

RISE REPORTER

SUMMER 2023 | VOL. 47, NO. 02



photo: Julia Ludovici

COVER PHOTO:

Teddy Harrison is assisted by Rise direct support professional Amanda Johnson during an adaptive softball event, which celebrated spring at Rise. *More information on page 3.*

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring is a time for growth and change, and we have been working hard on new initiatives and community partnerships that will be complete just in time for summer.

First, we could not be more excited about significant updates to our Anoka Site, which has been mostly unchanged for more than 20 years. We were fortunate to receive Anoka County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to remodel and refresh the building over the past few months and it is finally complete! I invite you to come visit the program to see the changes at our open house on July 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. These new improvements will positively impact services for decades.

And I have another exciting development to share about our Day and Life Enrichment programs. Later this summer, we are opening a new location at the Lenox Community Center in St. Louis Park, Minn. This new site will offer people we serve many opportunities to partner with other services and activities already operating within the community center. It will also allow us to expand Hennepin County services to work toward our ultimate goal of decreasing waiting lists for our programs.

And finally, what are your plans for August 6? I hope to see you all as we celebrate these significant changes and congratulate our 2023 Rise'ing stars at our Celebrate Rise Summer Picnic in Blaine, Minn. I hope you can join us!

There is more information in this issue, but also make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and subscribe to updates on our website as we regularly share updates about fun events and activities in our programs all over Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Have a wonderful summer!

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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REPORTER STAFF

Lynn Noren
President & CEO

Noel McCormick
Vice President of Advancement

Kelly Bartnick
Communications and Volunteer Manager; Editor

SUMMER CELEBRATION

Rise

SUMMER CELEBRATION PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 • BLAINE, MN

GAMES! MUSIC! FOOD!

Celebrate Rise with the people we serve, families, and our team members! There will be plenty of fun in the park, including games, food, and music by DJ John Thorp from Our Dance Place!

Sunday, August 6 • 3-6 p.m.

AQUATORE PARK
9191 Lincoln Street NE, Blaine, MN 55434

This event is free to attend; donations to Rise's programs will be requested. RSVP encouraged not required — RSVP with first and last names and contact email to info@rise.org or 763-786-8334 by 7/21.

Thank you to our sponsors:

B&B Brown & Brown

AmCon | Bix Produce
Dan's Complete Automotive Care
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Summer 2023 1

A HEART FOR HEALTHCARE

After some time out of the workforce, Pearl Peterson finds her place in a new career.



courtesy photo

PEARL PETERSON has always had a passion for helping people. After working many years as a home health aide, in 2012, she needed to stop working to ease her mental health.

Pearl thought it would be impossible to find work after nearly a decade of unemployment and because she is a senior citizen. That's what brought her to Rise in 2021. She connected with us at the Bridgeview Drop-in Center to find work in a medical or dental office, building on her previous home healthcare career and an 11-year job as a Walmart cashier.

Pearl and her Employment Consultant worked together to apply and take the necessary steps to join the Anoka County Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), eventually con-

necting her with a job at Unity Hospital in Fridley, Minn.

"The encouragement from the employment consultants and seeing this project come through for me. I started a new life and am working on myself. It means a lot. I never believed I could be working again. I am somebody again," said Pearl. "Rise is the reason I believe in myself. They believed in me, and that made me believe in myself. They are my angels," she said.

Pearl says her favorite part of the workday is her satisfaction when people have what they need. That's when she knows she's done an excellent job. She also recently completed a computer skills course to help advance her career as a medical or dental office receptionist, proving that motivated workers can grow and improve,

regardless of age.

"Keep hiring seniors. Seniors need understanding. They have worked a lot, and some of the things they have done might be okay now, but they can learn new skills, and it's exciting to learn and do new things," she said. "We wouldn't have gotten here without doing many new things."

And she believes that's so important for employers to understand when hiring older workers and workers with disabilities.

