



Visions from the Valley

Green Valley Enterprises, Inc.

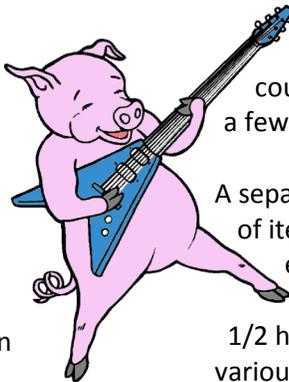
Making a Difference

July, 2013

You Are Cordially Invited to Ham 'n Jam 2013!

Pink raffle tickets are flying out the door because, once again, the prizes are AWESOME! What would you do with an extra \$1000 this summer? How about a measly \$500 (there are two of these!)? Could you make room for a new 46" LED HDTV? For a full list of pink ticket raffle prizes visit our website—www.gveinc.org. Tickets will be sold through Monday, July 22 and are NOT sold at the event so be sure to buy them soon (a bargain at 6 raffle tickets for \$5)! Tickets can be purchased at Recheks, BD Piggly Wiggly, Green Valley, and all BD American National Bank locations.

While it's true that Ham 'n Jam is an important fundraiser for Green Valley, it has morphed into something far bigger than just a way to raise money. It's an opportunity for Green Valley employees, program participants and their families, board members, and supportive community members to



come together to celebrate and to recognize the difference Green Valley makes in so many lives .

This year's menu includes your choice of a pulled pork or shredded beef sandwich with all the fixin's for just \$5 a plate. Wine coolers, beer, soda and water will be available for purchase.

There is no cover charge to attend the event held at the Beaver Dam Conservationist's Club (W9554 Cty Rd G, Beaver Dam). America's Most Wanted, a well-known area band featuring Casey Carney, Kasey Wells, and Al Muenchow, will entertain

from 4 PM to 9 PM. The band plays a variety of classic rock, country, southern rock as well as a few audience requests.

A separate raffle featuring hundreds of items will be held throughout the evening. Tickets are \$1/chance and drawings take place every 1/2 hour. A program listing the various prizes will be available at the event.

Proceeds from the Ham 'n Jam go



Cassie Weber and Case Manager, Rachel Kaiser pictured with Ham 'n Jam Raffle Tickets. Tickets can be purchased at Green Valley, Recheks Food Pride, Piggly Wiggly, and all American National Bank locations.

toward programming. It allows Green Valley to pay for "extras" throughout the year, like additional community outings, updating computers in the computer lab, and special seasonal activities. Please thank and or support our major Ham 'n Jam sponsors: **American National Bank, Green Valley Board of Directors, Hupf's Repair Center, Horicon Bank, Neuman Pools, United Cooperative, Old Fashioned Tavern & Restaurant, Pete's Auto Repair & Sales, and Transportation Connection.**

Please Thank the Following Platinum Sponsors:

Thank You 2013 Ham 'N Jam Platinum Sponsors! Thank You 2013 Ham 'N Jam Platinum Sponsors!

Board of Directors



Green Valley & Beaver Dam Unified School District Collaborate: Life Academy



Derek Schreiber (seated) will enter Life Academy this fall and was hired this summer to prepare the house for his classmates. Job coach Allyson Skelton oversees Derek's work.

Life Academy is a place to learn how to make good life choices. Green Valley and the Beaver Dam Unified School District recognize that young adults, particularly those with disabilities, are much more likely to get a good job and sustain it, transition to a home of their own, and achieve greater independence in general, if they are taught using "real-life" activities vs. classroom simulation. Life Academy provides that opportunity.

Life Academy classes begin September 2, and run year-round. Part of each day will be spent learning independent living skills at the Academy, a three bedroom ranch home located at 600 Prospect Ave. The remainder of the day will be spent obtaining skills at locations throughout the community. The Life Academy is a pilot project intended to improve post graduation

Manager of Client and Agency Development, the collaboration is "an absolutely wonderful opportunity for the young adults who qualify for the program. The dream of a transition program for 18-21 year olds became a reality because a group of passionate people wouldn't let it die. The Beaver Dam School District wanted to be a part of this project from the get-go. When it was pitched to them two years

ago, they made a commitment to make it happen and stuck to it." outcomes for young adults with disabilities. Instructors include an on-site licensed Special Education Instructor and a classroom aide.

