



WHAT'S HAPPENING

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM ST.CROIX INDUSTRIES

1525 North 4th Street, New Richmond, WI 54017

www.stcroixind.org

The Director's Corner

By Clark Schroeder

The second quarter ended with a glorious summer weekend that was filled with hot days, sunny skies, shimmering waters and skies filled with "rocket's red glare". I hope this was enough to persuade you to flee the confines of the indoors and venture outside to enjoy the numerous activities and beauties that a Wisconsin summer affords us. In this issue of *What's Happening* you will read about some of the opportunities that we at St. Croix Industries have had to get "out and about" and explore our communities... experiencing and learning first-hand about our heritage, the wonders of nature, how companies operate, and the importance of physical exercise to our well being. In addition, we once again had the opportunity to experience giving back to the communities we live in by volunteering at local events. Along the way we have met many wonderful people and expanded our circle of friends.



SCI client/workers enjoyed helping the New Richmond Chamber

On June 26, 2011 Gov. Scott Walker signed the new state budget into law. I think it is important that you are aware of the impact this bill will have on Family Care.

- People currently getting services will continue to receive them.
- Due to a freeze in the number of participants allowed in the program, the Department of Health Services (DHS) is now prohibited from

enrolling new members into Family Care or IRIS (effective June 30th 2011). This enrollment cap will be in effect for two years ending 6/30/2013.

- People who become eligible for services during the next two years will be put on a wait list that will be managed by the ADRC. When a person leaves Family Care for whatever reason, a person on the wait list will be able to enroll on a one-for-one basis.
- DHS can enroll any individual into Family Care related programs who is relocated from a nursing home, intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, or state center for people with developmental disabilities if the individual has resided in the facility for at least 90 days.

It appears individuals who need to access Family Care will only be able to do so after a skilled nursing facility stay. Much of this seems counter intuitive as the program was designed to prevent institutionalization as well as eliminate wait lists.

The legislative proposal provides 12.6 million dollars per year for people on the waitlists who are in urgent need of long-term services as determined by DHS. They have not yet defined *urgent need*.

If you have any questions concerning the waitlists or enrollment please call our ARDC in Hudson at 715-381-4360.

Have a good summer. Thank you for your trust and support in our program.

Clark

Production Highlights

By Jim Roerdink

This quarter I would like to highlight our business partner, Thomas Precision Machining Incorporated (TPM) of Rice Lake, Wisconsin. For 30 years TPM has been a leading manufacturer in the food processing industry, bringing quality products to their customers at the lowest possible price. TPM recently completed an expansion of its facility and they now have over 40,000 square feet of manufacturing and warehouse space where they employ 60 individuals on two shifts. TPM's main areas of business include: reconditioning equipment; rebuilding services for machines and augers; sharpening drums, plates, and knives; providing field services; and manufacturing replacement parts for most food processing manufacturers.

St. Croix Industries began working with Thomas Precision in September of 2008. Our work for them requires us to assemble boxes that hold blades for food processing. During the first two quarters of 2011 we assembled over 22,000 of these boxes! SCI is proud of the work we do for Thomas Precision Machining Inc. and we are thankful for the partnership that we have developed.

The second quarter at SCI started out very busy, but slowed down the last 4 weeks of the quarter. The clients worked hard during the quarter and stuffed and sealed 312,000 envelopes; ran 54,000 pieces through the shrink wrapper; washed 8,000 totes; assembled 29,000 self help courses; assembled 152,000 pieces of hardware, inserted washers into 2,200 pairs of boots, and packaged 59,000 boxes of tapes. Our shredding operation processed over 15,000 pounds of paper.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The staff and client/workers at SCI took advantage of the recent slow-down in the Production Area to explore our surrounding communities. These experiences have not only enriched our lives through their sights and sounds, but have also provided us the opportunity to practice and develop confidence in applying the skills that are necessary to interact in our society. For those who chose to "stay put" we developed activities at SCI where consumers had opportunities to interact with each other, get some exercise, learn/practice some new work skills, and show off some of their talents.

A sampling of community activities includes volunteering for the New Richmond Chamber at the Park Art Fair, walking at local parks, bowling at Gibby's, cheering for local hockey teams, enjoying a day at Como Park, touring Stillwater, attending a live performance of The Wizard of Oz at the Gem Theater, eating picnic lunches, exploring Carpenter Nature Center, shopping, going to the movies, and swimming at the Wakanda Water Park in Menomonie.



