-Free recipes on the computer and going to Dairy Queen for a chocolate sundae!"



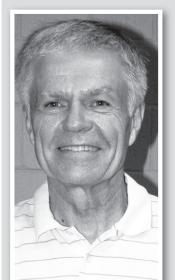
#### **RUSH COUNTY**

#### **LIVING SKILLS AWARD:**

#### Teresa Coop

Teresa was known for her smiles that engaged the community. She was extremely fun to be around and loved to laugh. She loved music and absolutely loved to dance to the beat.





### LETTER FROM YMUR BOARD PRESIDENT

We are well into another year and it seems that spring was a long time in coming, but at last it is here.

I would like to welcome four new Board members - Adam Wilson, Terrie Vail, Cindy Sickbert and Jan Hornaday. We appreciate their willingness to share their knowledge and talent with us. We now have a full Board: five members from each county.

The open houses were a lot of fun; I was able to attend two of the three. There were many awards that were given for various activities, some for attendance and some for service accomplishments and I congratulate all those who received an award.

What is in store for Shares this year? I would like to know for sure, but this I do know - the Company is now in better financial condition than in the past. Everyone must continue to do his or her share to accomplish the purpose on which Shares was founded.

The "tasks and the direction" that we embark upon today will make a huge difference in the outcome of tomorrow. So be alert and deliberate as you go about fulfilling your responsibilities and I am confident that we will continue to be successful.

Have fun on the upcoming Educational Trip.. Sincerely,

David Oakes



#### **MUR MISSION**

"Shares, Inc. provides service and support for people with disabilities to enhance their successful inclusion in the community."

# WUR CURRENT EVENTS

#### **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

> "I got to serve punch to the guests."

- Brenda B., Hancock Co

Fourth of July

Thursday, July 4, 2013 (The agency will be closed)

**BOARD MEETING** 

Monday, July 8, 2013 at 7:30 pm (Shelby County) SELF ADVOCATES PICNIC

Friday, July 19, 2013 10 am - 3 pm Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis

"Nervous about singing, but it was fun and my mom came to see me!"

- Rhonda M., Rush Co

Father's Day

Sunday, June 16, 2013

**Summer Begins** 

Friday, June 21, 2013

"I liked the pictures with the song."

- Brett K., Shelby Co

"25 years at Shares!"

- Kim L, Shelby Co

**CONTACT US: SHELBY COUNTY** 1-877-398-8218 or 317-398-8218 HANCOCK COUNTY 317-462-4824 RUSH COUNTY 765-938-5321

www.sharesinc.org