

# RISE REPORTER

DECEMBER 2016 | VOL. 40, NO. 4



## LOOKING BACK OVER RISE'S 45 YEARS:

Kathleen Schuldt was one of the first four people Rise served when it opened its doors for operation on August 2, 1971. She went on to work for many years at Pentair in Anoka. Pentair and Rise have a working partnership going back to the early 1970s. Today more than 60 people work at Pentair.





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## A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT LYNN NOREN

Greetings and Happy Holidays --

This past year, we've been celebrating 45 years of service to thousands of extraordinary people. What a journey Rise has been on over the decades.

I've been so fortunate to work at Rise since the "early days" when we were a very small organization. Rise team members were filled with passion and emerging ideas about how to assist the people we support in obtaining a meaningful life, primarily through employment training. Today we continue to embody that passion and drive to be innovative, just on a larger scale and with a broader array of employment, housing, and personal support services.

In Rise's 45-year history, we've seen people with disabilities become increasingly active and valued members of the community. For those of us who have been in this field awhile, looking back through all the changes in community-based service delivery has been amazing. People who have disabilities today have opportunities to live, work, and experience community life much more fully than in the earlier years. The wide range of choices available to people is tremendous.

As Rise moves forward, we again find ourselves in a time of rapid policy change that will directly impact the people we are proud to serve. In the coming years, we will do our best to embrace change and seek out innovative solutions to the changing policies. We will also communicate the impact of policy change with the people we support and their families, as well as ask you to partner with us to actively advocate for the service choices that are important to you.

We know that Rise's core mission to "push boundaries and unlock possibilities" will be central to our work as we move forward. As I wrote to you at the beginning of the year, we still do not know what the answers will be, only that it will continue to be an incredible journey!

From all of us at Rise, we wish you a most happy and healthy 2017!



## WHO WE ARE

Rise unlocks potential and opens doors to success for people with disabilities or other challenges through creative solutions and customized support. We envision a progressive, supportive, and collaborative environment that fosters meaningful growth and provides opportunities to live a life filled with purpose.

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## AT RISE

**Tom Kettleon**

Chair, Rise Board of Directors

**Lynn Noren**

President

**Noel McCormick**


Director of Advancement

**Beth DePoint**

Director of Public Relations; Editor

## ON THE COVER

**Kathleen Schuldt was one of the first four people Rise served when it opened its doors for operation on August 2, 1971. She went on to work for many years at Pentair in Anoka. Pentair and Rise have had a mutually beneficial working partnership going back to the early 1970s. Today more than 60 people work throughout Pentair's Anoka plant.**



# It was a spectacular evening!

Festive games, great raffle items, delicious food, honorable awardees, and enthusiastic supporters -- Celebrate Rise had all the makings of a most successful event!

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY of more than 500 sponsors and guests, as well as other event donors, monies raised at our *5th Annual Celebrate Rise Fundraising Gala* topped \$140,000! The event was held October 6 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

These crucial funds will enable Rise to “unlock possibilities” by providing creative solutions and customized support for people as they strive to live a life filled with pride and purpose.

Emceed by Kate Raddatz, news reporter from WCCO-TV, the evening was filled with many special activities. Guests enjoyed fun social hour games, prize drawings, great food, a live auction, and an entertaining awards program.

Volunteer Co-Chairs Angie Franzen and Jenny Poyorena are grateful to the many people who volunteered their time and talent to help plan and carry out the

evening's festivities. It takes many people to make an event like this successful and we appreciate all their good efforts. Rise is also appreciative of the outpouring of generous donations of items and services from area businesses and individuals for the auction, games, and drawings.

As a token of Rise's thanks, guests took home a special 2017 calendar with original artwork from people participating in Rise's Art Speaks program.

To view other photos taken that evening by Brian Tanning, visit Rise's Facebook page: Rise, Incorporated. Find additional photos on the back cover of this *Reporter*.

We hope you will mark your calendar for the *6th Annual Celebrate Rise Fundraising Gala* on Thursday, October 5, 2017. Information regarding sponsorships, volunteer opportunities, and registration will be available this coming spring.



*Emcee Kate Raddatz from WCCO-TV News (left) is here with Rise President Lynn Noren and Auctioneer Andy Imholte from Fladeboe Auctions.*

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## TABLE HOSTS

Alerus  
Conductive Containers Inc.  
Data Recognition Corporation  
HOM Furniture  
Lynn Noren  
Bob and Mary Sue Poirier  
Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A.