People can still work, even if they have a disability. We can still do things! Everybody should try to do something that gives them satisfaction in their lives, whether volunteering, working, or just going out in the community. It's something!" she said. ▼

VOLUNTEER CORNER

ADAPTIVE SOFTBALL »

Several of our program sites came together for a friendly game of adaptive softball last month!

A big thank you goes out to our corporate volunteers from Cummins (*top photo*) who joined us for the fun!



photo: Julia Ludovici

PHOTOS: (Top left) Cummins volunteers helped us create a memorable summer experience.

PHOTOS: (Middle left) Sonia Gutierrez-Garcia from our Cottage Grove program brings some extra concentration to her at-bat. (Middle right) Logan Suebert and Jill Tatge also from our Cottage Grove program cheer on the teams with Rise team member Tahlia Solberg.



photo: Julia Ludovici

ART THERAPY »

Special thanks to a group of volunteers from the Springbrook YMCA. They joined us this spring to put in some valuable time assisting our Art Therapy program (*bottom photo*). We rely on volunteers to cut and prepare items for summer art projects. ▼



WISCONSIN WORKS

Rise team has integral role in supplying critical medications to pharmacies throughout the upper Midwest.



Our Cardinal Health Crew in Hudson, Wis. pictured with Operations Director Heath Ehrnreiter (in yellow, center) and Operations Supervisor Nicola Lencz (in yellow, right).

A MASSIVE WAREHOUSE filled with health and beauty aids is located in a business park in Hudson, Wis. The humming of forklifts, including their signature backup beeping sounds can be heard as people pull items from the shelves to fill orders, placing some of them on a conveyor belt throughout the building. These items will eventually go to midwestern hospitals and clinics.

The Hudson facility is one piece in Cardinal Health's critical healthcare distribution hub, ensuring six Plains states are stocked with the supplies they need in the fight against all sorts of medical conditions. And when you enter this building buzzing with activity, the first people you see are from Rise.

"They're vital to our team. We treat them as our employees," said Operations Manager Heath Ehrnreiter. "They know our team members by name, and we know them by name. It's super awesome."

Rise supports a six-person employment team at Cardinal Health. The team reconditions returned cooling bags, placing them back inside a cooler to recharge before being used again to send refrigerated medications to the Dakotas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and parts of Michigan. It takes more than 2,000 totes daily to keep up with demand.

It's a fast-paced job that Nathaniel Johnson enjoys. "I have Autism, and it keeps me busy. It's a really good thing," he said, explaining his work. "I grab

the crates from here and bring them there. They can't be stacked more than eight high."

"[The team] are an important part of what we do here. If they weren't doing the work, we would struggle to get refrigerated products to our customers because we wouldn't have these types of things ready," Ehrnreiter said. He found Rise (then named ESR) while looking for a solution to relieve a strained warehouse team that was trying to clear totes while also doing their other job duties. That's when Rise came to mind. "I thought to myself, 'They can do the work. Let's do it!' We made contacts in the following week, and about three weeks later, the Rise team was in," he said.

Six years later, Rise is right at home as a valued part of the Cardinal Health team. They know all the staff, participate in work activities, and are depended upon for their diligent work. And the warehouse workers are more efficient too.

"It's really rewarding having the team here. They're always so upbeat. They know everyone by name!" said Operations Supervisor Nicola Lencz. "It's grueling work. When they're not here, we need to pull at least five people from operations."

Rise is onsite Monday through Friday, but individual shifts vary between two and five days per week. Jenny Wood is among those who come every day. She enjoys being part of a team with her friends and likes the income which allows her to travel to exciting new places.

"I love working here. It's fun!" she said. And she gave a big thumbs up when asked if she plans to continue working at Cardinal Health.

The financial freedom that comes with work is also important to Brandon Foley, who splits his time between Cardinal Health and another worksite in New Richmond, Wis.

