

RISE REPORTER

JUNE 2017 | VOL. 41, NO. 2



Melissa Marroquin is part of the hard-working team from the Community Integration Program (CIP) in Coon Rapids which works at Data Recognition Corp. (DRC) in Brooklyn Park during their busiest seasons throughout the year.



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A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT LYNN NOREN

It's hard to believe we are almost half way through 2017! This spring has been a very busy time as we've been working on many important legislative priorities. The 2017 Minnesota State Legislature went into a special session, and ultimately, legislators completed their work and passed bills on to Gov. Mark Dayton. There were many key legislative issues this session that were important to Rise and the people we serve; here are just a few highlights:

* I'd like to take the opportunity to thank several of our local legislators who were very strong advocates for disability services this session. Sen. Jim Abeler (Anoka), who is chair of the Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee, along with Sen. John Hoffman (Coon Rapids), took the lead in getting the Disability Waiver Rate Setting (DWRS) bill passed. DWRS is a complicated funding bill for all Medicaid Waiver Services in Minnesota and we worked closely with leadership at the Minnesota Department of Human Services to negotiate the best outcome possible. This session we made great progress implementing adjustments that will positively impact rates throughout Minnesota.

* The Best Life Alliance bill that would have provided rate increases to all Medicaid providers, unfortunately, was not passed this session. This will mark the third year in a row in which there have been no increases to provider rates, creating very difficult challenges for providers like Rise to increase the wages of our direct support professionals. Rep. Erin Koegel (Spring Lake Park) was a strong advocate to fund a rate increase and we appreciated her passion on this issue. We will have to work again next session to fight for rate increases for Medicaid-funded services.

* Funding was also passed to ensure continuation of previously increased Extended Employment service rates throughout Minnesota. These services are funded through provider contracts with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and are important to Rise and the people we serve. We'd like to thank Rep. Anne Neu (North Branch) who was the author in the House for the Extended Employment Funding bill. Rates for these services were increased as well as additional funding for DEED to move toward meeting the goals of Olmstead and the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Acts.

* Finally, new Medicaid rate methodologies were passed to fund employment supports. These rates, ultimately included in the DWRS bill, will help Rise support people we serve in moving to competitive employment, if they choose.

I hope you enjoy the stories in this *Reporter*. One of them highlights a wonderful man, Brian Walsh, who has been working at his competitive job for 25 years! Brian and I started at Rise about the same time, Brian in the early 1980s. He was a delight to work with and I can easily see how his strengths and solid work ethic have led to a long career at GLS. Each story in this issue is a great reminder of why the work we do is so important – Rise services do open doors to success for the people we are delighted to serve.



WHO WE ARE

Rise unlocks possibilities 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 Kettleson
Chair, Rise Board of Directors

Lynn Noren
President

Noel McCormick
Director of Advancement

Beth DePoint
Director of Public Relations; Editor





*Life is either
a great adventure
or nothing.*

HELEN KELLER

Please mark your calendars

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

5:30 - 8:30 P.M.

MINNEAPOLIS MARRIOTT NORTHWEST

TICKETS GO ON SALE AUGUST 1

*Watch for registration information
on our website: WWW.RISE.ORG*

Save the date! Celebrate Rise!

If you have questions about the gala or wish to inquire
about event sponsorship, please contact Noel McCormick at Rise:
763.783.2832 · nmccormick@rise.org

Jenny finds volunteering at Rise fulfilling, fun

JENNY POYORENA IS an enthusiastic volunteer who is generous with her time and talents. Over the past few years, she has supported Rise in several different ways.

Jenny is the controller for American Converters, Inc. (Amcon) in Fridley which produces custom foam fabricating products for customers nationwide. People from Rise are well-integrated into Amcon's workforce and have worked together for many years on a wide range of jobs.