## CO-CHAIRS

Angie Franzen & Jenny Poyorena

## WE HONOR THIS YEAR'S RISE'ING STARS



### BRANDIE HARRISON, CENTRAL MINNESOTA WORKS

After originally being hired for a housekeeping position, Brandie was promoted to housekeeping supervisor at a hotel in St. Cloud. Today Brandie is proud to work as the sales coordinator and is thrilled to have “a career instead of just a job.” With support from Rise, Brandie was also able to receive financial assistance to repair her car, qualify for the housing subsidy program which helped her pay her rent each month, and work on her credit so she could save for future goals. Brandie recently purchased her first house!



### MICHAEL HILL, CONNECTIONS

Mike was hired as a guest experience representative at the new U.S. Bank Stadium in downtown Minneapolis. This is Mike’s “dream job” and although he is usually a very chatty person, he says he has no words to express how happy and excited he is! When not working at the new stadium for special events and Minnesota Vikings games, Mike works on clerical and data entry jobs at Rise. He also volunteers at his church and a local nature center.



### A.J. SHERWOOD, COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PROGRAM (CIP) - COON RAPIDS

A.J. Sherwood is the “go-to” guy wherever he is working. He is a detail-oriented perfectionist and his co-workers and supervisors appreciate his positive attitude. A.J. is an effective problem-solver and often offers encouraging support to his co-workers. He has worked on a number of work crews at businesses throughout the Twin Cities as well as at Rise’s production facility in Coon Rapids. A.J. brings fun to the workplace with his infectious sense of humor and great joy.



### STEPHANY TATLEY, MENTAL HEALTH & HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

Stephany has overcome some tremendous challenges in her life and accomplished some amazing goals in the past year. Originally hired to work a part-time, seasonal retail job, Stephany’s hard work and commitment shined through and earlier this year, she was hired to work full-time at Herberger’s at Northtown in Blaine. She and her husband Barry were married in July and are enjoying their new life together.



### KARI WAGNER, DATA ABILITY

Kari loves her job as a data entry clerk and is known for having excellent work ethic, a shining personality, and a great overall attitude. She continually challenges herself to increase her production. Kari has also improved her skills of communicating more with her adaptive device, but relies mostly on eye gazes to communicate. Kari is an accomplished artist and has a website through which she sells her work and donates the proceeds.



## MEET OUR 2016 CHAMPIONS OF THE MISSION



### LISA BAUMAN, SITE SUPERVISOR AT LOGIG PD

Lisa embodies the values and competencies necessary for her job as a site supervisor at Logic PD in Eden Prairie. She is a strong advocate, teacher, support person, and confidante for the people she supports. Lisa's willingness to work collaboratively with Logic managers has helped her team expand into a variety of work areas and try new jobs with great success.



### EBONY JOHNSON, EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT

Ebony empowers people with barriers to reach their highest potential and achieve their employment goals. She works with two different Rise programs, serving transition-aged youth with developmental disabilities as well as ex-offenders. Ebony has built strong professional relationships and effectively collaborates with the individuals she supports, community agencies, and employers.



### SARAH LOVELACE, DATA ABILITY SERVICE TEAM LEADER

Sarah is the consummate team player who never seeks the spotlight and goes out of her way to help her coworkers. Most importantly, she advocates for those she serves and works incredibly hard. Sarah also appreciates the benefits of a good laugh, which endears her to team members and the people Rise serves even more.



### RHONDA MCDUGLE, CIP-COON RAPIDS SERVICE TEAM LEADER

Rhonda is a dedicated professional who maintains an excellent working relationship with Pentair where more than 60 people from Rise work on a daily basis. Rhonda has a positive approach and works closely with Pentair managers to help ensure that Pentair's daily production needs are met and that the people working there reach their personal potential.



### KELLY MONICKEN, CIP-ANOKA SERVICE TEAM LEADER

Every day Kelly demonstrates her dedication to not only the people she serves, but their families as well. She is caring and kind, knowledgeable and professional, and goes above and beyond to ensure that each person is receiving the highest quality, customized employment and community integration services they deserve. Kelly's co-workers find her to be an effective leader and a good person to turn to for additional input and support.

