

## That '70s Success Celebration

*Celebrating the achievements of people with disabilities!*

Persons served, family, friends and staff gathered at the Koch Campus on September 13 to celebrate the annual **Success Celebration** luncheon, which recognizes the achievements of the people we serve.

Each year, Opportunity Partners staff are encouraged to nominate persons served in specific categories that represent our values of **Impact, Choice, Heart and Partnership**, as well as an added category for **Spirit**. The nominations we received from across the organization exemplified these values and included everything from supporting friends and co-workers, exhibiting a positive attitude, gaining independence to getting a new job.

This year's festivities had extra special meaning as **Opportunity Partners is celebrating its 70th year** of providing outstanding services to adults with disabilities. To keep the spirit of the number 70 going, the theme for the celebration was the decade of the 1970's; the room and staff alike were adorned in 70's fashion and décor.

CEOs Bill Schultz and Lori Schluttenhofer emceed the event and presented all of the nominees, **48 in total**, with

certificates of recognition for being nominated in their respective category. The winners in each category had their nomination read out loud and received a special award acknowledging them.

### **Congratulations to this year's winners:**

**Impact:** Kirsten W.

**Partnership:** Pat K.

**Choice:** Jonah S.

**Spirit:** Zach T.

**Heart:** Steven S.

After all of the nominees and winners were announced, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and celebrated themselves and each other. It was truly an inspiring and proud day for all!

**If you would like to view this year's nominations and learn more about our annual Success Celebration, visit [opportunities.org/success2023](https://opportunities.org/success2023)**



*Top Left: Pat holds up his Partnership Award with pride!*

*Bottom Left (Column 1): A group from Karlins had a blast at the Success Celebration with their OP staff, Jenny.*

*Top Right: Nominees in the Spirit category pose for a group photo.*

*Bottom Left (Column 2): Peter poses with family for a photo of his Heart award.*

*Bottom Right (Column 2): Laura shows off her Heart award certificate.*



# A Message from the CEOs

Fall is a favorite time of year for so many people; it often marks the beginning of a new school year, the changing colors of the leaves, pumpkins and candy, along with festive celebrations and gatherings with loved ones. For Opportunity Partners, fall is all these things as well as a time to recognize the people we serve and their accomplishments and show staff and donors how much they are appreciated.

There have been many highlights so far this fall, but the following events stood out as extra special:

- In September, we celebrated **Direct Support Professionals Week** by having daily drawings for staff to win Amazon gift cards, had OP leaders express their gratitude for DSPs' hard work through video messages sent to them daily and gifting each one a cozy blanket.
- Our annual **Success Celebration** was held on September 13 and brought together the people we serve, family, friends and staff for a luncheon to recognize all of the nominated persons served in specific categories that represent our values of impact, choice, heart and partnership, as well as a category for "spirit".
- October is **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**; organizations nationwide use October to recognize the importance of ensuring people with disabilities have equal opportunity to prepare for and succeed in employment. We are proud to play a role in supporting people with disabilities in the workplace and recognize the valuable contributions they make each day.
- The month of November has all of us looking forward to **Give to the Max Day** on the 16th, when thousands of donors across Minnesota rally around their favorite charities by making financial gifts through GiveMN to increase the wellbeing of our communities. We hope you will consider donating to OP and help us continue our vision that all people of all abilities thrive in the world.

As we close out the year, we want to thank the individuals and families we have the honor of serving. **We are here for you**, and we will continue to strive to improve for you.

All our best,



Bill Schultz  
CEO of Operations & Strategy



Lori Schluttenhofer  
CEO of Services

# New Board member

OP welcomes new member to the Board of Directors



**Mike McMahan** serves as the Executive Vice President of Healthcare at Ryan Companies. He brings over 25 years of experience in the healthcare field, including at Allina Health and St. Francis Regional Medical Center. He's passionate about building value for health systems and the communities they serve.

We're grateful for all who dedicate their time and talent to our mission! Meet our Board of Directors at [opportunities.org/board](https://opportunities.org/board)

## The 2023 'Art Abilities Gallery' at Ridgedale Library

Opportunity Partners is very excited to once again be part of the **ART-Abilities Gallery** held from **October 21 through November 28** at the Ridgedale Library in Minnetonka, MN.

The ART-Abilities Gallery is an exhibit for the talents of artists with disabilities in our community. The artists use acrylics, water colors and other mediums to create their pieces.

Eleven of the talented people we serve will each be exhibiting one piece of their artwork on the library walls throughout the event for all to enjoy.

