



The Achiever

ACHIEVE SERVICES' NEWSLETTER

A LOOK INSIDE

Page 2

- Thank you to our generous Fall Fundraiser sponsors!
- Activity and Life Enrichment Program is Up and Running!

Page 3

- This Summer, Achieve Celebrated its 60th Anniversary!

Page 4

- 60th Anniversary Celebration continued

Page 5

- Employment Highlight
- Achieve is Hiring
- Save the Date - Holiday Concert at Northtown Achieve's 2025 Spring Gala
- Suite # change

Back

- Newsletter Sneak Peek



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.

Find us and follow us on social media



Achieve's Fall Fundraiser – Record Number of Guests at New Venue



DJ Nate and Achieve participant and emcee, Miles

On Wednesday, October 16th, 2024, Achieve Services held its annual Fall Fundraiser at a new-to-us venue, Infinite Campus. The venue was beautiful and bigger, making it possible to have one hundred more guests than last year. About 370 people attended, including 63 participants! Guests enjoyed a BBQ pulled-pork sandwich dinner, program, games, raffles, DJ and dancing.

Not only was the event a huge success with record-breaking attendance, the event raised a little more than \$112,000 for Achieve Services! Thank you to all who attended, sponsored, volunteered, and supported our Fall Fundraiser!

Did you miss our Fall Fundraiser but would still like to support Achieve Services? You can make a donation by visiting – www.achieveservices.org/donate

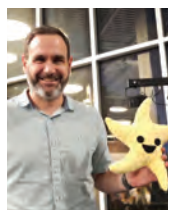


You can scan the QR code or donate at the above website



Achieve participant, Kristina, at the Fall Fundraiser

At the event we recognized staff member Ben Seeling, presenting him with our Starfish Award. The Starfish Award is given to a staff member who has gone above and beyond in making a difference at Achieve. Congratulations to Ben for receiving this year's award and for all his wonderful work at Achieve.



Ben Seeling

We also introduced our new Activity and Life Enrichment Coordinator, Ryan Stoa. Our 2024 Spring Gala helped fund that new role and program, and it's been off to a great start. Funds raised from this Fall Fundraiser will help fund our Activity and Life Enrichment program, allowing us to continue to provide and expand activities like art projects, cooking classes, and outings to various activities in the community.

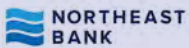
Thank you to our generous sponsors of Achieve Services' 2024 Fall Fundraiser!



Ham Lake Lions Club



Fridley Lions Club



Coon Rapids North Star Lions Club



Spring Lake Park Lions Club



Activity and Life Enrichment Program is Up and Running!

Achieve's most recent Spring Gala's fund-a-need was dedicated to funding an Activity and Life Enrichment Coordinator, and an Activities Fund. The goal of this program is to help provide our participants with



Ryan Stoa

even more life-enriching activities and outings in the community. We are pleased to report that in July we hired the Activity and Life Enrichment Coordinator, Ryan Stoa, and the program has been doing incredibly well. Prior to this role, Ryan had worked at Achieve for over 10 years, and was the Training Specialist in Area Orange.

Since Ryan already had established a wonderful rapport with participants and staff, the implementation of this program has been very smooth. To date, Ryan has started music groups, including karaoke and an Achieve choir, he's implemented a cooking group, coordinated various art projects, and is in the midst of planning future groups focused on exercise, meditation, social skills, and hobbies. He will also be starting volunteer opportunities including Meals on Wheels and Feed My Starving Children, and he'll coordinate weekly outings in the community.

Ryan has been asking for participants' input on what activities they'd like to do. For instance, many participants have

shared their love of movies so he's in the process of forming a movie club, with members watching movies and then discussing them. A Yu-Gi-Oh Card game club has started up as well.

"Providing activities that bring joy to our participants has been such a rewarding experience. Many of our participants don't always get these kinds of opportunities, so creating a space here at Achieve where they can try new things and connect with friends is truly special," Ryan shares.

One of the most recent activities Ryan coordinated was an OREO cookie challenge, where about 30 participants taste-tested a variety of unique flavored OREO cookies and voted on their favorite flavor. An OREO cookie bracket was created, and the championship came down to Birthday Cake vs. Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie. The flavor that took the crown was Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie.

Another goal of this Life Enrichment Program is to start a formal volunteer program. More information to come about this, but we're very excited to engage more volunteers.

"A huge thank you to everyone who made this program possible—it's been great seeing our participants dive into new experiences, connect through activities, and share countless laughs together," says Ryan.



This Summer, Achieve Services Celebrated its 60th Anniversary!



Achieve participants and guests enjoyed activities including a DJ, Karaoke, and a Dunk Tank.

On Friday, August 23rd, 2024, Achieve Services hosted a festive 60-year anniversary celebration at its location in the Blaine Human Services Building.

