

lifepursuits

Lifeworks

A nonprofit serving people with disabilities



volume 42 | winter 2011

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Above: Lifeworks recognizes Ecolab during Disability Employment Awareness Month for their five year partnership with Lifeworks.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Give to the Max Day yields wonderful results

Thank you for making the third annual Give to the Max Day a huge success for Lifeworks. Give to the Max Day is Minnesota's biggest day of giving, where over 40,000 individuals made online donations to nearly 4,000 charities in just 24 hours.

This year, Lifeworks raised twice as much as we did during Give to the Max 2010, for a grand total of \$6,078! Thank you to all who helped spread the word about this wonderful day of giving.

Don't forget - you can donate to Lifeworks on GiveMN.org any day of the year! Just visit www.givemn.org/lifeworksmn and make your donation today!



The Joy of Giving

Year-end season of giving

Each year it is through your gracious donations that the people supported by Lifeworks are able to contribute to the world around them, achieving things they never thought were possible.

Right now, giving has never been easier with so many exciting ways to support Lifeworks. Consider giving a tribute gift in honor of someone special, take advantage of the power of many and participate in group giving, or make a planned gift by becoming a member of the Lifeworks Legacy Club. No matter how you choose to give, the effect will be both immediate and profound.

It is because of your investment in Lifeworks that we are able to fund innovative and meaningful programs for the people we serve. *The time of giving is now.* Make the year-end deadline and give before December 31, 2011.

Donate today at lifeworks.org/make-an-impact



give.



Rock of Ages performers Peter Goldberg and Sam Bisanz performing at the Minnesota Remembers Vic Chesnutt concert.



Rock of Ages Band from left to right: Peter Goldberg, Andy Thornbrough, Ron Stearns, Sam Bisanz, and Jon Ehresmann. Not pictured, Brittany Thorsen.

The Lifeworks Rock of Ages Band Rocked *This Cause*

On November 12, the Lifeworks Rock of Ages Band performed at the Minnesota Remembers Vic Chesnutt concert hosted by Rock the Cause. They performed in the company of many amazing, well-established Minnesota acts and helped to raise money for people with disabilities and musicians in need.

The group entered the stage to much applause and cheering. By the time they began playing hometown legend Prince's, "Raspberry Beret," it was safe to say that the Lifeworks Rock of Ages Band stole the show. The experience of working with the band helped to solidify Jon's belief in expression through music, **"Music affects us all on a deep and primal level...it's in all of us."**

The Lifeworks Rock of Ages Band is led by two professional musicians, Jon Ehresmann and Andy Thornbrough, from McNally Smith College of Music participating in a newly pioneered work study program. The full band lineup is: Jon on guitar and backup vocals, Andy on percussion and backup vocals, Lifeworks musicians Peter Goldberg and Sam Bisanz on lead vocals, Ron Stearns on keyboard and backup vocals, and Brittany Thorsen playing the floor tom and keyboard.

To read more about this story, check out the Lifeworks blog - lifeworksmn.wordpress.com

"I love the fact that I am singing and playing in a band. That has been my biggest dream for many, many years."

– Sam Bisanz, Lifeworks client and singer in the Rock of Ages Band.

celebrate.

did you know? 35 employer partners of Lifeworks celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2011.



Judy Lysne (middle), president and CEO of Lifeworks, visits Emily's Bakery in Hastings who celebrates their 20 year anniversary with Lifeworks. Judy is pictured with Lifeworks associate Curt Engler and Emily's Bakery owner Norine Bishop.

Celebrating Lifeworks Milestone Employers

In October, Lifeworks celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Lifeworks partners with 300 businesses in the Twin Cities and Mankato creating opportunities for hundreds of people with disabilities to fulfill their career goals.

Each year, Lifeworks looks forward to visiting some of the employers who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of partnering with Lifeworks to offer both our gratitude and appreciation. Lifeworks President and CEO, Judy Lysne, had the opportunity to personally present awards to many employers celebrating five, ten, 15, 20, and 25 year anniversaries with Lifeworks this year!

