

June
2020



Winona ORC Connection

Winona ORC Industries
Established 1973

*47 Years of Service
to our community*

"Whenever you find yourself doubting how far you can go, just remember how far you have come. Remember everything you have faced, all the battles you have won, and all the fears you have overcome."

~Unknown



Educate • Empower • Employ

COVID-19 and how it affects Winona ORC by Heidi S. Smith

What a spring 2020 has been! And while the pandemic has changed how we do many things on a day to day basis, our commitment to those we serve at Winona ORC has not changed. Let me catch you up on how Winona ORC is managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

- On March 18, 2020 the people we serve were sent home for their safety. Since that time, all the Winona ORC staff that typically work along those we serve are doing all the work themselves.
- On May 10th, 2020 all Day Service Programs were required to shut down, if they hadn't already and were instructed to wait for guidance from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to re-open.
- On May 30, 2020 this guidance was issued to Winona ORC, in which it requires to lay out the plans we need to have in place for the initial group of individuals we serve to safely return to work.
- Right now we are working hard on this plan!

One of the greatest challenges we have faced is the lack of "retainer funding" or agency revenue for our services. When the people we serve are here, we are paid through their service agreements to support them. However, since they have not been here, we have not received this funding or any other supportive funding from the State of Minnesota to preserve or retain our services for the people we serve's return. In other words, until those we serve return to Winona ORC, we are operating our business at a loss. Your support is always appreciated and during this time as we prepare for the return of those we serve, your donations are, more than ever, needed and appreciated!

We have learned a lot through this time and hope you have taken a few moments to reflect on what is important to you as well. Some of the things we have learned are:

- The people we serve everyday are SO important to Winona ORC and we never knew how much we would miss them!
- Hugs and friends are really important.
- We have amazing customers and advocates in our Winona Community.
- We are stronger together than we are apart!

Our current slogan is: "The Mission is to Return to the Mission." And our mission is "to provide services for people with disabilities in our community, including: vocational counseling, comprehensive job-related skill training and meaningful employment." We look forward to returning to our mission and we thank you for your continued support!

1053 East Mark Street
Winona, Minnesota 55987
507-452-1855



www.winonaorc.org
Winona ORC Industries

Employee Superstar!



Sheryl Himlie
Employee Superstar

Sheryl Himlie has worked at Winona ORC since 2001 and is a **Superstar** in our eyes! In the many years she has worked for us, she has worked in our production department and our shredding department. She also participates in our SET program. In SET she offers a lot of knowledge, especially when discussing events in US History.

Her go with the flow attitude and her positivity are two of her greatest assets.

Sheryl is a movie buff - She goes (well did) at least once a week. She also travels and loves going to concerts. Classic country is her favorite.

We thank you Sheryl, for being such an awesome employee and congratulations on being a Superstar!

On June 4, 2020 Winona ORC received a new bus thanks to a grant from MnDOT.



Poultry Processing Solutions

Winona ORC is grateful for Meyn's support of our annual sponsorship drive. We partner closely with Meyn as many of our employees assemble their poultry chain in partnership with Peerless Chain. If you are interested in being a part of our 2020 Sponsorship program, please contact Stephanie Reed at 507-452-1855.



Xcel Energy awarded Winona ORC with a grant for \$3,500. These funds will be used to support our Skills, Education, and Training (SET) Program. Thank you!

The Winona Foundation has graciously granted our SET Program with 12 annual memberships to the Minnesota Marine Art Museum. This is the third year in a row that we've received this grant, allowing our SET Program to visit the MMAM. We love this collaboration that allows our employees to learn more about the Mississippi River and our great city of Winona!



winona foundation



What's Happening!

Sprucing up the building



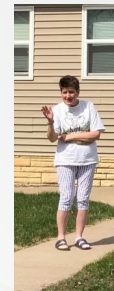
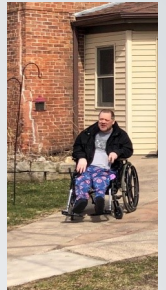
Denise Matejka, our Safety and Transportation Coordinator, has been very busy the past month. She has painted each of the entrance areas and has painted the locker area as well. It looks so clean and nice.

Thank you Denise, for doing such a great job!