~~ Continued on pages 6-7



### KRISTINA ROCKEY, EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT

Kristina provides a full range of job placement and employment support services for people at the Family Life Mental Health Center in Fridley. Kristina is motivated and passionate about seeing individuals with disabilities be active, contributing members of their communities. She always has a “can do” attitude and does an outstanding job helping the individuals she supports find meaningful work. Kristina truly cares about the people she serves and treats each person with the dignity, compassion, and the respect they deserve.

## HONORING RISE’S VALUED 2016 CO



### BRIDGEVIEW DROP-IN CENTER / LEE CARLSON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Bridgeview offers people a setting that promotes social interaction, psychosocial rehabilitation, and recovery from mental illness. Rise has enjoyed a partnership with them since 2013 through our Individual Placement and Support project. Rise employment consultants work closely with various staff at Bridgeview to provide job placement and employment services to people who are ready to go to work. Rise team members continue to be impressed by the excellence of Bridgeview’s services and their staff’s commitment to meeting the organization’s important mission.



### CUMMINS POWER GENERATION

Rise began its working partnership with Cummins Power Generation in Fridley ten years ago with one person. Today more than 30 people work throughout their expansive plant and administrative offices on a wide range of job duties and responsibilities. Cummins is always open to try Rise workers in any area of their business that might be a good fit and increasingly relies on people to take on more complex job tasks. Not only does Cummins provide great employment opportunities, but they are avid and generous supporters of Rise’s Art Speaks program and have original artwork hanging in three local office buildings. Cummins managers also actively promote working with Rise to other area businesses, vendors, and community partners.



### SETH SCHAAL, COMMUNITY HABILITATION SPECIALIST

Not only is Seth highly regarded as a leader by his team members and supervisors, but the people he serves respond to him enthusiastically. Seth anticipates a need and routinely volunteers with "I'll do it" no matter what the task is -- driving an extra van route, entering consumer production daily for payroll, getting a hoops game going outside, making lunches, taking and picking up recycling at community sites -- the list is endless. He supports the people Rise serves with care and commitment AND has a great sense of humor!

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS OF THE YEAR



### DATA RECOGNITION CORP. (DRC)

Rise has been working at Data Recognition Corporation since January 2015. In that time, close to 60 people from four different Rise day training and habilitation and employment programs have worked at their Brooklyn Center facility doing a wide range of challenging and interesting work in a great production environment. DRC employees are welcoming, supportive, and encouraging; they go out of their way to show their appreciation for the work that Rise people do with them.



### PAMELA HARRIS, ATTORNEY AT LAW

Pam Harris has been providing invaluable pro-bono human resources counsel to Rise for more than 20 years and is especially helpful to our Human Resources Department. Pam is also active in the community and has partnered with other organizations to help support Rise. For instance, she was instrumental in assisting Rise in recruiting AmeriCorps members to serve in a number of programs over the course of several years. Pam's vast experience have made a significant impact to our organization and we appreciate her professional counsel very much.

# Rise has 45 years of great stories to tell!

As Rise's 45th anniversary year comes to a close, we hope you have enjoyed reading about some of the many great people associated with Rise through our *45 Stories for 45 Years* series. Here are just a few of the men and women we have featured --



*#28 - NICK CARLSON juggles two part-time jobs. His co-workers appreciate Nick's good organizational skills, solid work ethic, and motivation to do well. Nick finds his work challenging and fun.*



*#30 - MEE THAO was only 11 years old when her family made the long trek from Laos in 1978. Born deaf, Mee easily learned ASL in school and works at both Rise and McDonald's.*



*#31 - LISA NOWLIN has helped raise thousands of dollars for the Brain Injury Alliance through its annual Walk for Thought. After an accident in 1997, Lisa worked hard to rebuild her life.*



*#34 - STACIE DZIEDZIC works at Cummins Power Generation in Fridley. In her free time, she does a lot of advocacy and leadership activities, including meeting with her legislative representatives at Minnesota's capitol in St. Paul.*



*#39 - LaKEISHA SQUALLS was among the first hired as a cashier when Hy-Vee opened its new store in Brooklyn Park in July. She is proud to be part of this employee-owned company and works hard to help ensure its success.*



*#41 - RUDY REYES works four days a week with the Rise team at Pentair on assembly production jobs, and on Tuesdays, works in their busy cafeteria's dishroom. People appreciate his reliability and flexibility in these two jobs.*

You can read all 45 features on Rise's website at:  
[rise.org/our-story/45-stories/](http://rise.org/our-story/45-stories/)





# The sky's the limit for workers at LSG Sky Chefs

WHEN NATOLI BULGA moved his family almost 8,000 miles from Ethiopia to Minnesota, his hopes were high and his dreams were big. He knew the transition to this new life would be challenging, but Natoli felt his family's future would be brighter in the United States.