According to Kristin Hanson,

ago, they made a commitment to make it happen and stuck to it."

Students who qualify for the program are between the ages of 18-21, have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in place, have obtained enough academic credits to graduate from high school, and are committed to living and working in the community as independently as possible. Watch for Open House dates in your October newsletter!



Derek Schreiber helped paint the entire interior of Life Academy.

Continuing Education Important at Green Valley

Nicole Clark and Nicole Krezinski both graduated with Masters Degrees in June. Clark graduated from UW-Oshkosh with a Masters of Education in Early Childhood Special Education, while Krezinski received her MBA in Accounting from Grand Canyon University.

Executive Director Hanks commented, "It is wonderful to see employees invest in themselves and recognize that ongoing education can have a lot of value. The world



Nicole Clark and Nicole Krezinski

simply moves too fast and changes occur so quickly that any pause in learning can be detrimental to careers, the agency, and the clients we serve. It is for that specific

reason that the agency implemented a tuition reimbursement program a number of years ago, and why we started the Green Valley University program to help build more understanding among our employees about the business. Finally - my congratulations to both Nicoles for their accomplishments!"

SNAP Participants Enjoying a Busy Summer!

Wow, talk about a whirlwind summer! SNAP staff and participants are taking advantage of every warm weather moment they

animal therapy at Animart, built tool boxes at Menards, and travelled to Lakeside Park and Cherry Berry in

Library for story and free time, cooking class, and shopping outings!



JP Rundle and Matt Conforti waiting patiently for their food at the Red Robin restaurant in Madison.



SNAP Activity Coordinator, Meredith Farr plans outings

that appeal to participants and helps them reach their individualized goals. Farr often plans trips that clients suggest during on-site activities. "Spa Day" is a favorite among the SNAP women. Spa Day includes manicures, make-up, hair styling and overall pampering. Spa Days are usually held on Friday so that the ladies are ready for the weekend!

Planning activities that are both safe and engaging can be a challenge, but the SNAP staff is great at finding awesome opportunities. They realize that while some clients have many opportunities to participate in community life with friends and family, just as many rely on Green Valley for their connection to the community. Thanks for a job well done Team SNAP!

can. To date they have toured the Beaver Dam Fire Department, watched a movie at the theatre, took a Blue Heron tour of the Horicon Marsh, visited the Automotive Museum, toured the State Capitol, enjoyed

Fond du Lac. These special activities are in addition to weekly and monthly activities like swimming at the YMCA, bowling and lunch at Tower Lanes, visiting the Beaver Dam

On Point by Jack Hanks, Executive Director



Let's see, not much happening these days. A few scandals in Washington, financial markets in conniption status, a spy found out here and there, enough rain to last us two years,

and a moribund Brewers season. All pretty normal stuff.

Here at the Valley we like normal, because it allows us a bit of time to think and plan versus simply react. Our ability to plan is growing in importance, because the last thing we want to be is the juggler with one too many things to juggle.

I think what bewilders people these days is complexity and speed. WWII and Korean

soldiers waited four weeks for a letter from home, while today our personnel in Afghanistan keep in touch using smart phones. Thirty years ago new moms stayed in the hospital for a week; today that happy event is approaching drive-through status. Twitter and Facebook have all but eliminated the personal, handwritten letter, one of many reasons the Post Office struggles a bit these days. A century's worth of content is uploaded to YouTube every ten days, and people sitting in the same room text each

other. I suppose some of this is progress, but certainly not all of it.

Back to the normal thing. If we become resigned to constant change, and we accept that the pace of change accelerates over time, we owe it to ourselves to establish an anchor just to stay rooted. For our purposes here at the Valley, that anchor is our mission statement. That's our normal.

All of us here at the Valley hope to see you at the Ham 'n Jam on the 27th - don't miss it!



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Making a Difference

Green Valley Enterprises, Inc of
Beaver Dam
1223 Madison St.
Beaver Dam, WI 53916
Phone: 920.887.4282
Fax: 920.887.4292

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Our Mission:
Green Valley Enterprises, Inc. serves people of all ages with special needs. The primary goal is to assist clients, along with their families, to achieve maximum potential, enabling clients to become more independent.

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*Ham 'n Jam
July 27th, 4-9 PM
Get Your Raffle Tickets!*

