



**GREEN VALLEY  
ENTERPRISES, INC.**  
Growing the Potential in People Since 1968

## Visions from the Valley

October, 2017

### Life Academy's Summer Program Winds Down, Pre-Voc Winds Up

~Craig Henrickson

Life Academy's Summer Program wrapped up its second exciting year on September 1. Our goal of 12 students was blown out of the water with 19 students in this year's program. It was an amazing program with a great variety of fun and educational activities ranging from gardening and cooking to volunteering throughout the community. We had a tremendous community response with partnerships including The Beaver Dam Food Pantry, Beaver Dam Community Theatre, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Habitat for Humanity, Beaver Dam Master Gardeners, Dodge County Humane Society, Beaver Dam Community Gardens, Jung Garden Center, UW-Extension Nutrition Program, Beaver Dam Police Department, and Landmark Credit Union. A huge thank you for working with us this summer!

As we transition into the 2017-2018 school year, Green Valley Enterprises is once again partnering with the



Beaver Dam School District to provide this wonderful learning opportunity for our participants. We are excited to offer this program with a few new additions. Green Valley Enterprises was the recipient of a \$2650 grant from AT&T which we used to purchase and create new curriculum in personal hygiene, conflict resolution, and teambuilding. We have eight students ready to take part in an exciting array of skill building, socialization, and fun.

We also have some exciting program expansions. Life Academy is developing a supplemental program for students that are looking to pursue further educational opportunities beyond high school. This program is designed to assist participants in learning the skills they will need to be successful in programs at Moraine Park Technical College, apprenticeship programs, and other post-secondary education. This program will assist participants in career exploration, social skills development, and navigating the process of enrollment and attendance in educational programs.

The community pre-voc is running full steam ahead with 14 participants. The current modules wrap up in late fall and will restart with new participants in January. We are in the process of developing additional pre-voc modules and hope to have those running by mid-2018.



[www.gveinc.org](http://www.gveinc.org)

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# County Fair Highlights Projects of SNAP Participants

~Meg McKnight

The week of the Dodge County Fair has come and gone once again! Participants and staff alike look forward to this week all year round as we load up the bus and take all of our participants to the Dodge County Fairgrounds to experience this favorite All-American summer event!

We love to support events that are important to our community. County Fairs represent so much of what is special, good and different about rural communities: kids and 4-H, farming, small town life, small local businesses, and old-fashioned homemaking skills that have all but disappeared from modern society. County Fairs provide a valuable life lesson enjoyed by our participants to understand how food is grown and gets to our table. Our rural roots are so important.



Each of the three days that we visit the Fair we walk through the animal exhibits and look at the cows, pigs, goats, rabbits, and chickens that people have lovingly raised. Seeing, hearing, touching and smelling the animals and talking about why they are important to the overall experience.

We explore the 4-H exhibits of crafts and cakes, photographs, woodworking, plants and clothing and marvel at the time and creativity that went into each project. We are a part of that exhibit and are always excited to see our crafts. Each and every SNAP participant has something on display in that building, with a ribbon to mark our efforts!

We make our way through the informational

tents to collect pens, water bottles and all sorts of things that are fun to accumulate. And we eat!! Fair food is the best and eating cheeseburgers and french fries on the picnic tables under the bleachers gives us time to watch the people walking by and savor the moment. Always sad to see it end but it is never too early to start thinking about next year!



## Love What You Do. Join Us!

Are you interested in working at a mission driven organization and serving people with disabilities of all ages? Green Valley Enterprises has a caring and committed staff who truly believes in the potential of every person who walks through our doors.

98% of employees surveyed are proud to be associated with Green Valley Enterprises!

Visit [www.gveinc.org](http://www.gveinc.org) and click on **CAREERS** to learn more!

# Manufacturing Begins New Partnership

~Mark Salzer

## New Customer



In August, Green Valley's Manufacturing started a new partnership with a four-generation strong family-owned business from Iron Ridge called PS Seasoning & Spices. Our clients and staff are very pleased to be able to assist the PS Seasonings business growth by packaging Jerky Making Kits and other items for the retail marketplace.

Our emphasis is on product and process quality. The team at Green Valley is very excited for the chance to help out a local customer.

We rapidly adjusted our work floor near the back of the plant to accommodate the new production lines. Our employees helped us set up the work center to improve flow and balance the packaging steps. This will enable us to quickly adjust manpower to accommodate increases incoming order volumes.

GVE is using a Continuous Improvement approach to encourage suggestions for improving the work flow, as well as enhancing ergonomic factors, such as proper table heights and the use of a foot activated sealing device. Many of the packaging steps will help GVE train participants on new skills. The participants are eager and excited for this new opportunity.

We appreciate the team for stepping up so quickly to help take care of our new customer. We are looking forward to the year ahead!



## Quality/Housekeeping - 5s

In August, our GVE team launched a 5s initiative across the manufacturing operation. We started the first step (Sort), concentrating on the items in our shipping and loading dock area.

