



JANUARY 2026 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2026!



This year marks an exciting and meaningful milestone for Shares, Inc. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we are also beginning an important transition in the services we provide, while continuing to improve the lives of those we serve. During times of transition, it's helpful to remind ourselves why we are here and what guides our work. Our mission says it best: "Shares, Inc. provides services and support for people with disabilities to

enhance their successful inclusion in the community." While the coming changes may be challenging and even frustrating at times, returning to our mission can help us understand why these changes are necessary and how they ultimately benefit those we serve.

In addition to change, 2026 will also be a year of celebration. Fifty years is an incredible achievement, and over that time, Shares, Inc. has made a profound impact on countless lives. We look forward to honoring that legacy throughout the year. You will also notice some exciting updates rolling out soon, including a new logo, a refreshed website, and other enhancements you'll see over the course of the year. I am truly excited about what lies ahead for Shares Inc., and I am confident that with the dedicated team we have, this year will be a successful and memorable one.

Throughout 2026, you will see many changes. Change is not always easy, and it does not always feel comfortable at first. I ask that you approach this year with an open mind and a willingness to embrace the journey ahead. As we move away from "the way we've always done things," our goal is to shift our thinking toward providing more meaningful, community-focused services.



Ryan Bethel, Executive Director

In this issue:

- Outlook
- Holiday Festivities
- Annual Outcomes
- Awarded Grants
- CES Story
- Friendly Reminders
- New Logo
- 2026 Educational Trip
- Day Services Update
- Staff Updates
- Save the Dates

Shares, Inc. provides services and support for people with disabilities to enhance their successful inclusion in the community.

• Inclusion • Excellence • Integrity • Compassion

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES



All three Shares, Inc. locations hosted holiday festivities throughout December. We also had one big company gathering! From The Grinch and Santa visits to our annual cornhole tournament, there was plenty of cheer!



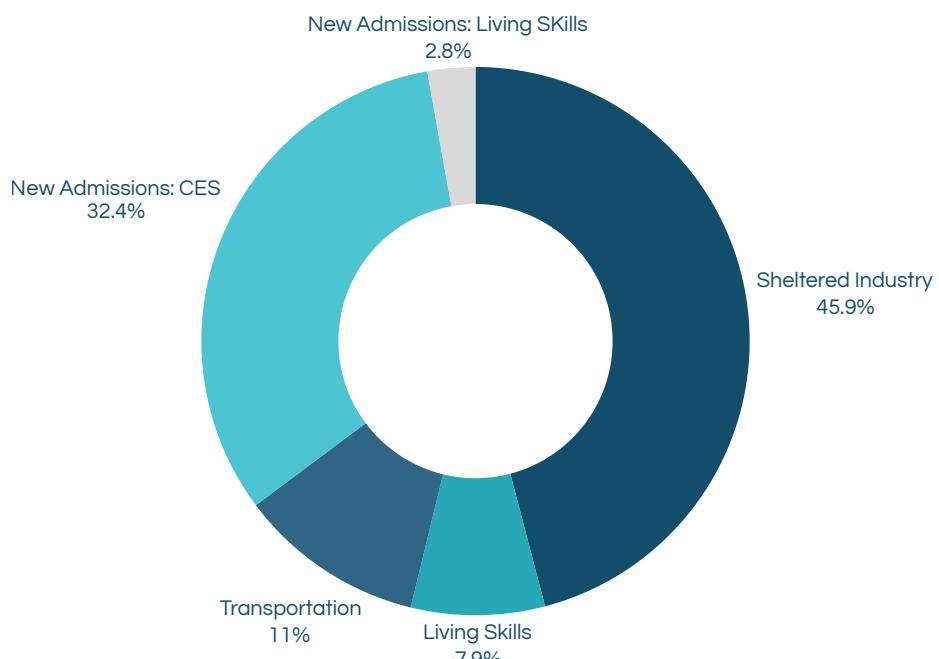
HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES CONT.



