

RISE REPORTER

DECEMBER 2018 | VOL. 42, NO. 4



With quality at the forefront of everything they do, this team from Rise works in tandem with rms Surgical employees in Anoka on medical instruments and devices. Standing from left are Elena Lorentz, Linda Hollman, and DSP Terrie Folkestad. Sitting are Karin Anderson and Jenny Johnson. Read more about their important work on page 9.



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A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT LYNN NOREN

As we near the end of this busy and historic year for Rise, one word comes to mind: *GRATEFUL!* This year has been full of challenges and excitement for us. We are grateful for the many accomplishments the people we serve have achieved as well as the successful connections we have forged with and continue to prosper from our many important community and business partners.

The *Celebrate Rise Gala*, held on October 22, was a highlight of the year for all of us at Rise. This year's event was our best ever in terms of the funds raised for the organization. Those attending joined in the excitement of celebrating people's good work. That collective pride and energy is something that cannot be measured -- but it is certainly what makes the evening so special. We are grateful for all the support from so many families, friends, business associates, and community partners.

We are also excited to be nearing the final steps toward full merger with ESR. On January 1, 2019, ESR will officially become part of Rise! We have been carrying out an intense work-plan for most of 2018 and feel confident that Rise and ESR will indeed be "better together." Combined, Rise will serve more than 3,500 people next year with a team of nearly 500 professionals. We are grateful for the opportunity to expand Rise's services into Washington County and western Wisconsin.

Every day at Rise, I get to work with people who make our mission of *unlocking potential and opening doors to success* come alive. This issue has some great stories about them; I hope they inspire you. I personally feel grateful to be part of such a thriving organization. Thank you for your continued support; we look forward to a continued partnership in 2019!



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
Vice President of Advancement

Beth DePoint
Director of Public Relations; Editor





'We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.'

~ Maya Angelou ~

Oh, what a night!

More than 450 Rise team members, people we support, community partners, family, friends, and supporters attended the 7th Annual *Celebrate Rise Fundraising Gala* held October 22 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park. It was a festive evening of great food, fun and games, special honor awards, and much, much more!

All proceeds raised from the fund-a-need ask went to Rise's Advancing Lives Fund which supports people we serve with one-time gifts up to \$500 to finance items needed for employment and independence which are not covered by other sources. Requests may include tools for a new job, textbooks for school, rental security deposit, wheelchair ramp, etc. Additional funds raised went to Rise's general operations.

Generous and enthusiastic guests donated to our Advancing Lives Fund.



We were most honored to have Beth Wozniak, CEO of nVent, address this poignant theme of transition and growth in her opening remarks to our guests.

Rise appreciates the support from our premier sponsor, nVent, as well as our Gold, Silver, and Bronze Sponsors listed to the right.

We were proud to honor the 2018 *Rise'ing Stars*, the *Champion of the Mission*, our *Community Partners*, and *Making a Difference* honorees. Please read more about them on the following pages.

Photos from this year's event are included on the back cover as well as posted on Rise's Facebook page: Rise, Incorporated.

Thanks to everyone who attended, supported, volunteered, donated, and sponsored our 2018 *Celebrate Rise Fundraising Gala!* We hope you had a great time!

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WE HONOR THIS YEAR'S RISE'ING STARS



ALEX BLAISDELL

Alex Blaisdell has been with Rise since July 2000 and has worked with teams at several community businesses. When a Rise site supervisor was starting up a new work crew at Aggressive Industries in Spring Lake Park, she knew that one of the three team members she needed to get the contract off to a great start was Alex. She knew she could rely on Alex's wide range of skills and reliability to help meet Aggressive's expectations of high quality workmanship. Alex is always eager to learn new tasks and loves to work on whatever project Aggressive managers ask him to do. He works side by side with Aggressive employees and enjoys making new friends at work.



LEEANNE BROWN

LeeAnne Brown loves her job as a teacher's aide at the Midtown YWCA's Children's Center in Minneapolis where she helps care for ten babies, ages birth to 16 months old. LeeAnne enjoys "connecting with the 'kiddos' in wonderful ways" and also says that she works with, as she calls them, 'the best people on the planet!' LeeAnne set high goals for herself and appreciates the support she has received from Rise. She wants people to know that it's never too late to start over with your life; you just need to surrender.



