

Enriching Our Communities
by Connecting Local Employers
& Individuals With
Opportunities to Succeed



Networks News

DAY OF CARING – THE NEWS CREW

Inside this issue:

Day of Caring	1
Leading the Way	2
Billy's Life	2
Deerfield Fair	3
Comedy Corner	3
Monster Mash	4
Best of the Best	4
Winners!	5
Collage of Activities	6

This issue of "Networks News" was made possible
by the News Crew:

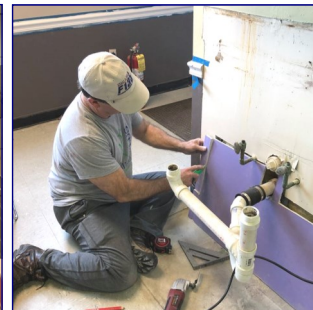
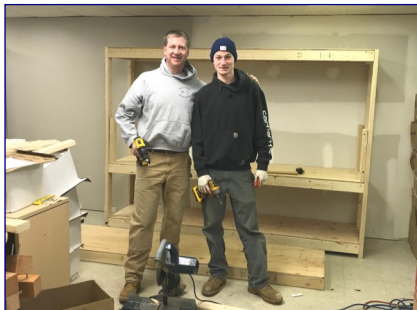
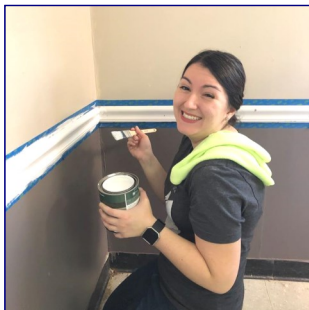
Richard B
Justin H
Jane H
Nicholas N
Matt R
Billy P
Nate C

In November we had a Day of Caring at our Nashua Office. Volunteers from Hitchiner Manufacturing in Milford and Santo Insurance in Salem arrived and rolled up their sleeves to help members of our staff renovate the kitchen, paint, and build shelving in our storage area.



The News Crew asked the volunteers what made them want to volunteer their time. When speaking to Kellie and Amy, from Hitchiner, they both said they wanted to be more involved with their community. Kellie worked hard all day painting the walls and trim while Amy helped Rich, another volunteer from Hitchiner, tear out the existing cabinets and replace them with new ones. Amy loved all the interactions she had with the clients and staff here at Opportunity Networks. Rich said that when he volunteers, he likes the way it makes everyone feel. Rich not only volunteered on that Thursday, but came back another day to make sure the cabinets, countertop, and the installation of the sink were completed. Jamie and his son, Hunter, from Santo Insurance built the sturdiest wood shelving units. They would survive an earthquake!

We appreciate all the hard work that was completed that day and can not wait to see what other improvements will be done at the Nashua office.



LEADING THE WAY THROUGH EMPLOYMENT – BY MATT



Bruce and Matt on the Job



A major focus of Opportunity Networks' is finding employment for their program participants. Individuals meet with a job developer on staff to talk about what type of jobs interest them, what kinds of skills they have and together create a resume and prepare for job interviews. A recent job placement for 2 of our program participants was with the Home Depot of Merrimack. This past summer, Matt and Bryce started a seasonal job working in the Garden Shop tending to the plants. After the season both men were asked to stay on board as permanent employees.

In October, the Home Depot of Merrimack was presented with a leadership award at the 10th Annual Employment Leadership Recognition Gala. The Employment Leadership Award is presented each year to 5 New Hampshire business who demonstrate their commitment to recognize the skills and contributions that people with disabilities bring to the work force. In NH there are over 500 employers who have hired over 600 individuals with disabilities. This special event was held in Concord and Sandra Arnold spoke on behalf of the Home Depot.

BILLY'S LIFE – BY JANE AND BILLY



Billy and Jane



Welcome back to "Spotlight" on individuals at Opportunity Networks. I have enjoyed writing about different people here at OppNet. This issue I am writing about someone who is special to me because sometimes he helps me write. He also likes to go to woodworking and the farm to help with the horses.

His favorite song is "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran and I also think it's a very special song. His two favorite singers are Toby Keith and Bruno Mars. His favorite movie is X-men. If he could go anyway on vacation, he'd go to Florida. On his free time he likes to talk on the phone.

He works at the Chiang Mai Thai restaurant in Amherst. While he's at work he cleans off the tables, fills peoples water glasses, fills the ice machine and washes dishes. Billy will always be a special person to me.

That is it for this time. See you next time on our next "Spotlight"!

DEERFIELD FAIR – BY RICHARD

In September we took our annual trip to the Deerfield Fair. It seemed as if the entire company went. It was a beautiful day. The weather was just the right temperature. It was sunny with a nice cool breeze.

When we first got there we walked around and looked at all the different farm animals. They did have shows going on, but we decided to keep exploring. There was a lot of tables with people selling crafts, foods, trinkets and some sports memorabilia.

This year I decided to not go on the rides, but I did enjoy watching my friends on the rides. There were Bumper Cars, a Tilt-A-Whirl, a musical ride called the Himalaya and many more!

There were so many different types of food to choose from for lunch. There was fried dough, lemonade, hot dogs, corn on the cob, and so many kinds of fried foods. I got to enjoy the fried dough. Since we went on a weekday, there were no lines. This was a great experience and we look forward to going next year.