Annual Outcomes

Number of Individuals Served

Shares, Inc. provides two significant types of Programs/Services to participants of the agency. They are Vocational and Employment Services and Community Integration Services (Support Services). Last year, we received 135 referrals for services. 115 referrals were from the office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and 20 referrals were from group homes, nursing homes, Medicaid Waiver, and State funding sources. The following charts show the number of participants served by the program area.



Scores

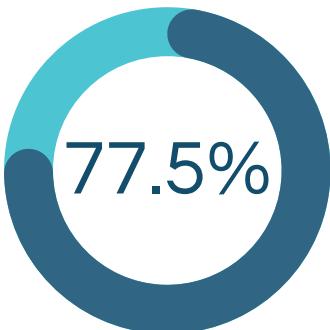
Each program is given a score based on its performance on objectives, as is the area of Business Function. The following are the overall scores of each of the programs. A score of 100 equals performance at or above the goal level.



Industry/Production



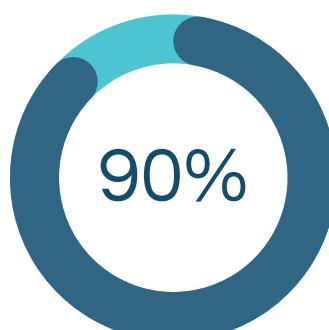
Community Employment Services



Industry/Program Development



Community Integration Services



Business Function

Awarded Grants



From Left: André Robinson, Amy Isley, Dwana Back-Lamberson, Ryan Bethel and Jordan Turner

Shares, Inc. was awarded a \$10,000 grant through NineStar Connect's Operation Round Up grant program. These funds will be used to purchase new laptop computers for staff to replace some outdated computers currently in use. New laptops will help our staff to more efficiently document their services, communicate with participants' family members and case managers, and access online resources. We are so grateful to NineStar for this funding!



Thank you to the Blue River Community Foundation! During the holiday season, each employee at the Foundation selects a nonprofit organization to receive a \$1,000 grant through their Shining Bright Together program. Laura Land chose Shares, Inc. to receive this grant. These funds will support our Day Services.



Dwana Back-Lamberson (left) from Shares, Inc. and Laura Land (right) from the Blue River Community Foundation

Community Employment

This past year has seen an increase in the number of individuals receiving services from Shares, Inc., engaging in Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) for discovery and job placement through the Supported Employment Plus (SE+) Program. The agency has grown from approximately six to ten individuals per year opening a VR case to over 60 active cases agency-wide! While this is part of a Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) project via the U.S. Department of Education, the excitement about participants choosing their career paths puts Shares, Inc. on the cutting edge of the array of services we offer to people with disabilities and expands the overall number of choices available to people with disabilities in the communities we serve. As our state continues to evolve services, especially those for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation will become an even bigger piece of the puzzle when it comes to inclusive efforts in our state and country. This DIF project is part of the Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE) Project, in which Indiana and 14 other states are trying something different with vocational services for people who have been in subminimum-wage sheltered workshops.

Sharon Lyle has been with Shares, Inc. since 1994. Her support team saw the new SE+ Program as an opportunity to consider Sharon's dream of a job outside Shares, Inc. By working closely with dedicated staff and a specialized VR counselor at Shares Inc., our Benefits Information Network liaison calmed her parents' fears about losing her benefits, and the extended discovery period under the project allowed her job coach, Lynn Pickett, to dig in and identify existing skills while developing new ones. The program's flexibility and collaboration with her support team fostered rapport and trust and helped uncover transferable work skills. Sharon takes great pride in processing books for online sale at Goodwill, where she sorts books, looks up their value by ISBN, uses a complex software system, and prepares them for shipment. None of this would have been possible without the flexibility of her whole team and an understanding of our key values at Shares, Inc., including inclusion, which creates opportunity and fosters a sense of belonging, enabling Sharon to make an informed choice about her career path and take control of the direction of her life. Shares, Inc. can be immensely proud of this story and many others, where we take pride in the excellence of our

work—meeting challenges with quality, courage, and innovation.