"A few years ago, I learned more about the work Rise does and met some of the people they serve," Jenny remembers. "I was struck by what a good fit our companies were together. Amcon and Rise's core values align really well -- we both have great people who work very hard to go the extra mile for our customers and produce high quality products. I wanted to get more involved with Rise and do what I could to help."

One of the first projects Jenny volunteered for at Rise a few years ago was to rally her Amcon co-workers to purchase holiday gifts for Rise's annual Giving Tree. Presents donated helped make the holidays even more fun for families served in Rise's mental health and housing support programs.

"Amcon employees were really generous in donating gifts or money to shop for people who were in need," said Jenny. "It felt good that we could reach out and help the community."

In 2016 Jenny was asked to co-chair Rise's annual *Celebrate Rise Fundraising Gala* with Angie



Jenny (third from left) has, among several other special projects, coordinated holiday gift giving from Amcon to people served in Rise's mental health and housing support programs.

Franzen, another great Rise volunteer. She said she was honored and excited to take on this important role.

"As a controller, I don't often get to be creative in my work so this was a really fun opportunity for me," Jenny added. "I loved all that went into the planning and working with other people to make the event so successful. It was rewarding for me personally as I knew the money we raised was going to a really good purpose and would help many people."

Jenny drew her Amcon co-workers into the event by asking some of the company's designers and machine operators to produce a one-of-a-kind photo booth to go with the oceanic theme. It was big hit -- people were lined up before dinner to have their photos taken in the beautiful water scene with lots of fun props -- all custom made from colorful foam by Amcon employees.

"Amcon has wonderful employees," Jenny noted. "Everyone in-

involved in that special project enjoyed contributing their time and talent. I was very proud of them and can't thank them enough."

With planning already underway for this year's gala, Jenny came up with the theme from a quote by Helen Keller: "*Life is either an adventure or nothing.*" All of us at Rise are excited to see how Jenny, Angie, and the rest of the volunteer planning committee incorporate this theme into the event which will be held October 5.

In addition to the Giving Tree and gala projects, Jenny is also volunteering her professional skills by conducting mock job interviews with people we serve.

"I hope to give people some constructive feedback and support to help them improve their interviewing skills and land the job they want."

"I really enjoy working with Rise in these ways," Jenny said. "It feels good to give back. If you can help, you should."



'Everyone has something to give' says Volunteer Katie Dennis

EVERY OTHER MONDAY at Rise's Creative Partnerships South facility in Bloomington is extra special for the men and women who participate in Art Speaks because Volunteer Katie Dennis is on hand to assist them with their work.

Katie is a senior financial analyst for Allianz Life in Golden Valley, responsible for project management and strategic financial planning. Helping people with fun and creative art projects for an hour over lunchtime is quite a change from her normal Monday workday.

"I'm not really an artist, but I can be artistic for fun," Katie said, protected by a plastic apron as she assisted Steve, Larry, Greg (shown here), and others with their spatter-paint project. "What I really love the most is working one-on-one with the people at Partnerships and getting to know each person individually."

Katie had been looking for a volunteer position that was something new and fun that she could do on a regular, but flexible basis -- and "didn't involve sitting in front of a computer!" Her online searches led her to Rise's website. She and a friend first volunteered to help at a Rise holiday party in December 2016; Katie really enjoyed that experience and decided to check out other opportunities with Rise. The Art Speaks program piqued her interest.

"Katie is invaluable to us," said Rise's Art Therapist Stacy Gross.

"She's formed meaningful connections with people and everyone looks forward to her coming. I appreciate her help - and the artists really enjoy having her here."

"I didn't know what to expect at first," Katie admitted. "But working with the Art Speaks program has turned out to be even more fun than I could have imagined. I have a good time with everyone and Stacy is so creative."

Allianz supports its employees' volunteer activities and offers them eight hours paid time off a year to volunteer. Katie has done several other volunteer projects with her Allianz co-workers such as raking leaves for seniors in the fall and working with students at

the Junior Achievement Finance Park. She uses her lunch break time to work with Rise.

