September 2026

Winona ORC Connection

Winona ORC
EDUCATE. EMPOWER. EMPLOY

Winona ORC Industries

Established 1973

1053 East Mark St.

507.452.1855

www.winonaorc.org

Facebook WinonaorcIndustries

"Inclusion is not bringing people into what already exists: it is making a new space, a better space for everyone."
~George Dei

Educate ★ Empower ★ Employ

Please join us for the Starlight Stroll on November 6th at Lake Lodge!


Esther





Join us for the Annual Winona ORC for Starlight Stroll on November 6th starting at Lake Park Lodge in Winona, MN,

Join us for the Starlight Stroll on Friday, November 6, at Lake Park Lodge! Choose the 1-mile walk or 5K run, with both starting at 6:05 p.m. Bring your family, friends, or coworkers and enjoy an evening under the stars while supporting meaningful opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Businesses can also use the event as an employee wellness opportunity while giving back to the community. For registration or business participation details, call 507.452.1855 or email Shella at sschneider@winonaorc.org More details next page!

Starlight Stroll 2026
Friday, November 6
Lake Park Lodge
Starts at 6:05 PM
1 Mile Walk • 5K Run
All Ages & Abilities Welcome
Scan the QR code below to register!
To register a group of 5 or more use the form in this newsletter not the the QR Code

Starlight Stroll 2026
November 6, 2026
Families* Runners* Walkers*
All Abilities
A growing community tradition supporting Winona ORC

Bring Your People. Light Up the Night.

Grab your family, friends, or coworkers and join us for a fun fall evening under the stars! Choose the 1-mile or 5K, wear your favorite glow gear, and enjoy an event that is as much about community as it is about getting active.

Whether you run, walk, or roll simply come out to enjoy the atmosphere, your participation helps support meaningful opportunities for the people we serve at Winona ORC.

Come make some memories with us and don't forget to glow!

Make the Stroll Your Workplace Wellness Event

Looking for an easy way to encourage employees to get active while supporting your community? Invite your team to the Starlight Stroll!

Businesses can form a team, provide a registration incentive, or create a company challenge. One simple option is to offer employees a registration code or cover their entry as a workplace wellness benefit.

It's a fun night out, a healthy incentive, and a meaningful way to support Winona ORC all while bringing your team together outside of work.



Interested in creating a company code or learning more? Contact Shella at sschneider@winonaorc.org or 507.452.1855.

Register here or in person at Winona ORC 1053 E. Mark St
(NOT FOR GROUPS)

Winona ORC
Starlight Stroll
Run•Walk•Roll

Winona ORC Annual Golf Tournament

Thank you to the businesses and teams who joined us at The Bridges on July 23rd. We are grateful for your support and for helping make our tournament such a success!



First Place



Second Place



Team that had the most fun



Oz Lifting Products



Merchants Bank



Dahl Automotive



Altra Federal Credit Union



Peerless



Boomer's Quality Plumbing



929 Beerhouse & Grill



Alerus



Wunderlich Insurance



WNB Financial



Bluff View Estates



Jacobson Realty



Avient



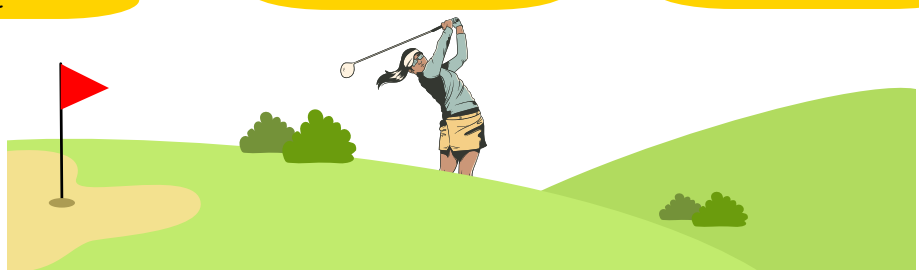
Bob and Deb Leaf



Herdina Fam.



Jerry & Pat Papenfuss





Miller Scrap & Disposal

Good Times, Great Support!





