DARRYL DACK

Darryl Dack has battled many challenges over the years, but with community supports, he has demonstrated an amazing resilience and determination to make a good life for himself. Darryl works at Burger King where he is respected and valued for his hard work. Feeling strongly about giving back to his community, Darryl is involved in many different volunteer projects. He uses his experience and knowledge of mental health issues to help others connect to local supports and get through their struggles by working with the mental health advisory councils in Mora and Hinckley. Darryl never gives up and is a great example to others that possibilities are waiting just around the corner if you are open to them.



NICOLE MARTINSON

As one of the hard-working team members at Pentair's production facility in New Brighton, Nikki gives it her best efforts every day to meet production and quality requirements. Recently, Nikki figured out a different way to get a nozzle assembly job done other than what was designated in Pentair's *Standard Work Operations* manual. A new two-page *Work Instruction* sheet was written up and officially changed in the operations manual. Nikki's team of four workers went from assembling 750 units to more than 1,000 each day. For her endeavors, Nikki received an *Innovation and Adaptability Win Right* card that was posted on a bulletin board for all to see.



EXTRAORDINARY PERSERVANCE & ACHIEVEMENTS



DAVID SCHWARTZ

David Schwartz is a valued member of the janitorial and maintenance team at the Dalles House Restaurant and Lounge in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, where he has worked for the past four years. David enjoys the wide range of job duties, including keeping the lounge, restaurant, bathrooms, and kitchen clean, setting up for special receptions and private dining parties, and tending to the plants and flowers in the courtyard and patio areas. And with his licensed background in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning work, Owner Sonja Fry also relies on David for some light maintenance and fix-it work. David's co-workers appreciate his flexibility, reliability, and gentle sense of humor. A quiet man by nature, David says, "It's really good for me to have fun people to work with. They are all excellent."

SALUTING OUR 2018 CHAMPION OF THE MISSION



SARAH GUSTAFSON

Sarah Gustafson worked for many years in the retail industry before deciding she wanted to make a complete career change. She came to work at Rise in December 2016 as an employment consultant working primarily with people who had never worked competitively before, but who were eager to pursue a new career path.

With her unfailing optimism and dogged determination, it didn't take long for Sarah to demonstrate what a professional she was. People found her to be encouraging, smart, and caring about the people whom she serves.

Sarah says, "The best part of my job is assisting people pursue their goal of community employment and supporting them when they find a job. The journey of getting to know each person and seeing all the possibilities for them is awesome. Being the beneficiary of their patience and witnessing their dedication to their goals is inspiring."

WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE THANKS TO:

- * Amcon employees for their design and construction of gala decor
- * Art Speaks artists who created the gift notecards and butterflies for the table centerpieces
 - * Balloons Galore & More, Coon Rapids
 - * Fast Horse, Minneapolis
 - * Nancy Lyons, Emcee
 - * Midwest Vending, Burnsville
 - * Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
- AND
- * Many generous individual and corporate donors of items for our social hour games, live auction, and door prize drawings

VALUED COMMUNITY PARTNERS



SONYA FRY, DALLES HOUSE RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

Sonya and her managers promote an excellent work environment at this iconic restaurant and lounge in St. Croix Falls, Wis. When people are interested in food service careers, Sonya conducts informational interviews, offers work evaluations, and interviews them for open job positions. She illuminates a person's skill set while reinforcing their value and ensures they feel like they are an important part of her team. In 2016, Sonya joined Rise's Individual Placement Support Steering Committee to help Rise develop and shape the delivery of support services. Her perspective as a community employer, as well as Sonya's passionate advocacy for people who have disabilities and challenges, continue to be invaluable to Rise and the people we support.



GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Global Health Ministries is committed to improving the lives of the poor in developing countries around the world through health care services and education. With the help of volunteers, the donations they receive of hospital and medical equipment are cleaned, tested, and then shipped to Lutheran health care systems overseas. Two years ago, they began offering people from Rise vocational evaluations in the areas of data entry and computer work. Scores of people served in several Rise day training and habilitation programs also have the opportunity to do meaningful volunteer projects at one of Global's three area locations or at a Rise program facility.



HARVEST HILLS BEVERAGE COMPANY

Rise's working partnership with Harvest Hills began back in 2004 with a small work team and has grown exponentially over the years. Currently, more than 30 people from Rise work in teams or side-by-side with other Harvest Hills employees throughout their expansive facility in Elk River. Moving like a synchronized machine, work teams assemble, wrap, and prepare for distribution more than 65 pallets of six-packs of juice pouches a day to stores across the country. Harvest Hills managers are always willing to give people opportunities to work in other areas of the plant's wide range of operations.



HENNEPIN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Rise has partnered with the Hennepin County Mental Health Center in Minneapolis since 2005 in many different and exciting ways. Their top-notch clinical staff members provide effective mental health care to many of the people whom Rise serves in our employment and job placement programs. Over the years, they also have joined with Rise to be part of various research and mental health treatment studies conducted by the U.S. Social Security Administration. We appreciate all they do to assist Rise in supporting people as they work to help transform their lives.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE HONOREES



LAUREN KOZLAK

With a keen eye for fashion, Lauren Kozlak enjoys helping others dress comfortably and look good. She volunteers at Rise, primarily working in our Michael's Closet as well as helping out with other special projects when needed. Michael's Closet has gently used and new donated business clothing and accessories available at no cost for people served by Rise who may need a nice outfit for a job interview or new job. Lauren meets with people to find out a little about their background, where they are going, and how they want to dress for it. She is enthusiastic about finding the right outfit to meet people's individual tastes and needs -- and help boost their self-confidence by looking good.



LIAM MORAN

Liam Moran is an associate client advisor with J.P. Morgan Private Bank in downtown Minneapolis and volunteers with Rise about twice a month. He meets one-on-one and with groups, helping people understand daily financial issues and concerns to help them make better decisions. He assists people with setting up daily budgets and tracking how they spend their hard-earned money so they can make good financial decisions. Liam has even taken people to Target to learn more about smart shopping. Liam says that at J.P. Morgan, financial professionals focus on developing stronger communities through financial health. He feels like he is making a contribution, not only to the people at Rise with whom he meets, but the community as a whole.

THANKS TO GALA VOLUNTEERS!

Zita Calderon
Shane Chambers
Andy Harry
Annie Heggernes
Russ Japs
Angela Mannila
Chris Poppe
Robert Reedy
Juanita Traufler

Lori Carlson
Cummins Team
Lynn Haslup
Bev Herleenratt
Randy Kopesky
Timothy McCormick
Lisa Poppe
Ben Richmond
Teri West

Susan Carter
Paul Fredendall
Sara Hasslen
Bonnie Japs
Regina Kopesky
Dan Meyers
Jenny Poyorena
Roxanne Stickney

Exemplary managers honored with Excellence in Leadership awards

NOMINATED BY FELLOW team members, three Rise managers were recently honored with *Excellence in Leadership* awards at an end-of-year managers' retreat in November.

The following is, in part, what nominators had to say about them:

Sheila Ritter, program manager for the Minnesota Employment Center (MEC) for People Who are Deaf/Deafblind/Hard of Hearing, is noted for her positive attitude and supporting her team members to foster an energized, productive work environment. She takes a creative approach to MEC's mission and holds people to a high standard, with a person-centered approach in every aspect of her work.

In addition to traveling to MEC's five outstate offices, Sheila uses a variety of communication tools and techniques to ensure everyone is included in team meetings and other trainings. She is highly respected by her team, the community we serve, our partners, and funders for her tireless and effective leadership.



Kathy Frank, program manager at Rise Spring Lake Park, inspires her team through innovative and creative ideas that push and challenge direct support professionals to excel in their service delivery. Kathy is always trying to find best practices for her team to follow and sets the example.