"Overall, volunteering with Art Speaks has exceeded my expectations," said Katie. "The people and the projects have been amazing. I really look forward to my Monday sessions with them."

In addition, Katie plans to put her professional business skills to work by conducting mock interviews for people Rise serves to help prepare them for the real thing.

"Katie brings such wonderful enthusiasm and energy to everything she does," said Volunteer Coordinator Zoe Leonard-Monrad. "We appreciate her time and her talents."

"Volunteering with Rise and building a significant connection to the people have given me a new perspective," Katie said. "You can always learn something new from each experience. Since volunteering with Rise, I've been much more into seeking out other opportunities where I can volunteer or participate or donate to causes I care about."

"Everyone has something to give," she added. "You can make an impact, not only on the lives of others, but on your own. A community is built upon the work people do there. If you want a good community, do good work, get involved!"

Katie assists Greg with his spatter-paint project.



Iftu Hassen is working hard at new job, honing skills, making friends

AT JUST 20 YEARS OLD, Iftu Hassen traveled alone from her home in Ethiopia to Minneapolis to start a new life in the United States. She was both excited for the many possibilities America held for her, but sad to leave her mother behind.

Iftu's father had settled in the U.S. a few years ago with his second family and filed family reunification papers so Iftu could join him, her stepmother, and seven half-siblings. The process took about two years and Iftu arrived in Minnesota in December 2016.

Through Arrive Ministries, Iftu can receive up to six months of Refugee Cash Assistance financial support, but is required to find a job in that timeframe. Arrive Ministries is an outreach of Transform

Minnesota as well as an affiliate office of World Relief which provides comprehensive resettlement services and compassionate care for displaced refugees and immigrants coming to Minnesota.

Iftu was referred to Rise for employment assistance. Placement Specialist Mohamed Daher, himself a refugee who immigrated to the U.S. in January 2013 from East Africa, assisted Iftu in her initial job search. He helped her apply for positions, practice her interviewing skills, and accompanied Iftu to job interviews.

She was excited to be hired part-time at the United Parcel Services (UPS) distribution center in Eagan working an evening shift in March. Iftu scans and sorts pack-

ages before they are loaded onto local delivery trucks.

Iftu said through a translator that she is proud to be helping support her family and hopes to work a full-time schedule soon.

She easily admits finding a job is not something she could have done on her own and is grateful to Mohamed for his support. Because Iftu doesn't drive and there were no public bus routes to get her from South Minneapolis to Eagan, Mohamed networked with others at UPS to include her in a carpool.

Mohamed will continue to follow up with Iftu for three months in her new job to help ensure that things continue to go well for her.

"I am happy to assist Iftu and other refugees who come here find a good job and acclimate to life in the Twin Cities," said Mohamed. "After all, a bundle of belongings isn't the only thing a refugee brings to this new country...Albert Einstein was refugee!"

Many of the people working at UPS are East African refugees; since Iftu speaks Somali, Oromo, and Amharic, plus some English, she is making many friends at work.

"I am doing my best at work and also help others out," Iftu said. "I am gaining new skills and they like my work."

In her free time, Iftu helps take care of her family. She takes English and computer classes at the Minneapolis Adult Education South Campus three hours a day, Monday through Friday.



Rise Placement Specialist Mohamed Daher was instrumental in helping Iftu find a great job at UPS.



Cory puts his great people skills to work at Coborn's

by Ian Plitnick, Development Manager

CORY FRANK'S CAREER exploration started seven years ago when he attended a vocational skills training program at Ridgewater College in Willmar for people with disabilities. The program helped Cory hone his job skills to secure a competitive job.

During the program, he had the opportunity to experience different kinds of work, including vacuuming cars at an oil change shop and stocking shelves in the cold area at a local supermarket.

After he completed the training program, he washed dishes at a local restaurant and collected shopping carts at a retail store. Cory's variety of jobs helped him define what he really enjoyed doing.

