## YM)UR Newsletter January 2015

### The end of an era... Farewell to our friend and colleague, Jo Jurgensen!

### A New Chapter Has Begun



We are excited to announce that Varsha Mehta has been named as the new Assistant Executive Director for Shares, Inc. effective January 1, 2015. Varsha brings with her 38 years of professional experience with Shares, Inc. serving as the Director of Support Services. Varsha has been instrumental in the success of our agency. We would like to congratulate Varsha on her promotion and wish her the best of luck as she takes on her new responsibilities.





We are at once delighted and disheartened to announce the retirement of Jo Jurgensen, effective December 31, 2014. Jo's leaving marks the end of an era for our organization. Jo has been a leading advocate for our participants over the past 40 years. She was one of the first people to see the value of individuals with disabilities in the workplace. We are indebted to her vision and commitment to individuals with disabilities. Her work has assured our success for many years to come.

Jo's retirement is our loss, but a well-deserved respite for her. We all extend our best wishes to Jo as she takes a much-deserved vacation (cleaning out her garage and planting flowers in the spring).



"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

- Dr. Seiss

\*This newsletter is now being written and designed by Your Shares Team and WAP, LLC\*

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Published by Shares, Inc. Corporate Office (317) 398-8218 • (877) 398-8218 • www.sharesinc.org Committee: Anna Buker, Varsha Mehta, Mike Eck, Nesetta Gellizeau, Kristina Garrett

NONDISCRIMINATION ON BASIS OF HANDICAP Shares, Inc. is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination as required by civil rights legislation, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1990 as a result of the organization's commitment to equal opportunity. EOE-M/F Shares, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## CLIFF'S NOTES

## REPORT FROM YMUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2014 has come to a close and another year has been completed in our history. I want to begin by thanking Jo Jurgensen, Shares, Inc. Assistant Executive Director and the Director of Adult Programs, for her 40+ years of service. Effective December 31, 2014, she will begin her retirement. She has seen our agency grow from 10 participants to around 400. She is truly an inspiration to all!

Our agency is highly accredited by CARF, a national organization respected by all people working in rehabilitation and agencies in our field. This requires us to reach high standards in our delivery of service. Through Jo's guidance and hard work our agency has received the highest marks possible in every survey, except the initial one when we were just learning what the expectations were.



After fourteen years, Brian Montgomery is retiring as Director of Employment Services due to medical conditions. Brian was instrumental in helping to develop programming that offered training and employment for many of our participants. Through his leadership he showed that adults, who happen to have a disability, can still become valued and dedicated employees. This program has opened the door for many people as they seek employment opportunities in the future.





#### Varsha Mehta Our NEW Assistant Executive Director

Varsha has been working for Shares, Inc. for the past 38 years as Director of Social Services and Support Services. And, although she will continue in working in those areas she will also assume her new positon as Director of Program Management for our participants.

#### Alfonso Andolz Director of Employment Services

Alfonso has a degree in Special Education and was formally a teacher in Lawrence Township. He also has a degree in Diesel Automotive, which is what brought him to our agency. Formally, he had been engaged in working in fuel pump division as a sales person.

#### Andre Robinson Plant Manager at McGraw Industries

Our new Plant Manager at McGraw Industries in Rushville is Andre Robinson. Andre has worked in Human Resources for a group home company specializing in helping people with Autism and at PKUSA, a local manufacturing company. Most recently, Andre worked for Shares Inc. Shredding facility and the Finishing facility. He replaces Danny Powell, who left to go back to teaching Special Education in Indianapolis.

So, as we leave 2014 saying goodbye and good luck to some of our staff we are now welcoming new leaders into our management team.

Hope all of you had Happy Holidays and are looking forward to 2015 as another prosperous and growing time for our agency.

Clifford Strachman

## MEET YMUR BOARD MEMBER



Hi, my name is Amy Kleine. I work for Greenfield Banking Company as a branch manager in Fortville. I am married to Kurt and together we have twin boys Benjamin and Michael. I became involved with Shares in 2007. Ben and Mike were graduating from high school and ready to join the workforce. I worked with the school and we had set up a ½ day work program for the boys starting in October 2007. In January 2008 they became full time employees of Shares. We have been working with Shares ever since. I became a part of the board a couple of years later and have enjoyed learning about how Shares works and the wide variety of employment it provides.

# YMUR COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Brenda Baxter works as a breakfast bar attendant at the Country Inn & Suites of Greenfield. She was hired on March 16, 2014 and works four days a week during the summer months and two days a week during the winter months. Her job consists of washing pots, pans, dishes, cups, glasses and silverware as well as making coffee and cleaning the dining area at the hotel.

Brenda's coworkers say she is one of the best workers they have ever worked with. Brenda also works at the Brandywine Industries of Greenfield. Brenda's dedication to her job and her excellent work ethic and skills are to be commended.





"I enjoy my job and enjoy working at the hotel."

If you or someone that you know has a disability and may need assistance with finding a community job, please contact your local Vocational Rehabilitation Services office. SHELBY COUNTY 1-877-876-2864 (toll-free) RUSH COUNTY 765-966-0932 (local) HANCOCK COUNTY 317-845-1637 (local)

#### **NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT**

We are happy to announce Alfonso Andolz as the new Director of Employment Services for Shares!



