



Shares inc.

Unlocking Abilities, Igniting Dreams



OCTOBER 2026 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Fall & Winter Resources

Cold weather and the holidays are quickly approaching. Here are some resources that you might find helpful during these demanding and frigid months.

Energy Assistance Program (EAP)

Applications for EAP will be open on October 1st, 2026. The Energy Assistance Program provides financial assistance to qualified households. Households are given a one-time benefit to maintain utility services during the winter heating season. EAP assists with a variety of heat sources. The program is first-come, first-served. More information can be found at <https://www.incap.org/energy-assistance>. If you need help completing this application or would like to complete a paper application, please reach out to your Service Coordinator.

Food Pantries & Christmas Assistance

With the holidays often comes the need for a little extra help with food and gifts for Christmas. Scan the QR code for access to food pantries and Christmas assistance programs in Shelby, Hancock, and Rush Counties.



Feast of Plenty

Did you know that the Lisa Muegge Feast of Plenty offers a Thanksgiving meal and groceries for pickup or delivery on Thanksgiving morning? This year, they will have locations at the Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds, the Rushville Elks Club, and the Boys and Girls Club of Shelby County. This is available to anyone regardless of your income. Registration will open soon. To register you and your family to receive a Thanksgiving dinner, visit the Feast of Plenty website (<https://feastofplentyoutreach.com/>).

In this issue:

- Fall & Winter Resources
- SAI Picnic
- 2026 Educational Trip
- Grand Rapids, MI
- Disability Employment
- Awareness Month
- Outcomes
- Grant Awards
- Meet Josh, Kimberly, Chris, Chassidy, and
- Ziara
- Events & Donations

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

• Inclusion • Excellence • Integrity • Compassion

Self-Advocates of Indiana Picnic



On September 25th, 2026, Shares, Inc. participants had the pleasure of attending the annual Self-Advocates of Indiana Picnic at Hummel Park in Plainfield.

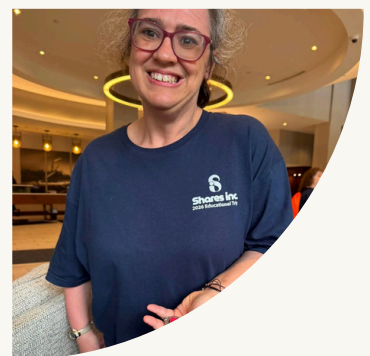
The day was filled with friendship, food, activities, and plenty of picnic fun, including dancing, caricatures, registering to vote, educational booths, popcorn, lunch, and snow cones! This event brings self-advocates together from all across the state of Indiana to connect, meet new people, and celebrate the strength of our community.

This event is always a blast. Participants came back with bags full of goodies, swag, and excitement for next year's SAI Picnic.



2026 Educational Trip - Grand Rapids, MI

The 2026 Educational Trip took participants to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Highlights of the trip included touring the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, trying new food at the Grand Rapids Downtown Market, visiting the Grand Haven Boardwalk and Lighthouses, walking through the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, watching a movie at Celebration Cinema Rivertown, shopping at RiverTown Crossings, and visiting Holland, Michigan. Check out some of the pictures from the amazing trip!

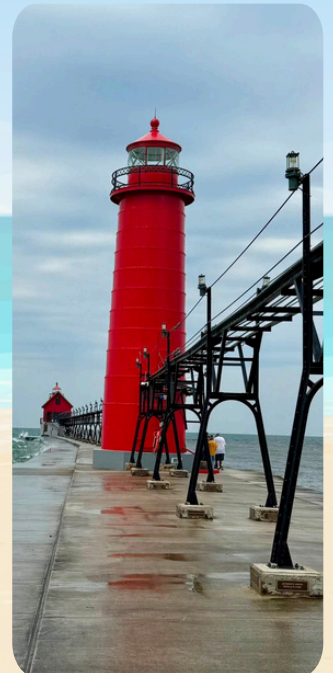


2026 Educational Trip - Grand Rapids, MI

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



Grand Haven Boardwalk and Lighthouses



2026 Educational Trip - Grand Rapids, MI

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park



Holland, Michigan



Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a time to recognize the important contributions people with disabilities make in the workplace and the value of creating meaningful employment opportunities for people of all abilities. At Shares, Inc., we are fortunate to work with community employers who look beyond disability and recognize the skills, strengths, and potential each person brings to the job. This month, we are proud to highlight several of these community partners and the ways they are helping people with disabilities build skills, gain experience, and find meaningful roles in their communities.



