

Psst!

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PossAbilities Quarterly Newsletter • Fall 2012

NAME DROP: A SLICE OF WHO IS DOING WHAT, WHERE AND WHEN

Our Employment Awards Banquet on Oct. 3 at the International Event Center was a vivid reminder of why we do what we do – because we enrich the lives of our clients, their families and the community at large. Three coveted awards were dispensed as part of our program, including the Summit Award to **Culver's South** for their employment of our clients; the Guide Award to **Thom Hartmann** and **Tim Shelly** for their support of our clients in their work at **The Homestead at Rochester**; and the Explorer Award to our client **Mike** for his stellar work at **Sodexo**. Thanks to our program sponsor **Smith Schafer**, our 38 table sponsors and the 300 attendees who joined us. Our speakers **John Flanders**, **Roxanne Hellickson**, **Gail Bishop**, **Paul Pedersen** and **Betsy Singer** were amazing. To everyone affiliated with our Agency, we appreciate all that you do and give to help our clients enjoy rewarding work.



Mike and Sodexo Chef Tim

In the spring **Lisa**, **Ben** and **Gordy** returned to **Sargent's** to work in the greenhouse. Wow, is this a great team! Paired with PossAbilities Job Coach **T.J. Nienaber** the workers enjoyed the atmosphere and the jobs they were assigned. Sargent's has been a phenomenal employer of our clients by providing them various tasks at the far north location. Thank you to Lisa, Ben, Gordy and T.J. and to Sargent's too!

Client **Josh** was among those who participated in the winter Special Olympics and goodness, he did well! He brought home a gold medal for golf skills. Way to go Josh and to all who participated in the winter Special Olympics!

Life Enrichment clients have been busy interacting with students throughout the community! In April fun was had by all when students from **Lourdes High School** came and did puzzles and made rice socks with our PossAbilities clients. For the past seven summers, Summer of Service kids have visited to play games, enjoy music, and do crafts. They also have helped keep the outside of the building looking nice and clean. Thanks so much to these helpers!

Every school year, client **Jolynn** volunteers at **Golden Hill School** holding and assisting with the babies. She has met a lot of new babies each year and enjoys connecting with the youngest residents of Olmsted County. Golden Hill appreciates her assistance and looks forward to her arrival each year. Go Jolynn!



Lisa, T.J., Ben and Gordy at Sargent's

Each year for the past ten years, clients ring bells for fellow stellar nonprofit agency the **Salvation Army**. Our PossAbilities clients brave the elements once a week throughout November and December for this organization. It's awesome to see PossAbilities out in the community making a difference. Watch for them at the Red Kettles!

Longtime employer **Rainbow School** has expanded its services, allowing PossAbilities workers to clean the building for three weeks during their new summer programs. Thank you to Rainbow School for giving PossAbilities the opportunity to continue our work and we look forward to serving this organization in the future.

Client **Travis** has been **ARC's** "go-to" guy for the past 18 years and continues to excel! He enjoys his job as a clerical assistant and according to ARC "does whatever we ask of him with a smile on his face." Travis is especially fond of having his own desk where he is always hard at work. Congratulations and keep up the great work, Travis!

Thanks to **Think Mutual Bank's Carol Thouin** for facilitating a series of nights at Target Field for our gang! The Think-donated Twins seats were enjoyed in September by clients **Jacque**, **Roni**, **Merle**, staff **Tori Haley**, **Cristi Lyke**, **Jill Davison**, and community supporters **Bennie Peterson** and **Sarah Dawn Larson**, among others. "The seats were awesome," said Cristi, "and a good time was had by all."

-By Leah Brossoit and Renee Berg

Rebranding (2)

New website complete!

As part of our 2012 rebranding efforts we revealed a newly designed Agency website in May. Our web firm **CWS** hosted a launch party whereby staff, clients and donors enjoyed the big reveal. Client **Ben** (pictured below) pushed the "launch" button and bam! it was live.