"I like seeing my friends every day. And I like seeing my favorite staff. I like them," Foley said. "And it pays good money. I hope to continue coming here."

He just bought a new Xbox with his hard-earned cash. And because he's passionate about music, he is also excited about plans to buy tickets to concerts of

some of his favorite bands throughout the spring and summer.

Work opportunities are changing for Rise at Cardinal Health. With a warehouse restructure on the horizon, the crew will work in a much larger refrigeration room filled with even more activity. That will mean new training and additional policies, with input from our team as they work through the changes.

"It's about a partnership on how we can support our business and other business as well, and most importantly, the folks that are here," Ehrnreiter said. "The work is always there. The work will never go away." ▼



Photos: Jenny Wood (top) and Nathaniel Johnson (bottom) at work during their shifts.

AWARD-WINNING TEAM »

Our Vocational Evaluation Program was named a recipient of the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR) 2023 Choice Award!

The program supports people with disabilities who are unsure of their job goals or career direction. People who complete the program leave with a better understanding of what they can and want to do in their careers.



« CARWASH FUNDRAISER

Our friends at Tommy's Carwash in Mounds View partnered with us in May for a spring fundraiser. Wash sales proceeds and a lunchtime hot dog stand raised more than \$1000. We appreciate our generous community partners who support Rise in many different ways!



TOWER DAYS »

We kicked off summer at the annual Spring Lake Park Tower Days parade, held June 8. This was our first time joining our hometown community festival. We enjoyed seeing so many people supported by Rise!

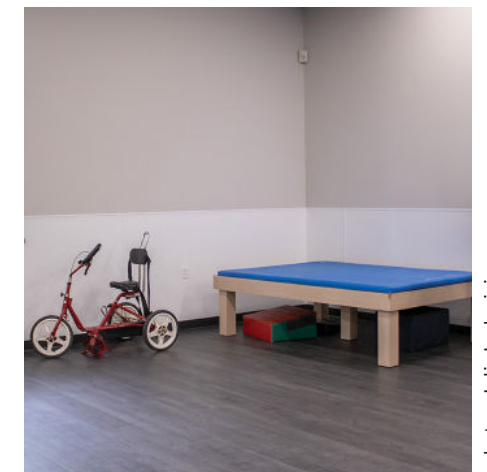
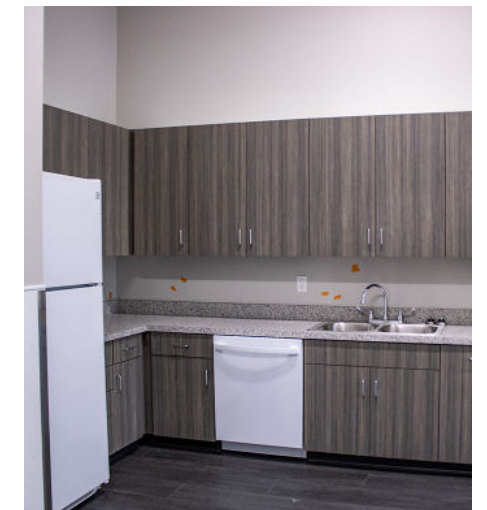
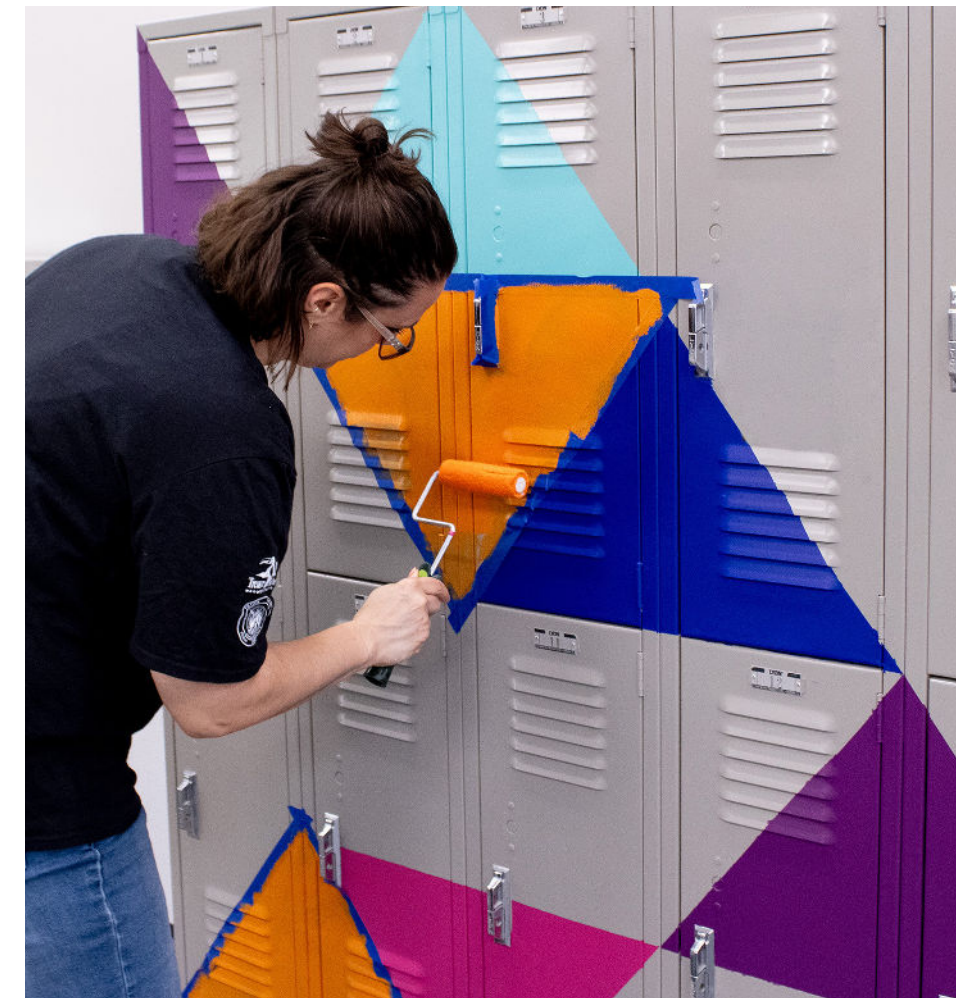


« HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

Rise is a 2023 sponsor of Anoka's popular Rock-in' on the Rum summer concert series. The event brings live music and events to downtown Anoka Wednesdays in June, July and August. We were excited to hand out cold popsicles at the sponsor tent in June. Find the summer schedule at anoka-minnesota.com.

ANOKA'S NEW LOOK

Our months-long transformation at Rise Anoka, Minn. is complete!



photos: Julia Ludovici

WE'VE BEEN busy completing the final items on our Anoka construction punch list. After more than two decades largely unchanged, people we support at Rise Anoka were welcomed back this spring to a completely refreshed building. These much-needed changes will greatly improve Anoka programming for years to come. The project was funded partly by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from Anoka County. We are opening the doors so the community can see the refurbished space Tuesday, July 18.



ANOKA OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

3:30-5:00 p.m.

1130 Lund Blvd. Anoka

TOUR OUR NEW SPACE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT SERVICES AT ANOKA



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Rise unlocks potential and opens doors to success for people with disabilities or other challenges through creative solutions and customized support.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Added a **second** Project SEARCH site serving Hennepin County.



Developed **seven** new vocational evaluation sites.



Started **three** new Supported Employment Team (SET) sites and **one** "naturally supported site," providing community work for **18 people**.



Supported **19 people** at our Crystal location who transitioned from Rise transportation to Metro Mobility, increasing their independence.