What truly sets Hillview Country Club apart is its openness to providing participants with hands-on opportunities to explore outdoor careers—roles in golf course maintenance, groundskeeping, landscaping, and related outdoor work that allow individuals to engage directly with nature while contributing to the upkeep of one of central Indiana's most charming properties.

This willingness to open outdoor career pathways makes Hillview an exceptional partner. Participants thrive as great employees because the club offers structured, meaningful outdoor roles that emphasize reliability, teamwork, and practical skills in a supportive environment. By giving individuals the chance to try and grow in these positions amid the fresh air and scenic grounds, Hillview helps participants build confidence, develop valuable experience, and discover fulfilling work that matches their strengths and interests.

Thunderbird Molding in Shelbyville, Indiana, is a strong community partner to Shares, Inc. and the individuals that we support. Thunderbird Molding demonstrates its commitment as a valued partner through strong performance, even under pressure, while fostering a culture of continuous improvement and mutual support.

Participants thrive as great employees because the company offers structured manufacturing and assembly positions that reward reliability, attention to detail, and teamwork, backed by benefits and a safety-focused workplace. These elements allow individuals of all abilities to contribute meaningfully, grow their skills, and deliver consistent results in a setting that values every team member's strength.



Disability Employment Awareness Month



Culver's

Culver's based in Greenfield has become a stellar location for strong work skill-building opportunities, especially for first-time employees. The management team at Culver's excels in proactive team-centered training and support for individuals to identify areas of growth/competency and to advance their careers as well. The general manager in particular works with each employee to develop his/her personal best, all in combination with opportunities for connection with coworkers for improved team support as well as fun activities built into work objectives while on the job. Incentives are built in for daily and weekly recognition of individual's growth in skill areas as well as team recognition for goals achieved. The management team works closely together with their staff to provide an environment which delivers excellent community service combined with authentic inclusivity for all members of the team.

G&H Orthodontics, based in Franklin, Indiana, stands out as a valued community partner during Disability Employment Awareness Month. As a long-standing U.S. manufacturer of orthodontic products with deep roots in Johnson County, the company demonstrates a commitment to authentic relationships and inclusive workforce practices that open meaningful opportunities for individuals of all abilities. Their local approach to business—controlling quality from start to finish while fostering genuine connections with employees and the surrounding community—creates a supportive environment where diverse talent can thrive alongside a focus on precision manufacturing and customer service excellence.

What makes G&H a strong partner is its emphasis on accountability, continuous problem-solving, and building measurable value for everyone involved. Participants succeed as great employees because the company provides clear processes, hands-on manufacturing roles that reward reliability and attention to detail, and a culture that values listening and engaged service. These elements allow individuals with disabilities to contribute their unique strengths in a structured, respectful workplace that prioritizes both high-quality results and genuine team support.

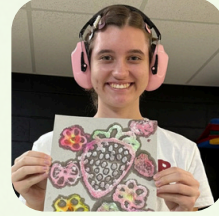


G&H ORTHODONTICS®
Quality Manufacturing. Exceptional Service.

Outcomes

Celebrating a Year of Growth, Opportunity, and Success at Shares, Inc.

The 2025–2026 fiscal year was a year of meaningful progress, new opportunities, and continued commitment to the people served by Shares, Inc. Across Community Employment Services, Day Services, and Industry, participants and staff worked together to build skills, increase independence, strengthen community connections, and create new possibilities.



Creating Choices and Connections

Day Services continues to focus on independence, daily living skills, meaningful choices, and community inclusion. Participants are offered choices throughout the day featuring activities that blend facility-based and community experiences.

Community participation also extends beyond structured programming in the classroom. Shares, Inc. continues to provide opportunities for volunteering. Community involvement can help individuals build confidence, develop friendships, and form connections outside the agency while providing satisfaction from making a positive impact in the community.

