

## OP-Karlins Center has a new home in Plymouth!

The Karlins move is complete! Last August we officially opened our new location for Opportunity Partners-Karlins Center in Plymouth and celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. OP-Karlins Center offers day and enrichment services to adults with autism and other disabilities.



*Members of the Karlins family, persons served, staff and community supporters participated.*

In addition to staff and people served, the ribbon-cutting was attended by Plymouth Mayor Jeff Wosje, Senator Ann Rest, members of the Karlins family and several media outlets. Opportunity Partners President & CEO Bill Schultz and Mayor Wosje gave a short presentation of the new building with several people served before cutting the ribbon with representatives from the Karlins family.

***“Opportunity Partners is a positive part of our community . . . Plymouth is a more inclusive, stronger city, thanks to the presence of Opportunity Partners.” -Mayor Wosje***

OP-Karlins Center has been operating since 1996 in a leased space. The new building, which is owned by OP, has been renovated to better accommodate the needs of the people served. The location features wider hallways, brighter spaces and more inviting classrooms. OP-Karlins Center currently serves 34 people with the ability to accommodate more as additional staff are hired.



*The new OP Karlins Center!*

Named after lifelong disability advocate Miriam Karlins, her legacy lives on every day at the center. Miriam was among the parents and families who founded Opportunity Partners in 1953 and dedicated her life to advocating for the equality and inclusion of people with disabilities. Her daughter, Sandra, was served by OP for many years and was one of the first people to join our seniors program.

Miriam’s accomplishments over the years were monumental, resulting in sweeping societal changes for people with disabilities.

In September, we hosted an open house for OP staff, family members and people served to check out the new location and see what it has to offer! Everyone enjoyed the new space and is excited for the potential it brings.

### ***Making the move***

Volunteers from US Bank helped us make the move to OP-Karlins Center’s new location last summer. They moved furniture, set up classrooms and made sure everything was ready for services to resume. The results included organized classrooms, an exercise room and a welcome banner. We love our volunteers!



*Volunteers from US Bank during the Karlins move.*

### ***Our volunteers love us too!***

***“This is a great opportunity for us to give back to the community; it makes you feel really good.”***

- Sharon Klanchnik

***“Volunteering is one of the great things that US Bank does where we can give back to the community.”***

- Karen Lund

***“I love Opportunity Partners, it’s just been a really good partnership.”***

- Marne Jo Hovland

***“(Opportunity Partners) is such a great organization, we really believe in creating opportunity for all people with all abilities and this just really plays into US Bank’s mission and core beliefs.”***

- OP Board Member and former US Bank Executive Ann Yekaldo

### **Interested in becoming an OP volunteer?**

Contact us at:  
[volunteers@opportunities.org](mailto:volunteers@opportunities.org)  
952-930-4203

# A Message from the CEO

As another season comes to a close soon, I'm filled with gratitude for a successful year at Opportunity Partners. Although we've faced challenges, we've been lifted up by so many opportunities as well.



Bill Schultz

Thank you to all who played a part in helping OP move forward, in spite of many uncertainties over the last few years.

Some of our milestones included the purchase of a group home and the significant remodel of another to create more accessible and comfortable spaces, and the purchase and renovation of our new Karlins Center, replacing a leased space. These investments will serve the people of OP well into the future!

Thank you to our incredible staff, who continue to show up with smiles for the people we serve. We celebrated Direct Support Professionals Week in September, sharing stories of our team members and expressing gratitude for their hard work.

Thank you to the many community partners who hire people with disabilities, contract with us for work teams, volunteer with us, support our events and serve as OP ambassadors in other ways. Your belief in our mission keeps us moving ahead.

Thank you to the individuals and families we have the honor of serving. We are here for you, and we'll continue to strive to improve for you. For those of you who are waiting to join us from our long waiting list, thank you for your patience. We continue to look for creative ways we can serve more people, given the severe staffing shortage in our industry.