Achieve participants, staff, families, and guests enjoyed a variety of activities including a DJ and dance, karaoke, face painting, temporary tattoos, yard games, a sucker pull with prizes, and a dunk tank. The dunk tank was incredibly popular, as Achieve participants had the chance to dunk eight staff members.

The week leading up to the celebration consisted of a spirit week, featuring: Hawaiian-Shirt Day; Favorite Sports Jersey Day; and a visit from local fire-fighters from the Blaine – Spring Lake Park – Mounds View Fire Department.

“We are so proud to celebrate 60 years of service to the disability community” said Tom Weaver, CEO of Achieve Services. “Our evolution from serving a handful of children with disabilities 60 years ago, to serving more than 175 adults with disabilities today, would not have been possible without the incredible support we’ve received from Anoka County and many generous donors in our community. Together, we have impacted the lives of thousands of people, providing employment, skill building and recreational opportunities – and helping people lead meaningful and self-determined lives. We look forward to our next 60 years!”



– Continued on next page



1201 89th Ave NE #1100
Blaine, MN 55434

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

info@achieveservices.org
www.achieveservices.org

60th Anniversary!

– Continued from previous page

Achieve began in 1964 in a church basement where a few mothers of children who had disabilities gathered and agreed they needed accommodating childcare for their children with special needs.

The concern and advocacy of those parents led to the creation of the DAC (Day Activity Center) preschool (what Achieve was called prior to its current name), for children with disabilities. This program became part of Anoka County.

In the 1970's, the school districts were given responsibility for children with disabilities through age 21, while institutions for adults with disabilities were shutting down. So the DAC preschool changed its name to Achieve Services and began providing day programming and employment opportunities for adults with disabilities age 21 and older. Achieve remained part of the county, specializing in serving those with highly-complex health needs who other programs often declined to serve.

In 1991, Achieve moved into our current location in the Blaine Human Services Building off 89th Avenue and Highway 65, and in 2004 Achieve spun off from the county and became a free-standing nonprofit organization.

Currently, Achieve is serving more than 175 adults with disabilities and nearly half work in the community at 22 different job sites.

See more photos by visiting –
www.achieveservices.org/60th-anniversary-celebration

Check out the two recap videos and fun photos from the celebration event and spirit week.



60th Celebration
To watch the recap scan the QR code



Spirit Week
To watch the recap scan the QR code



Employment Highlight –

We recently had two participants work at Holiday Stationstores for the first time, and they did a great job!



Participant, Afton, working at Holiday for her first time

When asked how her first shift went, Afton said, “I do love it! I cleaned, swept the parking lot, replaced garbage bags, dusted, and front-faced the cooler. I like the job.”



Participant, Vanessa, and staff member, Katie

Achieve staff member, Katie, shared, “Vanessa did a wonderful job! No matter what tasks she was doing, she had a positive attitude. She was fun to work with.”



Achieve is Hiring –

Would you like to make a positive impact in the lives of adults with disabilities or know someone who would? Then we invite you to apply to work at Achieve!

Learn about our job openings and apply here: www.achieveservices.org/jobs.

SAVE THE DATE



Holiday Concert at Northtown

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Achieve’s house band, “Dance At Your Own Risk” will be performing a holiday concert at Northtown Mall on Thursday, December 19th, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Join us for your favorite holiday songs both old and new!



Achieve’s 2025 Spring Gala

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mark your calendar for Achieve Services’ 2025 Spring Gala. It will be held on Thursday, April 10th, 2025 at Bunker Hills Event Center. More information to come!

Achieve’s Address – A Slight Number Change

We are still located in the same spot within the Blaine Human Services Building at 1201 89th Ave NE, but our suite number has changed numbers from being numbered 105 to now 1100. This address update will be a slow process as many of our materials still list suite #105 on them, but eventually everything will be switched over to #1100.

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.



Opportunity & Dignity for Adults with Disabilities

1201 89th Ave NE #1100
Blaine, MN 55434

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tami Hagen – CHAIR
Kathy Svanda – VICE CHAIR
Jim Steffen – TREASURER
Sandy Crawford – SECRETARY
John Bennett
Pam Deal
Denice Escate
Susan Holden
Brenda Kratsch
Patty Krieger
John LeTourneau

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Tom Weaver – CEO
Jim Rooker – PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Cassie Derner
ASSISTANT PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Joe Loskota – PROGRAM SUPERVISOR
Traci Stoa – PROGRAM SUPERVISOR
Brooke Jensen
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Lindsey Johnson
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES



Achieve Services’ 2024 Fall Fundraiser was a fun & successful fundraiser!

Read about our event with a record amount of guests and participants in attendance!

This summer, Achieve celebrated its 60th Anniversary.

See just how fun Achieve’s
60th Anniversary Celebration
was this summer.



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

info@achieveservices.org
www.achieveservices.org