"My passion is teaching and guiding others towards their personal and professional goals."



Alfonso is a graduate of Purdue University and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. His previous experience includes teaching Special Education at Crestview Elementary School in Lawrence Township and working as an ASC Master Technician and Service Advisor for Indy Tire and Mercedes Benz.

In 2011, Alfonso began his career with Shares, Inc. as Sales Manager for WAP. In 2012, he transferred to the position of Employment Specialist for Shares, Inc. Community Employment Services. During his time in this position, Alfonso has established valuable connections with both participants and employers.

Alfonso enjoys creating beneficial programs and curriculums to help both participants and staff reach their full potential. In the past year, he has been instrumental in implementing a new paperless documentation system that is now being used across all of the Adult Services Programs. He looks forward to serving the Shares community in his new role.

## YMUR 2014-AT-A-GLANCE







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## YMUR INDUSTRY

#### RUSH COUNTY WELCOMES A NEW PLANT MANAGER



Hello, my name André Robinson. I am a Columbus native and currently live in Edinburg. The majority of my professional work history has been in human resources and manufacturing. I was the Director of Human Resources for Christole Inc. out of Nashville,



Indiana. We provided care and support for individuals with developmental disabilities in group homes and supported living sites. I've studied Organizational Leadership and Supervision, a Purdue program, out of IUPUC.

I have 3 daughters' Rishona age 27, Rinesha age 21 and Richael age 10. Rishona and Rinesha both married in 2014. I enjoy golfing, fishing, softball, and basketball. I participate in leagues and outings throughout the year. I've worked for Shares Finishing Services and Shares Shredding for nearly two years and I'm excited about the new opportunity as Plant Manager for Shares Rushville.

#### SHELBY COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE START OF THE NEW VIP PROGRAM!



The VIP program short for Vocationally Intensive Programming was designed to focus on providing intensive training and activities for our participants and to provide work that coincides with differing abilities. To accomplish this, we incorporate a variety of techniques and strategies so that each participant learns according to their learning style. Morgan Gibson and Jennifer Bass are the two production supervisors selected to run this program in Area A.

So far, the VIP program has been a success. Participants are able to work on packaging glow plugs from WAP on a daily basis. The program has helped to decrease their downtime percentages. As we move forward, we will sharpen our programming needs and develop custom individualized plans for our participants.



Diann McNeely using a jig.



Patty Rutledge & Tammy Griffith packaging cd's.

## YMUR INDUSTRY (Cont.)

#### HANCOCK COUNTY

**Teamwork Producing More Than Products** 

For a couple of years, Brandywine has been working on the AirDog wire harness sub-assembly. Judy Zimmerman works with the participants to cut the loom, cut and splice wires, then add terminals and connectors. Once complete, these parts are sent to Plant 3 to finish building into the actual wire harness.

Devon Pogue is the supervisor for the final assembly. Devon has developed a breakdown of the process for the participants to work in stations with the production specialist. The goal is to have a few participants work with Devon and his team on the wire harness assembly. Everyone is excited about working in wires and would like to be picked "try out". We are looking forward to see all of this planning unfold in the new year.



## YMUR LIVING SKILLS

#### **SHELBY COUNTY**

The Shelbyville ADLS classes and Day Program kept busy in the community during the holiday season. They participated in many holiday activities available in the Indianapolis area.



Tony J. trying out all of the Christmas decorations at Lowes.



Donna C. enjoys working on her independence in the community.



Gerald B. enjoying the Indiana State Museum.



Christmas at the IMA Lily House.



## YMUR LIVING SKILLS (cont.)

#### HANCOCK COUNTY

Greenfield celebrated holidays around the world during December. The classes discussed Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanza. The participants enjoyed caroling, creating crafts and jewelry, visiting with Santa and learning about various cultures. Greenfield wishes everyone a happy holidays!



Greenfield participates in spirit days every Friday. Pictured is Santa hat day!



Justin making garland to hang around the classroom.



Lyndsey & Tom caroling holiday songs in music class



Ann presents the candle symbols of Hanukah and Kwanzaa.



Allison receives a gift from Santa



Travis holding a menorah while listening to the guest speaker discuss Hanukah.



Yvette and Kimani made earrings in jewelry class to wear for the holidays.

"Christmas

is a Clause for Celebration!"







ADLS cooking class prepared lunch for Christmas party.





#### **MUR MISSION**

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

## YMUR UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Board Meeting at 7:30 PM**

March 9 Greenfield May 11 Rushville

#### **Aktion Club Meetings**

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM Trinity United Methodist Church Briley Family Center.
741 Fair Avenue, Shelbyville

Disability Awareness Month "Love Where You Live" March 2015

First Day of Spring March 20, 2015

#### Annual Shares, Inc. Open Houses:

**Shelbyville** Friday, March 6, 2015 1:30 - 3:30 PM

#### Rushville

Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

#### Greenfield

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 9:30 - 11:30 AM

#### Good Friday

The agency will be closed Friday, April 3, 2015

#### 2015 Educational Trip

Illinois August 20 - 28, 2015

CONTACT US: 5

SHELBY COUNTY 317-462-4824 1-877-398-8218 or 317-398-8218

RUSH COUNTY 765-938-5321

www.sharesinc.org