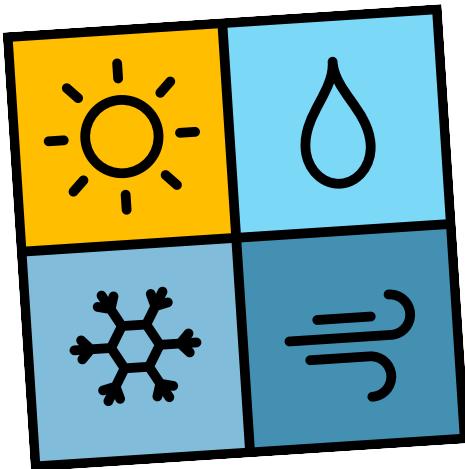
We hope that level of support quality translates throughout the state of Indiana and nationwide. Even after the project ends, Shares, Inc. will remain on the cutting edge of service delivery and will continue to set an example for people with disabilities, case managers, residential providers, employers, and community members, that people with disabilities, with excellent and compassionate supports, can be valued, fully included, and empowered to create meaningful, self-determined lives.



Sharon Lyle proudly shows her employee shirt!



Friendly Reminders



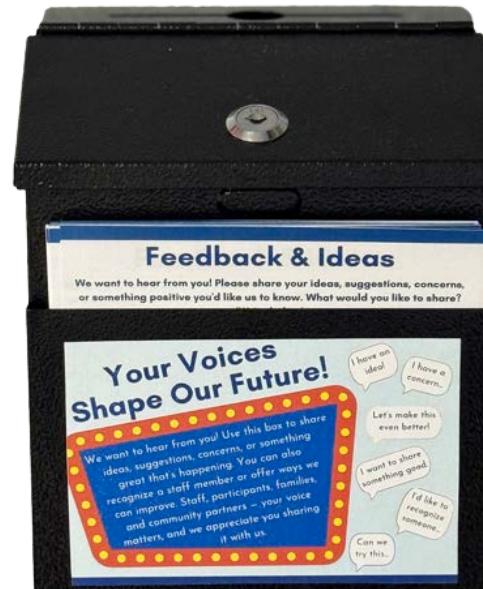
- With the weather shifting from cold to hot and typical Indiana unpredictability, please remember to dress appropriately and grab your coat, just in case, on your way out the door!
- Please note that Shares, Inc. will post to Facebook if we are closed. We do not follow the school's schedule.
- When picking up on slick days, please pick up in front of the Shares' entrance. This will help prevent falls.

Did you know that each of our locations has a suggestion box? Feel free to fill out the form located in the box!

Locations:

- Hancock County: On the right-hand wall as you exit through the main entrance
- Shelby County: Inside the front door, directly across from the door-opener button

Rush County: Straight ahead when you walk through the entrance



- If you or someone you take care of is sick, please stay home, as we do not want it to spread. Please refer to our Participant Handbook for further guidance.
- Shares, Inc. has a responsibility to protect healthy participants and staff while also ensuring that those who are unwell are not placed at risk of injury or exhaustion.
- As a general rule, if you are too ill to participate in regular programming or need more care than staff can safely provide, it is best to stay home and rest.

Introducing Our New Logo!

As Shares, Inc. enters our 50th anniversary year, we wanted to mark the occasion by updating our logo. Soon you will begin to see this new branding everywhere – on our website, social media, business cards, letterhead, email signatures, and of course, here on our newsletter!

Fun fact:

The graphic designer who created this logo is actually a former Shares, Inc. Community Employment Services participant! What a wonderful opportunity it's been for him to put his career success to work by partnering with us in our rebranding process!

Coming soon:

Stay tuned for a new website launching shortly! We cannot wait to share it with you.