Knowing that having a good job was key to the family's survival and assimilation into American culture, Natoli went to Rise's Pathways program in South Minneapolis for career planning and job placement services. In meeting with Employment Counselor Mohamed Daher, Natoli was able to besy determine how he could put his skills to work.

In the past year, Mohamed has assisted more than 30 refugees and immigrants in their job search. More than half of them have found employment at LSG Sky Chefs. Located at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP), it the world's largest airline catering company. Serving all airlines flying in and out of MSP, people work in a wide range of positions, including sanitation, assembling and packaging food trays, and loading food carts onto planes.

LSG Sky Chefs has strict security policies, requiring background checks and fingerprinting of its applicants, but the company has a welcoming and supportive approach to hiring people who have a strong work ethic and are motivated to do well and advance their careers.

"It's a tough labor market right

now," said LSG Sky Chefs Recruiter Jessica Schermerhorn. "I appreciate working with Rise because their placement specialists introduce us to people who are serious about working, have great skills, and have already identified the kind of work they want to do."

Natoli transfers the assembled food carts from LSG Sky Chefs' warehouse and loads them into the planes. "It's a good job," he said with Mohamed translating for him. "I have many friends working there and I hope to work there for a long time."

"Once on the job, people seem to love it here," Jessica added. "Many refer friends and family to work here. We currently have people speaking 16 languages, but communication doesn't seem to be a problem because everyone supports each other. We have the best people in the world helping each other."

LSG Sky Chefs offers an Academy of Learning through which

people can hone their work skills as well as enhance their language skills, learn computer programs and basic math – even work on getting their driver's license. These additional skills all help people advance in their careers at LSG Sky Chefs.

Generally, LSG Sky Chefs employees work a number of shifts around the clock. Recognizing transportation can potentially present a major issue, the company offers a shuttle service to take people from home to work.

"The managers at LSG Sky Chefs are terrific," said Mohamed. "They are welcoming, culturally sensitive, and encouraging to newcomers. They are committed to making sure people are successful on the job."

Natoli works midnight to 10:30 a.m. and takes the Metro Transit Light Rail transit to work from his transitional housing at Mary's Place in downtown Minneapolis. After sleeping during the day, Natoli is busy with his young children (he and his wife welcomed their fifth child in mid-November). To improve his language skills, Natoli takes ESL (English as a Second Language) classes weekly.



*Mohamed Daher (left) assisted Natoli Bulga with his career planning which led to a great job at LSG Sky Chefs.*

# Support Rise with your time, talents, gifts

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL talent you would like to share with Rise?

We have a wide range of volunteer opportunities, internships, and service learning projects open for people who have a passion for assisting others live a life filled with pride and purpose.

Here are just some of the ways you could support Rise through your volunteer service, both individually or as a group:

\* **Art Speaks:** Assist the people we serve creating art to express themselves. Weekly, bi-weekly or monthly opportunities.

\* **Mock and informational interviewers:** Assist job-seekers in honing their interviewing skills and provide valuable feedback to them so they can better prepare for important job interviews. This is an on-call opportunity and based on your availability.

\* **Michael's Closet:** Help us maintain our 'clothing boutique' so the people we serve are dressed for success on their job searches. You will sort clothing donations and assist people in selecting appropriate outfits.



*Community volunteers worked with people served at Rise's Creative Partnerships North on a very special Art for All project!*

\* **Administrative services:** Do you have good organizational skills and love details? Support Rise's development operations. Weekly commitment with flexible hours.

Learn more or sign up to volunteer today at <http://rise.org/give/volunteer-opportunities.html>.

Be sure to ask your employer about how they support you volunteering. Many businesses allow their employees to take time off with pay to volunteer and some will even match or donate to organizations where their employees volunteer.

