# ISSUE 91 · VOLUME 31 NO.2 · MAY 2012 New Sletter



#### 2012 WINNERS

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all!

#### **SHELBY COUNTY WINNERS**

Cassidy Ewick, Brett Keel, Steve Klapper, Ted Kukulka, Shane Roell, Lena Velasquez, Jane Ann Wheatley, June Wiseman

Dick Fero, Kroger, Shelby Senior Services, STAT Ambulance, Waste Management

#### HANCOCK COUNTY WINNERS

John Burton, Jason Davis (2), Gearan Day, John Edwards, Phyllis Giltz, Davey Mullinax, Debbie Price, Doris Selke, Dana Wagner (2), Jane Webb

Golden Living Center Brandywine, Hancock Regional Hospital, Walmart

#### **RUSH COUNTY WINNERS**

Corbin Clouse, Chris Gilpin, Jeff Goodin, Ryan Haas, Sebrina Miller, Rhonda Mozingo, Kathryn Murray, Mary Scroggham

Emerson Climate Technologies (Mt. Comfort & Rushville), Ride Rush Transportation Drivers, Nail Experts, Linda Biddle (Activities Director for Senior Center), Trane

# DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH CELEBRATES COMMUNITY

Disability Awareness Month is celebrated throughout Indiana each March. Led by the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, the goal of Disability Awareness Month is to increase awareness and promote independence, integration

Michelle - "I loved it. I think everyone did a good job. My favorite part was seeing people get their awards!"

and inclusion of all people with disabilities. The 2012 theme was "Celebrating Community."

Annual Open House events to celebrate this month have become tradition at Shares, Inc. for the last 18 years. The Open Houses enable us to spread the message about *Abilities* of people with disabilities and show that they can lead full and productive lives in the community. The participants and staff take this opportunity to showcase their activities and accomplishments in various programs offered at Shares, Inc.

Recognition Awards are an important part of Open House events and

Susie, "There were lots of people...liked the singing and the pictures!"

are presented to participants, community agencies, businesses and individuals who have made significant contribution and support by promoting integration of people with disabilities in

the community.

We are dedicating this special issue of YOUR SHARES, to all the award winners, highlighting their achievements and contributions.

Caption: L to R - Rachael Raney, Don Collins, Jim Finin

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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



I want to thank everyone who attended our Open Houses in Shelbyville, Greenfield and Rushville in March. We were proud of the local turnouts and the interest in our programs. March is Disability Awareness month and this year the theme was

# CELEBRATING COMMUNITY Ignite Community Spirit: GET INVOLVED!

I am very excited to see how Shares, Inc. practices this spirit on a daily basis. We are definitely a part of our communities and they are a part of our agency. When we first started Shares, Inc. in the 1970's people did not understand that persons with disabilities had abilities and potential to contribute to our community.

Today, our bond with the community is the driving force behind all we do whether it is training people to be employed, doing volunteer work in the community to make it a better place to live or just daily interactions so that we can all enjoy our lives more.

Many people were recognized at our open houses and many received awards for our thanks or our appreciation for their successes in their lives. Throughout this newsletter you will see their stories and pictures. And I want to say I am proud of all.

I also want to say thanks to several staff members who have recently retired from Shares, Inc. after many years of service. Those include Dick Fero, Cathy Perkins, Jackie Cecil and Mike Wallace. Their total combined years of service is close to 100 years.

Thanks to all of our participants for their hard work and accomplishments. Thanks to our staff for working hard to make opportunities for our participants. Thanks to the community for reaching out and joining us in our many partnerships. And thanks so much to our volunteer Board of Directors for their hard work and support of making the programs at Shares, Inc. ones to be proud of.

My thanks to all, Clifford Strachman

# YMUR COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT AWARDS

### SHARES RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES & EMPLOYERS OF THE YEAR

Community Employment Services provides employment related services to individuals who are referred by the state office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. We are considered an employment resource to employers for hiring individuals with disabilities who participate in our program.