Hennepin County Library along with ARRM, Homeward Bound, Dependable Care and Opportunity Partners make this event possible.



View this painting by Jack H. at the ART-Abilities gallery, among many other paintings by people we serve!



Laura poses with her painting at the 2022 ART-Abilities gallery.

The sponsor of this event is the Friends of the Ridgedale Library.

Please save the date of **Saturday, October 21**, if you wish to join OP at the official art gallery viewing event from 12:00pm – 1:00pm to celebrate our many talented artists.

For more information, please visit [hbimn.org/event/art-abilities](https://hbimn.org/event/art-abilities)

## The 2022 Annual Report is online!

Check out our 2022 successes and progress toward advancing the quality of life for people with disabilities at [opportunities.org/annualreport](https://opportunities.org/annualreport)





# A season of joy and thankfulness

*Catching up with our friends at OP!*



*Holly's smile is contagious!*

**Holly** has been a part of Opportunity Partners' In-Home Services program for 23 years and has found success living independently in her own apartment. "I like spending time with my friends and family, going on vacations, cooking and cleaning my apartment," she said. During the pandemic, maintaining a consistent schedule while staying at home

became more difficult. With the help of her OP staff Lisa Hunt, Holly got her daily routine back on track and enjoys going to work five days a week! **"My staff are kind, patient and help me successfully live in the community."** - Holly



*Michelle keeps the hummingbird feeder full!*

**Michelle** has really taken new initiative by tending to the newly added bird feeders and bird bath at Asplin. The bird feeders and bath were placed outside the enrichment class windows and Michelle takes the time to add new food, add clean water and clean the hummingbird feeder every few days. **It brings her so much joy** to tend to the birds and the

response to her care of them has been so positive by the classes and staff alike; thank you, Michelle!



*U.S. Bank volunteer, Michelle, colors with Amy in her Enrichment class.*

## Volunteers needed, we want you!

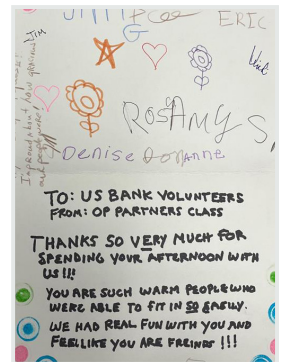
Over the last several months, we have put a heavy emphasis on refreshing and reimagining OP's volunteer program in order to better assist our staff members and persons served.

**Volunteers greatly assist us in advancing the quality of life for our persons served** and we have a clear need around our organization for dedicated volunteers.

After taking the time to learn and evaluate how the program operated in the past, we have taken strides to improve the ways in which we're able to recruit, utilize and evaluate volunteers. This has included reaching out around the organization to determine the biggest areas of need, pushing volunteer recruitment heavily in our mailings and through online services, and by updating our database to ensure that we're able to maintain a consistent base of regular volunteers. As a result, we've been able to accommodate several large volunteer groups over the past few months and with more and more individual volunteers reaching out to come and contribute in various departments around OP.



*U.S. Bank volunteer, Blayne, got to hang out with Jim in his classroom.*



*Classroom participants shared a thank you card with recent U.S. Bank volunteers!*

Though we've taken some big steps recently, there's still plenty of room for growth, and every bit of support is invaluable! If you're interested in volunteering at OP, visit [opportunities.org/volunteer](https://opportunities.org/volunteer) or email to [volunteers@opportunities.org](mailto:volunteers@opportunities.org), and we'll work to find a role that's right for you. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

## Give the gift of OP swag!

We have launched a new online store with a colorful and exciting array of OP apparel – **just in time for holiday shopping!** Stock up on cozy hoodies and beanies or gift a travel mug (with hot chocolate of course) to your favorite OP pal. All items are shipped directly to you, and a portion of all sales supports Opportunity Partners. Order soon to ensure you have your gifts by the holidays!



Scan the QR code to start shopping!





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# Give to the Max Day is November 16, 2023!

This annual fundraiser benefits nonprofit organizations like Opportunity Partners and has raised over \$250 million dollars to help improve the quality of life for so many.

Please consider a donation and help OP meet our **Give to the Max** 2023 goal!

**Plan now to donate on November 16;** it makes a great holiday offering and/or gift to recognize someone you love!

For more information and to schedule your gift, visit **[givemn.org/organization/OpportunityPartners](https://givemn.org/organization/OpportunityPartners)**



Scan the QR code to schedule your gift!

