

# Celebrating 65 years Opportunities

OPENING MINDS. CHANGING LIVES. **Together.**

Fall 2018



## Thanks to you, we can do so much more

You would want Maya on your team.

She's always on time, she completes her tasks with care, and she's conscientious. "She's wonderful. She knows her routine, and she does it every day very well," said Darcy Bogren, dining room coordinator at Mainstreet Village of Richfield, a senior living community managed by Avinity.

Maya, 25, has grown to be a very valuable team member at Mainstreet Village, where she folds napkins, delivers menus, and passes out beverages. In the process, she's building relationships with co-workers and the senior residents who appreciate her hard work and friendly personality.

"She's got a gift," Darcy added. "The residents love her."

Her success has spread beyond the workplace. She recently moved into her own apartment, and she is learning to ride the city bus to work.

"It makes me feel good," Maya said of her accomplishments.

Maya gained experience doing production and office work at Opportunity Partners, and then she polished her skills as part of a

Supported Employment Team in the community. The variety of work experience led to a smooth transition to the job she has today.

**With your support, Maya is gaining new confidence and greater independence each day. We can't wait to see what she accomplishes next!**

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Darcy added.  
"The residents  
love her."**



*At left, Maya serves beverages as part of her job. Above, Maya with her supervisor Darcy Bogren.*

# Celebrating success, thanks to you

**Armando Camacho**

*Message from the CEO*

One of the best parts of my job is being invited to celebrations with people we serve, families and staff. As an organization that has been around for 65 years, we have many things to celebrate! Events are a chance to get together with the people we serve and all of you, and it's always nice to share handshakes, high-fives and fist bumps.

We recognized five individuals at our Success Celebration on September 9 in Bloomington. Each award recipient highlighted our organization values of Impact, Choice, Heart, Partnership and a special award for Spirit.

## **Choice Award - Dawn Beebe**

Dawn shows us all how the power of choice can affect one's life. She is starting to take charge of her life and make her own decisions. Dawn and staff figured out a budget, and Dawn decided where she prefers to shop and what she would like to eat. She also is looking for a new job with the help of a job coach.



## **Heart Award – Tyler Kraft**



Ty starts his day by greeting everyone with a smile and making sure everyone around him is doing well, no matter what challenges he is facing. One day, Ty was struggling with a transition and saw a coworker in bad spirits. Ty stopped to help his coworker, and by doing so, he helped himself too!

## **Impact Award – Thomas**

Thomas has made tremendous strides in advocating for himself to find independent employment. On the job, Thomas developed great relationships and was offered another shift due to his excellent work ethic. He plans to learn more computer skills and take on more independence at home and work. Way to go, Thomas!



## **Partnership Award – Michelle Alvord**

Michelle worked hard this summer to complete a First Aid course. She didn't let technology issues slow her down, and hopes her new skills will keep customers safe at her job at Arby's. Michelle also participated in a fundraising walk, raising \$800 for her residential provider! She is an inspiration.



## **Spirit Award - Leo Nemeth**

Leo has the biggest heart around. He helps others at Opportunity Partners by opening doors and passing out materials in class. Leo will always invite you to sit with him at lunch or play basketball. He says hi to everyone in the halls and has many friends.



***Our Success Celebration is a great example of how we are living out our mission every day as we work alongside you in advancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. Learn more at [opportunities.org](http://opportunities.org)***



## New location in the works

We're excited to announce we'll be relocating our Eden Prairie Golden Opportunity and Edina Brain Injury Services to a new building in Minnetonka.

Less than a mile from our Koch Campus, the new facility is in close proximity to downtown Hopkins and ample community activities.

We are refurbishing the facility to best meet the needs of the individuals we serve and staff, and we will be working closely with teams, residences and transportation providers to ensure a smooth transition for everyone. We will also organize some field trips so individuals we serve can check out the new space in advance of the move.

***Watch for more information to come!***

## Innovation grant to boost employment

Opportunity Partners was recently awarded a two-year \$293,035 innovation grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services Disability Services Division. This grant will support a new pilot project that is pairing people with disabilities with peer mentors at Twin Cities businesses with a goal of increasing competitive, integrated employment.

Funds will also be used to provide supplemental transportation for interns and others via Blue & White taxi service.

