

Options' Outlook

by Options, Inc. a private nonprofit agency

Vision

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

Mission

Options is committed to empowering and supporting adults with disabilities in living and working in the mainstream of community life.

Options Has A Vast, Skilled Workforce

Options has had tremendous growth with a number of admissions in the past few months, which enables us to offer even more to our community businesses. Options has a vast workforce with many different skills to offer. With these skills, the scope of jobs we can do ranges from simple one step jobs to jobs that have more detailed, multiple steps. We also have developed a partnership with other training facilities that makes it possible for us to take on exceptionally large jobs that require a very fast turn around.

Over these last few years I have highlighted some of our business clientele here at Options. Now, I would like to share more specifically the kinds of work we are able to do.

We have done many different mailing jobs for **Advanced Response Systems** over the years that require the names/numbers to stay in a specific order. We have employees that have extremely excellent attention to detail. **E&O Tool and Plastic, Inc.** has kept us busy with a number of multi-stepped packaging jobs. **REO Plastics** also has become more of a consistent customer with some of their assemblies of 3M products. **Bondhus Corporation** is a long time customer of Options, for whom we package tools from one packs up to ten packs on a weekly basis. **Alive Worldwide** is one of our newer, and fastest growing customers, estimating sales in other countries very soon. Alive Worldwide offers three different flavors of their drink packs. Our employees pack these drink mixes into boxes of thirty. Gluing pieces of corrugated cardboard together for **Pratt Industries** has become one of the favorites among our workers.

Things have definitely turned around for us this past year, but with our increased number of skilled workers, we are seeking out additional customers in our community. Over time, I have learned that some of our greatest job leads have been from the word-of-mouth of friends, family and existing customers. It's people like you that can help make a difference. We guarantee top quality work in record time!! Contact me today for a free estimate! Leah Cutler 763-263-3684 ext. 271



Phil packaging for Alive World Wide



Sherman and Tina packaging for Alive World Wide



Rita packaging for Bondhus Corporation



Tony labeling for Advanced Response Systems,



Sandra assembling clips for REO Plastics



Tonya gluing for Pratt Industries



Wade running heat sleeve machine for E & O Tool and Plastic, Inc.

We wish to thank the following people for contributions between Donations 3/16/11 - 9/7/11

Douglas Andersen
Mary Artmann
Denel Bonine & Paul Carroll
Christine & David Casey
Lynn Krueh
Bridget McLennan
Randeann Miller
Marilyn Sager
Richard Simonson
John Sprague
Connie Thomas

Knights of Columbus Council #13444, Becker
Knights of Columbus Council #9140, Big Lake
Knights of Columbus Council #5296, Elk River
Knights of Columbus Council #6825, Monticello
Knights of Columbus Council #961, St. Cloud

Great River Energy
Greater Twin Cities United Way designations
Sherburne County United Way
United Way of Central Minnesota designations

In Memory of Lindsey Dressen
David Dressen

In Memory of Rosemarie Lorge
Steven & Dana Hendren
John & Deborah Lorge
Todd & Shelly Maloney
Mary Rasmussen
Raymond & Dawn Steinke
CentraCare Clinic

In Honor of Mattie Miller
Gary Voegfli

In Memory of Opal Peterson
Richard Alickson

In Kind Donations
Faribault Foods
Great River Energy
Reynolds Packaging



Heidi Enjoys Her Job at the Sherburne County Government Center

Heidi works at the Sherburne County Government Center and has done so since 1994. As a team member in the property maintenance department, she is responsible for cleaning the courtrooms, conference rooms, employee break rooms and public common areas. She is assigned other duties as needed. Heidi recently started folding towels as one of her duties and really likes this job, but her favorite is washing windows. Heidi works independently with minimal or natural supports.

Heidi has made many friends over the years with her co-workers. Heidi participates in many social activities throughout the Government Center such as potlucks and retirement parties.

Heidi resides in Elk River and is an active member of the community. She has a membership to the YMCA where she enjoys working on the machines. Heidi enjoys many HOPE Community Education activities and is especially looking forward to seeing Disney on Ice this winter. She also is involved in many Special Olympics sports; bowling is her favorite. When you go to the Government Center and see Heidi, please say hello.

Heidi is one example of the long-term relationships Options creates with local businesses.

Options Board of Directors

Roger Bromaghim	Ewald Peterson
Dan Feigum	Jim Rooker
Martha Franzwa	Audra Well
Melinda Goefsch	William Youngs
Jenny Haberman	

From the Director

Richard Simonson

The Black Swan

Recently I've been reading "The Black Swan, The Impact of the Highly Improbable". The author presents us with the thought that highly improbable events that we can't predict, have a profound affect on our world. 9/11, the dot com bubble, the collapse of the housing and financial markets, and the recession have radically changed our world in the last several years. While some of these events seem predictable in retrospect, our world feels far more uncertain.