"I really like working with people and being a part of the action," Cory said.

He began working with Sue Featherly, an employment specialist at Rise. Sue worked meticulously with Cory on each of his job applications. She also accompanied Cory on all his interviews. Sue's support helped Cory find the right type of job where he could let his people skills shine.

He was hired by Coborn's as a customer service associate in September of 2016. Cory greets every customer with a smile and talks with each one while bagging their groceries.

His manager Michelle says, "Cory is a great asset to Coborn's and we really enjoy having him on our team."

Each time, Cory goes to work,



Cory is a valued member of the team at Coborn's and enjoys "being a part of the action."

he feels a sense of purpose and accomplishment. He is proud of his success and his family is equally proud. He said he plans to be a loyal Coborn's employee for many years to come. "I really want to stay at Coborn's."

When Cory is not working, he loves playing hockey, golfing, fishing, and snowmobiling. In the winter, he laces up his ice skates and jumps on to the ice rink to join his team in the Minnesota Special Hockey League.

Once the snow melts and the temperature warms up, Cory takes

out his golf clubs and plays on the Special Olympics Golf Team. The one thing Cory says he especially enjoys is mentoring younger athletes and encouraging them even when things get difficult.

Volunteering is also a big part of Cory's life. He packs food boxes with other members of his group home for Feed My Starving Children. At a nursing home, he visits with residents and helps run the movie nights. Recently, Cory and his girlfriend have been making tie blankets to give to various organizations.



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

PUSHING BOUNDARIES. UNLOCKING POSSIBILITIES.

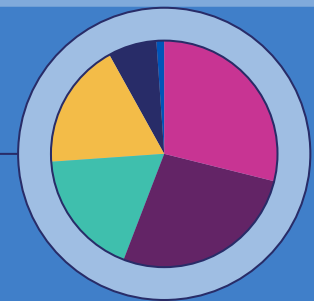
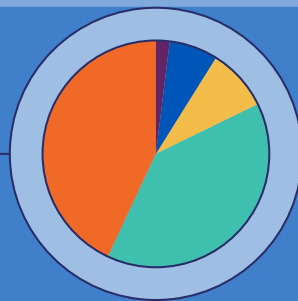
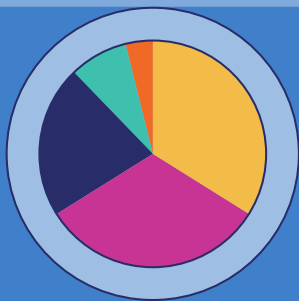
2,461 PERSONS SERVED BY RISE IN 2016

These numbers do not include the 1,000+ individuals and families who received short-term or one-time emergency referral services through our mental health and homeless outreach programs.

SERVED BY SERVICE LINE

DISABILITY TYPE

AGE RANGE



- Vocational & Supported Employment - 840
- Day Training & Habilitation - 793
- Welfare To Work - 531

- Housing & Independent Living - 204
- Adult Day - 93

- Developmental - 43%
- Mental Health - 39%
- Sensory (Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, Blind) - 9%

- Brain Injury - 7%
- Other - 2%

- 18-29 - 29%
- 30-39 - 27%
- 40-49 - 18%
- 50-59 - 18%
- 60-69 - 7%
- 70+ - 1%

SATISFACTION

The information below is reflective of survey responses from 671 persons served and 643 stakeholders.

96%

POSITIVE RESPONSE FOR PERSONS SERVED

97%

POSITIVE RESPONSE FOR STAKEHOLDERS

“ IT HAS BEEN LIFE CHANGING TO HAVE DIGNITY INSTEAD OF SHAME WHILE COMPLETING AND FOLLOWING THROUGH LIFE GOALS.

[MY RISE TEAM MEMBERS] CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT OF TRUST AND CARING THAT MADE IT VERY EASY FOR ME TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF ADAPTING TO MY MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND BEING ABLE TO MOVE BEYOND SEVERAL OF THEM.

