

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

During the past few months I am sure that all of you have heard the news or read articles about the many changes that are forecasted to occur in our communities due to modifications that are being made in Madison. Since St Croix Industries is under the umbrella of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services we are not immune from feeling the effects of these changes. With new bills and a new director of the Department of Health Services, we will more than likely see changes in the way services are funded to persons with disabilities.

In order to help you follow and understand any possible changes, I am going to outline how we are currently funded.

- Saint Croix Industries' main source of funding is received for providing services to our client/workers. These services include providing care and supervision at our Work Center (Work Services); teaching the necessary skills and providing care for a community job (Placement Program); charging a fee for providing transportation to our client/workers to jobs in the community and to our Work Center (Transportation); and programming in Day Services. We are reimbursed for these services (on an hourly basis) by Community Health Partners (CHP), IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-direct), private pay consumers and from contracts.
- Our work services program charges companies a "piece rate" to perform labor intensive operations at our Work Center. This revenue is used to pay the salaries of the client/workers doing the work, as well as rent, utilities, trucks, etc. In addition, there are groups of client/workers who are paid

to work at area companies doing assembly or service jobs in a group setting. We have found that both forms of contracting (at SCI or at the companies' facilities) provide the needed flexibility for companies to respond to the normal ebb and flow of the business cycle. Our contract revenue covers some of the costs of doing business, but we rely predominately on billing for the service and care we provide to our client/workers.

Some of you have heard that Community Health Partners is decreasing the rates they pay for the services provided to their members that utilize St. Croix Industries' services. As of today we are engaged in dialogue with CHP so as to minimize the effects these changes will have on the daily lives of our client/workers. Rest assured that currently there are no changes being made, and any changes in the future will be coordinated with everyone that is important in our client/workers' lives.

If you have any questions about how we fund our agency please feel free to give me a call. I will be sending out updates via email as well as on our Facebook page. If you are not currently on our e-mail list, please send me your email so that I can keep you posted on any changes.

As always, thank you for your trust and support. We are what we are today because of you.

Clark Schroeder, Director

Production Highlights

By Jim Roerdink



In this issue I will be featuring K-Tek Corporation of Baldwin, WI.

K-Tek, a division of Griffiths Corporation, was founded in Minnesota as a short run stamping facility. In 1988, it moved from Minnesota to its current 100,000 square foot facility in Baldwin Wisconsin. K-Tek now has a full service stamping operation that performs fabrication, metal assemblies, sheet metal fabrication and wire bending. K-Tek provides parts for lawn and garden products, electrical boxes, circuit breakers, computer systems, recreational vehicles, desks and chairs, small gas engines and many other consumer products. Using both short and long run tooling they are able to accommodate any size order for their diverse customer base.

According to Jean Pociengel, materials manager at K-Tek, "St Croix Industries provides an excellent quality product preparing hardware for our assembly areas. They are able to kit the parts in the proper boxes, making them ready for use in our manufacturing. St. Croix Industries' ability to provide a quick turn around and delivery service allows us to meet customer deadlines." This past quarter SCI twisted 308,000 pieces of hardware together, and placed them into the 600 box assemblies necessary for K-Tek manufacturing.

We have continued to stay busy during the first quarter mailing 395,000 pieces of mail for several customers. We also assembled 29,000 instructional courses, ran 100,000 pieces through our shrink wrapper, washed 4,200 totes, erected 11,000 boxes, packaged 29,000 tapes and assembled over 16,000 pairs of boots. We had additional projects of over 20,000 pieces that were assembled or packaged.

ST. CROIX INDUSTRIES CLIENTS VOLUNTEER

On February 11th, six clients from St. Croix Industries volunteered to help ready the track for the inaugural Sandbox Indoor Trail Marathon. The Sandbox is located just north of New Richmond.

The runners would like to extend their gratitude to Duane J, Dan L, David H, Travis F, Gloria S, and Jason H. who picked rock at the 100,000 square foot indoor motocross facility! Thanks to their hard work the runners were able to run on a smooth course. The clients each received a marathon tee-shirt in appreciation for putting in a "marathon" effort.

We are proud of these clients for volunteering in their community!!



MOVIE REVIEW

By Mike Van Someran

RIO ****

Do you have a fascination with birds? If the answer to that question is, "YES", then this is definitely a movie that you will want to check out. In the family friendly movie, Rio, a rare bird thinks that he is the last of his kind, until he comes face-to-face with another of his species. The only question left is....Is it love at first sight?

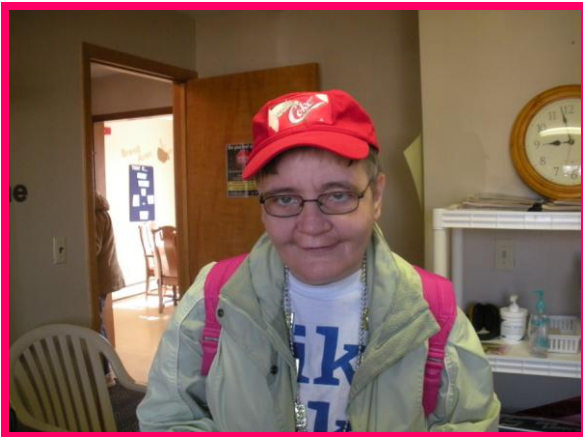
The movie, rated G, is a delightful comedy for both adults and children.

