

Enhancing Lives Through Work



Community Work Services

FALL 2021

Edgewood College: The Employer that Keeps on Giving

Since 1986, Edgewood College has employed seven Community Work Services' (CWS) supported workers to perform a wide range of tasks throughout the campus. These tasks have included cleaning buildings, watering plants, performing grounds-keeping tasks, and working in food service. Currently, three CWS supported workers are working at Edgewood College, with two of these individuals being hired to work in Wingra Café during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Laura Well with her Supervisor Paula Clopton at Wingra Café.

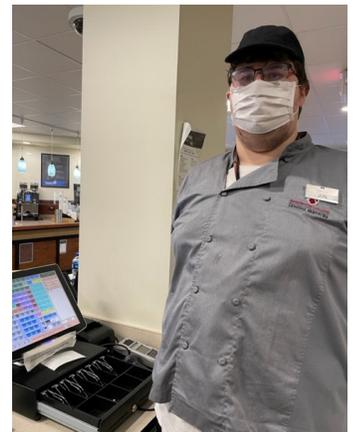
In talking with the Director of Dining Services, Jon Riffle states, "At Edgewood College, we work to build a culture where ALL individuals are valued and appreciated, and our differences are leveraged to create better business results and strong communities. Laura Well has a high attention to detail that shows in the quality of her work. Jon Herreman has a great, positive attitude and cares deeply about his job performance. Both individuals have made a great, positive impact on our business, both on our level of customer service and on our work culture."

"Mark Wildman has been an employee of Edgewood College since February 2004," says Susan VanderSanden, Director of Facilities Operations. She goes on to say, "Mark is responsible for maintaining our exterior garbage and recycling receptacles. This is very important to our campus

because first appearances are very meaningful for new visitors to our campus and recruiting new students, faculty, and staff. It is also important for the student experience and to retain high employee satisfaction. Mark is well-known and truly appreciated by everyone on our campus! We are grateful for the 17 years we have been fortunate enough to work with him!"

Jon, who cashiers at the Wingra Café, feels he has achieved one of his vocational dreams to learn cashiering. Edgewood was willing to give Jon on-the-job training to learn this skill, and Jon has proven his worth with this difficult job. He truly loves it and feels challenged and appreciated. Laura has become a valuable employee because of her attention to detail and strong work ethic. Mark loves his job and is always happy to be at work, contributing to the Edgewood experience.

Community Work Services feels very fortunate to continue to partner with Edgewood College for the past 35 years to provide employment to individuals with disabilities in the community. Edgewood College truly is the employer that keeps on giving!



Jon Herreman at his cashier station at Wingra Café.



Mark Wildman is busy keeping it clean at Edgewood College.

Congratulations!

The following individuals supported by Community Work Services celebrated milestone anniversaries at their jobs in 2021:

5 year

Kip LiddicoatPublic Health Madison & Dane County
Davon Smith Paisan's Restaurant
Nemesio Tepepa..... Dane County District Attorney's Office
Nemesio Tepepa..... Dane County Facilities Management
Brandon TurnerCity of Madison Fleet Services

10 Year

Kristin Yelinek Dane County Facilities Management
Gary Lynch..... First Business Bank

15 Years

Sadler Bell..... State of WI, Department of Administration
Susan Chandler State of WI, Department of Corrections
Mark Wildman State of WI, Department of Administration

20 Years

Andre' Brown Dane County District Attorney's Office
Lennell Miron..... Dane County Facilities Management
Don Selden..... Community Work Services
Windy Ramsdell..... UBS Financial Services, Inc.
Bill Raimondo State of WI, Department of Health Services
Mike Alder State of WI, Department of Corrections
Laura Cullen State of WI, Department of Corrections

25 Years

John Pergande.....State of WI, Office of Commissioner of Insurance

30 Years

Nancy Linden.....State of WI, Department of Transportation

35 Years

Larry Knaack.....State of WI, Department of Health Services
Barb Brand.....State of WI, Department of Health Services



State of WI, Dept. of Corrections Secretary Kevin Carr congratulates Mike Alder on his 20-year work anniversary.



With Gratitude

Community Work Services once again is happy to give a shout-out to the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus for gifting us grant dollars for the purchase of a wide variety of items. Something different this year that we have never requested funding for in the past is the purchase of air purifiers and personal protective equipment (PPE) to assist in keeping supported workers and staff safe while at work during this time of COVID-19. Other items purchased with the funds received through the grant included job development supplies that are being used to help in the job search for individuals that lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Community Work Services appreciates the generosity of the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus. Their gift helps us continue to fulfill our mission of doing whatever it takes in helping individuals with disabilities find and keep meaningful jobs in the community.

Our mission...

Community Work Services is guided by the belief that **all** people have value and that supporting individuals with disabilities to actively participate in all aspects of community life results in a more diverse, compassionate, and stronger community for everyone.

With that as a foundation, the agency works in partnership with employers to make a positive difference in the lives of the people we support by helping them find and keep individually meaningful community jobs.

“Scoring” at Ten Pin Alley

Like many kids, Max Aubin was looking for stuff to do when he was young. So when Ten Pin Alley opened in 2003, he felt like he had hit the jackpot. Not only did Max like to bowl, but it was located fairly close to his house. What Max found in hanging out at Ten Pin Alley was that they had a great jukebox, his friends agreed that it was a fun place to gather, and when his birthday rolled around each year, it was the perfect place to have a party. One additional perk was that Max developed friendships with the people who worked there.