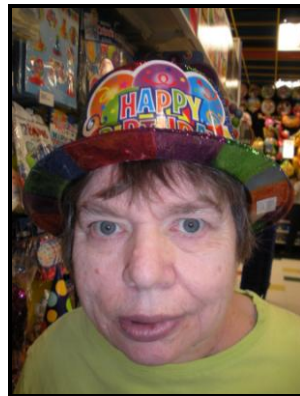
Clients enjoyed the opportunity to go on a variety of community outings during the second quarter. Pictured from left to right: Como Zoo, Stillwater, The Wizard of Oz at the Gem Theater, Wakanda Waterpark in Menomonie.

Day Services Highlights

During the second quarter, the Day Services Program served 17 individuals. Whether full time, part-time, or part-time while working at St. Croix Industries, these people stayed busy with activities and field-trips during the spring months!

We are fortunate that the community of New Richmond provides us with a number of opportunities to get out and enjoy the town. During the second quarter we enjoyed participating in the First National Community Bank's *Appreciation Day*; going out for lunch at Pete's Pizza, McDonald's, China House and Dairy Queen; enjoying movies at the local theater; and rummaging through community garage sales in search of special treasures.

We celebrated five birthdays this quarter. Our best wishes go out to Bill, Louie, Kevin, Jim, and Edda. Happy Birthday to YOU!



Edda enjoyed a trip to Party City to look over the endless inventory of party decorations and balloons in every size and shape. Balloons are Edda's favorite party favor!



Vonnie ventured to Stillwater to look at the amazing flowers at Bergmann's Greenhouse. She helped select the flowering plants that we used for our arts & crafts project. To top off the outing, Vonnie chose Kentucky Fried Chicken for our lunch outing. Good choice, Vonnie!

For More Info.

Benefits Specialist

Many people with a disability want to work, earn money, or start a career, but many fear that in doing so they will lose their needed medical benefits, or face a loss in total income. Today there are many incentives available that make it possible to earn more and keep your needed benefits.

A Work Incentives Benefits Specialist (WIBS) provides the basis for making an informed decision, helping you understand how earnings may affect disability payments, healthcare, and other publicly funded benefits.....facts that will help you decide if you should go to work, and at what level. For more information on WIBS, go to www.percthinkwork.org.

In Control Wisconsin

In Control Wisconsin was founded to work for changes that would allow all citizens with disabilities to self-direct their support. It is a place of critical inquiry, shared learning, action and reflection, and is involved in activities to give people information and improve systems for self-directed support. Its' Board of Directors is comprised of people from IRIS, Family Care, County Waiver Programs, Disability Rights Wisconsin, provider agencies, and people with disabilities and their family members. For more information, visit www.incontrolwisconsin.org



MOVIE REVIEW

Mr. Poppers Penguins review by Clinton Duval

While Tom Popper was growing up his dad was an Arctic explorer. Since his dad was hardly ever home, he grew up communicating with his dad through a Ham radio.

When Tom grew up he became a real estate developer in New York City. When Tom receives word that his dad has passed away, he finds out that his father left him a very special gift in his will. Soon after, Tom began receiving crates, 6 crates total, and as he opened each crate.....there stood a penguin.

This movie is very heartwarming and family friendly. Tom finds the meaning of family through living with the penguins that his dad sent him.

I would definitely recommend this movie for the entire family!

Client Spotlight

In this issue of the newsletter we are featuring a client who is somewhat of a pioneer at SCI. Jerry began at the Day Services Program in August of 1981. As he got older he decided that he wanted to start working and earning a paycheck and he started with the Work Services Program and has been here ever since.

Over the years Jerry has worked on a variety of different contracts including packaging Durabag lunch bags, GNS electric brushes, recycling computer data tapes, scraping insulation off locks/strikes for Vollrath, and assembling make-up bags. In more recent years Jerry has been busy assembling boards for KTEK, putting washers into Grip-X boots, and packaging baseball caps.

Jerry's sense of independence and responsibility became evident when he began going over to the nursing home to get our coffee supplies. Candi, SCI Financial Assistant, took note and asked Jerry if he would be willing to assume the responsibility of independently walking over to the Health and Human Services Building each day to carry our mail. Jerry jumped in wholeheartedly. In addition to his on-time deliveries he has developed relationships with the staff

at the other building. Thank You, Jerry!!

Louie, Jerry's Work Counselor for over 15 years, stated that Jerry has shown a commendable amount of persistence for the work that he does. He indicated that years of this persistence have lead to the mastery of jobs and the ability to complete these jobs independently.

