

Visions from the Valley



GREEN VALLEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

Making a Difference

January 2011

Gaining Independence One Life Skill at a Time



Tony Beauchamp was part of the thank you card assembly line.

Green Valley's early history reads much like similar agencies across the country. In the late sixties a group of driven advocates created "workshops" designed to give adults with physical, and/or cognitive disabilities, the opportunity to work for a paycheck like any other adult. Most were referred to as "sheltered workshops," because the premise was to shelter individuals from work related frustrations, while providing a learning experience that would lead to increased independence and new work opportunities.

Green Valley recognized early on that providing shop work was important, but it wasn't a 'fix-all.' The Work Related Services Program was created to embrace a much broader and more

diverse population. The Work Related Services Program was designed to train, educate and prepare clients for an occupation or trade; at Green Valley or elsewhere in the community. Gainful employment has always been the primary goal. Independent Living Skills is one component of WRS. Currently over 90 individuals participate in ILS programming.

Handmade thank you cards are one of many projects individuals in ILS work on. Over 200 cards were produced in December to give special thanks to the friends and family of Green

Valley that responded so generously to the Annual Appeal.

Projects like this teach a wide variety of skills, like teamwork and getting along with coworkers---skills many of us could hone up on! The job also entails fine motor skill work; whether creasing envelopes, cutting patterns, or applying paint, each is a precise and necessary task.

If you want to see the product up close and personal, just send in a donation and you'll receive a very special **handmade** thank you!



Beth Hull, Independent Living Skills instructor, shows client Anna Stoeckl how to make snowmen using thumbs dipped in paint.

Worth Noting

*ANNUAL APPEAL STILL UNDERWAY, PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

*ENDOWMENT FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD AUGUST 13, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

*ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS 10 AM THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT TRÖSTEN HAUS

"GREEN VALLEY RECOGNIZED EARLY ON THAT PROVIDING SHOP WORK WAS IMPORTANT, BUT IT WASN'T A 'FIX-ALL.' WORK RELATED SERVICES WAS CREATED TO EMBRACE A MUCH BROADER AND MORE DIVERSE POPULATION."

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Jack Hanks,
Executive Director

“SUCCESSFUL MANAGERS REALIZE THAT TODAY’S BUSINESS CONDITIONS ARE CAST IN JELLO; THEY CHANGE DAILY.”

—Jack Hanks



Jeff Kohlmann has worked at Green Valley for almost 20 years. Pictured is Jeff producing bingo cards for WBEV/WXRO.

On Point

Pilots sometimes say that they’ve been flying in severe clear, meaning of course that visibility is as good as it gets. Visibility is the theme for my column this quarter.

Fairly often I observe that my job is to connect dots, to see how the big pieces in our lives fit together. An agency that does as many things as we do here at the Valley has a lot of dots to connect, and the most important part is identifying the dots to begin with, which requires good visibility.

Successful managers realize that today’s business conditions are cast in Jell-O; they change daily. Election outcomes, currency wars, real wars, commodity prices, government revenue

shortfalls, messed up labor markets, fuel costs, and similar effects are the dots. Assessing them and making them relevant to our business decisions is key.

Regular readers know that change has become something of a constant here at the Valley, and most everyone knows why. We don’t exist as an island, so we’d better get really good at controlling the things we can because there are too many things that are beyond our control. That’s where the visibility must be very, very good, and it is where we will find our advantage.

I have asked the management team to build a couple of new habits, and they’re doing pretty well at

it. Are we doing the right things, and are we doing them right? Is there a better way to do something? Is there a way we can automate something? Let computers do drudge work, and let’s use our brains to make sure our care is world-class. Out of the box thinking is what many people call it; we’re learning to ask ourselves “Who needs a box anyway?”

As long as our focus on our core mission remains intact, we’ll do fine. Caring for clients and families underscores everything we do here, and that will never change. If there’s one box in our lives, that should be it. That’s very clear visibility.

It’s Much More Than Just a Ride

Jeff Kohlmann travels 70 miles round-trip to work everyday. While lots of workers may think nothing of a thirty mile drive to work, Jeff and his family never take the commute for granted. Jeff is proud to say that he has worked at Green Valley for almost 20 years.