Winona ORC
Starlight Stroll Sponsors

Gold Sponsors

OLD NATIONAL BANK

Tranquil Gardens DISPENSARY

Winona Health

HCO & Edward Jones- Diamond Sponsor

HOME & COMMUNITY OPTIONS

Edward Jones

ENLIGHTENED EQUIPMENT

RIVERSIDE INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS

WINONA DISPENSARY

Mango's Mexican & American Grill

TRUSTPOINT Simplify & Secure Your Wealth

Winona Nursery PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

T-shirt/Sign Sponsors

Degallier Leadership Solutions

Pieces of the Past

HBC

Kolter Bicycle

Winona ORC
2026 Golf Sponsors

Bluff View Estates
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Plunkett's Pest Control
Earning Your Trust Since 1915

OZ LIFTING PRODUCTS

Hole Sponsors

101.1 The River
Boomer's Quality Plumbing
Cone Chiropractic
Custom Alarm
HUMBL Studio
Hy-Vee
Midtown Foods
RTP
Vision Design
Winona Eagles

Many thanks to The Bridges and Signatures for hosting our tournament and dinner!

Steamboat Days

Third Time is a charm



Winona ORC took home 1st Place in the Commercial Units category at the 79th Annual Winona Steamboat Days Grande Parade for the third year in a row!

The parade is a favorite opportunity to celebrate our employees and show the community what Winona ORC is all about. Since so many of our employees enjoy sports, a sports theme was the perfect way to bring everyone together and rally behind being one team for the day.

For Shantel, being part of the parade was about more than the float. “It’s a cool experience to be able to be with people I work with outside of our workplace.” Jenna was just as proud of the win, saying, “I was very happy we won 1st place 3 years in a row. It was fun to celebrate with co-workers.”



We are proud of the teamwork, creativity, and community spirit our employees brought to the parade. A special thank you to Kelsey, David, Jess, and Anne for helping make the day a success, and a big thank you to Amazon for donating supplies to help bring our float to life!

Three years in a row is something worth celebrating and we are already looking forward to next year!







Celebrating the Next Chapter

This summer, Winona ORC celebrated our clients with a carnival filled with food, fun, laughter and plenty of smiles. While the day marked the closing of our in-center production program, it was much more about celebrating the people who have made Winona ORC what it is today and looking ahead to what comes next.

As we move forward, our focus is on creating more opportunities for meaningful, integrated employment and community participation. The carnival gave us a chance to pause, celebrate the journey and, most importantly, celebrate the people at the heart of Winona ORC.

We are excited about this next chapter and all the possibilities it will bring!



Water dunking & Pie in the face



Face and body painting



Food & Fun



Fun & Games



Samples from Unlimited Nutrition









SPARK: Growing, Learning, & Looking Ahead

August 1st marked the official launch of SPARK's (Skills, Participation, Access, Relationships, Knowledge) new focus, and the program is already growing. Class sections have increased from 5 to 8, with another class scheduled to begin in October. With more clients joining SPARK, there are more opportunities each day to build skills, try new things and be part of the community. The iPads received through a generous grant from the Winona Community Foundation are now fully integrated into SPARK programming and are being used as another tool for learning and building independence.

One of the highlights of summer was putting in a garden at the park. Clients enjoyed being involved in the process of growing and caring for the plants. SPARK Coordinator, Kelsey Yuman, noted, "Clients love growing things and seeing the entire process, though some clients may love eating the final product even more." Many thanks to Jerry Kouba and Winona Feed & Seed for donating the soil and plants that helped make this experience possible.

SPARK also provides a safe place for clients to practice skills that can be used throughout their daily lives. One skill that is revisited throughout the year is learning how to use coping skills to gain control of our emotions. We all experience a wide range of emotions as we go through work, social activities and everyday situations. SPARK gives clients the opportunity to learn and practice these skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Another favorite addition to the program has been the Vibe smartboard, made possible through a generous donation from the Hiawatha Education Foundation. Clients immediately took to the smartboard when it was installed earlier this year. One of the biggest benefits has been the ability to write on the board and interact directly with the concepts they are learning.

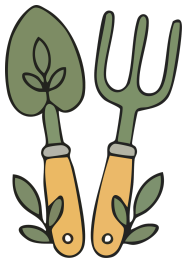
There is plenty more to look forward to this fall, with trips being planned to the International Owl Center, along with apple and pumpkin picking. Kelsey is especially looking forward to getting out into the community more while continuing to expand lessons in the classroom. "There is no limit on learning in this program, Winona, and the surrounding areas," she said.

As SPARK continues to grow, Kelsey is enjoying seeing all the new faces joining the program. "I can't wait to see where the future takes SPARK."

Perhaps the best description of what SPARK means comes from one of the clients, "I like being in SPARK because they are always there when I need them, and it puts me in a good mood."

Of course, there is always room for a good joke in SPARK. One of our clients is an avid joke teller and is always willing to share one that is on his mind:

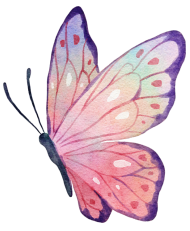
"Why did the leopard go to the dry cleaners? He wanted to get his spots removed."