Max hard at work.

Fast forward to May of 2019 when Max was hired by Ten Pin Alley to do food prep for the kitchen. Specifically, Max works on prepping frozen appetizers such as cheese curds and onion rings by portioning and packaging them. Max enjoys his work schedule of Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:30-2:30, stating, “I like the quiet time of working and listening to my music.” Max also notes that he likes the feeling of accomplishment and earning a paycheck, all while working amongst his friends. When asked how long he plans on working at Ten Pin Alley, Max said, “I hope to work here for many more years, but not as many years as Bill.”

Bill Pounders has been at Ten Pin Alley since it opened in 2003 and took over the business in 2013. Both Bill and his son Chris say that having Max work at Ten Pin is a joy. “The work that Max does is important and needs to get done. We have a blast with Max.” Speaking of a blast, Bill and Chris get great joy out of blasting either Michael Jackson or Prince music on the jukebox at the end of Max’s work shift, knowing very well that Max is not a fan of either of these musicians. Now, how Max returns the favor is a story for another time!



Owner Bill Pounders (left), Max Aubin (front) and Manager Chris Pounders (right).

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In Memoriam



Jeff Bailey

Community Work Services had the privilege of supporting Jeff Bailey at a wide variety of jobs since 1995. Jeff was employed at Nature's Bakery Co-Op and the City of Madison Streets Division at the time of his passing on December 23, 2020, where he was appreciated for his dedication and strong

work ethic. Jeff was also known for cracking jokes, being a bit sassy (all in the name of fun), joining in karaoke when the opportunity arose, listening to country or polka music, bowling, playing cards, attending church, and overall having a great sense of humor. All of us at Community Work Services are grateful for the time we spent with Jeff. It's just not the same going to job sites and no longer hearing the Beer Barrel Polka playing in the background.



Darwin Ness

Always smiling, Darwin Ness was an inspiration to so many people. On January 22, 2021, Darwin passed away at the age of 90. Darwin would have celebrated his 35-year work anniversary in April of this year at the State of WI, Dept. of Health Services, never giving retirement a thought. His zest for life was unmatched, making sure that every day was special. Darwin loved to laugh, so sharing jokes with those he crossed paths with was always on his agenda and brought smiles to many. Incredibly active outside of his work life, Darwin loved to ski, polka, dog sled, travel, sing karaoke, attend concerts, movies, church, and advocate for people with disabilities. Thank you for everything, Darwin-you are greatly missed.



Eric Olsen

Eric Olsen passed away on December 21, 2020 at the young age of 58. Although Eric's passing filled us with great sadness, we also have much to reflect on that gives us reason to celebrate. Eric was a teacher to the staff of Community Work Services, as well as to many others who he developed relationships with either at his places of employment, on his rides to and from work, or at the Echo Tap where he went for lunch every Monday. So, in honor of Eric, please take a few minutes to read below the many wonderful things he taught us:

*Slow down-life is busy-but take the time to appreciate all that is around you each and every day. Why the rush?

*Stand your ground when you feel strongly about something-sometimes what others think may be the best for you isn't necessarily the case. Therefore, let your feelings be known with a finger wag and an "oh no." There is nothing wrong with letting your wishes be known.

*A long and firm handshake makes for a great conversation opener. Every so often, it doesn't hurt to try for a hug, too.

*Music and a Coke can make everything better. If by chance the music is good, go ahead and dance along!

*Be kind-it "opens doors" for many wonderful and lasting friendships in all areas of your life.

*Once in a while, you might want to try and get away with having others help you when you really don't need it. Even if your attempt is unsuccessful, it is guaranteed to make for a good story and a laugh.

Thanks for the life lessons Eric!!

2020/2021 Campaign Donors

All of us at Community Work Services are sincerely touched by the outpouring of support we have received from our friends, families and supporters and wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you. Your tremendous response during these challenging times has been vital in allowing us to continue fulfilling our mission of enhancing lives through work. We couldn't do it without you!

We'd also like to thank our many donors who wished to remain anonymous.

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Quality improvement

In 2020, in the midst of a pandemic, Community Work Services continued to actively work toward upgrading clients' job placements. As a result, in 2020:

- 5** individuals increased the number of hours worked
- 15** individuals had increased wages
- 15** individuals expanded their job responsibilities
- 3** individuals were placed in new jobs
- 60** individuals received benefits (e.g. COVID-19 pay, health insurance, vacation, paid sick time, retirement benefits, etc...)
- 1** individual moved from a volunteer to a paid position

At the end of 2020, Community Works Services was supporting 79 individuals and had a 98.7% job retention rate for the year!



Laura Cullen recently celebrated her 20-year work anniversary at State of WI, Dept. of Corrections and also increased her hours.

Volunteer - Be a friend!

Are you interested or know of anyone who would be interested in being a volunteer for one of our clients? Check out our volunteer opportunities at: www.volunteeryourtime.org or call Sharon Schmid at Community Work Services: 608.233.0115.

To learn more about Community Work Services, please visit our website at www.cwsmadison.com



Community Work Services

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