RISE IS A VALUED PARTNER IN THE HEALTH REFORM ARENA. RISE TEAM MEMBERS HAVE STEPPED UP TO MEET EVERY CHALLENGE THEY HAVE BEEN FACED WITH.

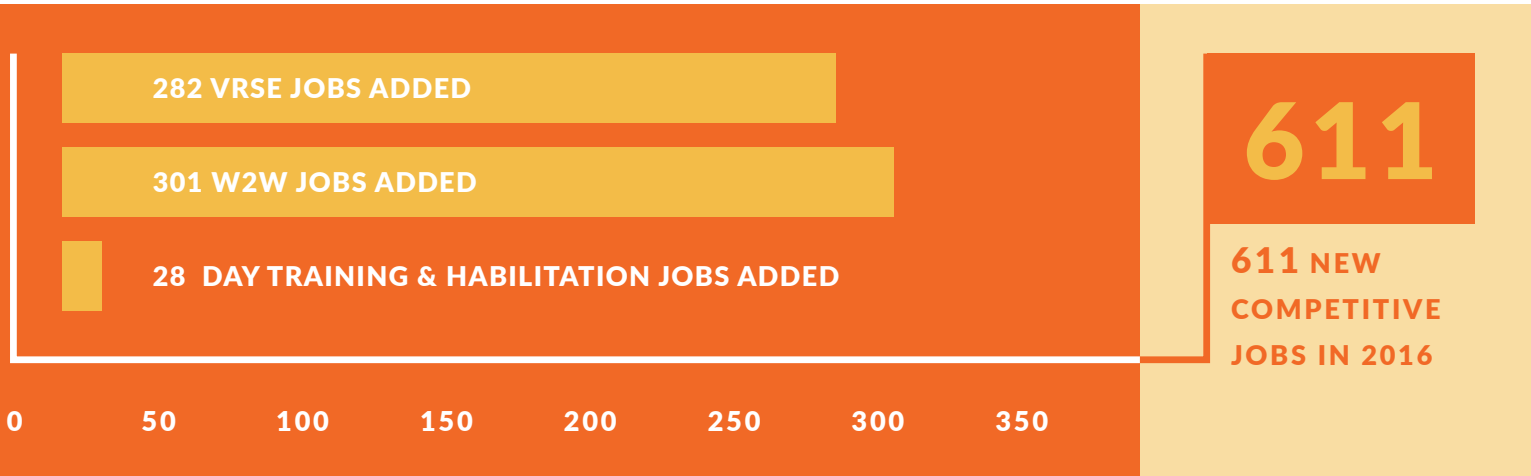
“ RISE HAS HELPED ME WHEN I WAS AT MY LOWEST POINT IN LIFE. THEY ARE ALL SUCH GREAT PEOPLE. ”

RISE'S MISSION

RISE UNLOCKS POTENTIAL AND OPENS DOORS TO SUCCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND OTHER CHALLENGES THROUGH CREATIVE SOLUTIONS AND CUSTOMIZED SUPPORT.

EMPLOYMENT

The information below reflects the employment outcomes for persons served in our Day Training and Habilitation (DTH), Vocational Rehabilitation/Supported Employment (VRSE), and Welfare to Work (W2W) service lines.



35

35 persons served transitioned from center-based or community (contracted) employment to competitive in 2016

2.1 MILLION

RISE'S TRANSPORTATION FLEET DROVE 2.1 MILLION MILES TO BRING PEOPLE TO WORK.

ENRICHMENT

Includes common outcomes expected by persons served in our Day Training & Habilitation and Adult Day programs who are receiving personal enrichment and community integration services.

IN MUSIC THERAPY

IN ART SPEAKS

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

VOLUNTEERING

164

204

184

95



“RISE GIVES ME A FEELING OF PRIDE IN THE WORK I DO.
RISE GIVES ME A PURPOSE.”