Jerry lives with a caregiver in Roberts, WI, which has been a wonderful and supportive location for Jerry. He has had the opportunity to try many new things...his latest adventure was a trip to Washington D.C.. In his spare time Jerry loves to go bowling, ride his 3-wheeler to the library and around town, visit with his family, attend church on Sunday, and go shopping and out to eat.

Rain or shine, Jerry is our on-time and always reliable mail carrier.



Return label

Transportation

If you ride the SCI van to work you must be ready at the time you are scheduled to be picked up to ensure little or no delay for others.

Drivers have been instructed to wait no more than 3 minutes for riders who are not ready. (Remember that pick-up and drop-off times are approximate due to such things as road conditions, other riders' absences, substitute drivers, mechanical problems,...)

All transportation changes (ex: pick-up & drop-offs) must be cleared with Clark, Colleen, or Candi. Vehicle drivers are not able to make route changes unless they are cleared first.

When absent, it is expected that clients or their living situations will call SCI (715 246 8299) at least 15-30 minutes before the designated pick-up time so that the driver can be notified. Telling the vehicle driver is NOT acceptable. Do not call the driver at home unless it is an emergency. You can call SCI at any time.

Client/workers are limited to one carry-on per rider. Arrangements can be made to store extra clothing at SCI if necessary. Those failing to follow this request will not be allowed to board the van.

Borrowing, Lending, Giving

Do not borrow, lend or give away personal items to your co-workers. This includes money, food and cigarettes. This is for your protection as well as the protection of others. If you need something, talk to a staff member.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS TO HELP EVERYONE'S WORKDAY GO SMOOTHER

Schedule and Program Policies & Procedures

A sack lunch is necessary at work. There is neither hot food nor a food machine available. There are microwaves available to warm food, but not cook food. Food must be brought in microwavable containers. There are no utensils (forks/spoons), so they must be brought from home.

There is not a cooler for lunches. If a lunch needs to be kept cold, use an insulated lunch container.

Coffee is provided at lunch and breaks, free of charge.

Personal belongings need to be marked. It is impossible for staff to identify everyone's belongings. If something is missing, home staff is welcome to come to SCI to identify it.

Make sure to sign-in and sign-out when bringing/picking up client/workers for appointments. Please indicate return time when picking up.

When picking up clients at end of the day, you must be here by 3:00 pm or the client will ride their van home.

Medications/Illness/Return-to-work Policies and Procedures

If a client/worker is out of work for 3 or more days due to illness, injury or hospitalization, they are required to have a doctor's "Return to Work" form before returning to work. Arrangements must be made with Clark or Colleen before returning to work. SCI must be informed of any communicable diseases.

If a client/worker comes to work ill (ex: fever, diarrhea, severe coughing) or becomes ill during the workday the living situation will be asked to come pick him/her up. A "Return to Work" form is required before returning to work.

SCI staff will not administer medication but will assist/monitor a client/worker taking medication (prescribed and over-the-counter). Medication must be brought in a single dose/bubble package and be labeled with name, date, dose, time to be administered, and type of medication.

LAST YEAR WAS A BLAST!! COME JOIN US AGAIN

AND HELP A CAUSE THAT'S VERY SPECIAL TO ALL OF US!



ST. CROIX INDUSTRIES

**SECOND ANNUAL FUNRAISER,
RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION**



Pasta, Salad & Breadsticks Dinner



\$10.00 (kids under 5 eat free) Beverages Not Included

Sunday, September 18, 2011

Contact Colleen at 715-246-3128
or colleenh@co.saint-croix.wi.us
for tickets or with question.

4-8 pm

Ready Randy's Banquet Hall

Hwy 65 & Co Rd G New Richmond, WI

Proceeds from this years event will help support the purchase of a shrink wrap tunnel and L-bar sealer. The proceeds will also support SCI's annual Christmas Party, Summer Picnic and client/workers' activities/outings.



**DANCING
In
THE STREET**



If you thought you heard your favorite song blaring from the street behind SCI on Friday, June 17th....well you heard correctly. Thanks to Mike Cook, of *Altieramente An Evening of Music and Dance*, sixty+ consumers "danced their tennis shoes off" at our first ever Street Dance. The warm afternoon didn't slow down the crowds as Mike "spun" his CDs, honoring the consumers's requests to hear their favorite tunes. Everyone took a break from the heat to put their feet up and cool down with a refreshing ice-cream treat.

Thank You, Mike! We all had a great time!

