



THE ACHIEVE PRESS

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News Sports Entertainment Activities Spotlight Poems Jokes

Achieve's Fleet

by Tom B. & Melissa D.

Have you ever wondered what it takes to get everyone to and from Achieve and their job sites? Achieve has a fleet of 5 Dodge vehicles and my personal favorite, 22 Ford vehicles. We have a variety of cars, buses, and vans and they are quite comfortable. The drivers make sure they keep on rolling with the approximate 6,450 miles a week by scheduling the oil changes and other routine maintenance. Thank you to our drivers!



Tom B. with The Achieve Fleet

Achieve Fundraising

by Jenni M. & Melissa D.



Jenni M. & Tami H. at our 2025 Spring Gala

Achieve hosts two fundraisers every year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The first fundraiser was held back in 2005 at the Anoka County Fair grounds with our staff member, Joe's band for entertainment. Guests can help support Achieve by buying beads for the famous Heads or Tails game. I volunteer at both fundraisers to sell beads every year. Another way to support is with the purchase of the raffle tickets and bidding on the silent auction and live auction. We have great entertainment with our fabulous emcee's and DJ Nate. We really appreciate all our donations and the support for Achieve! Thank you to all our donors!

2026 Winter Paralympics

by Brock S., & Ryan S.



Oyuna Uranchimeg 2026 Paralympic Games.

Team USA placed second overall at the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games with 24 medals (13 gold, 5 silver, 6 bronze), highlighted by Para Nordic skiing success and a 5th straight gold in sled hockey. Minnesota led all states with 10 athletes and two guides, including Lake Elmo's own Sydney Peterson, who captured Nordic gold, and Burnsville's Oyuna Uranchimeg in wheelchair curling. Liam Cunningham, a Mendota Heights student, helped propel the U.S. sled hockey team to its historic Paralympic championship run.

Cole's Corner

by Cole I. & Rho P.



Jobsite: Medtronic

This month I interviewed some participants who work at Medtronic. Achieve has 3 different groups who work at Medtronic equaling 18 participants! Some work in an office setting, some work in the lab, and some work in storage. I interviewed 4 participants about their jobs at Medtronic. Everyone I interviewed seemed very happy working at Medtronic, and I found out that there are many jobs done by Achieve participants! Jobs include: Scanning devices, opening and scanning mail, doing data quality checks, cleaning devices, making boxes, recycling, typing, and organizing scanned devices. Lee told me his favorite part of working at Medtronic is working with his job coach, looking up devices and finding where they need to go.

Once participants start working at Medtronic, they don't want to leave. Ashley started almost 3 years ago and loves her job! Lee says he started in 2017, and even though he is part-time, he looks forward to all his days working at Medtronic. Shannen was the first participant to work in the Storage Lab in 2014 and has worked there almost every day since. Carrie has worked in the office group since 2008; that's 18 Years! Carrie says it is "very nice working at Medtronic" and it is a "pretty fun job." Shannen told me some words of advice to participants who might like to try the Medtronic jobsite. She said, "As long as you pay attention, you'll be fine." Lee and Carrie's words of wisdom were "Enjoy the job with friends, listen to your job coach and to each other." Good words to live by. Thank you to the Medtronic groups who work so hard every day!



Entertainment Review

by Michael C.

In April, members of Movie Club voted to watch the worst movie ever made. It was called “The Oogieloves in the Big Balloon Adventure” and it was the crappiest movie ever made. The plot lacked an engaging story, and the characters were unlikable and annoying. The songs sounded like they were written by unpaid amateurs. The costumes looked like they should be used at Chuckie Cheese. If you’re a fan of terrible movies, I highly recommend this one. *0 stars.



Oogieloves Characters

Honoring Our Retirees

by Michael C.

Steve Simmons’ last day at Achieve was April 22nd. He worked here for almost 30 years, starting out as a Training Assistant in Area Silver. Then he became a Training Specialist in Areas Blue and Gold. In 2020 he became a Program Specialist. His favorite thing about Achieve was being a part of 177 teams of parents, guardians and group home staff working together to help participants. In retirement, Steve is looking forward to being a grandfather and also hopes to travel. He will be greatly missed by everyone at Achieve.



This Month In History

by Lee G. & Melissa D.

May

-Memorial Day is observed in May. It was originally known as Decoration Day. In 1865, after the Civil War, freed slaves in South Carolina would decorate the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, General John Logan officially established Decoration Day on May 30th.

-On May 1st, 1971 Amtrak started passenger service but they didn’t have their own fleet so they used regular passenger trains from Burlington Northern and Chicago Northwestern.

-In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation making the second Sunday in May the national holiday, Mother’s Day! Happy Mother’s day to all the moms!



Kirsten Walljasper is retired from Achieve after working here for 6 1/2 years. She served as a Job Coach, a Driver and a Float, which meant she did lots of different jobs. What she enjoyed the most was working at Medtronic. Her plans for retirement are volunteering at Achieve, spending time with her grandkids, and reading books. It’s wonderful that she’ll volunteer here so we can still see her.

Spotlight: Area Green

by Area Green

In Area Green we balance work with plenty of fun. We volunteer for Meals on Wheels and Feed my Starving Children. Area Green also hosts the annual Toys for Joy drive at Achieve. We will do any job, but cards are our favorite along with paper folding and recycling. Some of us don't work at all and are happy to have more leisure time. We enjoy a variety of activities including playing games, a good prank, and sharing a joke. We enjoy creating art, making crafts and a good reason to celebrate. We enjoy outings of all kinds- dining out, shopping and bowling are our current favorites. We are always up for an adventure in the community or at Achieve. Which is why we love all the opportunities brought to us by our Activities Coordinator, Dr. Fun. Some of our favorites are: Yahtzee Club, Art and Cooking groups, Newspaper, Social and Exercise groups, Movie Club, special events, and Fridays! No matter what the attraction, music performances, dance party Karaoke or comedy club, Fridays are fun and we are usually there. We enjoy lots of company so feel free to drop in to say hello and maybe share a joke, but don't be surprised if you end up getting pranked.

Jeff's Jokes by Jeff J.



Whenever the cashier at the grocery store asks me if I want my milk in a bag I tell her to leave it in the carton.



Poems

by Lori T.

Spring

When Spring is here, the sun is out and bright;
also it's warm.
The wind can be cool, people are coming out to
enjoy the sun shine.
And the cool wind. Yes, the breeze can be cold,
but to wear jean jackets.
Or Coats. At least cars are warm and the sun is
warm.

Achievers Club Clips

by Shannen S. & Traci S.

April was an exciting month around Achieve! On Thursday, April 2nd we celebrated Autism Awareness Day by wearing the color blue. We also planned a fun spirit week in honor of our Achieve Spring Gala. Some highlights from the week included dress as your favorite character day, cowgirl/cowboy day and pajama day! We love to see our staff and participants get creative. We can't wait to share May activities!

Achieve's Favorite Holiday Candy

by Denise K.