As we look ahead to 2023, we'll be celebrating 70 years as an organization! Watch for ways we'll be recognizing this milestone together.

# Success Celebration!

In September we recognized the achievements of the people we serve with our annual Success Celebration. Many gathered at Veteran's Park to celebrate the winners and nominees.



Staff Tim Dusil and his group of guys from Koch Enrichment enjoying the celebration!

## Congratulations to our winners!

- Choice:** Mia Cook
- Heart:** Peter Krozser
- Partnership:** Johnny
- Impact:** Jamison Henry
- Spirit:** Corbin Leih



Shannon was thrilled to be nominated for the Choice award!

Read more at:  
[opportunities.org/success2022](https://opportunities.org/success2022)

# OP receives community living grant



Thank you to the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation for awarding Opportunity Partners \$30,000 in its Fall 2022 grant cycle. The grant will

be used to support OP's Community Living: In-Home Services, critical to helping adults with disabilities live more independently. The 4-12 hours of staff support each week focus on meal planning, cooking, shopping, medical appointments, social activities and transportation – key components to enhancing one's quality of life.

# New Advancement team leader



**Heather Shiell** joined Opportunity Partners in July as our new Vice President of Advancement. She brings decades of nonprofit leadership and fundraising experience to the role and will provide leadership and strategy to our Development and Communications teams. Welcome, Heather! Heather can be reached at [hshiell@opportunities.org](mailto:hshiell@opportunities.org) or 952-930-4253.

## Become an OP Pal!

## OP PALS MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Join our new monthly giving program by setting up automatic contributions to Opportunity Partners! Recurring donations leave a meaningful impact by providing OP with a dependable source of revenue and a lasting way to make a difference every month.

**Learn more at [giving@opportunities.org](mailto:giving@opportunities.org) or call 952-912-7442.**

# Celebrating community employment!

October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Each year, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of individuals with disabilities to the workforce and advocates for more inclusive employment practices. This year's theme was "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation," which highlighted the important role of people with disabilities in making a more inclusive and diverse workforce. We are proud to highlight some of Opportunity Partners' employment success stories!



Nicole is thriving in her job at Marshall's!

## Nicole

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Nicole started at Marshall's in Downtown Minneapolis working inventory in the store's back room. Her success on the job was well recognized and she has now been trained to work on the store floor in men's and baby clothing and the dressing room. Her supervisors appreciate her willingness to learn and love her huge smile. Soon, she will be trained to work as a cashier as well!

***"I like my coworkers, talking to the customers and working in Downtown Minneapolis," said Nicole.***



Andy has become an integral part of the Target team!

## Andy

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Andy has been working at Target for two years and has become a staple at his store. He brings in carts from the parking lot and sanitizes them and has recently been trained to take on more tasks in helping support the store upkeep! He loves getting to know the customers and being a support for his fellow team members. Andy's staff Kara noted how much his team appreciates him.

***"Every time I visit Andy, there is a coworker that will come up to share what a hard worker he is," she said.***

## Give to the Max Day is Minnesota's annual giving holiday, raising \$250 million in 13 years for nonprofit organizations like OP!



Every year, this tremendous day of giving generates donations and excitement for Minnesota causes that are working to improve the quality of life for so many.

**You can help us meet our Give to the Max goal!**

Schedule your gift at:

***[givemn.org/organization/OpportunityPartners](https://givemn.org/organization/OpportunityPartners)***



5500 Opportunity Court • Minnetonka, MN 55343  
 info@opportunities.org • opportunities.org  
 952-938-5511

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# Your gifts support over 1,000 people with disabilities in our community!



Nearly  
**200 people**  
 took part in in-person or virtual enrichment services



Supported more than  
**400 people**  
 to seek or work independent community jobs



**272 people**  
 supported in Residential services



**182 people**  
 worked at our Production centers



## Your support means so much!

To make a gift by December 31st, please call **952-912-7442** or visit **opportunities.org/give**. Thank you for your generosity!