In our last fiscal year we placed 70 individuals in competitive jobs in the community from Shelby, Hancock and Rush counties. Each year we recognize an outstanding Community Employment Services Employee and Employer who have participated in our program over the past year.

The Open Houses honor those participants and businesses who made a difference in the communities that we serve.

In Shelby County, Jane Ann Wheatley received the Employee of the Year award and Kroger the Employer of the Year award.

In Hancock County, Debbie Price received the Employee of the Year award and Pizza Hut the Employer of the Year award.

In Rush County, Corbin Clouse received the Employee of the Year award and Walmart the Employer of the Year award.

It is our job to be an advocate to the participant as well as an employment resource to each employer. We are available to work with individuals to obtain their employment goals as well as meet the staffing needs of employers with qualified applicants who have the skills, abilities, and determination to succeed.

# 2012 SPIRIT AWARD WINNERS - CONGRATULATIONS!



Reach for the Stars Award

Hancock County

When Jason began his journey over 24 years ago, it appeared to many that his dreams were few and too difficult to reach. But he has surpassed expectations and has gone from displaying "difficult" behaviors to being a role model for his peers.

Jason has advocated for himself and others in many areas. He now lives with a roommate in Greenfield. He has travelled throughout the United States and cruised to the Bahamas and Mexico. He volunteers at Animal Control where he treats the animals as if they were his own.



LENA VELASQUEZ

Arnita Petre Spirit Award

Shelby County

Lena was chosen as the Spirit Award recipient because of her overall enthusiasm to be at work. As soon as she hits the door every morning, she is waving at her coworkers and staff. She is always eager to try a new job.

Lena is known for helping others by using gestures of encouragement and will often go the extra mile to get her friend's drink from the fridge. Her spirit for her job, her friends and the staff of Shares, Inc. is evident by her actions every single day.



#### **RYAN HAAS**

McGraw Industries
Spirit Award
Rush County

Ryan represents the essence of Shares, Inc. by his work, character and community involvement. The staff members describe him as helpful, a friend to all and a volunteer who enjoys coming to work daily. Ryan exemplifies what Shares is all about.



# 25 YEAR AWARDS



A. Hancock County (I to r) John Edwards, Gearen Day, John Burton, Dana Wagner, Doris Selke (seated)

B. Jeff Goodin - Rush County

C. Chris Gilpin - Rush County

D. Shane Roell - Shelby County



## **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

To win this prestigious award participants must exhibit good attendance, positive attitude, consistent effort, concern for safety, exemplary work quality and congeniality.



A. Dana Wagner - Hancock County

B. Steve Klapper - Shelby County

C. Ted Kukulka - Shelby County

## **COMPANY/PARTNERSHIP AWARDS**



#### SHARES RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT!



Each year during the annual Shares, Inc. Open Houses, Shares, Inc. recognizes those agencies, companies and individuals that have contributed to the awareness and inclusion of people

with disabilities. With the 2012 Disability Awareness Month theme being "Celebrating Community" these awards were truly a highlight.

All three counties had the opportunity to recognize those agencies, companies and/or individuals who have gone above and beyond in assisting and providing services and support for people with disabilities.

Shelby County presented the Partnership Award to Shelby Senior Services and STAT Ambulance for their dedication in serving people with disabilities. Dick Fero was presented with the Community Connections Award for his 22 years of service as an ambassador and voice for persons with disabilities and a leader in the community.

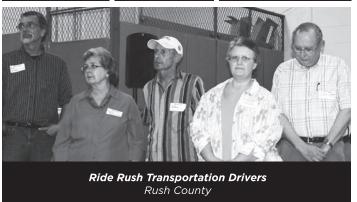
Rush County presented three Community Connection Awards. Ride Rush Transportation Drivers were recognized for their "valued involvement in the lives of the employees of Shares, Inc." Nail Experts and Linda Biddle, Activities Director of Senior Center were recognized for their "true community spirit".