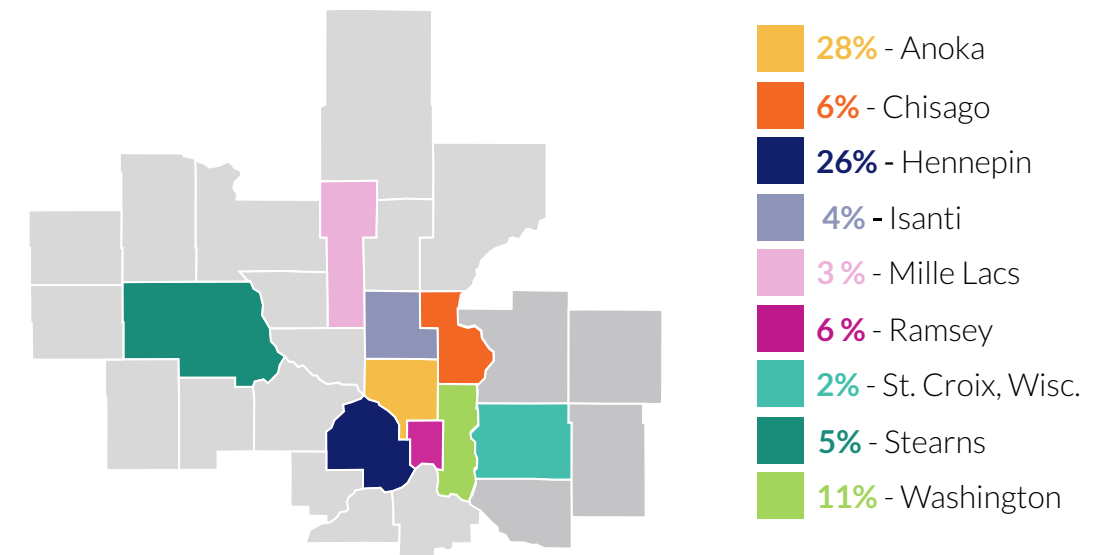
Added Re-Entry Navigator position to assist people involved in the criminal justice system.



Secured a housing capacity building grant.

