

# YOUR Shares

MAY 2016

Newsletter



## 25 Years of Disability Awareness and the Battle for Inclusion

In 1987, President Ronald Regan declared March as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month". Led by the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, the 2016 Disability Awareness Month

### INCLUSION

is the state of being welcomed and a member of a group that everyone else is.

theme is "Inclusion is Within Everyone's Ability" which reminds us that "our lives are so much richer when we open our minds and hearts to those who have different perspectives and experiences." Disability Awareness Month is a time to increase awareness and promote independence, integration and inclusion of all people with disabilities. We at Shares, Inc. host an Open House at all three of our counties each year during the month of March to celebrate individuals with intellectual disabilities, their achievements and successes, and the impact they have in our communities.

Inclusion is a two-way street where people with and without disabilities can appreciate the contributions and friendship each has to offer.

### Be a Part of Inclusion

**Introduce yourself!**  
Start by introducing yourself, be warm and friendly

**Get Involved!**  
Volunteer in the community or get involved in activities

**Include Everyone!**  
Look for the strengths in all people and make them part of the group

#iincludeu

We would like to take this opportunity to challenge each of you to "MAKE A FRIEND AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

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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



# REPORT FROM OUR SHARES, INC. BOARD PRESIDENT

I heard a saying once that went like this; “Today is the first day of the rest of your life.” It is a true statement even if nothing else is applied. Every new day also brings with it new opportunities across our pathway. We are challenged to meet those new situations.

Shares has entered into a new era that is bringing new opportunities and challenges. Some of those we find frightening and others are being met with high expectations. The company will not ever be as it was yesterday. Never let us revert to the past as something that is to be sought after, but seek to find new ways to live up to our purpose; to support and lift those with disabilities to a higher level of hope in life.

What is taking place now? The company is managed by a team made up of, Varsha Mehta, Ryan Bethel, Ted Maple, and Becky Throckmorton. They are working closely together to provide leadership and direction on a daily basis. WAP is managed by Jason Long who is assisted by Justin Martin. Shares Finishing Services is managed by Dustin Case, and Shares Shredding is overseen by Ryan Bethel.

We have a great team of individuals who are meeting the needs of the business and are providing the leadership that will support our purpose. There are challenges that lie ahead and some of those are going to be difficult to meet. It is my hope that everyone will

pull together in the coming months and provide their utmost support to become even stronger than ever.

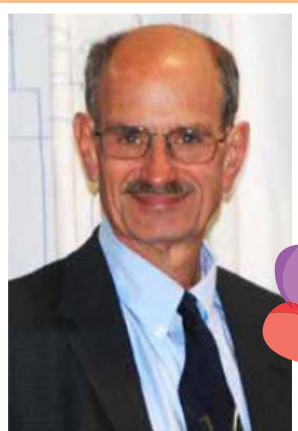
**Shares has entered into a new era that is bringing new opportunities and challenges.**

Terrie Vail and her husband Tim Lake has volunteered to lead the Participant Trip this year. I have talked to her and she is planning some great events. I believe that this year will not be a disappointment for all those who are going. She already has an idea about next year too.

In closing, I am excited about the future of Shares, WAP, SFS and Shredding. When I think of Shares, I think of everyone who is involved in keeping the “goal” in sight. With your help and good nature, we will be able to do that which brings so much joy to those who have not the ability to help themselves.

Sincerely,  
David Oakes/Board President

**It is with mixed emotions, but warm wishes that we announce that two of our long-time employees have retired**



**Clifford Strachman** served as our Executive Director for over 41 years. Cliff's departure marks an end of an era for Shares, Inc. His vision and contributions will always be valued and remembered.

**Jolinda Wheeler** was our Office Manager. She has given us over 27 years of devoted service. Jolinda was always willing to put in extra time and effort to make sure we all received our paychecks on time.



We thank Cliff and Jolinda for the many years of hard work and dedication given to achieve success in the organization that has affected the lives of hundreds of individuals with disabilities. Please join us in wishing them both all the best in their retirement. We hope that they enjoy this new journey in their life and cherish every moment.