Kathy is the first person on the production floor, whether it be helping get a job done before a deadline or problem-solving with her team on how best to deal with challenging situations.

Kathy works closely with the industrial production team and collaborates with all Rise departments to ensure that production deadlines and quality standards are met. She has also helped develop naturally supported work sites with community partners and has been instrumental in successfully matching persons served with jobs in which they will excel.

Maeta Burns-Penn, manager for Rise's mental health employment programs in Central Minnesota, has built a strong team of employment consultants by rec-

ognizing each person's strengths, skills, and interests and then matching them to the people we support, thus ensuring the best possible professional service.

Maeta empowers others and has exceptional motivational skills for Rise team members; who, in turn, model those for the people they support. She is innovative and has exceptional problem-solving skills

Maeta collaborates with our community partners in a respectful and professional manner and gets them engaged in Rise's mission. Currently, Maeta co-chairs the East Central Minnesota Employer Resource committee, and through her leadership, she collaborates with employers and builds strong, trusting partnerships.



Other Rise program managers considered for the award this year include: Anne Mornes, Mental Health Employment; Crystal Ray, Mental Health Employment; Crystal Woolcott, Day Training and Habilitation services; Danielle Oestreicher, Employment Exploration Services; Lisa Heffner, Adult Day Programs; and Rhonda McDougale, Day Training and Habilitation Services.



Rise's ever-expanding partnership with Cretex companies continues to offer interesting, exciting work opportunities

WITHIN THE 110,000-square-foot facility in Anoka, rms Surgical employees manufacture and assemble state-of-the-art orthopedic medical devices that are implanted in patients throughout the United States and across Europe. A leader in surgical instruments and sterilization delivery systems, rms Surgical is part of the Cretex family of medical companies, a privately owned enterprise with a proud 100-year history.

Rise has partnered with Cretex Companies since 2001 and in October 2016, started a work team at rms Surgical. Under the supervision of Rise Direct Support Professional Terrie Folkestad, and working in concert with rms's professional team of employees, four women from Rise work on upward of 75 different medical products.

Terrie collaborates with rms managers to determine which projects the team will work on. They perform a wide range of assembly, quality control, and packaging tasks, with efficiency and quality at the forefront of everything they do.

"Oftentimes, rms managers will stop by our work area to explain just how the products we're working on are used by medical and surgical professionals," said Terrie. "It's always very interesting and I think it gives us an appreciation for how important the quality of our work really is."

The women say they it's fun and rewarding to see some of the products they work on at rms like catheter pushers, brain surgery



Karin Anderson and Jenny Johnson work together with careful attention to detail and quality, knowing how critical rms Surgical products are to medical teams and patients who use them.

drills, and clavical bone-breakers in surgical scenes on TV medical shows such as *Grey's Anatomy* and *The Good Doctor*.

Karin Anderson, who has had a knee replacement, added: "We have to do a good job on these tools because they are used to help people who have surgeries like mine."

The work team agrees that they have all learned many new job skills at rms, but even more importantly, they feel they are valued members of the entire operation.

"At the end of the month, someone always stops by to thank us for helping them meet their production schedules and priorities for shipping," Terrie noted.

"Everyone here is fantastic," said Linda Hollman. "They appreciate what we do and give us compliments on our work. Quality is always the main thing we think about."

"The Rise team has been a great addition to our team and has allowed us to shift resources to other aspects of the operation,"

said Shane Hybben, operations manager. "When talking to the Rise team, they make me smile and laugh. They are fantastic and I truly enjoy working with them."

rms Surgical was recognized as a Rise *Community Partner of the Year* in 2017 for their collaborative working relationship and the many ways their company supports Rise's mission and people we serve.

rms managers have promoted our employment and labor services to other Cretex companies such as rsm Machining Corp. in Coon Rapids and Meier Tool & Engineering in Anoka, as well as other area businesses. These referrals have resulted in great employment opportunities for many people.

HR Specialist Amie Lindenfesler was one of a group of rsm employees who attended the *Celebrate Rise Fundraising Gala* again this year. "It was such a wonderful and heartwarming event to attend and a great way to support the men and women served by Rise."