Hancock County recognized Golden Living Center for "Outstanding Community Group" and Hancock Regional Hospital "in appreciation of our enduring partnership in providing exemplary services to our participants."















# YMUR LIVING SKILLS AWARDS SHELBY COUNTY



JUNE WISEMAN

Most Improved Day Program
Participant

June has become more compliant and seems to be enjoying the program more and more. She is so much more comfortable and at home in the day program. Staff members describe June as "charming," "funny" and "outspoken."



**CASSIDY EWICK**Living Skills Participant of the Year

Cassidy has begun to advocate for himself. He is very motivated and enthusiastic about telling everyone what he is currently learning or doing. Cassidy has recently started reading classes at the public library.

## **RUSH COUNTY**



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Presented to Halley Coon, Doug Brewer, Marissa Hyatt, Ben Adams, Harold Renollet, Kaymie Scroggham and Tammy Comer for their active participation and volunteer services at the Senior Center and Rushville Public Library.

## LETTER FROM YM BOARD PRESIDENT



Today as I write this article for our YOUR SHARES newsletter, it is a bright and sunny day, a day in which everyone can enjoy. While it is sunny and bright a cool wind is blowing making it feel cold and blustery. We all have days in which our lives may look good on the outside but feel

differently on the inside. I hope that your day is good on the inside as well as you express yourself on the outside.

I really enjoyed the Open Houses. Everyone involved is to be commended. It is especially a joy to see the recipients of the awards come forward to receive their award. Their faces just beam with gladness, and you know that was a highlight of their life.

I was talking to a parent of one of the participants, and she said that Shares is such a blessing and that she does not know what she would do without the organization. Her child looks forward to going to "work" each and every day.

It is stories like this one and others that are told over again that attest to the fact that Shares is making a difference in many lives.

I consider it an honor to be on the Board of Directors and my colleagues and I are doing all we can to see that Shares will make a difference in lives for generations to come.

Thank You, David Oakes

# Living Skills Awards (cont) HANCOCK COUNTY



# **DAVEY MULLINAX**Outstanding Day Program Participant

Davey has dramatically increased his participation and attendance in the day program. He is learning more sign language and utilizing that language to communicate with others.

Davey has also begun drawing again and is proud of his art work.



# JASON DAVIS Outstanding Living Skills Participant

Jason was chosen for the Living Skills Participant Award because he is always happy and enthusiastic to learn new skills. Jason is always lending a helping hand to his classmates. He enjoys

working on the computer and playing educational games in class.



# JANE WEBB Outstanding Living Skills Volunteer

Jane is a tremendous help in the day program and in the community. She helps clean the kitchen at Shares and works one-on-one with day program participants. Jane helps with reading

and playing games with the participants. She enjoys helping others and feels very fulfilled giving back.



# PHYLLIS GILTZ Outstanding Masters Program Participant

Phyllis' attendance has increased dramatically. She is now always present and ready for class. She attends the masters class every morning from 8AM to 12PM. She enjoys singing and

dancing in class. Phyllis initiates social interaction with her classmates and is participating well during class activities.



#### **MUR MISSION**

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



#### Shelby County:

Elizabeth –
"I enjoyed it.
The music was great!"

Scott - "I liked the snacks."

Logan - "I liked the presentation and the awards."

Cathy – "It was neat! I really liked the pictures."

#### Hancock County:

Tom - "It was superb, superb, superb!"

Esther – "I liked it-it was pretty fun. Seeing the video was the best part-I finally got to see my picture!"

Shelly – "I liked it, it was good. I really liked singing with Cindy and Tony and Dawn."

Sue – "My favorite part was when Don Collins was talking about Vickie."

#### **Rush County:**

Dean – "Fun! The people sang a song."

Bryce - "Oh it was great. I like having my family there."

George - "It was swell. I want to do that next year too.

Harold –
"It was great. I liked
listening to Huston and the
group sing."