"We are delighted to be among a select few organizations receiving one of these grants and believe it will further our mission of advancing the quality of life for people with disabilities," said President & CEO Armando Camacho.

We are already seeing successes! Of the individuals who have completed an initial three-week trial phase of the internship, all four have been hired by the employer. We look forward to more successes ahead with the help of this grant.

This pilot project was developed as part of Opportunity Partners' Together Works Better initiative that was launched in fall 2016.

**To learn more about the project, contact Josh Grinolds, Development Officer and project manager, at 952-930-4203 or [jgrinolds@opportunities.org](mailto:jgrinolds@opportunities.org).**



*Sarah at her new job at Arby's.*

Opportunity Partners

*Gala*

Save the Date  
April 27, 2019

I Love being at OP.  
I Like being Paid at the Workfloor.  
I am working toward an outside Job  
I Like to have friends at OP  
I am Thankful for being in OP. Thank you for  
Supporting me by Donating to OP.  
Signed by Debbie

**Your gifts make  
a difference**



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US.  
I CAN LISTEN TO MUSIC  
AND GO OUT WITH MY CLASS.

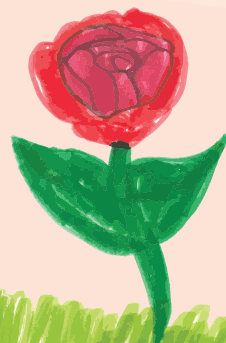
PATRICK

Thank you for  
Helping me get  
a job

Mark

thank you for give OP money  
for Staff for diffent class. We  
use the money to out class. It  
help staff for salary. And  
helps them fix the vans or  
get new one.

Tessa



I like coming to Opportunity  
Partners and I like my  
job at Holiday. I like  
my friend John that I  
have here.

CARDLYN

Your support means so much!  
Make a gift by December 31st by  
calling 952-912-7442 or visiting  
[opportunities.org/donate](http://opportunities.org/donate)



## Your support spans generations

Richard brings smiles wherever he goes. At age 84, he is the oldest-served person across all of Opportunity Partners day sites and group homes. Richard has been with Opportunity Partners since 1974 – more than 40 years in all.

He currently attends our Golden Opportunity seniors program two days a week where he enjoys taking classes and being with his friends. He also loves drinking coffee, listening to classic country music and watching Westerns. “He proudly wears his cowboy hat, boots, bolo tie, and sheriff badge, which has earned him the nickname Sheriff,” said Julie Kelsey, a Service Coordinator who has worked with Richard for seven years.

“He has a wonderful sense of humor; he loves to tell jokes and has some great one-liners,” Julie said.

Thanks to your support, Richard has a safe and friendly place to go each week, where familiar faces and the routine that he enjoys surround him. We look forward to many years ahead with Richard!



*Richard loves his time at Opportunity Partners-Golden Opportunity.*

## A history of partnership

For nearly 15 years, Opportunity Partners has been a proud packaging partner of Graco, one of the world's premier manufacturers of fluid-handling equipment and systems.

From blister packaging pump filters to inserting liners in paint buckets, last year alone Opportunity Partners team members completed 436 orders made up of 470,400 different pieces for Graco's Contractor Division. Opportunity Partners has been packaging Graco products since 2004.

The partnership has extended beyond packaging work. Graco and the Graco Foundation have provided generous philanthropic support to Opportunity Partners for many years, helping with capital projects and program improvements that have enhanced our mission. Former Graco CEO David Koch and his wife Barbara Koch were long-time supporters of Opportunity Partners and Barbara also served on our Board of Directors. Our Koch Campus in Minnetonka was named in their honor.

Minneapolis-based Graco has pioneered technology for a wide variety of fluid handling applications from equipment that squeezes tomato paste onto frozen pizzas, to machines that pump lubricating fluids into cars and paint onto homes. Graco has provided consistent work opportunities to hundreds of people with disabilities over the years. “It's a tremendous company that we have been proud to serve through our contract business solutions,” said Bill Schultz, OP's Executive Vice President, Business Development and Operations.



**Contact us for packaging, shrink-wrapping, kitting, collating and labeling at 952-930-4201 or [partner@opportunities.org](mailto:partner@opportunities.org)**

## Opportunities

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opportunities.org

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