Nathaniel enjoys big job at small brewery in Hudson

IT WAS A BUSY, FUN night before at the Hop and Barrel Brewing Co., located in the heart of Hudson, Wisconsin. Bright and early, Nathaniel Johnson is hard at work getting the taproom cleaned up and ready to go for today's guests. Co-Owners Justin Terbeest and Brian Priefer appreciate his solid work ethic and attention to detail.

Nathaniel works Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the brewery, and Tuesdays at Rise's New Richmond production facility.

Nathaniel enjoys his work at this "small brewery with big plans for craft beer." After graduating from Hudson High School in 2007, Nathaniel worked on a wide range of assembly and packaging contracts. When he felt ready to work at a job in the community, Employment Consultant Patty Thurk assisted Nathaniel in putting together a career plan.

The Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) granted him a paid six-week work

trial at a local Caribou Coffee which helped Nathaniel not only further develop his work skills, but more importantly, decide if working in a community business was right for him. At the end of six weeks, he knew he was ready to find a good job!

Patty and Nathaniel concentrated their job search in Hudson and were excited when Justin and Brian offered him a job at the brewery just two weeks after it opened at the end of 2017.

Kim Ersland, a direct support professional, provides some additional job coaching on Wednesdays and Fridays. "She helps keep me on track," said Nathaniel, who takes great pride in his work and exudes a positive attitude that his co-workers appreciate.

"Nathaniel has a great work ethic and we love having him here," said Brian. "He is an important member of our team. One time, we had a surprise health inspection and were told that our place is cleaner than the cleanest restaurants he had ever seen. We have Nathaniel to thank for that."

Nathaniel lives in a twin group home in Hudson with a roommate. In his free time, he enjoys pursuing his deep interest in travel by collecting maps and atlases.

"I also have a world fact book so I can learn more about different cultures and places in the world," Nathaniel added. "My grandmother is Asian and I think I get my adventuresome spirit from her.



Co-Owners Brian Priefer and Justin Terbeest appreciate Nathaniel's good work

I would really like to travel and I especially want to go to China, Japan, North and South Korea, and Mongolia." Nathaniel is saving up to have a 23andMe DNA test done to find out his exact heritage.

A faith-filled young man, Nathaniel is active in his church, Emmanuel Lutheran in Hudson, where he volunteers cleaning in his free time. He also participates in a Bible study and enjoys going out for lunch after Sunday services.

Standing tall and proud at 6'-something-inches, it's no surprise that Nathaniel plays basketball with the Lumberjacks Special Olympics team in Stillwater.

Nathaniel thrives in his work at Hop and Barrel, and says he is grateful to have friendly, supportive co-workers. Having good people to work with is at the top of his list of reasons for liking his job; a close second is the one free beer he gets at the end of his shift on Fridays. With about 16 specialty brews on tap, Nathaniel's favorite changes from time to time. This month, he's liking Raspberry Lactose Panda!





Rise's Pathways for Refugees job placement program honored with state award for service excellence

THE MINNESOTA Department of Human Services (DHS) recently kicked off the new fiscal year with a conference and awards ceremony at the Shoreview Community Center. Employment Consultant Mohamed Daher from Rise's Pathways for Refugees program was proud to accept the state's 2018 *Outstanding Refugee Program Excellence Award* on behalf of his work in assisting newcomers find meaningful employment.

"It was quite an honor," said Mohamed who himself had lived in a refugee camp before immigrating to the U.S. with his family in January 2013. "I know what refugees are going through and how hard it is. I am happy to help them."

Mohamed exceeded his goal from DHS by supporting 31 people with career planning, job search, and follow-up support services for 90 days.

People he assisted were hired into full-time jobs in assembly, fulfillment, maintenance, personal care attendance, and production positions with great local companies such as Amazon, Marsden Services, Air Serv Facilities Services, and Turk, Inc. Their average hourly wage was \$12.75.