Self-Advocacy

Developing and improving self-advocacy skills was another important part of the year. Community Councils in each county meet regularly, giving participants opportunities to be involved in conversations about the services that affect their lives and to take an active role in planning activities and events such as the Showcase event and volunteer opportunities.

Investing in Staff and Quality Services

The success of participants depends on the knowledge and skills of the caring staff. All direct service staff received training in safety, first aid, CPR, medication administration, behavior supports, abuse and neglect prevention, transportation safety, and participant-specific trainings. Staff also completed the new HCSP credential requirements.



By the Numbers

108

Industry Program participants

10

New Industry Program admissions

\$1.8M+

Industry Contract Support
Generated

111

Community Employment Services
referrals

90%

% of CES referrals obtaining
employment

85%

% of CES participants maintaining
employment at six months

207

Participants receiving Community
Integration Instruction

143

Participants in the Day Services
Program

39

Participants involved with
Community Council

34

Participants receiving
transportation services

Removing Barriers and Expanding Possibilities

Shares, Inc. continues to recognize that each person has individual goals, interests, and barriers. Transportation, work speed, behavioral needs, and family perceptions can all affect a person's path. Staff continues to identify these barriers and develop individualized supports and training.

Transportation remains an important tool for independence and community integration and participation. Shares, Inc. provided transportation to 34 participants during the fiscal year. Shares, Inc. was able to secure INDOT grants for accessible vehicles for transportation routes and community outings. Shares, Inc. received a new low-floor, wheelchair-accessible minivan through the INDOT grants, providing a new, accessible van for Shelbyville participants.

Community Employment Outcomes

Over our past fiscal year, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, our community employment team worked with 111 new referrals. Of those referrals, 73 were authorized for job placement services, and the team helped place 40 individuals into lasting employment outcomes. Our rehabilitation rate (the amount of people being referred to those who gained employment) was 54%, about 5% higher than the state average.

12 out of the 40 placements were from our SE+ Program that helps individuals transition from sheltered work environments. This is impressive, as in years past, this number was below 10%, and we have tripled those outcomes!

The CES staff work to find all sorts of evaluation and career exploration sites. Typically, it takes individuals around 6 months from their intake to complete evaluation and discovery, and then find a job. On average, these placements are jobs that are 18 hours a week earning \$13.23 per hour.

The CES Team hopes to work with more individuals from Shares and our communities of Shelby, Hancock, Rush, and surrounding counties! To learn more about Community Employment, reach out to Joe Land: jland@sharesinc.org, 812.390.6085

A Year of Milestones

Perhaps one of the most significant organizational accomplishments was reaching a major, long-term financial goal. Shares, Inc. now carries zero debt! The organization identified financial freedom as a way to strengthen services for participants.

Looking Ahead

Shares, Inc. will continue to develop community-based programs, expand employment opportunities, explore additional services, strengthen fundraising efforts, and create opportunities that reflect participant interests and individual goals.

The accomplishments of the 2025-2026 fiscal year demonstrate what is possible when participants, families, staff, businesses, community partners, and supporters work together. From Community Employment Services to Day Program Services, participants are building greater independence and becoming more involved in their communities. Our programs help each participant create a life filled with greater choice, meaningful opportunities, and a strong sense of inclusion.

Grants Awarded



We are excited to announce that our grant request to the Rush County Community Foundation was awarded! Shares, Inc. received \$15,000 to purchase annual Rushville Parks and Recreation Center memberships for our Rushville participants.

Participants who are interested will have the opportunity to receive a membership at no cost. We plan to take groups to the Recreation Center each week, allowing participants to explore the facility, stay active, and discover activities they enjoy. We also hope participants will take advantage of their memberships with family or friends outside of Shares program hours.

We are incredibly grateful to the Rush County Community Foundation for investing in the health, inclusion, and well-being of the individuals we serve. This generous funding will provide opportunities for recreation, community involvement, and healthy living throughout the year!



On October 1st, the Shelbyville Day Services Program received a Progress Grant from the Blue River Community Foundation! This grant was designed to support nonprofit programs in Shelby County to reach their goals in providing the best services we can to those we serve.

The grant will be used to purchase new items in our recreation room! These funds will allow us to provide more opportunities for participants to transition away from the sheltered workshop.