Over the past 40 years, we saw gradual positive change in services for persons with disabilities and I had come to assume that this was normal. In the past 9 years, however, we've seen our cost of living adjustments "increase" by less than 4% while the cost of living has increased by about 25%. We've come to accept this as the new normal to the extent that we celebrated our cuts of 1% to 1.5% this year. But this is only the beginning, as major systems change will take place in our field in the next few years.

With the decline in the jobs market, people with disabilities rely on us more than ever to help them find and maintain employment and our numbers continue to grow. Needless to say, it is far more difficult to find employment for more people at a time of high unemployment. With the support of our friends in area businesses and the determined efforts of Leah, Brenda, Denel and Stacie, we have had another good year for employment opportunities.

Uncertainty and growing demand, however, means that we must continue to be aggressive if we are to meet the needs of the people who depend on us. The loss of a single contract in our in-house production or our work enclaves can dramatically affect the employment and earnings of the people we serve. Another leg down in a double dip recession could be devastating.

With this said, I am asking for your help. Our best contacts for employment are you, the family members of our consumers, the employers we currently work with and the family and friends of our employees. Please help us by putting us in touch with a business that could benefit from employing an individual or a crew or that could benefit from contracting some of their assembly or packaging work through Options. We have a ready workforce with diverse skills, abilities and work experience. Please help to put us to work!

Options, Inc. recognizes the following area businesses for their role in employing, empowering, and including people with disabilities in the community.

A&W/Long John Silver's, Big Lake
Advanced Response Systems, Rogers
Alive World Wide, Big Lake
Anytime Fitness, Elk River, Rogers
Aroplax Corporation, Monticello
Becker Fire Department
Becker Police Department
Becker, Public Works Dept.
Becker Waste Water Treatment Facility
Big Lake Food Shelf
Big Lake Town Hall
Bondus Corporation Monticello
Buffalo Cinema
Central Bank, Otsego
City of Big Lake Offices
Class C Components, Ramsey
Coborn's, Big Lake, Elk River
Cornerstone Café, Monticello
Cub Foods, Elk River
Culvers, Monticello
E & O Tool and Plastic, Inc., Elk River
Faribault Foods, Elk River
First Op., Elk River
Great River Regional Library, Big Lake
Handiplac, Houston
Heaven Scent Cleaners, Buffalo
Holiday Station Stores, Big Lake, Elk River,
Monticello, Otsego, Ramsey, Anoka
Innotek, Maple Grove
John Weicht & Associates, Elk River
Keller Lake Commons, Big Lake
Lake Center Liquor, Big Lake
Manufacturing Partners, Inc., Big Lake
McDonalds, Elk River & Elk River Walmart,
Monticello (2), St. Michael
Monticello Covenant Church
Perkins Family Restaurant, Elk River
Pratt Industries, Plymouth
REO Plastics, Maple Grove
Reynolds Packaging, Rogers
RiverRider Transit Systems, Big Lake
S&L Team Cleaning, St Paul
Sherburne Co. Government Center, Elk River
Suburban Manufacturing, Monticello
Super Target, Monticello
Tescom, Elk River
T.O. Plastics, Clearwater
Universal Promo Inc., Rogers
Westlund Distributing, Monticello
White Bear Clothing Co., Big Lake
Willi Hahn Tools Corp., Monticello
Windstream, Big Lake



Nicole at Reynolds Packaging,



Andrew at Big Lake Library



Neal at
Willi Hahn Tools Corp.



Mark at Big Lake Library



Bret at Windstream

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

If you would prefer
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Self-Advocacy Activities

The Self-Advocacy Group has been very busy. During the month of August they collected food and personal products for the Big Lake Food Shelf. For the past month the group has collected items to send to our troops fighting in Iraq; hopefully as a way to brighten their day and say thanks for keeping us safe.

The group is collecting gently used or new coats, hats, mittens, boots, scarves and snow pants for kids through the age of 18 for the month of October. Items collected will be distributed through the November Harvest Outreach to families in the Elk River Area.

As the final event of the year the Self-Advocacy Group has chosen to sponsor a Toys for Tots drive again this year. This has always been a very successful event, with over 350 toys being collected last year. The Self-Advocacy Group is always looking for ways to give back to others.

Recently some members of the Self-Advocacy Group attended an In-service sponsored by Creative Options. Tabby said she learned that one person can make a difference and she has already put some of her newly acquired skills to work here at Options. When asked what his favorite part of the day was, James answered "All of it." He agreed with Tabby in that it is important to stick up for people. They both look forward to attending next year.

Options' Schedule 2011 Days closed

- November 11, 2011
- November 24 & 25, 2011
- December 23 & 26, 2011
- January 2, 2012

Special events

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



Self-Advocacy Group

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