Jeff and his foster brother Tony lived with their foster parents, Sabino and Phyllis Rigotti, for almost 40 years, but suddenly major changes needed to be made. Sadly, Sabino passed away a few years ago and Phyllis needed to be placed in a nursing home shortly after his death.

Fortunately for Jeff and Tony, their foster brother

John Rigotti wanted to make sure they remained a family. John and his wife Kris decided to become full time guardians, and wanted Jeff and Tony to move to Lomira to live with them.

The move to Lomira meant changes for the entire family; Green Valley tried to make the transition as painless as possible for everyone involved. “The staff at Green Valley have always worked hard to help Jeff and Tony live as independently as possible,” according to John, “but more importantly, they’re just really, really good hearted people.”

Not only were Jeff and Tony able to continue working at Green Valley, they were also

able to continue to take part in the many social opportunities that Green Valley provides. Both are doing well surrounded by family, longtime friends and familiar staff.

Not all counties are as fortunate as Dodge. Transportation is not always a “given.” Green Valley provides over 25,000 trips a year; trips that make a real difference to real people. As transportation costs continue to rise, Green Valley supporters must find ways to subsidize that growing expense. “...to achieve maximum potential, enabling clients to become more independent.” That’s part of our mission statement and we have to mean it.

What the Heck is a *Case Manager*?

By Shawn Madeiros

The role of a case manager is very simple in theory, but it can become very difficult in reality. Case managers advocate on behalf of clients in a number of different areas of their lives. After a thorough assessment, and much planning, an implementation process begins and an individualized care plan is put into place.

Each client's needs are met through public or private supports. The overall goal for these supports is to enhance the quality of life for each client and their family. The direct goal is cost effective continuity of care for all phases of our client's lives. Case managers make sure that the necessary supports are in place to help achieve set goals.

Another vital skill for case managers to have is listening to the people they are helping. If case managers listen properly they will identify significant or, sometimes, insignificant

changes in a client's life. Minor change often leads to major client behavioral changes. Once changes are detected, responsive case managers report their findings to the appropriate person within the established support network.

I became a case manager at Green Valley after working side by side with many of the clients on my current case load. I built a good relationship with the Green Valley clients by helping, instructing, and working with them. I was later offered the case manager position and was thrilled to accept it. I am finishing a degree in Health Services Management, so the case management position fits in very well with my long term goals.

I never dreamed that I would enjoy working with the Green Valley population as much as I do. It truly inspires me to help people that just need someone to listen to them or to help them. Often times I help most by not helping at all, but by letting them know



Patrick Gentz with newest case management team member, Shawn Madeiros.

that they can do it themselves. The mere thought that they can control something in their often uncontrollable lives, means everything to my clients. Every person has a right to live as much of a fulfilled life as possible in the limited time we have, and that is a mission I take very seriously for the people I help care for.

"OFTEN TIMES I HELP MOST BY NOT HELPING AT ALL, BUT BY LETTING THEM KNOW THAT THEY CAN DO IT THEMSELVES."

—Shawn Madeiros

Cathy's Corner by Cathy Coughlin

Cathy Coughlin has been working at Green Valley for the past 25 years and she's ready to add a new job to her resume, reporter!

Beginning in April, Cathy will have her own "corner" in the newsletter. Cathy loves to write and is looking forward to sharing her experiences with her friends at the Valley.

Cathy lives in a Christian foster home in Horicon and loves going places on her own. Cathy recently received a Horicon Library card and is looking forward to using it for the first time over the holidays.

Watch for *Cathy's Corner* in the next edition of "Visions from the Valley."



Pictured is Cathy Coughlin, future reporter for, "Visions from the Valley."



Green Valley Enterprises Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, at 4 PM. The January board of director's meeting will be held directly following the membership meeting.



Making a Difference

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We're On The Web

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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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Green Valley Enterprises, Inc., 1223 Madison St., Beaver Dam WI 53916

GVE serves the people of Dodge County with rehabilitation needs. This newsletter is intended to inform the public about the many services we offer to the special needs community.

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