

# Winona ORC Connection

March  
2017

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## Advocacy: How to Influence Change and Support the Services that Winona ORC offers!

This time of year, when the legislators return to St. Paul to begin a new session, there is a lot of busy work going on behind the scenes. The rehab services that Winona ORC provides to employees that work in the community, commercial laundry, and Winona ORC production floor are supported, in part, by funds provided by the Federal, State, and County. Most of these resources are funneled through State of Minnesota Departments, including the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

Because so many different services are needed in the state, every year Winona ORC and other rehab centers must provide information and education to legislators regarding the importance of services to people with disabilities, so that funding is not diverted to other initiatives. This is where advocacy begins!

### What is Advocacy?

It is the opportunity to share your passion with decision



Heidi Smith, Executive Director and Leslie Swartling, Director of Client Services

makers in the legislature about how the services that Winona ORC provides creates a positive impact on the people that we serve. Simply contacting your Senators and Representatives and expressing to them the importance of continued funding for Winona ORC rehab services can make a significant difference in how funding is allocated and distributed to our agency.

Many of the people we serve take it the extra mile and attend Advocacy Day on the Hill, which is specifically organized to help get the message out that supporting services for people with disabilities is important. The ARC of Minnesota had a rally at the end of February and there is also another Advocacy Day on the Hill March 14<sup>th</sup>, with the two associations that represent residential services, ARRM: <https://www.rrm.org/> and rehab services, MOHR: <http://mohrmn.org/>. Interested in joining us that day? Feel free to contact Heidi Smith, Executive Director at [hssmith@winonaorc.org](mailto:hssmith@winonaorc.org) or 507-452-1855 for more details.

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1053 East Mark Street  
[www.winonaorc.org](http://www.winonaorc.org)

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## Advocacy (continued)

### How Does the Funding Come to Winona ORC?

Legislative funding comes from passing bills that become laws that financially support our agency. If you are interested in learning more specifics about the bills that directly impact Winona ORC, contact Heidi Smith for that information as well. The more grassroots efforts to influence change at the State Legislature, the more likely funding will continue.

### How Can I Get Involved?

Remember, whether you call, email, or come rally at the capital, your senators and representatives want to hear from YOU! You voted them in office and they work for YOU, so make your voice heard. Not sure who your representative might be? Look them up with this website address: <http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

### What Else Can I Do?

While funding from the Federal, State, and County

level helps to support our rehab services, they do not cover the costs 100%. If you would like to help us offset the costs that we have, to maintain our building, buses, and other important pieces of our services, consider donating to Winona ORC. Every dollar that is donated helps to support the people that we serve and provide them with opportunities to build their skills for appropriate employment for them!

### Thank You!

Thank you for the support you provide, whether you provide us with a referral, share with a community business the services we can provide for them, volunteer your time in our Skills Education and Training (SET) program, or donate your precious resources. We look forward to continuing to serve the Winona Community for many years to come!

## SET Program Helps the Community Warming Center

As many of you know, Winona has recently opened a warming shelter for the homeless people of our area who would struggle to stay alive in our harsh winters if not for this much needed center.

The Winona Community Warming Center provides a safe, warm overnight stay every night from November 1st through the end of March. In addition, snacks and coffee are available for guests and other personal care items provided when available.

In honor of their opening, employees in our SET program decided to do something wonderful for those less fortunate and created a beautiful blanket for the Center. The warming center is located at Community Bible Church, 69 East Third Street in Winona.

Thank you to the wonderful people who are helping those down on their luck and needing the basics of life. For more information contact: Community Bible Church at 507-458-9197.



Michael McCollum, Ranee Roesle, and Dana Frasch

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## Winona Sr. High Football Players Sign Autographs



What a wonderful day this was! Members of the Winona Sr. High Football team came to WORC to sign autographs for our employees! Their team won the 2016 Class 4A Championship game so this was extra special. Thank you for being amazing athletes and amazing young men.

We really enjoyed your visit!

**Find the HIDDEN WORD in the pictures! It could be anywhere in the publication!**

The first person to call us at 452-1855 and reveal the hidden word will receive a free pair of mittens!

## Galeynn Lea Performance

Galeynn Lea, a musician and public speaker, came to Winona and performed at Riverway Learning Community and the Mid West Music Store. WORC was given tickets and staff and employees were delighted to attend.

Along with performing, Gaelynn loves to do speaking engagements about disability, overcoming challenges, and the joy of music. Gaelynn has a congenital disability called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, or Brittle Bones Disease. In recent years, she has used her music as a platform to advocate for people with disabilities and to promote positive social change. Gaelynn believes "Society must make accessibility a priority so people with disabilities can participate fully in their communities and use their talents and gifts without discrimination."

On March 3, 2016, Gaelynn Lea was named the winner of NPR Music's second-ever Tiny Desk Contest. The video entry of her original song "Someday We'll Linger in the Sun" rose to the top of over 6,100 submissions from around the nation, chosen as the unanimous favorite among the contest's six judges. The very next week, Gaelynn performed a moving Tiny Desk Concert at which the show's host Bob Boilen said "There was hardly a dry eye."