Then



Now



Educational Trip 2026

🌟 Save the Date: 2026 Educational Trip to Grand Rapids! 🌟

We're thrilled to announce that our 2026 Shares, Inc. Educational Trip will be heading to Grand Rapids, Michigan, from August 30 – September 4, 2026! 🎉

Known for its vibrant downtown, scenic riverwalks, unique attractions, and plenty of opportunities for fun and learning, Grand Rapids offers something for everyone. This trip will be packed with new experiences, exploration, social time, and unforgettable memories—all while building independence, confidence, and community connections along the way.

More details will be coming soon, but now is the perfect time to start getting excited and thinking about joining us on another amazing Shares, Inc. adventure. We can't wait to explore Grand Rapids together!



Dates: Sunday, August 30-Friday, September 4

⌚ Cost: Participants enrolled in 20 hours or more a week of in-house programming will pay \$975. Participants enrolled less than 20 hours/week will pay \$1200. Trip balances must be paid in full, no later than July 1, 2026.

📝 Sign-Up Deadline: Spots are limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

This is an amazing opportunity to explore, learn, and create lifelong memories with your fellow peers. Possible excursions may include visits to the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Frederick Meijer Gardens, Lake Michigan lakeshore communities such as Grand Haven or Holland.

If interested, please see your Program Manager for the form:
Shelbyville—Amy Isley; Greenfield—Brynne Snyder; Rushville—Ann King

Questions? Please reach out to Amy Isley at amyi@sharesinc.org or 317-512-5072

What's New in Day Services

Shares, Inc. has started the three new pathways designed to better meet each individual's interests, strengths, and life stage. These new offerings were built to create meaningful experiences, encourage choice, and support personal growth, all while keeping participants engaged, active, and connected to their communities.

Below is a snapshot of the new pathways/programs!

Skills to Work is a new opportunity designed for individuals interested in developing work skills to prepare for future community employment. Together, we will identify strengths and areas for growth. We will explore the world of work and discover which jobs interest us most. We will work closely with our community partners to offer training and experience that translates into real job skills.

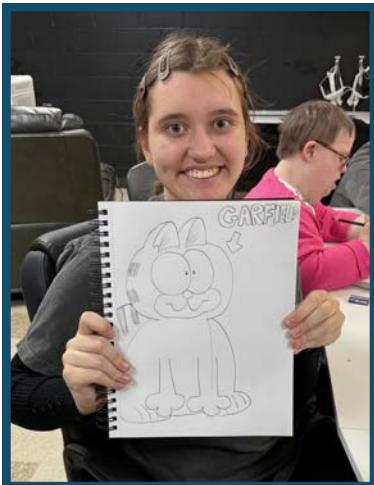
Skills to Thrive is designed for individuals who are interested in having fun while developing meaningful skills to enhance their independence. It's our former Daily Living Skills program, but enhanced to offer more personalized options. Skills to Thrive offers a variety of activities designed to strengthen independence and build confidence to try new things. Together, we will identify hobbies and interests, gain new knowledge, and create community.

Good Life Club is a new opportunity for individuals stepping back from employment or day services who still want to stay active, social, and connected. Members are encouraged to choose what brings joy and purpose as they discover new experiences, share laughter and stories, stay active and well, and celebrate the freedom and fulfillment of this season of life.

If you have questions or would like to discuss which program may be the best fit, please reach out to Jordan Turner at jturner@sharesinc.org.



From Left: Eddie Pittman, Blake Riley, and Shelly Snow delivered goodies to first responders in Hancock County



Amaya Barnegrover shows her drawing from the Shelbyville Art Class



From Left: Doug Brewer, Brad Handy, Chris Gilpin, and Bryce Shelton are working on painting in their Art Class in Rushville

Position Changes



Lillian Rowe has been with Shares for three years, starting as an Employment Consultant and recently transitioned to Day Services Manager.

For the past year, she has been working closely with her colleagues to develop a new pathway program with Day Services. Each pathway will provide those we support with the skills needed to reach their personal goals, from learning kitchen safety to playing cards with friends over a cup of coffee. As the program grows, we will continue to work together to make Day Services the best it can be!