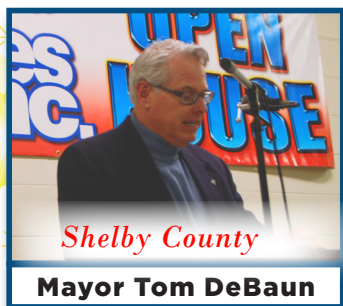
**RETIREMENT is a journey...  
not a DESTINATION!**



# YOUR 2016 SHARES, INC. OPEN HOUSES

The 2016 Shares, Inc. Open Houses held in Shelby County, Hancock County, and Rush County were a fun filled day of celebration. The event featured participants greeting guests as they arrived, an awards ceremony with an induction from our County Mayors, music from the choirs, and refreshments.

## Starting off the ceremony with Mayoral Proclamations!



*Shelby County*

**Mayor Tom DeBaun**



*Hancock County*

**Mayor Chuck Fewell**



*Rush County*

**Mayor Mike Pavey**



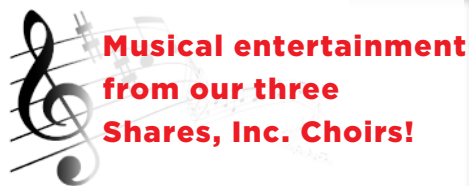
*Shelby County Choir*



*Rush County Choir*



*Hancock County Choir*



**Musical entertainment  
from our three  
Shares, Inc. Choirs!**



## YOUR 2016 SPIRIT Award Winners



**Presented to those individuals who display persistence, courage, determination, self advocacy, and the ability to follow their dreams**



**Tammy Blake**  
Shelby County

She is well deserving of this award for her high energy and shimmy shake dance moves, but above all for her commitment to do every job to the best of her ability. Tammy has overcome many obstacles to live her dream of working and socializing.



**Eddie Pittman**  
Hancock County

This award is presented to Eddie to celebrate the positive choices he has made. He has overcome health issues and other barriers that prevented him from being employed long term. But, in 2015 he made the choice to quit smoking and eat healthy. Now, 70 pounds lighter and healthy he is back at work and excited to be earning a paycheck.



**Mary Beth Hughes**  
Rush County

She is a person who is aware of her surroundings and likes things to be done right. She takes pride in her work. Mary Beth is polite, mannerly, and friendly in any community setting. She has true SPIRIT!



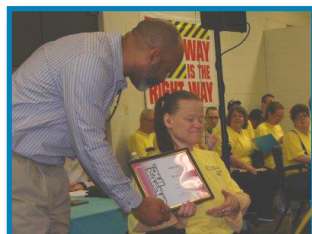
# YOUR 2016 INDUSTRY AWARDS

## Quality Award

This award is presented to those individuals who take exceptional pride in their work. They have a high level of accuracy and they exhibit a commitment to quality in carrying out job responsibilities.



**Brian Carrico**  
Shelby County



**Rhonda Mazingo**  
Rush County



**Megan Lambertson**  
Rush County



**Dean Judge**  
Rush County

## Rookie of the Year

This recognition is given to a participant with less than 12 months of experience in the Pre-vocational Training Program. They are recognized for their outstanding achievement in their new work skills.



**Christopher Blackmon**  
Rush County

## Employee of the Year

These individuals consistently go "above and beyond". They have a positive attitude toward their work and co-workers. They are consistently dependable and always willing to accept and carry out additional responsibilities. They are a role model to others.



**Billy Mark**  
Shelby County



**Aaron Murdoch**  
Shelby Plant 2



**Roger Dotterweich**  
Hancock County



**Leah Root**  
Shelby County

Presented by  
Rush County

I dream because  
I look toward the  
future to learn new  
skills and better  
myself by overcoming  
barriers that hold  
me back from  
achieving my goals.

## I DREAM award



**Chris Gilpin**



**Bryce Shelton**



**Bobby Zingale**



# YOUR 2016 INDUSTRY AWARDS CONTINUED

## Longevity Awards

These individuals are recognized and celebrated for their long-term commitment and dedication to Shares, Inc.