Galeynn Lea  
Public Speaker & Musician



## Employee Superstar!



### Lynette Palecek is a Superstar!

We are very happy to have Lynette working at WORC. She has a great work ethic and she gives it her all every day.

Lynette has superior skills in button making. On average she produces between 4,000 and 5,000 buttons a day! She has truly mastered the art of button making and we can now call her not only a Superstar, but the "Button Queen".

You may remember last year when she wrote a wonderful poem about Winona ORC. She has a great way of expressing herself and showing her appreciation of Winona ORC.

She is a truly nice, honest, happy, and talented person and we are glad to have her on our team.

Thank you Lynette for all that you do!

## Upcoming Events

### Community Recognition Banquet



Winona ORC's 33rd Annual Banquet will be held on Friday, April 21st, 2017 at Signatures Visions Event Center. The theme for this year is Garden Party.

### Golf Tournament



The 18th Annual Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, July 27, 2017

### Sponsorship Opportunities

If you, or your business, would like to support us in our journey to help people with special needs achieve their goals, we have many ways you can help and have fun too. If you would like to be a Sponsor, please call us at 507-452-1855 and let us know that you would like a Sponsorship form sent to you. We can either mail or email it to you.

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## Sue Norton Retires



Susan began working at Winona ORC in December 1975 in the Work Adjustment Program. She has worked in various positions throughout her 41 years such as WinCraft buttons, DVD assembly, Watkins Kits, and many other jobs on our production floor. In her spare time, she enjoys time with her family, housemates, and other friends. Susan likes going to Basket Night and having hamburgers and Mountain Dew. She is also a big fan of the Vikings and Elvis.

Susie is a wonderful person and we are grateful for her many years of work. We wish you many happy years of retirement. Thank you Susie! We love you!



## Job Openings

### Job Coach

As a Job Coach you will be responsible for providing job training, implementation of program plans, and direct supervision for people with disabilities at community-based employment sites or in our DT&H (Day Training and Habilitation) program.

This position requires the ability to make decisions independently and also work in team environment. The successful candidate must be able to establish good rapport, have a basic knowledge of human behavior, and possess good observation skills. Must be able to work a flexible schedule; possess a valid driver license and a reliable vehicle.

Competitive pay based on experience and education, flexible schedule, mileage reimbursement, and friendly fun environment. Access to group health, dental, life and disability insurance, and retirement options depending upon number of hours worked.



### Shuttle Bus Driver (Part time)

If you enjoy working a varied schedule and interacting with people this may be the job for you. We have an opening for a shuttle bus driver to safely transport our clients to and from our facility. Good customer service skills and a willingness to work with people with disabilities necessary. Must possess a valid driver's license. Be able to pass MN Department of Human Services background study, drug screening and criminal background check. Need to possess or be able to obtain a medical certificate, first aid, CPR, STS certification. Previous bus driving experience helpful. Competitive pay, access to group, dental, life, disability insurance, and retirement options depending upon number of hours worked.

Applications available online at [www.winonaorc.org](http://www.winonaorc.org). Interested candidates should submit application and resume to: Human Resources, Winona O.R.C. Industries, 1053 East Mark Street, Winona, MN 55987, or email [hr@winonaorc.org](mailto:hr@winonaorc.org). EEO/AA Employer.

# Thank you!

The following people have made donations from November through December 2016.  
Thank you all so very much.

Ron & Karol Wenzel	Knitcraft Corporation	David & Joyce McConville
Ray & Colleen Cenfield	Mary Wieczorek	St. Mary's University students
Chuck & Judy Shephard	Nancy O'Reilly	Wm. Miller Scrap Iron & Metal
Butch & Lynne Beier	Ron & Diane Stevens	Winona National Bank
Audrey Deblon Family	Diane Petz	Kwik Trip
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William Lindquist	Don & Donna Peterson	Bonnie Myers
Ann & Tom Nelson	John & Marlene Mulrooney	Jean Hayes
Ellen Smith	Betsy Sawyer	Winona Community Foundation
Dawn & Tom McGowan	Frank & Ruth Bures	

# Winona 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 of shredding.**

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

**Walk in shred customer hours Tuesday and Friday 8-2**

## 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. We will take care of the rest.
4. 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



## Winona ORC Board of Directors

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Trane

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Retired

### Advisor

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Hawkins Ash, CPA (Retired)

## Senior Management Staff

Heidi S. Smith - Executive Director

Michael Bellesbach - Director of Finance

Linda Digby - Director of Human Resources

Randy Gotz - Director of Community Operations

Leslie Swartling - Director of Client Services

Lorin Thilmany - Director of Operations & Sales

If you know someone who would enjoy a copy of the Winona ORC Connection, please contact Helen Nordby at [hnordby@winonaorc.org](mailto:hnordby@winonaorc.org)

**[www.winonaorc.org](http://www.winonaorc.org)**





**Winona ORC Industries, Inc.**  
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**Or Current Resident**

**Inside the Winona ORC Connection**  
**Employees Attend Galeynn Lea performance**  
**Employee Superstar!**  
**Winona Sr. High Football Team signs autographs**  
**Advocacy**



**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.

**1053 East Mark Street**  
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