WE SUPPORTED 2,611 PEOPLE IN 2022

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

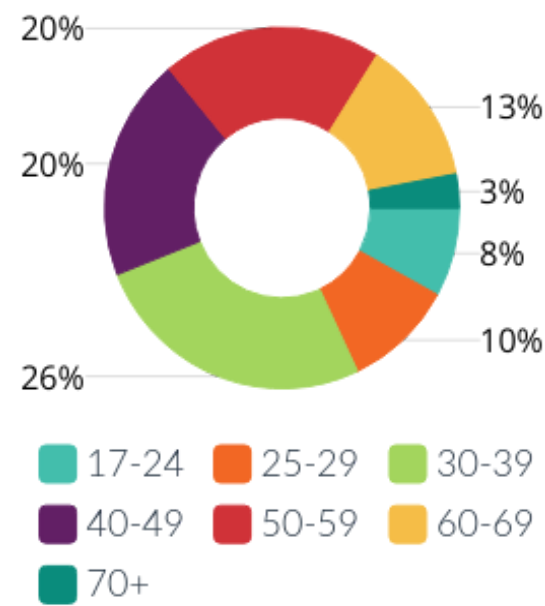


SERVICE LINES

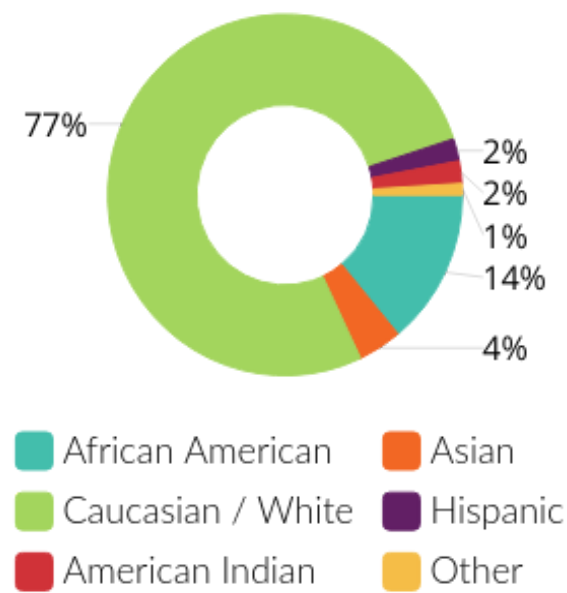


DEMOGRAPHICS

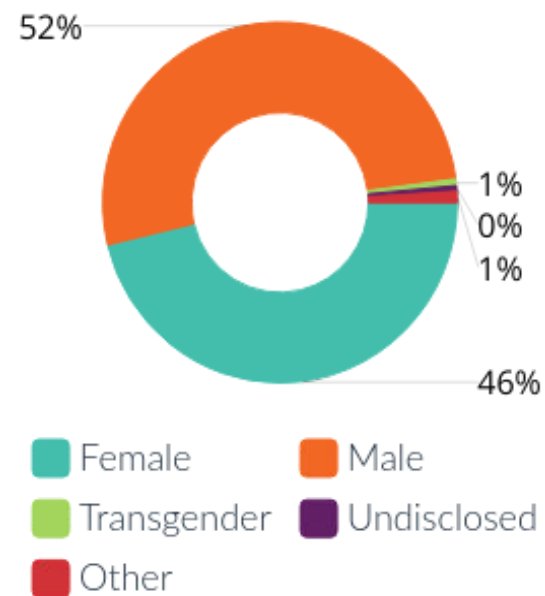
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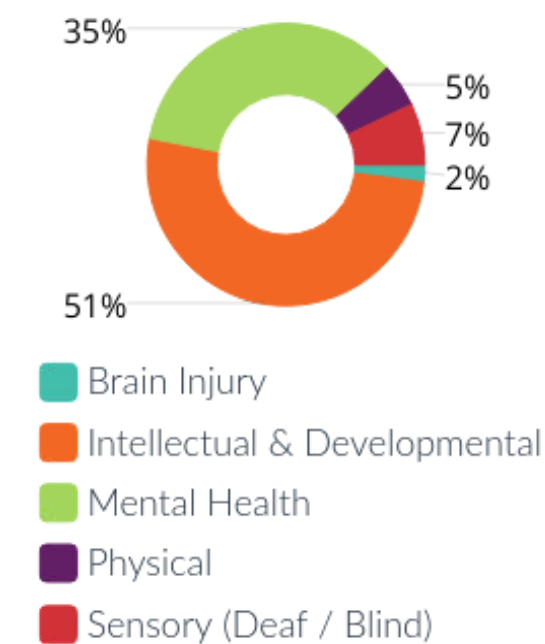
RACE



GENDER



DISABILITY TYPE



EMPLOYMENT & SATISFACTION



"They listen, give non-judgmental support with job searches and applications, act as a great sounding board, and give advice and help with workplace issues."
-Person Served

"I owe my life to Rise!"
- Person Served

331
NEW JOBS IN 2022

262
MENTAL HEALTH
JOB PLACEMENTS

69
DISABILITY
PROGRAM JOB
PLACEMENTS

4 people transitioned from center-based or community (contracted) employment to competitive placements

89% WOULD RECOMMEND RISE TO OTHER COMPANIES
BUSINESS PARTNERS

"You guys are awesome. You work great with our people, and meet people where they are at in a non-judgmental stance. Great work!"
-County Case Manager

97% AND **94%**
PERSONS SERVED AND STAKEHOLDERS
ARE SATISFIED WITH RISE SERVICES

The information above reflects survey responses from 229 people served, 95 stakeholders, and 18 business partners.

INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME

PROGRAM SERVICE FEES.....	\$14,372,000
PRODUCTION & LABOR SALES TO PUBLIC.....	\$4,377,000
GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS.....	\$2,790,000
TRANSPORTATION.....	\$4,656,000
DONATIONS/SPEC. EVENTS/UNITED WAY.....	\$356,000
OTHER, INCLUDING UNREALIZED INVESTMENT LOSSES.....	\$(1,071,000)
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$25,480,000

EXPENSES

DAY TRAINING & HABILITATION PROGRAMS.....	\$16,477,000
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION & SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.....	\$3,061,000
PRODUCTION.....	\$796,000
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL.....	\$3,434,000
TRANSPORTATION.....	\$2,586,000
ADULT DAY SERVICE SUPPORT PROGRAMS.....	\$1,464,000
HOUSING & INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS.....	\$549,000
ADVANCEMENT.....	\$439,000
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$28,806,000

Other Income - COVID 19 Relief Funding..... **\$1,107,000**

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS.....	\$21,955,000
NET LAND, BUILDING & EQUIPMENT.....	\$8,303,000
OTHER ASSETS.....	\$1,342,000
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$31,600,000

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES.....	\$2,105,000
LONG-TERM DEBT.....	\$1,161,000
OTHER LIABILITIES.....	\$648,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$3,914,000

NET ASSETS

NET ASSETS, UNRESTRICTED.....	\$27,111,000
NET ASSETS, RESTRICTED.....	\$575,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS.....	\$27,686,000

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

LYNN NOREN
President and Chief Executive Officer

TIM DICKIE
Chief Program Officer

TOM HAGLUND
Chief Financial Officer

NOEL MCCORMICK
Vice President of Advancement

DENISE THUL
Vice President of Human Resources

JUDY ANDERSEN
Program Director

JODI BLUME
Senior Director of Community Integration
& Life Enrichment Programs

JESSI DUVALL
Director of CBTE & Sensory Programs

MIKE HARPER
Senior Director of Programs & Services,
Central Minnesota

KEITH HOVLAND
Senior Director of CBTE & Supported Employment Teams

DAN MEYERS
Director of Vocational Evaluation & Transition

MICHELE MORRIS
Director of Industrial Services

RYAN NELSON
Director of Transportation

ROBERT REEDY
Senior Director of Vocational Services

BECKY ROTHER
Director of Quality Assurance

JAMIE SMITH
Director of Information Technology

JOHN WATTERS
Program Director, Washington County &
Western Wisconsin

2023 Board of Directors

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GRATEFUL TO OUR PARTNERS

Our Community-based training and employment team (CBTE) named VIP's for a day by our business partner, Medline.

Workers at Medline Industries, a medical equipment and supply distributor located in Rogers, Minn., recently held a special VIP event for our Rise supported employment team there.

Medline invited our team to a specially catered appreciation lunch and handed out special thank you cards, and VIP lanyards. Each Rise team member also received personalized gifts recognizing their important contributions to Medline's operations. We are so thankful for this special partnership!



courtesy photos



JOIN US!
July 25
5 to 9 pm

LIFT BRIDGE
BREWING CO.
Stillwater, Minn.

**\$1 from every pint sold AND
\$2 from each crowler sold
benefits Rise!**



Rise Main Office | 8406 Sunset Road NE | Spring Lake Park, MN 55432-1387

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 94279
TWIN CITIES, MN

Attend these
FUN SUMMER EVENTS



July 14-16 | Fun Fest

New Richmond, Wis.

parade is Sunday, July 16

July 18 | Rise Anoka Open House

Info on page 7

July 25 | Lift Bridge Brewery Townie Tuesday

Stillwater, Minn. - *Beer sales benefit Rise, info on page 13*

Aug. 6 | Summer Celebration Picnic - Blaine, Minn.

Info on page 2

www.rise.org | Facebook: Rise, Incorporated | Shop: printstore.rise.org

Mailing Changes send to: Tom Brinker • tbrinker@rise.org

