

Enhancing Lives Through Work



Community Work Services

FALL 2023

Confidence

At some point, you might have received a license plate renewal sticker in the mail, but have you ever wondered who puts those stickers in the brightly colored envelopes? One of many supported employees at the State of WI – Department of Corrections, Mattie Conway, takes on this big task. Mattie takes great pride in the work she completes while at her job three afternoons a week. She works on several tasks, such as: labeling envelopes, folding letters, shredding confidential materials, but stuffing license plate renewal stickers into envelopes is by far one of her favorite tasks. Mattie can easily stuff up to 200 stickers during her shift and does so with a big smile and a congratulatory tap on her chest upon completion! She rarely makes a mistake, perfectly placing the sticker to show through the window envelope. Although Mattie uses sited guide to maneuver & tactile sign language to communicate, she has quickly become very comfortable and assured at her job with the Department of Corrections where she started working at the end of March. With her great spatial awareness and confidence, she knows her tasks & way around the building with little assistance from her job coach. Next time you get a renewal sticker in the mail, you can thank Mattie!



Mattie proudly stuffing license plate renewal stickers.

Working with a Smile

Anyone who has ever been lucky enough to hear one of Jenna's belly laughs knows how much fun it is to work with one of our newest clients, Jenna Hughes! Jenna has been working for the Madison Metropolitan School District since 2022, but in that short time, she's shown us she has many skills. She can shred, fold, sort, and organize office paper and materials for the administrative building and - best of all - she has a fantastic sense of humor! One of the highlights of her shift is when it's time to collect shred pick-ups and she gets to chat and visit with some of her favorite co-workers by using her iPad with the TouchChat communication app. During this time, Jenna and her co-workers have a chance to share a laugh with one of Jenna's great jokes and talk about weekend plans. Thanks for always laughing at our jokes, Jenna, and as she would say, "Now you tell one!"



Nancy Koch Meyer and Jenna take break from work to share a photo and a smile!

In Memoriam



JoAnn with her long time vocational staff & friend, Sharon Schmid.

JoAnn Sams

JoAnn Sams passed away on May 20th, 2023 at the age of 59. JoAnn was a soft spoken, easy going and sweet natured woman who loved Dolly Parton, traveling, and the color pink. She was proud to show off her tattoos of a shark and the Golden Gate Bridge. For 27 years, JoAnn had the perfect balance working on various challenging tasks and enjoying social connections and events at the State of WI – Crime Lab before finishing her career shredding confidential materials with the Dane County District Attorney's office! JoAnn also volunteered her time distributing BRAVA magazines throughout St. Mary's Hospital for 8 years. Community Work Services staff are forever grateful for having the opportunity to get to know and work with JoAnn!

Rachel Karch

Rachel Karch passed away on May 21, 2023. Community Work Services had the pleasure of meeting Rachel in October of 2008, when she began working at The Department of Natural Resources. She worked at the DNR for 15 years collecting and shredding confidential materials for her department. Not only was Rachel extremely reliable and proficient with her work, she shared many gifts with everyone she worked with as well! Rachel would remind us when it was time to take a break from the desk and get out for a walk – which would inevitably force us to enjoy some fresh air, a conversation with a coworker, or to sing a little song. She would teach us that friendships are made simply with daily smiles, a good "morning" and some great, up-close eye contact. Best of all, Rachel taught us to slow down and feel the rain or cool winter air on your face, to roll the windows down in the car and if you hear a song you love, sing along! It's really no wonder everyone loved working with Rachel – she showed us how to live in the moment. Thank you, Rachel, for touching all of our lives.



Rachel poses by her shredder before tackling her confidentials!

2022/2023 Campaign Donors

All of us at Community Work Services continue to be grateful for and touched by the outpouring of support we have received from our friends, families and supporters!

Your generosity has been, and will continue to be, vital in allowing us to fulfill our mission of enhancing lives through work. As always, you have our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. 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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Congratulations!



Roberta McBirney celebrated 30 years of hard work at the State of WI – Department of Transportation in May 2023. As Roberta always says, "The day is what you make it!"



Terry Smith has shown long-term dedication and loyalty to his employer, Rocky Rococo's. This year he celebrated his 45th work anniversary!



Co-Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services, Gloria Reyes, recognizes William (Bill) Raimondo for his 30 years of work.

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Anniversaries

The following individuals supported by Community Work Services celebrated milestone anniversaries at their jobs in 2023:

5 Year Anniversaries

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Zach Crabb | Fastenal |
| Blake Edison | City of Madison, Fire Station #1 City of Madison, Fire Station #4 Blue Moon Bar & Grill Dane County Facilities Management |
| Reem Ezalarab | State of WI Office of the Commissioner of Insurance |
| Sue Mauger | Dane County Facilities Management |
| Rich Moore | State of WI Department of Corrections |

10 Year Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Alyssa Brown | Aprilaire a division of Research Products |
| Owen Pomije | Dane County Facilities Management |

15 Year Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Daniel Kliewer | Madison Metropolitan School District |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|

20 Year Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Elaine Kennedy | State of WI Department of Corrections |
| Ademola Lesi | State of WI Department of Health Services |
| Paul Lund | State of WI Department of Corrections |
| Patrick Murphy | University of WI - Kohl Center Food & Beverage |

25 Year Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Robert Ramsdell | FAC Services |
| Barb Ronzani | State of WI Department of Corrections |

30 Year Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Roberta McBirney | State of WI Department of Transportation |
| William Raimondo | Dane County Human Services |

45 Years Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Terry Smith | Rocky Rococos |
|-------------|---------------|



Words of Thanks to the Knights of Columbus

Once again,
Community Work Services
expresses our gratitude to the
Knights of Columbus for the very
generous grant that we received.
With this gift, we were able to
purchase much needed supplies
for jobsites throughout Madison
to assist supported workers to be
successful at their jobs.

Your ongoing support of our
program is so very much
appreciated. **THANK YOU!**

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.

The logo for Thrivent, featuring the word "thrivent" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. A small red heart icon is positioned to the right of the letter "t".

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial who is eligible to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars? If so, consider choosing Community Work Services as a recipient.

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.volunteeryour-time.org or call Jeri Murray 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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