

2011

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Watauga Opportunities Consumer Cruise - Fall '2010

Enabling Self-Reliance

Estimated Community Wages
Earned Since 1994:

\$5,383,675.70

Estimated Community Wages
Earned Year to Date (1/1/11):

\$81,675.75

Job Placements since 1994:

813

Job Placements Year to Date:

21

On November 6th, 43 consumers, staff and family members boarded a charter bus heading to Mobile, Alabama. In Mobile they were greeted by Carnival Cruise Representatives from the Carnival Elation, a 855 ft. cruise ship with a capacity of 2,052 guest. The trip was a 5 night cruise that visited ports of call in the Western Caribbean. Cruise highlights included stops in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico: Progreso, Mexico and Cozumel, Mexico. Cruise participants shopped in port and relaxed in the sun and swam at the beaches. Adventure and fun was had by all! (story continued on back)

- OUR MISSION -

Watauga Opportunities, Inc. will enable self-reliance and enhance independence through the provision of vocational, residential, and community opportunities to individuals with barriers to employment and community involvement.

Letter from the President....



The ability of WOI to continue its tradition of excellence through service enhancement and growth even during times of economic difficulty is credited to a proactive, visionary and responsive staff and Board. Highlighting 2010; our service enhancement pilot with Smoky Mountain Center led to a 470% increase in participant civic/community experiences from 476 to 2250 hours. WOI was awarded and completed a Golden Leaf Foundation Grant to fund 50% of our 3,000 square-foot controlled environment expansion enhancing our medical manufacturing ability. **In December, I am proud to report WOI achieved ISO 13485 Quality Registration.** This is a tremendous accomplishment and is certain to bring more medical manufacturing to WOI. With the new year we continue toward our Strategic Goal for 80% of non residential revenue to be self generated, *enabling our own self-reliance.*



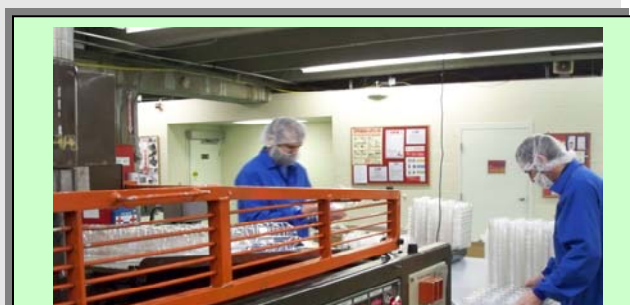
Pictured above, Steve Norris volunteers with the ADVP program. Every week ADVP participants volunteer at the Watauga County Library to wash children's books which helps to keep the germs down. This is something our volunteers look forward to every week because they know they are doing a good thing to help others.



- OUR Quality Policy -

Watauga Opportunities, Inc. is Mission Driven, Quality Focused, and Committed to Exceeding all Customer Expectations!

Congratulations!!!
 To WOI's Medical Manufacturing Division for receiving our first ISO 13485 Quality Registration!



Above Production staff inspecting Mona Lisa Food Products trays, supplying them with plenty of trays for their chocolates for the Valentine's Day rush. Manufacturing Division had a productive Fall with new contracts and meeting the requirements for ISO 13485 Quality Registration. This quality registration should be instrumental in expanding WOI's medical production.

SE Follow-Along News...

The beginning of a new year marked a new way of learning for the Supported Employment/Follow-Along Dept. Staff members Carol Isaacs, Pam Smith, and Frank Packard are incorporating 'Story-telling' into lessons on Social Skills, Consumer Skills, Exercise, Healthy Living, and Self-Advocacy. Currently, participants are being challenged to lead exercise and review their "job story" by rehearsing motions used on their jobs. Response from participants has been very positive, and some participants have even admitted that learning can be fun!

Community activities also continue in the winter-time with the favorite spot being Coffee Shoppes! Healthy Living continues to be very important, and teaching venues are moved inside. Lessons on healthy food choices have been taught in local grocery stores, and exercise classes are conducted indoors or on walks in the mall. One lady joined the local "Curves" Fitness Center. (Continued on back)

Community Employment Spotlight Employee



If you've been to Alray Tire and saw a bright red headed young man with a smile across his face, then you've met AJ Reed. AJ has been working at Alray Tire since August.

AJ REED

AJ's title is "Shop Manager" at Alray Tire and if you ask any of the employees they will say that they can't wait until AJ comes walking in and ready to work. Part of AJ's task is to move tires to the proper bins, sweep and keep the front and back of the shop clean. Jim Gragg, owner of Alray Tire says that they "love having AJ here." He is such a positive influence, he is funny and he loves to joke and cut up with us guys, but knows when it's time to get the work done." AJ has been looking for the right job for a long time. When AJ was told that he was going to be working in a place with a lot of tires and cars AJ just smiled and said "I'm strong" (flexed his muscles) and said "I love wheels." The guys at Alray have taken AJ in as one of their own and this has worked out to be a perfect fit for this young man. AJ is a hard worker who just needed the chance to prove it. "He has far exceeded what we expected out of him" says Jim Gragg. "I'll take two or three AJ's working for me any day!"



Enabling Self-Reliance Through Employment

Calendar of Events:

- 
 February 6-8th – Special Olympics Skiing
- 
 February 9th – WOI Staff Mtg.
- 
 February 9th – Human Rights Committee Mtg
- 
 February 16th – ASU Project Recreation Pizza /Orientation
- 
 February 17th – Special Olympics Polar Plunge
- 
 March 3rd – Chili/Soup Day (fundraiser for Relay for Life)
- 
 March 31st – WOI Board Meeting
- 
 April 6-8th – NCARF Conference
- 
 April 22&25th – WOI Closed for Easter Holiday
- 
 April 28– Spring Games
- 
 June 17th - Relay for Life



Watauga Opportunities Consumers - Western Caribbean Cruise: Nov.6 - Nov.11, 2010

Forty Three individuals from WOI boarded the Carnival Elation in Mobile, Ala. on November 6th for five days of fun, relaxation, and adventure in the Yucatan. Aboard the ship during the day, they relaxed in the hot tub and poolside, enjoyed the waterslide full of twists and turns, playing games of mini-golf or enjoyed exploring the ship. Their nights were filled dining on gourmet meals (steak, lobster, midnight buffets and incredible desserts), entertainment of Broadway musicals, casino fun and games, and dancing. The trip was memorable and included new, exciting experiences for all.



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SEFA & Kiwanis Atkion Club News

SE/FA assisted WOI in community outreach efforts during the Christmas holidays. WOI Staff and SE/FA participants purchased toys for Santa's Toy Box and contributed money for Christmas gifts for a "Sharing Tree" family through Hunger Coalition. Staff also donated groceries for the family, and several SE/FA participants enjoyed shopping for gifts, wrapping, and delivering them to the family.

AKTION Club and Happy Hearts Extension Community Club continue to meet. Service projects for AKTION Club have included decorating a Christmas tree at Watauga County Library and volunteering for the "Salvation Army" Christmas Bell Ringing.



Aktion Club Members: Catlin and Cassidy assist Susan Jones in making ornaments, while Clint and Phillip decorate the tree at the library

Enabling Self-Reliance Through Employment



CARF Accredited in Community Integration, Community Employment: Job Development, Job Supports, Job Site Training and Employee Development Services
A Equal Employment/Affirmative Action Employer and Service Provider