



# Winona ORC Connection

Winter  
2015

educate • empower • employ

## The Starlight Stroll Is A Big Success!

Everyone and everything was aglow at our 3rd Annual Starlight Stroll held on November 6, 2015. We want to thank our wonderful sponsors and over 300 participants who made this event the biggest Stroll yet! Over \$14,000 was raised toward our goal of helping people with special needs obtain and maintain gainful employment.

Thank you all for your dedication to our organization!!



1053 East Mark Street • Winona, Minnesota  
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# Thank You To Our Starlight Stroll Sponsors!

## Make the Difference Sponsors



## Matching Sponsors

*Bob Kierlin and Mary Burrichter*  
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## Be The Change Sponsors

Charter Steel	John & Cynthia Leaf
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## Diamond Sponsors

*Bub's Brewery*  
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## Sauer Health Care Joins Winona Laundry



Dean Matzke, Director of Environmental Services at Sauer Health Care shakes hands with Todd Olson, WORC Director of Laundry Operations

We are happy to announce that Sauer Health Care has joined Winona Laundry! We began working with Sauer Health Care in November of 2015 and it has been a great addition to our laundry department. Along with providing more hours for our workers, it is a great fit for both of us.

We have the capability of adding even more health care facilities to our growing list of laundry customers and it is something we are looking forward to in the future. As we grow, we will gain more opportunities toward our mission of providing employment and vocational training for people with special needs.

Thank you Sauer Health Care!



## We've been busy!



### Halloween Party

WORC Staff had a great time dressing up as 101 Dalmatians



### Trunk Or Treat

Several employees participated in Trunk or Treat, handing out candy on Halloween at the Compass Church and it was a big success. There were a lot of laughs, cool costumes, and of course, candy. Parents and kids were appreciative that they had a safe place to celebrate Halloween.

### Annual Mitten Sale

Our mitten sale was held on December 2, 2015. We had a wonderful turnout and are thankful to each of you that stopped by to purchase a pair of mittens.



### Santa Made a Visit!

Santa, aka Dick Tedrow, came to our Mitten Sale and provided lots of fun and laughter to our event. Thank you Santa!

### 10 DAYS OF GIVING

Winona ORC gave back to the community by participating in Merchants Bank annual 10 Days of Giving.

Now in its 27th year, over 2,800,000 pounds of food have been collected through monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items to help make sure no one in Winona County goes hungry. The 2015 campaign reached the 3rd highest total on record with more than 231,000 pounds of food collected. Thank you to all that participated in this very worthwhile project.

## Patrick Kronebusch is Our Employee Superstar!

### Great job Patrick!

Pat Kronebusch is one big superstar! He has worked for WORC for 31 years (Wow!), and is a very kind and helpful person. He presently works in both our laundry department and our shredding department and enjoys them both. He wears a great big smile and is usually the first to say a cheerful "Hello! How are you today?" We all love his favorite sayings: "ChChing!", "The forecast says", "A million dollars and a brand new car!", "Enjoy the show", and of course, "The End!" He brings smiles to us all and has many, many friends near and far. Once you meet Patrick, you'll never forget him!

Thank you for being you, Patrick! You light up our lives!



## Knitcraft—St. Croix Donates Sweaters to WORC Employees

### Thank you Knitcraft-St. Croix



Left to right: Jackie Stevens WORC, Mary Bergin Knitcraft, Kathy Wenger WORC, Lynn Meyers WORC, and Dana Gostomczik, Knitcraft

Every year at Christmastime, we are all smiles at WORC. Not just because we are excited about Christmas, but we know a gift will be coming real soon! Each year sweaters, shirts, and socks fill our meeting room and the tables are jam packed with beautiful items from our friends at Knitcraft-St. Croix. They have given this wonderful gift each year for at least 35 years! What a fantastic way to make all of our employees feel special. We are blessed to be given such a wonderful gift.

Knitcraft supports us in so many ways and we are very thankful for their presence in our organization.



# Observations of a Job Coach



**Jesse Thill, a job coach who has been with WORC for 12 years, has left us and taken a position at Hiawatha Valley. He put this on his Facebook page the night before his last day at WORC. This is an amazing testimony to the power of what WORC means to us all.**

I've seen people walk through the doors all about themselves. I've seen them constantly on their phones, and with the mindset that the world rotates around them. I've seen them scared, unsure, and not very confident. I've also seen those same people walk out those same doors, confident, caring, and quick to put someone else before themselves. I've seen them shy, laid back, and hesitant, only to become brave and outgoing. Sure we all grow up naturally, and we change in time, but this is different. People become a totally different person when they become a part of this community.

When you first walk through these doors you're immediately accepted. Chances are it's the first time in your life where you didn't have to fight for it. The outcome doesn't change pending on your skin color or on your body shape. It's a loving atmosphere and it makes you take notice. One of the first things that you notice is that fear doesn't really exist here. Sure these people don't want to be hurt, but at the same time they're not going to let some pain dictate their lives. Some of these people have been judged all of their lives. Some have been in life altering accidents, and some have even had their own family members abandon them. Yet they move on and enjoy life, which so many struggle to do. The strength that they possess is inspiring. Especially since they never let a physical or mental roadblock get in the way of their happiness.

See once the fear is gone, the heart does all the expressing. The love that's behind these walls is congruent. You don't think, you just listen to your heart and do. It's not how do I benefit? It's how do we benefit? This theory is always lead by example. So many times I've seen a person who's unable to heat up their lunch open a door for a person who's in a wheel chair. Yet that same person who's in a wheel chair will heat up that persons lunch. Everyone looks out for each other. If someone is short on food, well then food will be offered. If someone is having trouble with a job well then then that person will be helped.

