

Pride, Inc's
Celebration of Trees

Pride was able to write more checks than ever before thanks to support from various sponsors and a supportive community!

Pride's Donations Account wrote over 230 checks totaling \$59,146 to support the people served by Pride, Inc!

And we couldn't have done it without the help of these sponsors



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People Helping People

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Pride, Inc. Annual Report 2017

People Helping People

Reuben

Reuben, a bubbly, active eight year old boy, began working with mentors through Pride Youth Mentor Services in September 2017. Reuben struggled with mobility and eating in the past, as well as his temperament. Over the course of the last eight months, Reuben's staff have worked with him on different coping skills, such as using his words, show us what's wrong, or swinging in our low light sensory room when he is upset. He improved to the point of starting and attending his scheduled routine therapies regularly and coming out of them very successful.



Reuben progressed to the point of being able to walk on his feet using orthotics due in part to him beginning his various therapies. He also recently started to feed himself, with minimal assistance from mentors. His vocabulary expanded tremendously, allowing him to communicate more effectively. His temperament improved as well. Reuben also started tolerating more community activities. His improved mobility has allowed him to swim and go to the zoo. Those are only a few of the ways Reuben has grown over the last eight months while receiving Pride services with us. You're doing great Reuben!

Hope Home

Hope Home recently had a new admission. After she had been there for a few days, a member of the staff asked her what her favorite part of Hope Home was thus far. She replied "I love sitting down to eat dinner as a family and saying grace before we eat". Good for you new resident.

A long term youth at Hope Home had some news to share. He said "Guess what I learned how to do today? Staff helped show me how to peel a zucchini! I never thought I would actually learn to do that!" He was so excited, he ran to share the news with a staff member. Congrats for learning something unexpected.

Success Stories

Life Skills and Gracefully Aging

In September 2016 the individuals in the Life Skills and Gracefully Aging Programs were invited by the Anne Carlsen Center to attend a special art project at Trinity Lutheran Church. A group of 16 individuals, as well as 6 DSP Instructors participated in the project.



The participants enjoyed creating their own unique stencil. They then were to choose a paint color and dip their stencils into it. The stencils were placed on a large piece of white paper then removed, leaving the various patterns to create a masterpiece. Participants were able to take their stencils home with them.

"Your positive action combined with positive thinking results in success."

Shiv Khera

Paul

Paul Bjergaard started working at McDonalds in 2008; since then he has made plenty of accomplishments. For the last few years, Paul has had a personal goal to advance to cooking at the grill station. He asked his managers if he could learn the grill station stating, "I wanted a change." Recently, Paul was given his opportunity to work the grill station. His response to the news was that it "felt great" and indicated that he enjoys working the station. Reaching his long time goal gave him a sense of proud accomplishment.



Paul noted that working at McDonalds and making advancements has made him feel good about himself. He said, "Working at McDonalds is fun." Congratulations to Paul for reaching your personal work goal!

The project was a resounding success. It demonstrated that everyone has the ability to enjoy creating art

when given the right amount of support and resources. Great job to all the participants!

Agatha

Agatha Gietzen had worked at Pride Productions since 2008. She eventually was approached about a position at Encore Shoes. With the support of staff, Agatha worked passed her anxiety and fear and decided to take a chance. She began her employment at Encore Shoes in January of 2016 and was eventually nominated and selected as one of the Best of the Best Employee Recognition Award recipients through ND APSE (Association of Persons in Supported Employment) chapter. She received this award during the NDACP conference on April 16, 2017.

Agatha was hired to be a greeter and to rotate shoes in the back room to get them ready for shipment to another store. She also paired shoes to be certain that each box had a right and left shoe. As she worked, her comfort level increased. Her boss decided she was ready to be introduced to doing sales. She started to do sales on the floor and became the queen of men's shoes.



Her boss chose to expand her skills and to teach her how to run the registers. Agatha stated that she looks forward to work and interacting with the customers. Due to support and help from her manager, Agatha developed the confidence to complete this task on her own. Agatha is developing the attitude that she can do anything she puts her mind to accomplish. Way to go Agatha!

"The secret of our success is that we never, never give up."

Wilma Mankiller

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

Albert Schweitzer

David

David Schlecht recently had an amazing opportunity. He was able to go on a fishing trip with Sporting Chance. As you can see, he had a great catch. David enjoyed his day in the sun immensely and can't wait to share with everyone about his time. You did awesome!



Darold

Darold Raszler has dreamed of traveling for years, but it is only recently he was able to spread his wings and see some awesome sites. Darold recently got the opportunity to take a trip to the Oregon coast. While on his trip, he enjoyed the great outdoors with a hike and some delicious s'mores. He also got the opportunity of a lifetime when he got to pet sea horses.



Darold is typically a quiet man, but when asked about the places he has gone, his face lights up and he is eager to tell people about all the fun. He enjoys his job at O'Brian's Tavern and Evangel Temple while he looks forward to more travels in his future. Safe travels Darold!

Rick

Rick Bjur was born in 1955 and enlisted in the army at 17 years old. He specialized as a Diesel Generator Mechanic & Operator. He was sent to Korea from 10/73 to 10/74 as a Spec 4. While there he received the "Armed Forces Expeditionary" medal. He discharged from the military in May of 1975 with the rank of Sergeant. Rick stated that he "enjoyed his time in the service".



In May of 2016 Redwood Village was contacted by the Patriot Guard Motorcycle Club about awarding Rick a medal in honor of his service. The Patriot Guard is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts who are also veterans of the military. Their goal is to ensure that all veterans receive a small token to thank them for their service. They bring a group of riders to the facility and present a medal in a small ceremony.

In June of 2016, Redwood Village held a picnic to honor Rick and welcome the Freedom Riders to present the medal. Many friends and family attended the event and congratulated Rick on this special honor. Thank you for your service Rick.

DSP of the Year Crystal Hamre-Rusch

Crystal Hamre-Rusch, a twelve year pride veteran, is this years Direct Support Professional of the year. Her primary position is a Production Instructor in the Production Program. She has developed strong relationships with both her clients and co-workers. Congratulations Crystal!



Pride, Inc. Endowment Fund



Would you like to help make more of these success stories? Do you want to help enrich people's lives in our community? Pride, Inc. has a ND Endowment Fund that can help you to contribute to Pride, Inc. while qualifying for a 40% ND Tax Credit. The gifts provided to the Pride, Inc. Endowment Fund will help Pride continue to live, learn, and work in our community. If you are interested in contributing to the Pride, Inc. Endowment Fund you can contact North Dakota Community Foundation at 701-222-8349. Thank you!