Your employer may also match charitable gifts or offer convenient

payroll deductions.

We would also appreciate donations such as:

- \* Office furniture
- \* Large vinyl bean bag chairs
- \* Hoyer lift
- \* Business attire, accessories
- \* Office supplies
- \* Household/cleaning supplies
- \* Art supplies - paints, markers
- \* Portfolios/back packs
- \* Kids' birthday, holiday gifts
- \* Puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs
- \* Back-up power supply
- \* Paper shredder
- \* Outdoor patio furniture
- \* Leather or vinyl recliners
- \* YMCA family memberships
- \* Small kitchen appliances
- \* Cooking/kitchen supplies
- \* Blankets, sheets
- \* Restaurant, store gift cards
- \* Personal care items

\*\* For a complete list by Rise location, please visit our website at <http://rise.org/give/give.html>.

If you would like to learn more or have additional questions, please contact Rise's Volunteer Coordinator Zoe Leonard-Monrad: 763-792-2454; email: [zleonard-monrad@rise.org](mailto:zleonard-monrad@rise.org).

## ARE YOU AN AMAZON.COM SHOPPER?

**AmazonSmile** is a simple and automatic way for you to support Rise every time you shop at no cost to you!

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to Rise.

This link will take you directly to the page to link your account to Rise: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0972476>



# Breanne's love for children makes her job as a ride operator at MOA's Nickelodeon Universe a perfect match

by Ian Plitnick, Development Manager

BREANNE MILLER WAS determined to find a job working with kids – one through which she could bring joy to their lives. And what a better job than as a ride operator at Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America!

Breanne was so excited to find her “dream job.” As a ride operator, she is responsible for the safety of the kids, answering questions from parents, and making sure the kids on the ride have a great time.

Each day she goes to work, she feels a sense of pride and accomplishment. “The best part of my job is seeing the smiling faces of the children after they get off the ride,” said Breanne.

In the last five years, Breanne experienced significant issues which affected her employment opportunities.

In spite of these obstacles, Breanne wanted to work and began meeting with a Rise employment counselor through the IPS (Indi-



vidual Placement and Support) project. The IPS project is a collaboration between Rise, Hennepin County Mental Health Center, DEED, and Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation Services. It is designed to provide comprehensive support for people entering the workforce.

Together, Breanne and her employment counselor developed a

career plan, focusing on her skills and vocational interests.

With a renewed spirit and drive, she developed a new resume and enhanced her interview skills to be ready for her job search. When Breanne applied for a job at Nickelodeon Universe in February 2016, she was hired immediately.

“Breanne has made great progress at work and her confidence has grown by leaps and bounds,” said Lori Clauson, a Rise mental health employment consultant who meets with Breanne twice a month to help ensure that all continues to go well on the job.

Nickelodeon managers see so much potential in her that Breanne has now been trained to operate nine additional rides at the amusement park.

“I’m really excited to take on this new responsibility,” said Breanne.

In her free time, Breanne enjoys fishing, walking, and knitting.

## CHECK OUT EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT RISE!

Rise is seeking creative, compassionate people to join our team.

We offer a fun, fast-paced work environment, excellent training opportunities, and the chance to make a difference in people's lives.

Here is Sensory Support Specialist Amanda Jarnagin conversing in American Sign Language with Tara Lund.

Learn more about available positions.



For current job openings, visit Rise's website at [rise.org/jobs](http://rise.org/jobs)



Administrative Offices | 8406 Sunset Road NE | Spring Lake Park, MN 55432-1387

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TWIN CITIES, MN

**Scenes from the 5th Annual Celebrate Rise Fundraising Gala, held October 6 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest -- Thanks to our friends and supporters, it was a fabulous evening!**

**Top row:** 1. Board Chair Tom Kettleson welcomes his mother, Bonnie Kettleson. 2. People really enjoyed the specially designed ocean-themed photo booth. 3. Kate Raddatz, reporter with WCCO-TV New, emceed the evening.  
**Second row:** 4. Generous supporters helped us raise more than \$140,000. 5. The Johnsons were among the more than 500 guests who enjoyed the festivities. 6. The prize wheel was chock-full of great prizes -- and everyone was a winner!



To see more photos from these events, check out Rise's Facebook photo albums at:  
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