



The Achiever

ACHIEVE SERVICES' NEWSLETTER

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The Achiever is published by Achieve Services, a non-profit day service and employment provider. Achieve Services creates innovative opportunities to inspire people with disabilities, enabling every participant to lead a meaningful and self-determined life.

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Achieve's Annual Fall Fundraiser was a Huge Success!



We had a full house at Brookhall Event Center



Participant, Brock, and Staff Ryan

Achieve Services held its annual Fall Fundraiser on Wednesday, Oct. 25th at Blainbrook's Brookhall Event Center, and it was a fun and successful event! We had a packed house with around 245 guests – the largest attendance in the event's history. Our incredibly passionate and humorous father-and-son duo, John and Miles LeTourneau, were our emcees again this year. Guests enjoyed over 35 raffle prize drawings, two heads and tails games, a live auction and fund-a-need, a tasty taco bar, and of course awesome tunes and dancing with DJ Nate!

This year's Fall Fundraiser's fund-a-need raised over \$60,000 specifically for transportation needs, including transportation software that will be immensely helpful in configuring efficient bus routes for our drivers.

- **Did you know that Achieve drove over 345,000 miles total in the last year? That would take an Achieve bus around the world 14 times, or to the moon and half way back to Earth!**
- **We also spend over \$110,000 on fuel in a year!**

Each day, Achieve drivers pick up participants at their home and bring them to and from Achieve. Currently, Achieve manually configures all of our bus and van routes. Determining the number of participants per vehicle, the various drop-off and pick-up locations, accessibility needs, and other factors make it highly complex to manually configure. The routes are even more challenging to figure out when we add a new participant to Achieve. With the new transportation software, we will be able to enter participants' home addresses, accessibility needs, and our vehicles' capacity, allowing us to compute the most efficient routes. Adding new participants will be much faster, easier, and efficient with this new technology in place!

Thank you to all the guests, donors, volunteers, sponsors, participants, staff, and all who made this wonderful event such a fun and successful fundraiser in support of Achieve's transportation needs.



Marj celebrating 10 years at Achieve.



Laurie has attended Achieve for 40 years!

“Years of Service” Award Celebration

Each year we host a “Years of Service” awards program where we celebrate participants who have reached milestone years working at Achieve. Milestones include 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, etc. This year we celebrated three participants who have worked at Achieve for 40 years!!

Families, friends and others who attended the event were treated to the music of our “Dance at Your Own Risk” band before the ceremony, followed by a slideshow and award presentations, and a reception with refreshments.

Congratulations to all the participants for their many years of great work!



Band member, Matt, singing a song he wrote

How Achieve Began - Nearly 60 Years Ago

In 1964, a group of parents of children with disabilities met and talked about how they needed help caring for their children. Achieve Services (formerly known as Anoka County DAC) was created shortly thereafter, providing daycare for a handful of children with disabilities. Years later, the public schools would take responsibility for caring for children with disabilities. But as state institutions began to close in the 1970’s, adults with developmental disabilities suddenly needed employment, vocational training, and other day services.

In 1974, Achieve created their first day program for adults with focus on vocational training and community-based programming. As the demand for services grew, so did we! Achieve moved to our current building in 1991, a 24,000 square foot facility specifically designed and built for Achieve’s various programs.

In 2004, Achieve separated from Anoka County to become a private, nonprofit organization. We currently serve over 170 adults with developmental disabilities who primarily live in the Anoka County Area.

Today, we have proudly been providing programs and services to people with developmental disabilities for nearly 60 years, and with the support of our generous donors, we look forward to continuing our work long into the future!



Staff member CeCe, and participant Jim

Make a Gift to Achieve Today!



Achieve Services is a nonprofit organization that relies on generous community support to operate our programs and services. Please consider making a donation today –



You can scan the QR code or donate here:

www.achieveservices.org/donate

“Achieve Wings” Spreads Smiles and a Great Message –

On June 23rd, Achieve Services held a well-attended ribbon-cutting celebration for the five butterfly murals created by Achieve artists with disabilities at Northtown Mall.

The butterfly murals took three months to complete and have been appreciated and embraced by mall-goers and the community at large. They are still on display to this day! The artists chose and provided ideas on the designs, colors, and names of the butterflies. Each butterfly mural is unique, and they are accessible for people of all different heights to take photos with the wings. Two of the butterfly designs are wheelchair-accessible.

Achieve Services’ Program Supervisor, Joe Loskota, along with his wife Tierza, led this project and helped assist participants with designing and painting the wings. Joe said this about the butterfly murals: “The purpose of the project is to celebrate inclusion, community, and the power that art has to break down barriers. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive in their encouragement, support, and amazing compliments. It was great seeing so many people come together and join us in celebrating these Achieve Wings and the artists.”

This uniquely inclusive display brought many smiles to guests’ and participants’ faces as they took photos in front of the butterflies during the premiere. We believe this is one of the largest collaborative art projects that’s ever been done in Anoka County. There were 40 artists with disabilities and 20 art facilitators who made this project a reality.

At Achieve Services we strive to provide the participants we serve with both employment opportunities and life-enrichment programming like this Achieve Wings project.

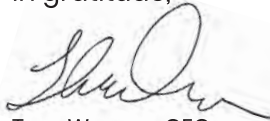
Yet, it continues to be a challenge to fund our life-enrichment programs. Programs like the Achieve Wings project are extremely valuable and meaningful to our participants, and we want to provide these services to even more participants. (We currently have more than 150 people on our waiting list, and we are striving to serve as many of those people as possible.)

But we can’t do this important work without financial support from generous donors like you. Please consider making a gift to Achieve Services, and help us provide life-enriching services to even more adults with disabilities.

You can send your donation in the enclosed envelope, or make your gift online by visiting www.achieveservices.org/donate.

We are grateful for your consideration and wish you a happy holiday season!

In gratitude,



Tom Weaver, CEO



Butterfly Names – What They Represent



“Achieve Wings”

Interesting Fact

The participant Daniel was so inspired by painting the butterflies, that for the last butterfly he researched various designs on his iPad. He selected three designs and had participants vote on their favorite, which resulted in the design for the butterfly named “Red Fire.”



Artist Daniel, and Art Facilitator Melissa

Fun at Our Fall Fundraiser Event



Staff Member, Dee, and Participant Jenni



Our emcees John and Miles



Participant Bob

You Can Make a Lasting Impact

Did you know that you can make a lasting impact by including Achieve in your legacy plans? It's easy to designate Achieve as a beneficiary in your will, and it's something you can do at any age. Your choice to include Achieve Services, Inc. in your will or other deferred giving tool helps ensure that we meet the future needs of adults with disabilities. You can also choose to make a gift now or in the future to the Achieve Endowment Fund. All gifts to this fund help Achieve work toward our goal of increased financial self-sufficiency and stability for our future.

Here's an example of bequest language: I give, devise and bequeath to Achieve Services, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation and a qualified 501(c)(3) organization, located in Blaine, Minnesota, Federal Tax ID Number 30-0202036, the sum of _____ (or % of my estate), (or other personal property herein described) to be used for the accomplishment of its mission.



Do you have questions on the many ways you can support Achieve? Contact us at 763-783-4909 or info@achieveservices.org.

Thank you to our Fall Fundraiser Sponsors!



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Blaine, MN 55434

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The Achieve Wings Premiere was a well attended event!

Read more about the significance behind these butterfly murals and what they represent.

Our Fall Fundraiser was a huge success with a packed house!

Open for the great news about this event and learn what the money raised is going to support.



Phone – (763) 783-4909
Fax – (763) 783-4725

info@achieveservices.org
www.achieveservices.org