Checking in on our Workers

Our workers did a great job of staying safe at home, but we missed them! We took 2 bus trips to see them from a distance. It looks like they missed us too!



Job Opportunity



"We Want You!"

Do you want to make a difference in the life of someone with a disability? We have a Job Coach position available at Winona ORC!

**Apply in person at
1053 E. Mark Street, or online at
winonaorc.org/careers**

For more information: (507) 452-1855 Linda Digby

GROUP FOR EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS (GES)

In September 2019, Winona ORC began the Group for Employment Success thanks to a generous grant from the Winona County Region 10 fund. Erick Hoffmaster has led this group through many sessions as they focus on mental health and how it relates to meaningful and competitive employment.

The group has found great success as the majority of participants have increased their productivity and work attendance. This amazing group of individuals have learned how best to cope with mental illness while working.

One member of the group states, the GES Group has "helped me with my anxiety in the workplace." Another member states, "I grew more assertive and [am now] able to help others."

Thank you, Erick, and the many others who have made this group successful!

Find the HIDDEN WORD "SPRING"

It could be in any picture!

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



Sign up now to participate in our Virtual Starlight Stroll!

10% of proceeds being donated to Team Vogel Vs Cancer in memory of Kelly Beach

How do I sign up? Register online at www.tinyurl.com/starlightstroll (search "Starlight Stroll"), and then run, walk or roll 3.1 miles for the event.

How do I participate? It's really easy! Just set out to run, walk or roll the 5K (3.1 miles) or one-mile race between August 1 and August 8. You can run, walk or roll the entire distance at once, or break it up—whatever best fits your needs. You can use a phone App to measure your distance and time yourself if you like. A few good Apps are "Map My Run," "Couch to 5K," and "Runkeeper."

How do I get my race shirt? Winona ORC will mail shirts following the race to everyone that registers. Watch for your package!

Can I still sponsor the race? YES! All of our sponsors will appear on the back of everyone's shirts. Contact Stephanie at 507-452-1855 for information on how to support this run and have your business name on our shirts. Deadline is July 20th.

What is the cost? We are reducing our price to \$15 per registrant this year. The cost still includes your shirt!

Send pictures to sreed@winonaorc.org!

Winona ORC Golf Tournament Postponed



Due to the Covid-19 crisis, our annual golf tournament has been postponed until September 10, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. Thank you to our wonderful sponsors who continue to support us each and every year. Thanks to you, we can help change the lives of our employees on their road to employment.



2019 Annual Recognition Banquet

Each year Winona ORC recognizes and celebrates the contributions that clients, staff, and area businesses have made to our mission. Sadly, we must cancel this year's award ceremony due to COVID-19.

FIVE YEARS

Sean Hentges, Cotter Horihan, Theresa Lemke, Fredericka Orlowske, Lynette Palecek, Charles Schell, Sophi Schneider, Ami Sholes

TEN YEARS

Tom Kohlstedt, Chad Lundahl, Denise Matejka, Eli Myers, Sarah Semling, Troy Stafford, Ashley Stoops, Cindy Thompson

FIFTEEN YEARS

Scott Espe, Amy Koch, Nicole Lakin, Scott Monahan, Tammy Riska, Maria Sardegna

TWENTY YEARS

Derek Briesath, Danna Frasch, Terry Scholl, Marcus Tyler, Ed Vater

TWENTY FIVE YEARS

Ann Walsky

THIRTY FIVE YEARS

Carol Beck, Terrianna Gjerdrum, Patrick Kronebusch

Customer of the Year - **Sauer Health Care**

Employer of the Year - **Culvers**

Volunteers of the Year -

Katie Wohletz & Marge Weichers

Community Partner - **HCO**

Worker's Council

Dave Beck, Shantel Majerus, Joan Moor, Mary Rinn, Troy Stafford, Jessica Walters, Kathy Wenger, & Dave Beck

Winona ORC Employee of the Month

Jan - Melissa Mueller	Feb - Chad Simon
Mar - Steve Vater	Apr - Chelsea Sylvester
May - Michelle Mueller	Jun - Sarah Semling
Jul - Nick Herndon	Aug - Gerald Erickson
Sep - Chris Neal	Oct - Sean Hentges
Nov - Jean Kopperud	Dec - Mary Rinn

Winona ORC Employee of the Year

To be announced at a later date!