LYNN NOREN
President

TIM DICKIE
Vice President of Programs & Services

TOM HAGLUND
Chief Financial Officer

ERIN BRAATEN
Director of Human Resources

DAN HAGBERG
Director of IT Services

NOEL MCCORMICK
Director of Advancement

JUDY ANDERSEN
Adult Day Program Coordinator

MARY ANDERSON
DTH Director

MELINDA DANNLEY
DTH Director

JENNIFER GAJEWSKI
Director of Quality Assurance

MIKE HARPER
Director of Programs & Services – Central Minnesota

KEITH HOVLAND
Manager of CBTE & Supported Employment Teams

DAN MEYERS
Manager of Vocational Evaluation & Transition Services

ROBERT REEDY
Director of Vocational Services – Metro Area

2017 RISE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Shelia Minske, Minneapolis

Andrea Murphy, Champlin

Rachael Smith, Brooklyn Center

Jack Grunewald, Emeritus Director, Naples, Florida

Larry Pietrzak, Emeritus Director, Brooklyn Park

INCOME

PROGRAM SERVICE FEES	\$14,011,000
PRODUCTION AND LABOR SALES TO PUBLIC.....	\$7,167,000
GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$2,362,000
TRANSPORTATION.....	\$2,022,000
PROGRAM CONTRACTS.....	\$990,000
DONATIONS / SPECIAL EVENTS / UNITED WAY	\$390,000
OTHER	\$490,000
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$27,432,000

EXPENSES

DAY TRAINING & HABILITATION PROGRAMS.....	\$11,090,000
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.....	\$3,846,000
HOUSING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS	\$977,000
ADULT DAY PROGRAMS.....	\$792,000
WELFARE TO WORK PROGRAMS.....	\$504,000
PRODUCTION	\$4,303,000
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	\$2,637,000
TRANSPORTATION.....	\$2,369,000
FUNDRAISING	\$305,000
TOTAL.....	\$26,823,000

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	\$11,504,000
LAND, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT	\$14,551,000
LESS DEPRECIATION	\$7,851,000
NET LAND, BUILDINGS, AND EQUIPMENT.....	\$6,700,000
OTHER ASSETS	\$678,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$18,882,000

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES.....	\$2,742,000
LONG-TERM DEBT.....	\$0
OTHER LIABILITIES	\$190,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$2,932,000

NET ASSETS

NET ASSETS, UNRESTRICTED	\$15,674,000
NET ASSETS, TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED.....	\$149,000
NET ASSETS, PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	\$127,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS.....	\$15,950,000



Brian celebrates his silver anniversary at GLS

IN TODAY'S WORKFORCE, it's rare to find someone who reaches his or her 25th anniversary with one company. But when you love your work, are really good at it, and have great co-workers, the years on the job seem to fly by.

On February 18, Brian Walsh celebrated his 25th year working at GLS Companies, a full-service marketing and printing company in Brooklyn Park. Over the years, Brian has seen a lot of changes as the company grew and expanded, but one thing always remained the same: GLS is a great place to work!

Brian is a member with GLS's maintenance team and does a wide range of work, including collecting and separating materials throughout their massive plants for recycling and then loading it into trailers; he also collects and disposes of the plant's waste materials. His many tasks keep him on the move from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and if he runs out of his own work, he offers help to his co-workers.

"I am proud of the work I do



Brian has worked with Shipping Coordinator James Blake for 24 years. "We seemed to hit it off right away," Jim remembers.



Brian does a wide range of work at GLS where he has worked competitively for 25 years.

and I like that I'm so busy," said Brian, who is 57. "The people here are the best part of my job."

"Brian is our 'goodwill ambassador,'" said Nancy Kunkel, GLS's director of Human Resources. "He knows everyone here and does a great job connecting with people. Brian even spoke at a co-worker's funeral a few years ago; people were really moved by his comments."

Brian came to Rise for vocational employment services following his graduation from Cavanaugh School. Always a reliable and conscientious worker, he excelled working in Rise's busy warehouse as well as some jobs in area businesses.