Meet Marie

A Willingness to Learn and Lend a Hand

Marie has a long and proud history with Winona ORC. Since becoming a direct-hire employee in the early 2000s, much of her work has centered around food service in area schools and at the Steak Shop. Over the years, she has worked in nearly every aspect of food service, including serving, dishwashing, and food preparation.

After many years of working, Marie decided it was time to retire and spend some time caring for her grandchildren. As they grew older, however, she found herself ready to return to the workforce.

Today, Marie is once again a familiar and valued member of the Winona ORC team. She currently works as an assistant in the SPARK (Skills, Participation, Access, Relationships, Knowledge) program, where she helps clients, prepares materials, cleans and organizes the classroom, and is always ready to lend a hand. She also enjoys joining clients and staff on field trips and helping wherever she is needed.

Her willingness to try something new has also led her to cross-train in other areas of Winona ORC, including janitorial and laundry. When asked about her flexibility, simply said, "I'm not fussy. I'm willing to do anything new or go where I'm needed."

That positive attitude is one of the many qualities that makes Marie such a valuable member of the team. Her Employment Development Specialist, Mona, agrees.

"Marie is dedicated to each possible job opportunity. She is a happy person and always willing to step up and learn something new."

For Marie, the relationship with her EDS has also been an important part of her journey. "I'm very thankful to my EDS, Mona, for her guidance all these years and going above and beyond for me," she shared.



Marie makes everythig spick and span



Always Learning

When asked about her favorite part of her current work, Marie had a difficult time choosing just one. As someone who enjoys learning and trying new things, she finds something to appreciate in many aspects of her job. After some thought, she decided that her favorite part is, "learning many fun and interesting facts while helping in the SPARK program."

Her curiosity and willingness to learn are fitting qualities for someone who has embraced so many different roles throughout her career. Whether she is helping in SPARK, working in laundry or janitorial services, joining a field trip or simply stepping in where she is needed, Marie continues to show that there is always something new to learn and another way to contribute.

A Second Chapter Through ABLE

Marie's return to the workforce after retirement was made possible in part through an important program called ABLE. (Ability, Based on Long Experience)

The National ABLE Network, Inc. is a nonprofit organization focused on building equity through employment. Its programs create pathways for individuals age 55 and older to continue sharing their skills and knowledge in the workplace while also having opportunities to learn new skills.

Through partnerships with host agencies, ABLE participants can bring their experience to a new generation while continuing to grow themselves. Each year, more than 50,000 individuals across the Midwest have access to ABLE career programs and services that help people build skills and pursue employment opportunities.

Winona ORC is proud to have partnered with a 55-and-older employment program since 2004 and was especially proud to recognize ABLE as Winona ORC's 2025 Employer of the Year.

For Marie, that partnership helped open the door to a new chapter. After retirement, she found a way back to work, back to learning, and back to being part of a team.

Her story is a wonderful reminder that a career journey does not always follow a straight line. Sometimes, the next chapter begins after retirement, with a willingness to try something new, learn along the way, and lend a hand wherever it is needed.



Marie & her bother Danny both love Elvis!

June Employee of the Month: Missy Beyers

Congratulations to Missy Beyers, our June Employee of the Month! As Winona ORC's Office and Transportation Assistant, Missy is often the first friendly voice people hear when they call or the first smiling face they see when they walk through our doors.

Known for being social, warm and always ready for a good time, Missy brings her personality to everything she does. She wears her heart on her sleeve, genuinely cares about the people around her and never misses an opportunity to celebrate. Whether she is helping at the front desk, assisting with transportation or joining in one of ORC's many celebrations, she brings energy and enthusiasm with her.

Originally from Missouri, Missy has called Winona home for the past 23 years. She is married with two grown children and is a proud cat mom to three cats.

We are grateful for the welcoming nature she provides to clients, families, staff and visitors each day.

Congratulations, Missy!



Missy getting her award from the clients


Steamboat Days Float





Missy & Jenna



Missy with her husband

SAVE THESE DATES

Pictures from our activities at Winona ORC







Starlight Stroll
Friday, Nov. 6, 2026
6:00pm
Lake Park Lodge
@ East Lake Winona
Register on our website or @ Winona ORC

Give to the Max Day
Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026

We would be so grateful if you would consider making Winona ORC part of your Give to the Max Day giving!

Annual Golf Tournament
Thursday, July 22. 2027
Location: TBA
Winona, MN

Annual Banquet
Friday, April 9, 2027
5:30pm
Signature's Event Center
22852 Co. Road 17
Winona, MN

It takes a community- thanks for being part of ours!