Day Services Highlights

The Day Services first quarter review begins with the *Never Ending Winter of 2011* that left the staff compelled to become creative with activities to lift the spirits of our clients.

- Our Valentine's Day Celebration was a huge success with almost everyone sporting their red shirts to help us get in the spirit of the special day. Everyone enjoyed bingo and danced to our favorite *Sentimental Journey Old Tyme* music DVD.
- The spirit of the Irish descended on us as we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with fun games, conversation filled with blarney, and of course a tasty green brew that quenched our thirst.

In this issue we would like to feature Nancy S. Nancy has been with us at Day Services since 2000. We all recognize her each day as she disembarks the van to come to "work" clad in her baseball cap and pink backpack.



Nancy has many things that bring a smile to her face and joy to her life, but her favorite by far, are photos of her family and friends. She carries them around with her....smiling at them and showing them to everyone she meets. Nancy stays busy playing her favorite games which include Yahtzee (she loves to shake the dice), Wheel of Fortune on the computer (aka Banna White) and picture Bingo. Nancy's laugh is contagious and can be heard throughout the building as she watches *Beverly Hillbillies* and responds to Granny's antics with, "Oh, stop it Granny".

Nancy is never at a loss for words and her spunky personality add a lot of spice to our days!

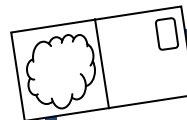
Placement Program

The Placement Program experienced several staffing changes during the first quarter. We would like to welcome Greg Lund and Kristina Speer as on-call job coaches. In addition, we wish Sharon, who retired in March, much happiness and luck in this new phase of her life!

We were kept busy during the past three months with 30 DVR client referrals, 20 job interviews, 22 job developments, 11 community work trials, 3 supported employment assessments, and one small business plan. Five clients, all of who require job coaching, were hired by employers and two individuals were placed on hold for various reasons.

The Placement Program has been meeting and negotiating with the YMCA, Future Farms, and Goodwill in an attempt to set up enclaves and/or independent placements for clients. Future Farms has requested a proposal for a work crew. We had a meeting with Goodwill to discuss coordinating services and blending them with their St. Paul division. At this time Goodwill in St. Croix County does not have employment services.

Trent Landry and his mom, Lisa, joined the St. Croix Industries Placement Specialist at the WSTI Conference in the Wisconsin Dells to make a presentation on brain injury. The conference went well and we were asked to submit a proposal for next year's conference.



Share your Travels

◦ We Want to Hear from YOU!

◦ Whether you're going to Washington DC, Branson MO, or the Wisconsin Dells....we would love to get a postcard from you telling us about your travels and experiences. We will share your postcard with everyone at SCI and talk about where you are and what you are doing. Your postcard will then be posted on the wall in the break room. When you return we would love to see your pictures and hear more about your experiences. Safe Travels!!

Client Spotlight

This quarter's client spotlight is Jamie Ross. Jamie is being featured not only for her hard work at St. Croix Industries, but also for the amazing transformation she has made over the last three years by adopting a healthier lifestyle.

Jamie began working at SCI in 2007. At that time she was heavier and less active than her mother thought was good for Jamie's overall well being. Food has always been very important to Jamie and has always been a source of agitation and stress. Jamie's mother, Mae, reports that Jamie's success began when Jamie implemented a structured daily routine with a strict schedule for when she eats meals and snacks. In addition to seeing a nutritionist, Jamie purchased an exercise machine so that she could begin working out at home and joined the Centre in New Richmond where she engages in swimming and walking on the treadmill 4-5 times a week.

Jamie's mother reports that the dramatic change in Jamie's eating habits and new structure in her day was difficult for Jamie at first. Luckily, Jamie likes to have a routine, and once she became comfortable with her new one, she stuck with it. Progress was significant and Jamie lost weight and became a healthier person in every aspect of her life. Mae reports that she has seen an increase in Jamie's self esteem, which has improved her overall behavior in all aspects of her life.

At SCI, Jamie likes to stay busy. She starts walking the moment she gets to work, joining the other clients on our

morning Wellness Walk. Jamie often needs to be told to come in from outside because she will keep walking and walking and walking! Jamie carries this energy onto the work floor where she likes to label, package caps, put KTEK screws into boards and has recently learned how to put the nuts and screws together. Work is very important to Jamie and sometimes she needs to be convinced (by assuring her that she can do more work tomorrow) to get ready for the van at the end of the day.

Jamie has truly transformed herself both physically and socially since she began working at SCI. Her family's knowledge of Jamie and what makes her tick has helped her to create a new lifestyle which has allowed her to grow in all aspects of her life.



Congratulations of all of your success, Jamie!
Everyone at SCI is very proud of you!!!!