The website provides an immediate introduction to PossAbilities – who we serve and how we serve them. It's captivating and picturesque and, best of all, client-focused. Included on the site are powerful testimonials, charming client photos, an informative overview of services and events and the opportunity to donate. Other good website news was the arrival of our first online

donation soon after the debut of the Make a Donation page. We also received proof of use when a reader happened upon the site and emailed us. Thanks to her we know the general public is using the site!

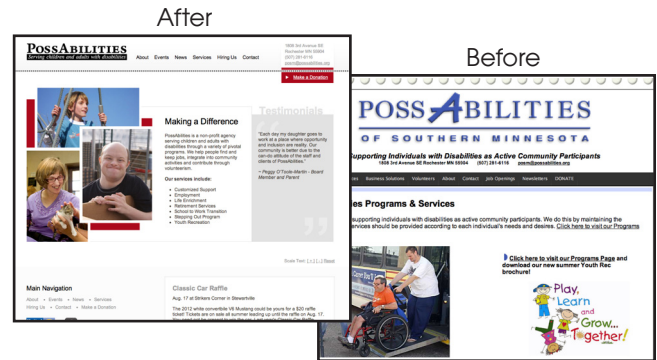


Ben and family

Deserved website kudos go to our volunteer Marketing Committee wizards **Kim Adams, Elaine Case, Michael Cleary, Karen Herman, Steve Lange, Katie Netzel, Peggy O'Toole-Martin, Betsy Singer, Jackie Strain and Brandon Threlten** for their guidance in determining how PossAbilities can best show and tell our story; CWS heroes **Heather Holmes, Sheryl Barlow and Joe Millbach** for crafting the site of our dreams; and staff members **Robyn Befort, Renee Berg, Tyler Crawford, Jill Davison, Linda Driessen, John Flanders,**

Cristi Lyke, Polly Owens, Paul Pedersen, Joel Pralle and Annie Skogen for playing key roles in developing stellar website content.

To see for yourself, please go online to www.possabilities.org today!



Spotlight on...Youth Rec Staff Member Sarah Bahler

Leah Brossoit: How long have you worked for PossAbilities?
Sarah Bahler: 3 years I think.

LB: What do you like best about your job?

SB: I love the fact that I get to hang out with great kids and get paid for it! Who wouldn't? I seriously come to work and get to do the one thing I enjoy. I could be having the worst day and somehow those kids always bring a smile to my face.

LB: Who is one of your favorite coworkers?

SB: There are a few. But in all honesty I have great coworkers and I couldn't possibly single any of them out.

LB: What's your favorite kid movie?

SB: Seriously? You want to ask someone who works with kids all day long what her favorite kid movie is? There is a HUGE list! I would say a few newer ones are *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Tangled*, *Princess and the Frog* and to be honest any Disney movie!

LB: If you could have one super power what would it be and why?

SB: Teleportation! If I needed to get away for a weekend I could just go! Money wouldn't be an issue and time wouldn't be either.

LB: What's always in your fridge?

SB: Usually Greek yogurt and string cheese. Great combo, huh?

LB: Who is your favorite Disney princess?

SB: If I had to pick one I'd say Belle. She has brains, beauty and always tries to find the good in everyone. She reminds me a lot of myself!

LB: Tell us how you spend your time outside work.

SB: When I actually have the time I love going to sporting events. I am a huge Green Bay Packers fan and I love the Minnesota Wild. I also really enjoy going to movies and hanging out with my friends.

LB: Anything else you want to include?

SB: I went back to college in January! I am currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing. I am finishing my final class before applying to the program in the fall of 2013 and graduating spring 2016. Wish me luck!

Spotlight features a PossAbilities staff person to help us learn more about the amazing folks we see and talk to everyday.

Mayo Clinic cancer survivor wins Mustang for brother

When **Dick Read's** refrigerator broke his older brother **Mike** got him a new one. When his garbage disposal broke Mike replaced that too. And when Dick was bed-ridden with illness it was Mike who insisted he go to Mayo Clinic for care.