101.1 The River
Acoustic Cafe
Alerus
Amazon
Avient
A & W
Beno's Deli
Behrens Manufacturing
Blooming Grounds
Blue Heron Cafe
Bluff View Estates
Bronk's Gardens
Buffalo Saloon
Burger King
Cafe Zorya
Cone Chiropractic
Culligan Water
Erbert's & Gerbert's
Esther Young
Fastenal
Fred Espe
Formgraphics
Garvin Heights Vineyards
HBC
Hallmark
Helen Norby
Imprint
Jay & Dee"s Special T's
Jerry Kouba
Jerry Papenfuss
John Kennedy
Judy Herdina
Kathy Gerry
Kickass Beef Jerkey
La Crosse Loggers
Minnesota Marine Art Museum
Many Hands Many Lands
Marge Weichers
McDonalds
Midtown Foods
MCC
Pens.com
Nate & Ally's
Plunkett's Pest Control
Reba Brommer
Steak Shop Catering
Subway
Sweet Shop, LaCrosse, WI
Taco John
Two Fathoms Brewery
The Bridges
Unlimited Nutrition
Minnesota Vikings
Visa
Walmart
Winona Health
Yarnology
YMCA

Winona ORC Starlight Stroll

Run★Walk★Roll

Friday, November 6, 2026

Wheelchair start time: 6:00pm

5K/1 Mile Start Time: 6:05pm

Lake Park Lodge 113 Lake Park Dr.
Winona, MN

Questions email:
sschneider@winonaorc.org
or call 507.452.1855



Register with the QR code or email this form to: sschneider@winonaorc.org

Groups of 5 or more must register using this paper form

Proceeds support Winona ORC Programs & Services

Entry Costs

- **5K Registration:** $30 per person Before 10/12/2026
- $35 after 10/12/26 up to race day
- **1 Mile Registration** $25 per person Before 10/12/2026
- $30 per person after 10/12/26 up to race day
- Groups of 5 or more $25 per person- must register with this form- not the QR code ($30 after 10/12/2026)
- Children 12 and under may race with a parent free- **no shirt**

Must register by 10/12/26 to guarantee a t-shirt

Early packet pick-up Thursday, Nov. 5th at Winona ORC 1053 E. Mark St.
Race day registration and packet pickup: 4:30pm at Lake Park Lodge
Course: East Lake Winona, out and back, flat and fast
5k awards top male, female, and 14 and under racers
No awards for 1 Mile distance

Registration Form

_____5K OR ____1 Mile
___Walking OR ___ Running
_____Male OR Female DOB _____/_____/_____
Age on race day: _____
Phone #:_____
Name: _____
Email: _____
Group Name (min. 5 people):

_____

Groups may only register via this form

Adult t-shirt size: circle one:
S M L L XL 2XL 3XL NONE

With my signature below, I acknowledge my understanding that participating in the Winona ORC Starlight Stroll 5K and 1 Mile event, involves a strenuous activity which I am physically capable of undertaking and I represent that I have received no restrictions on such activity from any physician. I further understand that my participation in the Run/Walk/Roll involves inherent risks of personal injury and loss of property. I hereby absolve myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, forever, any and all rights and claims or damages I may accrue against Winona ORC Industries and its employees., the City of Winona, and its employees, volunteers and any other advertised sponsor as well as individuals having connection to this event for any and all illness or injuries, accidents, property losses or hazardous health conditions suffered by me while participating in the race on 11/6/26. I also grant to the Released Parties the right and permission to copyright and/or publish, reproduce or otherwise us my name, voice and likeness and/or written material, photographs, motion pictures and audio-visual, magnetic recording about me as a result of or in connection with my participation in the Starlight Stroll 5K/1Mile road race. I agree to relinquish all rights, title, and interest I may have in the finished product or the advertising copy that may be used in connection there with the waive all rights to payment or compensation therefore.

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian (if under 18)_____
Email: _____
Make Checks payable to: Winona ORC memo Starlight Stroll
Enclosed: _____
Mail to: Winona ORC 1053 E. Mark St. Winona, MN 55987
Questions call 507.452.1855

Mission

Provide services for people with disabilities in our community, including vocational counseling, comprehensive job-related skill training and meaningful employment.

Vision

Every person with disabilities – physical, mental, or learning – is living their full potential through meaningful work, community interactions, family and friendships.

Contact and Hours

Open Monday through Friday 7:00 am – 4:00 pm
(Except holidays)
Deliveries accepted 7:00 am – 2:30 pm

1053 East Mark Street
Winona, MN 55987
Phone 507-452-1855
Fax 507-452-1857