Visit the Lifeworks **Facebook** page to find pictures from all of our milestone anniversary visits. Or, just scan the QR code below.



Ann Thiel, Lifeworks associate at Schwegman, Lundberg, and Woessner

Ten Years of Dedicated Service Ann Thiel

This year, Schwegman, Lundberg, and Woessner (SLW) celebrated both its ten year anniversary of partnership with Lifeworks and Lifeworks associate Ann Thiel's ten year anniversary of employment. At the firm's employee appreciation luncheon, Ann was treated with the same enthusiasm, gratitude, and appreciation as the most valued SLW employee.

Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal included the firm as one of 2009's Best Places to Work, and Ann can tell you why. During the employee appreciation luncheon, Ann explained, "Working is the best! I love to see my friends every day. I am an office clerk and I do everything here. It makes me happy, I am a star." Her coworkers agree. Mary, a coworker who also finds time to catch a movie or game of Scrabble outside of work with Ann said, "Ann always brightens up our day, she has the best attitude. She is the only person I know who gets sad when she takes a vacation."

Now, Ann is excited to continue her tenure serving SLW, while they are also looking forward to the future of their valued employee. Both know that they are better together.

See photos from the visit on our Lifeworks **Facebook** page.



Lifeworks Hastings client Pat Rother's work, Buckey in the Boat was commissioned for the Alexis Bailly 2011 seasonal Nouveau wine label.

Alexis Bailly and the Art of the Bottle

Since 2007, Nan Bailly, master winemaker and Lifeworks Advocate of the Year award winner, has commissioned a Lifeworks artist to create artwork for the label of her popular seasonal Nouveau wine. This year, the vineyard picked the artwork of Lifeworks Hastings client Pat Rother, "Buckey in the Boat," for the limited edition collectable bottle.

"We have the ability to reach out to the community, educating them about Lifeworks, and expanding the experience of the people Lifeworks supports on a broader level," says Nan.

In November, Alexis Bailly kicked off the release of the Nouveau wine at their annual Harvest Festival. The event was a chance to introduce both the Nouveau wine and Lifeworks to the Alexis Bailly community. People from all over Minnesota and beyond attended and met with Pat Rother who was signing wine bottles and spreading the story of Lifeworks one glass at a time.

Learn more about Alexis Bailly Vineyard at - abwines.com



Participants gather inspiration during a tour before heading to the Walker Art Lab to create.

The Art Lab Perspective

Recently, Lifeworks Brooklyn Park participated in a ten-session workshop at the Walker Art Center's Art Lab. The Art Lab is a space where all kinds of people come and create, inspire, and learn. Courtney Gerber, assistant director of education - tour programs, describes the Art Lab as a, "democratic space where anyone interested in creating is encouraged to experiment as artists do. Multiple perspectives keep us growing and keep the Art Lab space alive."

Art Lab workshops focus on a theme and use the Walker's world renowned collection of art as inspiration. For these sessions, the theme was, "gift." Lifeworks artists explored what a gift means, how they are given, and how they can be received. After gallery tours exploring works that supported the workshop's theme and presentations by Walker instructors, Lifeworks artists were invited to use the Art Lab's materials and space to create artwork. Lifeworks is currently planning more workshops with the Walker Art Center to take place in 2012.

Check the daily schedule at your Lifeworks location and see what adventures are happening today! lifeworks.org/locations

did you know? Nearly one hundred works of art are juried each year for the Lifeworks Traveling Art Show.

Now Entering the Base Camp

Lifeworks recently participated in the Boy Scouts of America Venturing program, a program that is offered to both men and women with disabilities, opening up access to the new Base Camp center near Fort Snelling. Base Camp is the brain child of Northern Star Council and Boy Scouts of America, connecting the community to interactive and inspiring activities, focusing on experiential learning. Some of these activities include a climbing tower, high ropes course, archery range, and even a NASA space shuttle simulator.