Ray enjoying a ride on the bumper cars



COMEDY CORNER – BY NATE

Q. What do you get when you cross a snowman and a Vampire?

A. Frostbite

Q. What type of jeans do ghosts wear?

A. Boo-Jeans

Q. Knock knock.

A. Who's there?

Q. Nobody.

A. Nobody who?

(Silence)

Q. Why did they let the turkey join the band?

A. Because he had the drumsticks.



MONSTER MASH — BY RICHARD



Astronaut Bobby!



Richard as a Handsome Devil



Humanitarian of the Year,
Rocky Morelli

Opportunity Networks started to host monthly Respite Events, these events take place after the day programming hours. In October, there was a Monster Mash Halloween Party. The party was at the SHARE Outreach building in Milford. They were very nice to let us use their facility free of charge.

There were decorations, snacks and everyone came dressed up in their best Halloween outfit. We even had a group of students from the Milford High School Best Buddies program there to join in the fun.

Some of the costumes were Harry Potter, Astronauts, Witches, Skeletons and Devils. I was the Handsome devil, no pun intended.

These monthly events give us the chance to gather outside of program hours and let loose! Past events have been game nights, movie nights, paint nights, and miniature golfing. This month we are having BINGO on Friday, January 25th. Check our Facebook page for details. Like and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.



BEST OF THE BEST

On Tuesday, October 30th, The Nashua Telegraph held their “Best of Greater Nashua” annual awards ceremony. The newspaper honored the best of the best before a large audience in a night that include food, fun and plenty of awards.

Opportunity Networks was recognized for their work supporting and serving individuals living with disabilities and received the 2018 Service Organization Award and our Executive Director, received the Humanitarian of the Year Award!

Heather Goodwin Henline, publisher and general manager of The Telegraph was on hand to host the event and hand out some well-deserving hardware. “this is one of my favorite night of the year,” Goodwin Henline said. “It’s a honor to help recognize the hard work and dedication of local business owners and their staff as well as community and civic leaders who go above and beyond. I salute them and their achievements. They are truly the best.”

Congratulations to all those who received awards that night. Well done.

25TH ANNUAL \$10,000 RAFFLE EXTRAVAGANZA

On Friday, December 7th, 312 individuals joined us at the River Casino & Sports Bar in Nashua for our annual Raffle Extravaganza. This was our 25th year and was our best attended raffle to date. 375 tickets were sold with the Grand Prize winning of \$10,000 going to Sarah Christian and Cynthia Sutcliffe. Congratulations to all of the winners that night.

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, June 6th. Our 28th Annual Souhegan Valley Classic golf fundraiser at the Amherst Country Club.



Congratulations to Sarah Christian & Cynthia Sutcliffe for winning \$10,000!

COLLAGE OF RECENT ACTIVITIES



OPPORTUNITY NETWORKS RECEIVES GRANTS FROM:

BISHOP'S CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE FUND, INC.

AMHERST JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

THE KALEY FOUNDATION, U.S. TRUST,
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., TRUSTEE

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

ARTHUR KEYES MEMORIAL

ELLA F. ANDERSON TRUST, BNY MELLO, N.A. TRUSTEE

FREDERICK W. COX AND DOROTHY THURBER

NORWIN S. AND ELIZABETH N. BEAN FOUNDATION

COGSWELL BENEVOLENT TRUST

WALMART FOUNDATION

THE AGNES M. LINDSAY TRUST

MILFORD ROTARY CLUB

SAMUEL P. HUNT FOUNDATION

GETZ CHARITABLE TRUST, CITIZENS BANK, N.A., TRUSTEE

THE BARKER FOUNDATION

MADELAINE G. VON WEBER TRUST COX MEMORIAL FUND

THE PARKER NELSON FOUNDATION,
CITIZENS BANK, N.A., TRUSTEE

ANN DE NICOLE TRUST, CITIZENS BANK, N.A., TRUSTEE

THE TOWN OF AMHERST

THE TOWN OF MERRIMACK

THE TOWN OF MILFORD

THE TOWN OF HOLLIS

BILLINGS TRUST FBO NH CHARITIES,
CITIZENS BANK, N.A., TRUSTEE

We would like to thank the following foundations
and organizations for their generous donations to
our Health & Wellness Program.

Donations collectively amounted to \$35,000.

Norwin S. and Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation

Ella F. Anderson Trust, BNY Mello, N.A. Trustee

Cogswell Benevolent Trust

The Kaley Foundation, U.S. Trust,
Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

Arthur Keyes Memorial

Milford Rotary Club

Keith Michael Sullivan Foundation

Milford Hospital Association

Upcoming Events

Our Next Fundraising Event:

28th Annual Souhegan Valley Golf Classic, June 6th

Please check out our website at www.opportunitynetworks.org,
for more information on our fundraising events and how you
can participate!!

Due to funding arrangements for Nonprofit Programming
providing services to individuals with disabilities, Opportunity
Networks continues to rely on the generous support of
individuals and businesses in our local community.

Program Locations

Administrative Office:

11 Caldwell Drive
Amherst, NH 03031
603-883-4402

Day Habilitation & Supported Employment Program

116A Perimeter Rd.
Nashua, NH 03060
603-889-0796

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Services

116C Perimeter Rd.
Nashua, NH 03060
(603) 402-1444

www.opportunitynetworks.org