With customized career planning and job placement services from Rise, Brian landed a job at GLS. Right from the beginning, he knew it was a company where he would be happy working for a long time.

Rise provided follow-up services for a few years, but since his GLS co-workers naturally supported him so well, Rise eventually faded its services.

ed its services.

After a year on the job, Brian began working with James Blake, GLS's new shipping coordinator.

"We seemed to hit it off right away," James remembers, "even though Brian thought he could teach me the ropes and boss me around because he had been here MUCH longer! He's got a fun sense of humor; we enjoy teasing and playing practical jokes on each other. Unfortunately for me, April Fool's Day is Brian's favorite holiday!"

Brian lives in a group home in Brooklyn Center and takes Metro Mobility to work each day. He is a huge Minnesota Vikings and Twins fan. Over the years, James and his daughter have taken Brian to several Twins games as well as other GLS-sponsored events.

In his free time, Brian also enjoys swimming, playing softball, going to camp, and hanging out with his many friends and family.

"Most days, I think I never want to retire," said Brian. "But I suppose someday I will."

We'd like you to meet --

Check out rise.org/our-story/success-stories for their and others' complete stories



Erik Lindman -

ERIK LINDMAN IS A MAN ON THE MOVE at Creative Partnerships North in Crystal where he has received day training and habilitation services for the past six years.

Erik, who is 41, is an industrious guy and loves to help with whatever he can -- always doing so with a big smile. A mainstay of the team that collects office paper at Cummins Power Generation in Fridley each week, Erik and his co-workers bring it back for others to help with its shredding and recycling. Erik also enjoys vacuuming and helps keep the front offices and meeting spaces clean and tidy.

Creative Partnerships North is a busy place and in addition to work, Erik enjoys the many on-site activities. On weekends, Erik and his mom enjoy exploring the North Loop area, cooking, and attending concerts and plays. Read more about Erik online.

Chantilly Lynch -

WHEN CHANTILLY LYNCH GRADUATED from Minneapolis South High School in 1995, she was not exactly sure what she wanted to do next. To discover her job interests, Chantilly had the opportunity to train and work in community businesses through her school district's Transition Plus program. Chantilly said she "really enjoyed exploring many different clerical positions."

For the next several years, Chantilly worked at three different locations in downtown Minneapolis. She came to Rise's Creative Partnerships South in Bloomington in 2015 to work in its Data Ability department.

"Chantilly always comes to work with a positive attitude," said Melinda Dannley, Partnerships South's director. "Her attendance is extremely good. She's cooperative with whatever she's asked to do and is well-liked by her co-workers." Co-worker Michael Sack wrote Chantilly's story; read the rest online.



Lane Mooney -

AT THE END OF HIS WORK DAY AT RISE, nothing makes Lane Mooney happier than to tinker in his make-shift work shop in a corner area of Mark and Sarah Gustafson's barn in Champlin. There, whatever has wires, lights, or electrical components is of particular interest to Lane.

As a young student, Lane received some vocational training when he attended the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault where his interest in all things electrical was likely "sparked."

Lane, who is 52, has worked through Rise's Day Training and Habilitation Sensory Support Unit for close to 20 years and currently works on a wide range of subcontracts in Rise's Spring Lake Park production facility. He has also worked in area businesses, including HOM Furniture in Coon Rapids and the Grassroots Co-op in Anoka. Read more about Lane online.



Rise earns high marks in CARF accreditation survey

BASED ON AN INTENSIVE three-day survey conducted by four CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) surveyors, Rise was awarded its eleventh three-year certification, the highest level of accreditation.

Surveyors thoroughly examined and evaluated all aspects of the agency, including Rise's management system, employment programs and services, production procedures, funding sources, and administrative organization to assess its compliance with CARF's international standards of performance.