What is 5s? 1s – Sort 2 – Straighten 3 – Shine 4 – Standardize 5s – Sustain

The 5s process, or simply “5s” is a structured program to systematically achieve total organization, cleanliness, and standardization in the workplace. A well-organized workplace results in a safer, more efficient, and more productive operation. It boosts the morale of the workers, promoting a sense of pride in their work and ownership of their responsibilities.

The response to the concept has been very positive and we are looking forward to recapturing some additional storage space for inbound and outbound materials.

## TESTIMONIAL VIDEO



or visit  
Green Valley's  
YouTube Channel

Watch Testimonial Videos at

[www.gveinc.org](http://www.gveinc.org)

Click on Services / Manufacturing



## Birth to 3 Interpretive Services

~Kathy Clark

On occasion, the Birth to 3 Program receives a referral of a child whose parents primary language is Spanish. In these instances, an interpreter is needed to contact the family to explain the Birth to 3 Program and schedule an intake visit, complete paperwork and screen the child.

The interpreter accompanies the Case Manager on this visit to assure the family's understanding and comfort level with Birth to 3 services. Should the screening indicate the child qualifies for further evaluation by a Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist or Occupational Therapist, the interpreter schedules with the family and accompanies the therapist to ensure the family understands the process and has an opportunity to have any questions answered.

If the child qualifies and the family wishes to have Birth to 3 services for their child, the interpreter assists the



Interpreter, Magda Ramirez, works with a Hispanic family

Case Manager in writing the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) with input from the parents.

The interpreter's job is complex and requires different skills to meet the needs of every unique child and their family.

Our program is very fortunate to have Magda Ramirez working with us in

this capacity. Magda is exceptionally caring and relates well to our Birth to 3 families. She has extensive experience interpreting for other Dodge County entities. Without Magda, our Birth to 3 Program would have difficulty serving our Spanish speaking families in the caring, efficient manner they have come to expect of our program.

## Annual Appeal Begins December 1st

Green Valley Enterprises is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities through important programming and with caring staff who truly believes in the potential of every person.

Part of Green Valley's funding comes from State and Federal sources, it often only covers basic services. We also apply for grants as part of our financial planning strategy. Further, our production area is operated where participants learn important work skills for community placement, and proceeds go to Green Valley Enterprises' programs. But these sources are still not enough – for updates, new programs, materials – there is never a shortage of need.

Private donations are an integral part of funding for Green Valley's programming. Since 1968, we have served people with disabilities and their families with programs starting at birth through 100+ years old.



On December 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be sending letters, emails and making phone calls to secure a successful annual appeal.

Please consider a donation to Green Valley Enterprises where 100% of all donations are used for programming and needs of clients. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so your gift is tax deductible.

## GVE Applies for Two Transportation Grants

~Bob Anderson

Green Valley Enterprises' Transportation Department recently applied for two 5310 Government Grants from the State of Wisconsin. These two grants, if approved, would allow GVE to receive a twelve ambulatory passenger and two wheelchair accessible medium bus. It would also allow GVE to receive a five ambulatory passenger and two wheelchair accessible Transit van. The medium bus and van would replace two of our high mileage vehicles presently in our existing fleet.

The medium bus would replace our school bus which requires a CDL license and has over three hundred thousand miles on it. The Transit van would replace our oldest van in our fleet. The Transit van is replacing a van that is no longer being built by the Ford Motor Company. Both vehicles will be used to transport your family members to and from Green Valley. They will also be used on occasion for client



outings and Community Integrated Activities that foster independence and employment. Both vehicles will have our new logo and motto on them. The decision, by the state, on whether or not we have been a grant recipient for one or both vehicles will be decided in December of this year.

### TRANSPORT UPDATES

Last but not least, with Fall coming upon us we now must begin to talk about weather conditions. Unfortunately with Fall and Winter only a few months away, we will soon be

experiencing fog, ice and snow. With these conditions there will occasionally be delays in our transportation routes. Everyone needs to know that safety comes first. Drivers will need to slow down at times which could delay morning and afternoon routes by a few minutes. I believe most of riders have been on GVE transportation for a number of years so this is nothing new to them. For our new riders, this is to inform them of what could happen so that you're not worrying about your loved ones.

## A Volunteer's Story

Sometimes it's easy to overlook the blessings of life. People get caught up in the normal day-to-day experience and can lose sight of what is truly important. When I agreed to volunteer at Green Valley I was a bit apprehensive at first. I mean I don't have any experience doing this sort of thing. Initially I was concerned because many of the folks at Green Valley face daily challenges that I will never truly know or understand. I can tell you that helping there opened my eyes. Most important this isn't really about me...so the most important step is showing up. Next you have to be willing to let the experience take you where it will. This is what I learned...

- These are good people just like anyone else you'd meet in life
- They laugh and love and face life's challenges just like anyone else.

- You never know what might happen and that's perfectly fine.
- Don't ever forget how important it is to go with the flow.
- Don't be afraid to have a good time.
- The experience rewards you much more than what you can give.
- You can meet and make new friends (even if you do get whooped at bowling or bingo in the process!)

~ Lee, John Deere Horicon Works

Call us today to get involved! **Contact (920) 887-4282**

Daily, weekly, or monthly or project-by-project time commitments are available.