The federally funded Resettlement Programs Office (RPO) within the Minnesota Department of Human Services supports the effective resettlement of refugees in Minnesota by providing the resources and stable foundation they need to rebuild their lives, achieve



their highest potential, and become self-sufficient. By using their skills and energy, refugees can connect to their new communities and help Minnesota thrive.

The RPO contracts with agencies like Rise to help ensure that people with refugee status are successful as they rebuild their lives here in Minnesota.

DHS auditors thoroughly examine case

files, documentation, and financial reports annually to determine if programs are operating efficiently and producing results.

"We may not have the biggest program in the state, but DHS found we had the best," said Mohamed proudly.

Many of the Rise team members who work at our South Minneapolis office are refugees themselves and clearly understand the issues which challenge their successful assimilation into the American culture.

In addition to employment services, Rise team members also help identify other community resources which can assist refugees with other critical issues such as English as a Second Language, cultural awareness, transportation, health care, and child care.

"We needed Mohamed's assistance and very much appreciate his support, advice, and help so we can achieve our dreams," Pierre Gatera, who came with his family from Burundi in Africa. He and his wife Riziki both found good jobs last year with his assistance.

Mohamed is happy to report that he recently passed his tests and personal interview for U.S. citizenship and is awaiting a date to become an American citizen.



Generous co-workers surprise Jaron with a new set of Fat Bike wheels

MINNESOTA IS well-known for its extremes in seasonal climates – hot and humid in the summer and C-O-L-D in the winter. But neither end of the weather spectrum keeps Jaron Garland from riding his bike to Werner Electric’s distribution center in Cottage Grove where he does both maintenance work and strips copper wire.

It can take up to an hour to ride the 4.3-mile trip into work because Jaron’s got an uphill route. Returning home at the end of his work day, he has an easier 20-minute downhill run which he appreciates.

“My legs are in great shape!” Jaron said with a laugh.



With recently added tire studs on his Fat Bike, Jaron is ready for the Minnesota ice and cold he will likely encounter on his rides to and from work at Werner Electric’s distribution center in Cottage Grove.

Jaron was at the Minnesota State Fair a few years ago with his uncle where they visited a Fat Bike vendor’s booth.

“I liked the looks of it, and because I don’t have a car, I thought it would be great for getting around. So I saved my money to buy one.”

At close to \$2,000, Jaron’s Trek Farley Fat Bike was a gem. He had it for two years before it was stolen outside a convenience store when he stopped to buy a snack. It was devastating.

Jaron went back to riding the bus while he worked hard to save for another bike. His employment consultant, Sean Hamilton, helped Jaron check with the police and local bike shops, as well as monitored online selling sites to see if his stolen bike showed up, but to no avail.

After saving up for about six weeks, Jaron was almost ready to purchase another bike when one Friday afternoon, his warehouse and wire team co-workers presented him with a new Fat Bike of the exact same model! They had quietly taken up a collection among themselves; Werner senior managers topped off their generous donations to help reach the purchase price goal.

“Jaron is a team member who demonstrates a lot of the Werner core values,” said Distribution Center



Manager Mark Edmonds. “He works with integrity and collaboration, and is always striving to deliver excellence. Some of the team members he works closest with felt he was someone who deserved some better luck after his ‘pride-and-joy’ was stolen. They wanted to help Jaron continue to succeed, which is why it was so easy to sell the idea of a crowdfunding exercise.”

Stunned, overwhelmed, and grateful for his co-workers’ kindness and generosity, Jaron could not describe how much he appreciated their gift.

Jaron recently added studs to his tires to help him maneuver safely on the ice that is bound to come with a Minnesota winter as well as warming mitts on his handlebars for his hands. “I also dress in layers,” he said as he pointed out his massive pile of riding gear.

With six locations in Minnesota and western Wisconsin, Werner Electric offers high-quality electrical products, solutions, and services to business partners in the industrial automation, construction and energy segments.



Jeremy's art featured at Minneapolis American Indian Center

JEREMY POMANI IS ONE of two featured artists whose 19 original art will be on display through February 8 at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. His work appears with another local artist, Tamara Aupaumut. A special reception was held November 16.