Twenty Lifeworks attendees were supported by six Base Camp specialists on three occasions to participate in the Base Camp's courses. Some of the courses, like the high ropes course, were intimidating and challenging. The center is built not as entertainment, but as a learning experience. Lifeworks participants had to overcome their fears and offer encouragement to their teammates. Many participants tried activities and overcame obstacles they thought they would never attempt. It was truly a rewarding memory no one will forget.

"It was a real confidence booster. It gave people the chance to get together and cheer each other on. It was a big deal to a lot of people." - Sherry Campeau, Lifeworks staff

"I was scared, but in the end I did it!" - Ann Huddleson, Lifeworks client

Read more about this story on our Lifeworks blog at lifeworksmn.wordpress.com

A Great Brew Lifeworks and Peace Coffee

Peace Coffee knows that working for more than a paycheck feels good. The coffee company has been providing organic, fair-trade coffee that sustains the livelihoods of the people who grow, roast, and sell it since 1996. When demand for their 12-oz bags of coffee grew, they called upon Lifeworks for help.

Now, a team of five to six Lifeworks clients have been labeling coffee bags for Peace Coffee. The label they apply gives the consumer important information about the coffee they are purchasing so they know they are buying coffee they will enjoy. Our team labels approximately 1,500 bags a day. They also put heat insulating sleeves on compostable paper cups for Peace Coffee's events department.

Jon Katzung, production manager at Peace Coffee values the work that Lifeworks associates do for Peace Coffee. Katzung said, **"Every coffee bean roasted today is packaged today, so having the bags labeled and ready to go speeds up the process. Lifeworks enables our employees to focus on their main job responsibilities, whether that is roasting coffee, packaging coffee, or representing our company at events."**

Peace coffee is a wonderful partner - giving people with disabilities a job they love to go to.

Learn more about how Lifeworks meets the needs of other business partners at www.lifeworksforbusiness.org

Ann Huddleson and staff Sherry Campeau congratulate each other during the high ropes course at Base Camp.



Lifeworks associates busy working at Peace Coffee.

enrich.

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LifePursuits is published three times a year. You can find the online version of this newsletter at lifeworks.org/lifepursuits

LifePursuits is published by
Lifeworks Services, Inc.

Editor: Tony Saputo

Design: Zimmer Madich

Contributing writers: Adrian Freeman, Jean Grossman, James Houck, Emma Rohrer

Photography: Adrian Freeman, Kath Pengelly, Tony Saputo, Scott Streble



Dates to Remember

Lifeworks Leadership Circle Luncheon

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mendakota Country Club,
Mendota Heights, MN

2012 Lifeworks Annual Celebration

Thursday, April 19, 2012

The Depot, Minneapolis, MN

Lifeworks

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www.lifeworks.org

Lifeworks is a nonprofit organization that helps people with disabilities live fuller lives that are integrated into the flow of community experience. Through employment at area businesses, social enrichment opportunities, and customized support services, Lifeworks provides the tools clients need to build the lives they want to live. For more than 45 years, we have collaborated with employers, volunteers, and government agencies to create expanded opportunities for people with disabilities. For every individual who wants to learn more, do more, and contribute more, Lifeworks strives to provide the best possible support. For more information, visit lifeworks.org

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did you know? 2012 will mark the 26th year of the Lifeworks Annual Celebration!

Join us at the Lifeworks Annual Celebration *empower. inspire. achieve.*

The 2012 Lifeworks Annual Celebration is right around the corner!

On April 19, 2012, over 800 guests and sponsors will come together to celebrate and honor those who have triumphed over adversity and championed causes for people with disabilities.

Save the date and join us for this special evening at The Depot, Minneapolis. The evening includes a silent art auction, formal dinner, awards program, and live auction.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available! If you or your company are interested in becoming an event sponsor, please contact Suzanne Shute at 651-365-3743.

Watch your mailbox in early 2012 for the official event save the date, and learn more about the Lifeworks Annual Celebration at lifeworks.org/annual-celebration.



Guests enjoying the pre-dinner reception at the 2011 Lifeworks Annual Celebration.