The Hugo, Minn., man spent July 2011 in Rochester undergoing extensive treatments for multiple myeloma. He needed another repair done – a replacement door panel for his 1998 Ford Taurus. In cruising the Rochester Ford website Dick happened upon an ad for the annual PossAbilities Classic Car Raffle and decided to try his luck at winning the prize – a new Mustang convertible – for his Good Samaritan brother Mike to repay him his favors. A long-time Mustang lover, Mike also vied to win the raffle. That summer neither Read brother took home the Mustang; it was won by a retired farmer in Oronoco. But on Aug. 17, 2012, at Strikers Corner in Stewartville a different tale unfolded.

Dick left his job at Delta in Bloomington, Minn., at 6:30 p.m. and hit the road hoping to make the 8 p.m. raffle, held in conjunction with the Stewie Cruisers Car Show in Stewartville. He parked by a fire hydrant outside Strikers and joined the gathered crowd just as PossAbilities client **Merle** reached into the raffle wheel and pulled out a ticket Dick had bought in Mike's name. "I heard Mike's name announced clear as a bell," Dick said afterward. "I was a little teary and totally psyched."



Mike, Karen & Dick Read

Mike was reached at home in Mounds View and said he was watching Scooby-Doo with his 4-year-old granddaughter. On Aug. 20 he, his wife Karen and Dick car pooled to Rochester to claim the 2012 V6 convertible Mustang. Mike drove it home and added it to his Mustang collection of a 1966 rebuilt convertible and a 1967 coupe that he's been "resurrecting for the last 32 years." It's Mike, older by one year, who is the jokester of the family. In fact, remarked Karen, many of Mike's friends didn't believe him when he announced he won a new Mustang through a non-profit raffle in Rochester.

As for Dick's health, his Mayo doctors cleared him of all restrictions so he's back on the treadmill, lifting weights and plans to snowmobile this winter. And as for the PossAbilities 2013 Classic Car Raffle the Read brothers agree, "We'll be there."

We thank our Classic Car Raffle sponsors for helping us raise \$53,000: Platinum/Clear Channel Communications, Rochester Ford; Gold/FOX 47, Olmsted County Journal; Silver/Davies Printing, PPMI, Culver's, United Heating & Cooling; Bronze/Premier Banks, City Auto Glass, Fairway Outdoor Advertising, Associated Bank; Partners/Autodata Publications, Greenway Co-Op, Heartland Tire & Service, HiMec At Home, Merchants Bank, NexGen Sign & Graphics, Panera, R&S Transport; Contributors/ Med City Mobility, Stewie Cruisers, Stolp's Quality Auto Repair LLC

– By Renee Berg

Ice Cream Social hits the spot

Just how much ice cream does it take to feed the hungry attendees of the PossAbilities annual Ice Cream Social? We lost count of how much chocolate, vanilla and mint ice cream was supplied by Kemp's for the event held June 18 at our new location of Mayo Park. But we can report this – volunteers were elbow-deep in ice cream freezers for the entire night!



Celebrities chow down

First-time volunteers from the Children's Museum of Rochester had a blast providing activities and crafts for the kids. "It is great to be out in the community helping another nonprofit organization and everything goes to a great cause!" explained one volunteer. The Ice Cream Social is not only a fundraiser for PossAbilities but also facilitates fellowship among clients, their families and the general public.



Roller Girls volunteers

Five local celebrities braved the brain freeze to compete for the coveted title of "Ice Cream Eating Champion." Participants included **Jen Koski** of Rochester Magazine, **Jeff Kiger** of the Post Bulletin, **Dietrich Nissen** from ABC 6 News, **Julie Jones** of 102.5 The Fox, and a member of the **MedCity Mafia Roller Derby Team**. Congratulations to **Dietrich Nissen** for emerging as the 2012 champion after a close contest!

Thank you to all the volunteers who brought and ran the game stations, sold wristbands, and kept the event running smoothly. We couldn't have done it without you!

We would also like to extend an enormous thank you to our corporate sponsors **Home Federal Savings Bank**, **Kemp's** and **Med City Mobility**. We appreciate your philanthropy!

– By Leah Brossoit

PossAbilities

The Psst! PossAbilities Newsletter is published quarterly for friends of PossAbilities, a nonprofit organization supporting children and adults with disabilities.

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