Our recreation room is where participants start and end their day, as well as participate in individual and group activities. Some of these items will include new games, chairs, tables, activity supplies, and so much more!

We thank Blue River Community Foundation, the City of Shelbyville, and Shelby County Government for seeing the need in our organization and providing the means to continue our mission. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of this opportunity!



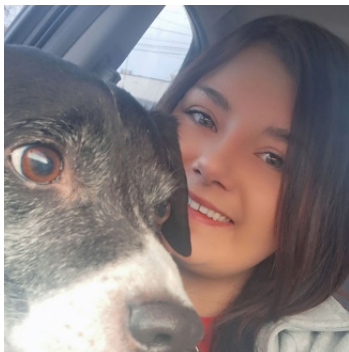
Meet Our Newest Staff Members

Josh Self is our Janitor/Warehouse assistant for our Rushville facility. Josh has lived in Rushville for more than 30 years. He is the father of an 8-year-old daughter, Jordyn, who has special needs, giving him a personal understanding of the challenges Shares' employees face in their daily work. In his free time, Josh enjoys playing video games and even builds his own PCs. He also likes participating in golf tournaments with friends whenever his schedule allows.



My name is Kimberly Norman, and I am the Service Coordinator in Shelbyville. I'm a Shelby County native and remain very active in the community. I am on the SASS (Shelby Accessing Social Supports) Executive Team. I have 3 beautiful kids (Jameson-6, Novalie-4, and Evander-1), 2 cats, and 1 dog. My oldest child has special needs, and I dream of getting to see him thrive at Shares when he's older. I enjoy cooking homemade meals to feed a small crowd, baking delicious breads and desserts, playing Vikingard, and watching Expedition X or Expedition Unknown. I am so excited to be a part of the Shares team!

Chris Atkinson is the newest addition to our Community Employment team. He is married to an amazing woman and the father of four children and two stepchildren. As an ordained minister, Chris has always been about understanding and helping people. He has been quoted as saying, "Do we want to be paperwork experts or people experts?" followed closely by "I can bring a store-bought dessert. Yes, store-bought, trust me it's better this way." He enjoys playing guitar and is known for his way-too-large cologne collection. He cannot wait to get to work every day!



Hi, my name is Chassidy, and I'm 29 years old. I've been working as a DSP for about three months in the Shelbyville Day Services, and I truly enjoy the opportunity to support and help others. Before becoming a DSP, I worked as a CNA and Home Health Aide, where I gained valuable experience caring for people and learned the importance of compassion and patience. Outside of work, I'm a very family-oriented person who enjoys spending time with my dog and cat. I also love listening to music, writing in my journals, and going on adventures whenever I have the chance. I'm always looking for opportunities to grow, learn new things, and make the most of life.

My name is Ziara Cooper. I was born and raised in Chicago, IL, and moved to Indiana eleven years ago and started working at the Muncie Public Library. In Indiana, I got my very first promotion; coworkers introduced me to my husband and then taught me to drive. I moved to Greenfield the month before my wedding seven years ago and have been here ever since. I started at Shares, Inc. this past June in Day Services in Greenfield, and it has been wonderful meeting the participants and people. You may even see me, at times, in Rushville. I look forward to continuing to grow and doing my best to make a difference in other people's lives the way others did for me.



★ SAVE THE DATE ★ ★ ★

★ MAKE A DONATION ★

Upcoming Events

Shares Inc. Board Meeting

Monday, November 9th at 7:00pm; Location TBD

Shares Inc. Closed

Thursday and Friday, November 26th & 27th

Greenfield Sertoma Party

Tuesday, December 8th

Shares Inc. Christmas Party

Thursday, December 17th, 2026

Shares Inc. Closed

Thursday and Friday, December 24th & 25th

Shares Inc. Closed

Thursday and Friday, December 31st & January 1st

* Note: Locations of the board meetings could change.

Contact Us



www.facebook.com/shares-inc



www.sharesinc.org

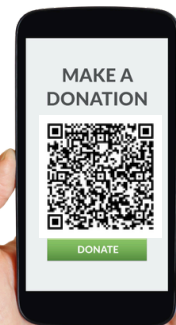


@shares_inc

Help Build the Next 50 Years!

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.!