Jeremy took an art class in high school and “fell in love” with painting. He remembers that after completing his first piece, his art teacher took one look at it and proclaimed, “I love it!”

Jeremy was hooked.

In the past 20 years, Jeremy has painted hundreds of abstract pieces in acrylics. Most of his inspiration comes from his travels and family adventures.

“I imagine where I want to be and then I paint it,” Jeremy said. “I want to express my feelings and



memories of different people and places.”

Among his favorite memories to paint are of the beautiful evening sunsets in Hawaii where his

family of eight has gone annually since the 1980s. “It’s like our second home. Every night we go up on the roof to watch the sun set with lots of other people.”

Jeremy also enjoys painting his memories of the snow-covered mountains and ever-changing sky in Colorado. Family reunions in Texas at his grandparents’ big home are also favorite memories Jeremy captures in his artwork.

In addition to his own artwork pieces, Jeremy enjoys Rise’s Art Speaks program and working with Art Therapist Stacy Gross on a wide range of innovative and creative art projects.

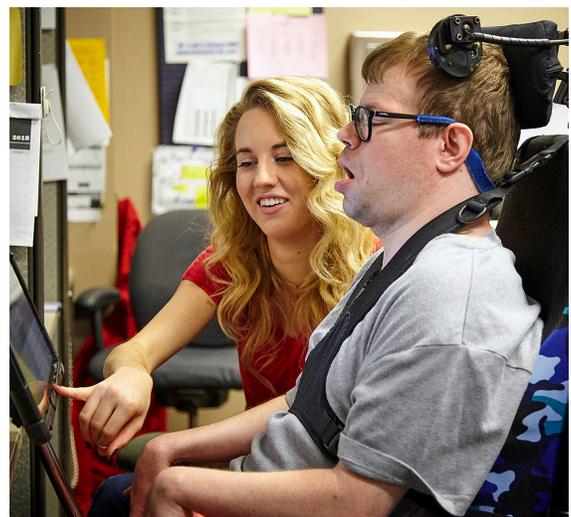
Jeremy, 38, is of Navajo and Chippewa descent. He lives in South Minneapolis with his foster family and works as a data entry clerk at Rise Bloomington.

INTERESTED IN AN EXCITING CAREER AT RISE? FIND OUT MORE AT [RISE.ORG/JOBS](https://rise.org/jobs)

Rise is all about people and potential.

We want exceptional professionals on our team who will help make a difference in people’s lives -- like Jenna Morrill, a direct support professional who works with data entry clerks at Rise Crystal.

Meet other Rise team members and find out how they spend their work day and what they enjoy most about their career at rise.org/team-member-spotlights



Community-integrated locations enhance Rise's Adult Day Programs services and activity opportunities

FILLING AN EVER-GROWING need in the community for day services for people who no longer wish to work due to their disability or their age, Rise offers five Adult Day Programs in the Twin Cities.

People, ages 18 through retirement, benefit from and enjoy participating in day activities, creating friendships, and developing new opportunities for personal growth.

The Adult Day Programs offer a wide range of leisure, physical, and learning activities, Monday through Friday, in five integrated community locations:

* **Emma B. Howe Northtown Family YMCA** in Coon Rapids. Serves people with intellectual disabilities; open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

* **Fridley Community Center:** Serves people with brain injuries



Team members and those served in Rise's ADP program at the Fridley Community Center have been welcomed and integrated into the center's activities, including senior stretch classes, potlucks, volunteering in the kids' day care center and more. Recently Director Stephen Keillor had special t-shirts made for all of his staff and included Rise direct support professionals as well. They were proud to see "Rise" included in the Wordle on the shirt! From left are Colleen Olson, Habie Jalloh, Jayna Allhouse, Stephen Keillor, Lisa Heffner, and James Jones.

and physical disabilities; open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

* **Maplewood YMCA / Community Center:** Serves people with brain injuries, physical and intellectual disabilities; open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

* **Mounds View YMCA / Community Center:** Serves people with intellectual disabilities; open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

* **New Brighton Community Center:** Serves people with intellectual disabilities; open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Together with the person's support team, Rise team members develop customized support plans for every person which are designed to meet their specific needs and interests.

