

Options' Outlook

by Options, Inc. a private nonprofit agency

Options, Inc.

Vision

All people will live, work and enjoy life in their community.

Mission

Options is dedicated to providing quality supports for people with disabilities in their employment and community.

Alive World Wide

Alive Worldwide is one of Options, Inc.'s newest customers.

Alive Worldwide is a privately owned company located in Big Lake. Options began working with Alive Worldwide in October of 2009. Options' workers package individual RevNRG drink packs into a 15-pack carton. We started packaging 50,000 drink sticks per month and with an increase in business we hope to double that number. With Options' 5650 sq ft workshop, and 2040 sq ft warehouse, we have room to grow along with our companies. With a full loading dock, we also have the ability to have products shipped directly to Options, saving the customer shipping costs.

Owner/CEO Scotty Paulson started this business in 2007 after years of research and many trips to the rainforests to create healthy energy products. Alive Worldwide packages and sells products that are manufactured with ingredients harvested from the rainforest. These ingredients are harvested in an ecologically friendly way, which assures no harm to the rainforest.

A portion of the profits from sales goes toward rainforest relief. Scotty says "It's nice to keep the business in our community, and it's a nice feeling knowing we are helping employ people with disabilities. They always do a great job, and I am happy to be a part in helping them earn a paycheck."



Scotty Paulson,
Owner/CEO Alive Worldwide



Susann Paulson and Wayne Giese
of Alive Worldwide



Guy A



Dennis M



Keatan W.

We wish to thank the following people for contributions between September 1, 2009 and March 30, 2010

Lucinda Beaudine
Denel Bonine &
Paul Carroll
Henry & Joyce Bost
Tami Dobmeier
John & Lorayne Norgren
Louise Ochocki
Doug & Toby Moe
Richard Simonson
Connie Thomas
Ed Kacures Sr
Bridget McLennan
John Sprague

Caring Rivers
United Way

Elk River Lions Club

United Way of
Central Minnesota
Designations

Liz Claiborne Outlet

Options Board
of Directors

Roger Bromaghim

Martha Franzwa

Melinda Goetsch

Jennifer Haberman

Ben Hughes

Ewald Petersen

James Rooker

Jim Towley

Audra Wells

Hanalee Childcare Works to Include Children of All Abilities

by Stacie Eckstrom

Nicole has always wanted to work in the childcare field; however, she had limited experience with young children. When Options met with Peggy Peterson, the owner of Hanalee Childcare, about employment for Nicole, there were no openings for working in the classroom with the children.

Peggy saw that Nicole would be a great addition to Hanalee. She knew she did not want to lose her to another employer. So even with no openings for assisting in the classroom Peggy felt she would be able to build on Nicole's skills with children and created a job for her. Peggy hired Nicole to join their team in August of 2009 to assist with cleaning around the facility, freeing up Peggy's time, as well as the time of other teachers.

Over time Nicole has been able to build relationships with the children, as well as, the teachers and she is starting to assist in the classrooms with the children. "Nicole has been a great addition to our team here at Hanalee. The children really reach out to her," says Peggy.



Hanalee provides childcare and early childhood education to children ages 6 weeks – 12 years of age in Otsego and the surrounding areas. Peggy Peterson has over 20 years of childcare experience and is a licensed Special Education teacher. At Hanalee they feel that it is important for all children, no matter their ability level or cultural background, to learn and develop together. Peggy and her experienced team of teachers work on integrating children with special needs with the other children.

Currently Hanalee has several children with special needs benefiting from the warm nurturing atmosphere that they provide.

Nicole is looking forward to what the future holds for her at Hanalee. She is excited about working more with the children and learning the skills necessary to become a teacher's assistant.

To learn more about Hanalee and the services they provide visit www.hanaleechildcare.com

Friends Together By Tiffany B.

During 2009 Options' self-advocacy group chose to change the group name to "Friends Together", the name was chosen by the individuals in the group.

The group was given the opportunity to plan the holiday dinner that Options provides for consumers and staff throughout the building. Friends Together chose the meal that would be served, called area businesses and got prices for the meal and then ordered the meal through Coborns in Big Lake. The dinner was held on December 17, 2009. The group also did the entire serving of the meal along with cleaning up after the meal.

When the group was asked to do the holiday dinner they decided they would like to also help out in the community during the holiday season so the group decided to put together a Toys for Tots drive. The group collected toys for 2 weeks and collected a total of 101 toys.

Now in 2010 Friends Together have had the opportunity to get trained on CPR and First Aid, they are organizing a food drive during the month of March, and they have also been given the opportunity to take a trip to the state capitol and meet with local legislators to express their concerns about the budget cuts.