Contributions

The following people have made donations from March through May.
Thank you all so very much!

Renata Rislow	Rich & Denise Pflughoeft	Leon J English
Ron Wenzel	Jean Galewski	Richard and Sharon Behnke
Winona Learning Club	Carl, Rhea and Erik Iverson	Kenneth C Bittner
Kevin and Nancy Quinn	Stephanie F Reed 💎	Merchants Bank
Jim and Beth O'Dea	Xcel Energy 💎	Ron Wenzel
Gene and Deb Pelowski	Meyn	Paul & Dorothy Evanson
Hawkins Ash CPA's	Homer United Methodist Church	Dennis & Karen Cleveland
Mike and Sue Hauser	Ben & Gayle Goetzman - Stolpa	Network for Good
Hoodecheck Family	Xcel Energy	John & Cindy Leaf
Slaggie Family Foundation	RiverSide Integrated Solutions	David Zimmerman

Matching Sponsors

MEYN

Make the Difference Sponsors

Slaggie Family Foundation

Merchants Bank

Be the Change Sponsors

RiverSide Electronics

Platinum Sponsor

Champion the Cause

WINONA ORC "GEMS"

Give Every Month

Visit our website at www.winonaorc.org/support-worc/ to read more about this great program!



RUBY \$12.50 per month = \$150 a year. Give up two coffees a month, and you've got this great sustaining donation covered! You receive a Winona ORC pen and window cling, along with special recognition in our newsletter!



EMERALD \$25.00 per month = \$300 a year for Winona ORC to support programming for our clients who struggle to work in the community. At this level, you receive the RUBY level gifts, plus TWO FREE tickets to our Annual Employee & Staff Recognition Banquet! Enjoy an evening out at The Riverport Inn eating great food, talking with our employees, and celebrating their victories!



SAPPHIRE \$50.00 per month = \$600 a year to help our organization support those with disabilities by offering community employment options—both with the support of our Job Coaches or as a Direct Hire! You will receive both the RUBY and EMERALD gifts, along with TWO FREE registrations to our Annual Starlight Stroll 5K/one-mile "Run, Walk, Roll!"



DIAMOND \$100 per month = \$1,200 to support each individual with a disability that comes to our organization! This level allows you to make a difference in the life of a Winona ORC employee. This is a big commitment, but has the best rewards: helping others while also receiving the RUBY, EMERALD, and SAPPHIRE perks, along with a foursome for golf at our Annual Golf Tournament held every July.

Shredding Service

Winona Shredding Service is pleased to offer an additional option for your personal or business use.

Seal N' Shred is a great alternative for your low volume shredding needs.

Purchase a sealable shredding bag

- Fill the bag with your documents and seal shut
- Drop off at Winona ORC to shred
- Simple and cost effective
- Two convenient sizes



Small - Holds 15 pounds

\$15 (includes shredding)

Large - Holds 35 pounds

\$20 (includes shredding)

For an additional \$15, 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 8-2:00

We also welcome recycling in your own bags or boxes—drop off on Tuesday or Friday. The cost is 35 cents per pound.

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



20 Gallon



30 Gallon



64 Gallon

Winona ORC Board of Directors

John Milek, President
Fastenal

Jim Vrchota, Vice President
Bremer Bank

Marie Kovecs, Secretary
County Commissioner

Connie Tropic, Treasurer
Ashley Furniture

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Formgraphics

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Denise McDowell
Winona State University

Bob Peterson
Retired

Bill Reinarts
Retired

Ron Wenzel
Retired

Advisor

Blaine Krogh
Hawkins Ash, CPA (Retired)

Senior Management Staff

Heidi S. Smith - Executive Director

Kristen Herrick - Director of Finance

Linda Digby - Director of Human Resources

Leslie Swartling - Director of Client Services

Anne Mueller - Director of Operations & Sales

If you know someone who would enjoy a copy of the Winona ORC Connection, please contact Stephanie Reed at sreed@winonaorc.org



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

Non-Profit
Presorted
Standard
US Postage
PAID
Winona, MN
Permit No. 127

Or Current Resident



Inside the Winona ORC Connection

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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.

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