Surveyors also interviewed Rise board members, team members, parents and guardians, people we serve, employers, community vol-

unteers, and business associates regarding Rise's services.

Of the 1,200 program service standards the CARF surveyors assessed, they had only two recommendations to make.

In their final report, surveyors complimented Rise for its outstanding leadership, as well as its governance policies, strategic planning, code of ethical conduct, and ability to manage funds and maintain a stable financial position.

CARF noted that Rise's "services are clearly person-centered and focused on the needs and desires of each individual served. Rise is known for being innovative and flexible in its approach to service provision."



"CARF accreditation gives the people we serve confidence that an independent monitoring system is in place which is specifically concerned about their best interests," said Rise President Lynn Noren.

"The community can be assured of Rise's accountability and high-level performance," she added. "We are proud of the services we offer and congratulate our hard-working team members for their efforts in carrying out Rise's important mission so professionally and effectively."

CHECK OUT EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT RISE!



Rise is all about people and potential. We embrace a culture of learning through extensive training and career development opportunities. Rise offers competitive salaries and benefit package, a fun, fast-paced work environment, and the chance to make a real difference in people's lives. Here is Site Supervisor Lisa Bauman with Sarah Todd at Logic Technologies in Eden Prairie.

For current job openings, visit Rise's website at rise.org/jobs

DRC says, 'Send us A.J. back to work!'

"AFTER WORKING WITH A Rise work team, I was only gone six days from DRC when they called to see if I wanted to come back to work there on my own full-time to run the carton-erecting machine!" said A.J. Sherwood proudly. "I jumped at the chance to return – why wouldn't I?!"

Over the past two years, more than 60 people served in four Rise employment programs have worked on a temporary basis at Data Recognition Corp. (DRC) in Brooklyn Park. This location is one

of 12 DRC administrative and processing facilities throughout the U.S.

During its busiest times of the year, DRC contracts with Rise to augment its professional staff to help ship out standardized tests to school districts in 38 states. Months later, Rise work teams return to DRC to help process the completed tests for scanning and scoring.

"A.J. is an enthusiastic, energetic, hard-working guy who does a great job for us," said Kurt

Langer, director of materials. "We can't afford to let a packing line go idle, so it's important that A.J. keeps everyone supplied with boxes."

"I'm always on it – I make more than 3,000 boxes each day," A.J. added. "I like working on my own and getting the work done. I have great co-workers, so when I know I've made plenty of boxes, I see what else people want me to do like cleaning or scanning. Everyone here is friendly and the pay is good!"

"Petr Gnatyk [material processing lead] is like a mentor for me and helped me learn how to keep this machine running – he taught me all the secrets!"

A.J., a 2016 Rise'ing Star, was recognized last year for being a "detail-oriented perfectionist who has a positive attitude and is an effective problem-solver" on the job.

In his free time, A.J. enjoys spending time with his girlfriend and participating in Special Olympics. He bowls, runs track, and plays softball, basketball, and flag football.

A.J. makes more than 3,000 boxes a day to keep his co-workers on the line supplied.



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and join us

Monday, July 17

5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

for Rise's 3rd Annual

'Friend-Raiser'

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BAUHAUS
BREW LABS

at the Bauhaus Brew Labs

1315 Tyler Street in Northeast Minneapolis

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Go to: tappingintopossibilities2017.eventbrite.com

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Scenes from Rise's 2nd Annual Celebrate Talent held April 25 at Fridley High School Auditorium

Top row: **1.** DaLeasha Maki sang *A Thousand Years*. **2.** Emcee Timothy McCormick with John Orton who sang and played Tahitian rap. **3.** Bob Grzybowski sang *16 Tons*. **Second row:** **4.** President Lynn Noren congratulated all the performers and thanked the many event volunteers. **5.** Jenny Eickhoff interpreted the song, *True Colors*, in American Sign Language (ASL).



To see more photos from special events, check out Rise's Facebook photo albums at: facebook.com/Rise.Incorporated/photos

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