

# Handshakes & Hellos



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## Photo Gallery



### ^^ Exelon's Day of Caring

Twenty employees from Exelon Generating Station provided the supplies and labor to stain two residential homes on the Ottawa Friendship House campus in mid-October.



### << Agency Picnic

Ed & Bette Pitstick of Pitstick's Pavilion hosted an agency picnic. Ed (right) is shown with son Eric grilling up the day's feast.



### << Bridge to Friendship

The Bridge to Friendship Program, a collaboration between agency consumers and Marquette Academy students, hosted a Fall Hayride. Heather is shown next to her winning creation as part of the mummy decorating contest.

## contact us

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>> Staff members completed UIC HealthMatters™ Instructor Training.

>> Offered summer recreational programs which included line dancing, sewing, dinner and a movie night, golf and fishing.

>> Marissa Koscielski, a summer intern from the University of Notre Dame, spent 6 weeks working in our Developmental Training program.

>> Hosted a dedication ceremony in the brick garden as a memorial to those consumers we lost this past year.

>> Attended "Picnic in the Park" in Naplate, a benefit for the agency hosted by the Ottawa Naplate Beverage and Hospitality Association.

>> Held annual Concert at Covel Creek fundraiser featuring the Chicago Jazz Septet and jazz vocalist Dee Alexander.

>> Consumers participated in a talent show.

>> Utica Fireside White Sox Club made \$800 donation to Ottawa Friendship House.

>> Consumers participated in a bike ride with Starved Rock Bike Club members.

>> Glenwood and Sullivan House residents attended the Marseilles Circus thanks to tickets donated by Marseilles businesses.

>> Ottawa Knights of Columbus tootsie roll sales benefitted the agency.

## Welcome Letter



November is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Ottawa Friendship House is dedicated to supporting consumers in receiving the necessary vocational training to obtain, maintain and thrive in an appropriate, choice-driven work environment.

We recognize the satisfaction that comes from having a meaningful career and offer opportunities for consumers to pursue suitable employment options.

These options include Sheltered Workshop Employment, Enclave Employment and Community Supported Employment. Our agency partners with several area businesses to provide consumers with many choices and opportunities.

The businesses that partner with us can depend on impeccable service and quality. We provide a labor force of dedicated, enthusiastic individuals that take pride in working hard and a job well done.

For more information on our employment opportunities, please contact Janet Martin our workshop director at 815-434-0737, extension 26.

- Beth Mangold, Executive Director

## Highlights

### OTTAWA FRIENDSHIP HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## WORKSHOP SUCCESS: DISCOVER ROBERT'S STORY

Robert graduated from Leland High School ready to launch into adulthood. With dreams of working and living on his own, Robert and his family began exploring residential options at Ottawa Friendship House.

They felt that the semi-independent housing offered on the agency campus would provide him with the supports he needed to live independently. In order to afford on-campus living, Robert first needed the financial security of a job.

Prior to moving into agency housing, Robert completed a skills assessment to see if he would be able to earn a living in the workshop. It was determined that Robert's skills level was definitely on pace to work and be successful in the workshop.

But like many new graduates from high school, Robert's focus was tested. His bubbly and engaging personality often made it

### Consumer Spotlight



difficult for him to tone down the "fun with co-workers" aspect of his job and instead focus on the tasks at hand.

Every six months, Robert's case manager and line supervisor would sit down with him to review and discuss his quality of work, his rate of production and his workplace attitudes. Together, they would develop long and short term vocational goals to assist him in career development.

He would be tasked with goals like talking less to co-workers while working on the line, improving attendance and receiving constructive criticism from his supervisor. Ongoing six-month reviews showed that Robert's performance in all areas continued to grow.

His rate of production was tracked monthly using a consumer software system. The data collected indicated that his rate continued to increase, meaning he was becoming close to reaching competitive rates of production. By that time, Robert was earning, on average, \$7.94 per hour.

In February 2015, Ottawa Friendship House developed a new on-site work opportunity with Clover Technologies Group, and Robert seemed like a perfect fit for the team of workers.



After being interviewed, Robert was hired at \$8.25/hour as part of an enclave of workers to staff the afternoon shift at their Ottawa plant.

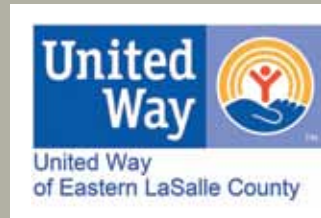
He and his co-workers have a line supervisor from Ottawa Friendship House who oversees their production. Robert loves the benefit of a larger paycheck and has made an excellent transition, all thanks to the supports given to him by the agency's workshop program.



### << Workshop Donation

MBL Corporation presented shirts to the agency consumers who work within the workshop at Ottawa Friendship House.

The company logoed shirts were offered in thanks and recognition for the many years the two organizations have worked with one another.



### Ottawa Friendship House is a United Way Partner Agency

Contributions to our local United Way's annual giving campaign help to support our Developmental Training and Workshop programs.

## Staffing Update

Please take a moment to welcome two new staff members to our team.

### Tara Kwilosz: Developmental Training

We are delighted to welcome Tara Kwilosz who began her employment with the agency in September. She had been employed for the last 5 years as a CNA. Bringing creativity and compassion to her role as a direct support person, Tara understands the importance of community involvement in teaching life lessons. She arranged for some of the consumers to tour the fire station last month. She was then able to coordinate a campus visit from the Wallace Firefighters. The men and women had an opportunity to sit in the truck and put on the helmets. Tara is a wonderful addition to an already great staff!

### Carlos Verduzco: Workshop

Returning to where his heart is, Carlos Verduzco also began his employment with us in September. Carlos had worked as a direct support person in a day program for individuals with intellectual disabilities until 2013. He left his position to work as a security officer, but he soon realized it was not as fulfilling as working with individuals with intellectual disabilities. When he discovered an open position in our workshop, he applied immediately. Carlos already has a positive relationship with the consumers, and they are thrilled when they have a chance to work on his line. Giving consumers the support and encouragement to perform their jobs to the best of their ability, Carlos says, "It is great to get up each morning and go to a job that you want to be at!"

## ..... donations [ June 1, 2015 - September 30, 2015 ] .....

### General Donations

James and Mary Jane Aussem  
 AXA Foundation Matching Gift  
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*honoring the birthday of Mrs. Brue*  
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 Utica Fireside White Sox Club  
 Steve and Kristy Von DeBur  
*honoring their marriage*  
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