By now you know that I'm talking about my profession, which most people know that I work with disabled people. Yet I'm only using that term as that's what society

identifies them by. I've seen plenty of them have a larger vocabulary than staff. I've seen them fix microwaves and even fix cars. I've seen them name entire rosters of sports teams and quote literally 15 minutes straight of a movie. See to me they're equal. To me they're just another person, actually better yet they're my friends.

I use the term friends as a friend's reliable, they care about you, and they can be trusted. Time and time again these people are displaying a true friendship. If one of the clients see's that you're down they'll immediately stop what they're doing to attend. Perhaps to give you a hug, perhaps to give advice, or to listen. Either way they'll give it their all to cheer you up. These people will also push you to better yourself as any friend would do. I recall the one time where a client noticed that I was interested in a girl. He stared in my eyes and on his communication board he told me to go make a move haha. Originally from the get-go I was going to wait to approach her until after work, to be professional. However he kept getting on my case just to make sure that I wouldn't back out. Since I was being called out I had to make the approach there haha....It's a guy thing. 😊

The people in this community will also push you out of your comfort zone. When I attended my first ORC banquet they had a dance and a DJ. I was new, shy, and honestly a little scared to go dance. Well the clients weren't having none of that. A group of them went up to the DJ, requested the song "Jesse's girl, "and literally drug me out to the dance floor to go dance. And you know what??? It was a great time and experience!!!! See in both of those cases the guys had nothing to benefit by pushing me to be better...ok they probably had a good old laugh by dragging me out to the dance floor against my will 😊 but overall it's always about putting others first and about thinking with your heart.

The staff at ORC are there to teach the clients work skills. I think many staff, including myself came in here thinking that we were going to go in and do all the teaching. It's funny as it's totally the other way around. People see first-hand the battles that some of these guys have faced, or are facing. They see first-hand that you can't let an obstacle stop you from enjoying life. People also see first-hand that working together as a team far outweighs trying to do something by yourself. They see all of this and they apply it to become a better and a stronger person. People also feel the love and they learn to lose the fear. The environment in general is contagious and whether you want to or not you change.

Tomorrow will be my final day at ORC. I've came across such amazing clients and staff during my time who've made such an impact on my life. Honestly, I would not trade my time there for anything!!! It's gonna be a tough day tomorrow, but I'm also at ease knowing that I'll be visiting often. I'm already looking forward to this year's banquet, though I won't officially be a staff member anymore. On a final note, I think that I can speak for all former and current staff when I say, **"Thanks for teaching us. It's truly because of you that we are the people who we are today!!"**

## Lewiston Villa For Sale



The building formerly known as the Lewiston Villa is now for sale. If you would like to inquire about it, please contact Heidi Smith at 507-452-1855 or email her at [hsmith@winonaorc.org](mailto:hsmith@winonaorc.org)

## Annual Recognition Banquet to be held in April



**Please note: The date for the banquet has changed from February to April.**

Our Annual Employee Recognition Banquet will be held on April 22, 2016 at Signatures Restaurant. Our theme for the event is "Super Heroes".

Dress as your favorite super hero for a night of fun, friends, and laughter.

**Recognition Banquet  
Signatures Restaurant  
April 22, 2016  
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

# Shredding Service



Winona Shredding Service is pleased to offer a new option for your business or personal use.

**Seal N' Shred** is a great alternative for low volume or overflow business needs. Easy and economical.

- Purchase a sealable shredding bag
- Fill the bag with your documents, seal shut
- Drop off at Winona ORC for shredding
- Simple and cost effective
- Two convenient sizes

**Small - Holds 15 pounds**

**\$10 (includes shredding)**

**Large - Holds 35 pounds**

**\$15 (includes shredding)**

For an additional \$10, call us and we will pick-up the full bag for shredding.

Make sure to order a replacement bag and we can bring it with us!

## And don't forget our container service!

Secure and timely destruction of confidential documents is important in today's business world.

As easy as 1,2,3 . .

1. Select your lockable container(s).
2. Fill with your documents - no need to remove staples or paper clips.
3. Select a regular pick-up schedule.



Our service is a convenient, economical and secure solution for your document destruction needs. We also offer a one time purge service.

Contact us today at 507-452-1855

If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, please contact [Hnordby@winonaorc.org](mailto:Hnordby@winonaorc.org)



## Winona ORC Board of Directors

**Steve Volkman, President**  
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**Bob Peterson, Vice President**  
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**Chad Anderson, Treasurer**  
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**Maggie Modjeski, Secretary**  
Sugar Loaf Senior Living

### Voting Members

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### Advisors

**Blaine Krogh**  
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**Ron Wenzel**  
Community Advisor

## Senior Management Staff

Heidi S. Smith - Executive Director

Position Open - Director of Facility Management

Michael Bellesbach - Director of Finance

Linda Digby - Director of Human Resources

Randy Gotz - Director of Community Operations

Todd Olson - Director of Laundry Operations

Leslie Swartling - Director of Client Services

Lorin Thilmany - Director of Center Based Operations





Winona ORC Industries, Inc.  
1053 East Mark Street  
Winona, MN 55987

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**Or Current Resident**

**Inside the Winona ORC Connection**

Sauer joins Winona Laundry  
Employee Superstar  
Knitcraft/St. Croix donates Sweaters  
Starlight Stroll



**Our Mission:**

It is our mission to provide community based employment, vocational training and comprehensive job related skills and services to people with special needs. We will design programs to work harmoniously with other community resources to maximize opportunities to our clients and our community.

*We envision a world where all people are uplifted by working. Through pride, dignity, continuous learning and respect for all, we build a healthier community.*