**Shelly Wiggins**  
Hancock County



**Annie Cossins**  
Rush County



**Diann McNeely**  
Shelby County



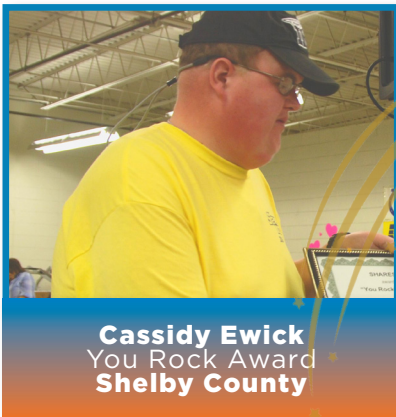
**Brenda Baxter**  
Hancock County



**Steve Gilles, Lori Moore, Rosie Fredrick,**  
Hancock County



**Kim Wester**  
Shelby County



**Cassidy Ewick**  
You Rock Award  
Shelby County

## YOUR

### Special Accomplishments

The You Rock and Mental Attitude Awards are given to those individuals that exhibit a positive outlook toward their job, are consistently self-motivated, show teamwork, are courteous to others, and who consistently follow the rules of the workshop.



**Preston Dishmon**  
Mental Attitude Award  
Rush County

## Shares, Inc. Recognizes Community Involvement

During the Open Houses Shares, Inc. had the opportunity to recognize businesses that have gone above and beyond in assisting and providing services and support to people with disabilities. It gives us great pleasure to acknowledge these businesses through our Customer of the Year and Community Connections Awards.



**Ashley Mann of Minnetrista Center**  
Community Connections  
Rush County



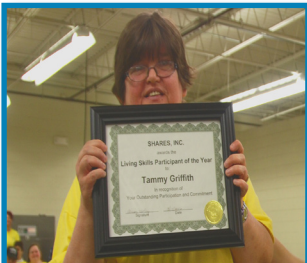
**Clark School Services**  
Customer of the Year  
Hancock County



**Emerson Climate Technologies**  
Customer of the Year  
Rush County

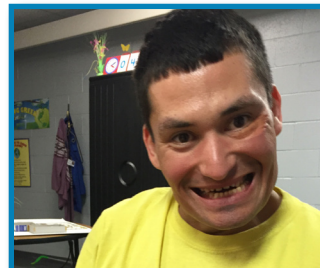


# YOUR 2016 LIVING SKILLS AWARDS

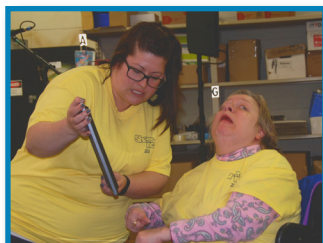


**Tammy Griffith**  
Living Skills  
Participant of  
the Year  
**Shelby County**

*These awards are presented to  
those participants who shine!  
They have exhibited significant  
advancements in areas of personal  
skills, community integration,  
and increased independence.*



**Justin Grote**  
Living Skills  
Participant of  
the Year  
**Hancock County**



**Carol Bledsoe**  
Lif-T Participant  
of the Year  
**Shelby County**



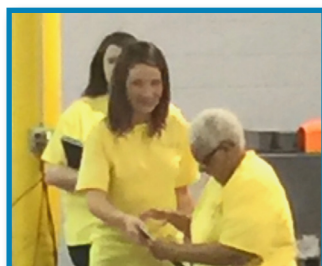
**Martha Brooks**  
Living Skills  
Participant of  
the Year  
**Rush County**



**Betty Blevins**  
MASTERS Participant  
of the Year award  
**Hancock County**



**Ryan Haas**  
Living Skills  
Participant  
of the Year  
**Rush County**



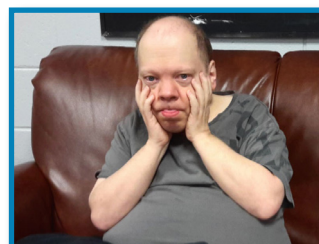
**Sharon Powell**  
Living Skills  
Participant of the Year  
**Hancock County**