## Busy Summer Yields Fall Bounty at Adult Day's Trösten Haus

~Mary Weiss

Where did our summer go? I often hear adult day participants comment on how fast the years have gone by, justifying it because, "you know, time flies when you're having fun"!



Well, those words could not be more true about this summer in adult day. Participants were busy in the community and at the Trösten Haus. Our early summer garden planting rewarded us with a garden full of fresh vegetables; zucchini, cucumbers, peppers and chives. Participants created recipes and healthy snacks for all to enjoy, such as zucchini bread and vegetable pizza. There is nothing like



fresh, out of the garden treats!

In June, participants took a trip to the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Center where they learned about the marsh environment and animals indigenous to the marsh area. Participants also took tours of the parks in Beaver Dam to view the different vantage points of the lake. They enjoyed outings to the Pizza Ranch and to Tower Lanes where participants

bowled and had lunch.

Most recently adult day participants visited the Dodge County Fair. Participants strolled through the 4-H building and were impressed by the

creativity and hard work that was put into the displays and projects by young local talents. They also enjoyed going through the livestock exhibits and took notice of how fat-tened the cows and pigs looked. Lunch from the Rotary stand rounded out the afternoon. As one participant commented, "there is nothing like being at the fair and the smell and taste of fried onion rings"!

For now, we will continue to enjoy the blessings that the late summer has to offer; warm weather, sunny days and colorful flowers. We look forward to the beauty that Mother Nature will award us in autumn.



Life Academy  
110 E. Burnett Street  
Beaver Dam, WI

## Business After Hours Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 5PM—7PM

*We invite our extended families and the business community to celebrate with Green Valley at a Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce event, "Business After Hours". Everyone is welcome to tour the new Life Academy, meet staff and learn about "GVE in the Community".*

***R.S.V.P. to the Chamber at 887-8879.***



## *FROM THE DESK OF THE Executive Director*

**BRIAN JACOBSON**

Summer has come and gone, and as is always the case, way to quickly. A lot happened this Summer at Green Valley.

Probably the biggest news is that we hired two new managers. Craig Henrickson, our new Community Integration Manager, came to GVE with 10 years of management experience. Craig's previous experience includes a wide array of school and employment related activities. Craig is doing a remarkable job of learning the very complex duties of which his job is composed. Craig is currently in the process of formalizing his department's goals and coming up with systems to ensure maximum measurable outcomes.

GVE's second hire this Summer was Mark Salzer, our new Production Manager. Mark came to GVE with 28 years of Production related experience, some of it in sales and much of it in management. Mark became part of the GVE Team because he wanted a job where he could make a real difference. Mark was on the job at GVE for a little over two weeks before he landed his first major production contract. Mark is currently in the process of reorganizing our production area and revamping many of our production procedures.

Other big news includes GVE's Sponsorship of a presentation on Protecting Wisconsin's Medicaid on July 13th. The presentation was a joint effort by Arc and The Long Term Care Coalition. I would like to thank everyone who contacted their political representatives to protect Medicaid. Your efforts helped to stop legislation which would have resulted in long term reductions to Medicaid funding and corresponding reductions in Medicaid services.

Once again, GVE's Live Academy held Summer School. This time at its new Burnett Street Location. GVE had 19 students enrolled in it's Summer Program. The new location is wheelchair accessible and



*From Left: Craig Henrickson, Community Integration Manager, Brian Jacobson, Executive Director and Mark Salzer, Production Manager.*

set up for maximum learning participation. Many students had positive comments about the additional space and layout of the facility which includes areas for recreational activities during free time.

For about two years GVE has been in the process of trying to upgrade our aging transportation fleet. In 2016 GVE wrote a grant and received funding for two new wheel chair accessible mid buses. The agency will receive these vehicles in late 2017. In August GVE submitted a grant to upgrade our fleet by adding a new wheel chair accessible mid bus and a wheel chair accessible van. GVE should find out if this recent grant submission is funded by the end of the year.

One final note as seasons change from Summer to Fall, please don't forget to put names in jackets, gloves and hats. GVE has a lot of Packer fans and one Packer jacket can look a lot like the next!

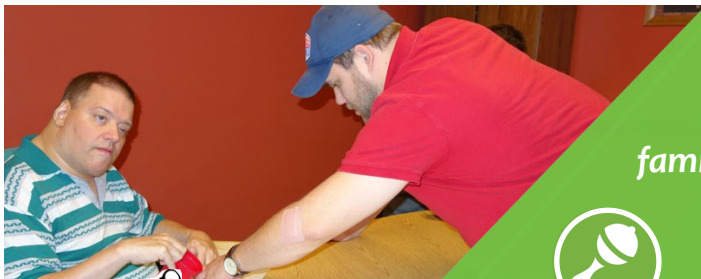




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### Our Mission:

*We help people with special needs, and their families, achieve maximum potential and independence*



Birth to 3



SNAP



Manufacturing



Employment



Adult Day Care

**PUT THIS  
on YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

***Business After  
Hours at the New  
Life Academy,  
Wed., November 15***

***Annual Appeal  
Starts Dec. 1st***

***2018 Ham 'N Jam  
May 19th!***

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