Adult Day Program activities include:

- * Music therapy
- * Art therapy
- * Cooking and nutrition
- * YMCA group classes & events
- * Fitness and exercise activities
- * Swimming
- * Volunteer community service projects
- * Picnics and outdoor activities
- * Social activities such as potlucks, discussion groups
- * Community activities / special events like fairs, festivals and markets
- * Learning activities, reading and discussion groups
- * Medication administration

For more information or to make a referral, please contact Director Judy Andersen at 763-567-0626; email: jandersen@rise.org.



Jennifer Sanders enjoys her work-out at the New Brighton Community Center with Rise DSP Rachael West.



Cummins enlists Ruan and Bobcat to help meet area holiday dinner needs

By Bethany Ablan, Rise volunteer & recruitment coordinator

FOR MOST AMERICANS, the holidays are a time to enjoy spending time with family and friends, reflecting on the past year, and dining on great food!

But when the average Thanksgiving meal costs \$48.90 per family, it can cause financial stress to many of the people Rise serves.

Enter our fantastic business partners!

Cummins Power Generation has generously provided meals to families in our mental health programs for the past five years.

“We enjoy doing this as it brings us joy over the holidays, as well,” said Gayle Gruber from Cummins.

But with a record number of requested Thanksgiving meal kits this year, Cummins employees were concerned they would not be able to fill the entire need. With a creative and innovative spirit, they teamed up with staff from two of

their business associates, Ruan Trucking and the Bobcat Company.

On November 12, Ruan held a fundraising BBQ to raise money. More than 150 people attended the event which featured a “Pie in the Face” contest for which people signed up to throw a pie in the face of supervisors at Ruan and Bobcat.

With these specially raised funds, they were able to meet the need and then some. Through the generosity of their employees, the group raised enough money to

create nearly 500 meal kits which were distributed to people Rise supports as well as food shelves across the Twin Cities area. In total, 130 families from Rise’s mental health programs benefitted from their generosity in time for a Thanksgiving feast.

“All of us at Rise are so grateful for the fantastic partnerships we have with our business partners,” said President Lynn Noren. “These Thanksgiving meal kits bring so much joy and comfort to the people we support.”

Here at Rise, we have a lot to be thankful for this holiday season -- at the top of our list are our great business partners who support our mission and the people we serve.



From left: Elden Bojarski, Cummins; Brice Hogan, Cummins; Todd Peterson, Ruan; Gayle Gruber, Cummins; Britney Severson, Cummins; and Mike Jorgenson, Bobcat

YOU CAN SUPPORT RISE SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS

Your gift to Rise is an investment in people. Please consider these other ways you can support Rise:

- * *Smile.Amazon.com*: Sign up online to have a percentage of your purchases donated to Rise -- simple and automatic
- * *Planned giving* through a bequest, will, trust, life insurance policy, retirement account, or stocks and assets
- * *Workplace giving* through the United Way and/or employer match
- * *Volunteer*, individually or as a group, in a wide range of activities and projects
- * *Give to the Max Day*: Online giving at GiveMN.org in mid-November each year

For more information about these and other ways to support Rise, please contact Samantha Schoen at 763-792-2450; sschoen@rise.org.



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Scenes from the 7th Annual Celebrate Rise Fundraising Gala, held October 22 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest -- Thanks to our friends and supporters, it was a fabulous evening!

- Top row:** **1.** Rise President Lynn Noren and Board Chair Tom Kettleson express their appreciation to nearly 500 guests. **2.** Chester Tollefson, who started Rise in 1971, was recognized by guests. **3.** Dan Mattila was the winning bidder on a hunting trip to New Zealand. **Second row:** **4.** Former executive director of ESR, Ed Boeve, was recognized. **5.** Guests enjoyed many fun games prior to the dinner celebration, including our new customized Plinko board. **6.** Beth Wozniak, CEO of nVent, spoke eloquently on transformation. *Photos by Brian Tanning*



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Send mailing changes to: Samantha Schoen | 763.792.2450 | sschoen@rise.org