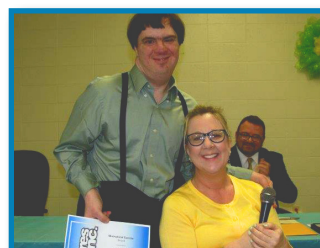
**Donna Caldwell**  
Living Skills  
Participant increase  
in independence  
**Shelby County**



**David A. Wilson**  
Wheelchair Helper  
**Hancock County**



**Eric Sterrett**  
Day Program  
Participant  
of the Year  
**Hancock County**



**Andy Coblentz**  
Motivational  
Exercise Award  
**Rush County**

SHOOT FOR THE MOON!  
Even if you miss,  
you'll land among the  
**STARS**



# YOUR 2016 COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT AWARDS

The Open Houses presented an excellent opportunity for the staff of Community Employment Services to honor those employers and participants that made a difference in the community that we serve.

## Shelby County



**Applebees**  
Employer of the Year



**Kim Webster**  
Employee of the Year

## Hancock County



**Zach Hanselman**  
Employee of the Year

Not Pictured  
**Strata Force & Stanley**  
**Black and Decker**  
Employer of the Year

## Rush County



**Goodwill Industries**  
Employer of the Year



**Seth Cameron**  
Employee of the Year

Recipients of this year's Employer of the Year and Employee of the Year awards are an excellent example of what our program stands for in providing qualified individuals who are dedicated to their job and employers that provide the support and diverse work opportunities in the community.

If you would like more information on the Community Employment Services Program please call 1-877-398-8218

## A Sincere Thanks and Well Wishes Until Next Year's Open Houses!

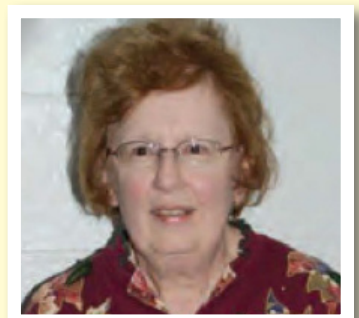
Shares, Inc. thanks all the attendees, participants, staff, community volunteers, and businesses that came to honor our award winners and celebrate another year of hard work at our organization. We look forward to next year's Open Houses, but until then we hope that you make 2016 the year to try new things, dream big, accomplish new goals, and make inclusion for all people a reality.

**Like what you've read? Stay in touch with Shares, Inc.  
Sign up to receive our quarterly newsletter right in your inbox!**

**Visit: [bit.ly/Shares-Inc-News](http://bit.ly/Shares-Inc-News)**

## MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBER

My husband, Charlie, and I have a son and a granddaughter who live in Greenfield. Our daughter, Sharon, is a participant at Shares Shredding and Hegel Industries. On March 7th she celebrated 22 years with Shares. A few years after Sharon started at Shares I became a board member. Being on the Monitoring Committee I am greeted with a "hello" and smiles when I talk to the participants. They enjoy sharing their current job and always excited about the next educational trip. I am also very involved in Special Olympics. I have the opportunity to see more of their abilities each year. I know the dedicated staff at Shares work to help each participant achieve their task on the job or in the classroom. We thank you for making Shares, Inc. achieve each goal.







## OUR MISSION

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

# YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Board Meeting at 7:30 PM

**Greenfield** May 9, 2016

**Rushville** July 11, 2016

### Aktion Club Meetings

2nd and 4th Tuesday

of the month at 6:30 PM

Trinity United Methodist Church

Briley Family Center.

741 Fair Avenue, Shelbyville

### Memorial Day

Monday, May 30, 2016

Agency Closed

### Mother's Day

Sunday, May 8, 2016

### Father's Day

Sunday, June 19, 2016

### Summer Begins

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

### 4th of July

Agency Closed

Monday, July 4, 2016

### 2016 Educational Trip

New Orleans, Louisiana

August 18 - 26, 2016

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Visit: [bit.ly/Shares-Inc-News](http://bit.ly/Shares-Inc-News)

**For more information about Shares, Inc. programs call 877-398-8218**

**CONTACT US: SHELBY COUNTY** 1-877-398-8218 or 317-398-8218

**HANCOCK COUNTY** 317-462-4824 **RUSH COUNTY** 765-938-5321

[www.sharesinc.org](http://www.sharesinc.org)