Austin Rogers has been with Shares, Inc. for nearly eight years, beginning his career as a Production Supervisor. He then advanced to the role of Living Skills Manager and is currently serving as Program Manager in Shelbyville. He is eager to start this new role, focusing on goal and person-centered planning, and to work with participants on a deeper, more individualized level.

Introducing the Latest Members of Our Team



I'm Jess Ford, and I love being at Shares, Inc! I was working in a group home in Shelbyville and Greenfield before coming here. My husband has a 15-year-old daughter, which makes me a stepmom—or as we like to say, bonus mom. We also have three dogs: Izzy, Silus, and Dottie. They're my fur babies! I love doing arts and crafts and going out and doing things. I will always tell everyone I'm no spelling bee champ, but I do my best! Family always comes first! Be kind! I love helping others and just had to be a part of this amazing Shares, Inc. team. Overall, I'm fun, a little crazy, and a mellow person who cares too much.



I'm Jessica Keller. I'm new to working at Shares, but the Shares facility isn't new to me. Before I started here, I worked at a group home. I absolutely love working with others and supporting those who need it. One of my brothers, who had muscular dystrophy and used a wheelchair, passed away in 2008. He was my best friend and the reason for my passion for what I do. When I'm not working, I can be found reading a book, making art for my business, being a mom to my 14-year-old son, or spending time with my friends and family. I'm also a reptile owner. I have a bearded dragon, and I'm getting a gecko and a snake very soon. My goal is to return to school to pursue social work and advocacy. I aim to be that voice for others and help them in any way I can. We could all use a little help sometimes. It's a huge part of why I wanted to work for Shares. I want to help wherever I can.



My name is Mariah, and I am a big animal lover! Animals are a big part of my life, and right now I have one dog that lives with me. Her name is Winnie, and she is a Boston Terrier! She is currently training to be my service dog. I also love the summer time, it's my favorite season. I love kayaking, swimming at the lake, and sunbathing. The reason I chose to work with Shares, Inc. is that I love helping people learn. My uncle has a disability, and I have always loved helping him learn different things. I am very excited to work with everyone in the future and learn all about Shares! So far, I love the job!!!



Hello! My name is Holly Neice. I am currently engaged to a wonderful man named Aaron. We plan to marry in October of 2027. We have five beautiful little boys. I have a 6-year-old who's in first grade, a set of twins who are 11, and my oldest will be 13 in March! In our downtime, we love educational fun. We watch documentaries, go to the Children's Museum, and play all kinds of trivia. Anything to make our brains sharper! I'm one of the new supervisors in the workshop here at Greenfield Shares. It's definitely different from running a hotel, which is what I did before this, but in a good way! I feel like my job has meaning now! I love my new job and can't wait to see where the future takes me!

SAVE THE DATE

MAKE A DONATION

You're invited! Mark Your Calendars...

Shares, Inc. Board Meeting

Monday, January 26th, at 7:00 pm, Location TBA

Shares, Inc. Showcase

Friday, March 6th at 10:00 am, 645 S. State Street
Greenfield, IN 46140

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25th, Shares, Inc. Closed

Trip Balance Due

Wednesday, July 1st

Independence Day

Thursday July 2nd & Friday July 3rd, Shares, Inc.
Closed

* Note: Locations of the board meetings could change.

Contact Us



www.facebook.com/shares-inc



www.sharesinc.org



@shares_inc

Support the Next 50 Years of Abilities!

For 50 years, Shares, Inc. has supported people with disabilities in building meaningful skills, relationships, and opportunities within our community.

Your gift helps ensure that individuals we support continue to grow, thrive, and be included - today and for generations to come.



Every Gift Makes A Difference

Your generosity directly supports programs, services, and opportunities for people we serve.

Use the QR code above or visit www.sharesinc.org and click on the donate button at the top of the homepage to donate and be part of the impact.

Shares, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SHARES, INC.!