From the Director

Richard Simonson

Singing in the Rain

Though the news may make it feel like it's raining all the time, we're moving forward and singing in the rain. Yes, I'm definitely of that older generation.

On March 1st we celebrated the kick off of our new venture with the College of Direct Supports through the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota. Options is one of five research sites for the College of Direct Supports, assessing the effectiveness of this online training service for Direct Service Professionals. For the next year, direct service staff in the vocational side of Options' services will receive training in the following areas:

- Direct Support Professionalism
- Community Inclusion
- Person Centered Planning & Supports
- Individual Rights and Choice
- Civil Rights and Advocacy
- Safety
- Supporting Healthy Lives
- Relationships
- Employment Supports
- Home and Community Living, & Personal Care.

In addition to the online training, our managers will supplement this training and tailor it to the day-to-day operations at Options. Direct support staff in our non-vocational areas including our Seniors' services will serve as a control group. By participating in this research phase, all of Options' direct staff will have free online access to the College of Direct Supports for up to four more years.

We recognize the following area businesses who provide employment opportunities

for persons with disabilities

A&W/Long John Silver's, Big Lake
Advanced Responses Systems, Rogers
Alive World Wide, Big Lake
Aroplax Cororation, Monticello
Becker Fire Department
Becker Police Department
Becker, Public Works Dept.
Becker Waste Water Treatment Facility
Big Lake Food Shelf
Big Lake Town Hall
City of Big Lake Offices
Class C Components, Ramsey
Coborn's, Big Lake
Connections, ETC., Big Lake
Cub Foods, Elk River
Culvers, Monticello
Cycle Works, Elk River
E & O Tool and Plastic, Inc., Elk River
Faribault Foods, Elk River
1st National Bank, Elk River
Godfather's Pizza, Otsego
Great River Regional Library, Big Lake
Hanalee Childcare, Otsego
Heaven Scent Cleaners, Buffalo
HiWay Liquors, Monticello
Holiday Station Stores, Big Lake, Elk River, Monticello, Otsego, Ramsey
Innotek, Maple Grove
J & E/Earl Manufacturing, Lakeville
John Weicht & Associates, Elk River
Keller Lake Commons, Big Lake
Lake Center Liquor, Big Lake
Learning Blocks Child Care, Elk River
Manufacturing Partners, Inc., Big Lake
McDonalds, Elk River & Elk River Walmart, Monticello (2), St. Michael
Monticello Covenant Church
Perkins Family Restaurant, Elk River
REO Plastics, Maple Grove
Reynolds Food Packaging, Rogers
RiverRider Transit Systems, Big Lake
Riverview Community Bank, Otsego
Sherburne Co. Government Center, Elk River
Suburban Manufacturing, Monticello
Super Target, Monticello
Tescom, Elk River
T.O. Plastics, Clearwater
Universal Promotions, Rogers
Walmart Supercenter, Elk River
Westlund Distributing, Monticello
Willi Hahn Tools Corp., Monticello

Options' Outlook

Page 3



Options' Outlook

OPTIONS, INC
16820 197th Ave NW
Big Lake MN 55309

PHONE:
763-263-3684

FAX:
763-263-8110

E-MAIL:
option1@sherbtl.net

www.options-inc.org

Working with you to build
a better tomorrow for
persons with disabilities.

If you would prefer
receiving a printed copy of
Options Outlook please
notify Mary at
option1@sherbtl.net
763-263-3684 ex 272

From the Director (continued)

We are very proud of the quality of our direct service staff at Options and we are excited about this opportunity to further expand their skills and to become certified as Direct Supports Professionals. I would also like to recognize Barb Marsh, Program Manager at Options for all of her efforts in championing and coordinating this effort.

We are also pleased to announce that on January 1st, RiverRider Public Transit began providing transportation services for Options from the Princeton and Zimmerman communities. RiverRider has long provided quality transportation services from the St. Cloud area to Options, as well as, providing transportation to and from work sites for many workers supported by Options. This has been a wonderful partnership for Options and this new route fulfills a long time goal to expand public transportation services for our consumers.

Given the recession and the growing demand for our employment services, our Production and Supported Employment Managers are working harder than ever to create new opportunities with area businesses. The challenge is great but they have some wonderful stories of new job placements and we are seeing "green sprouts" in partnerships with emerging companies in the new economy.

Options' Schedule 2010

Days closed

- April 2
- May 31
- July 2, 5, 6
- August 13
- September 6

Special events

People First
4th Thurs of Month
4:00-5:00pm



Friends Together serving the
Holiday Dinner at Options.

PERMIT NO.5
BIG LAKE MN
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
STD. RATE

OPTIONS INC
16820 197TH AVE NW
BIG LAKE MN 55309