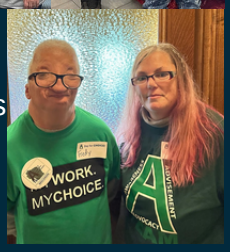
~ Meet our friend T.J. ~

This young lady's smile lights up a room! Our world needs more people like her. She is always surprising others with thoughtful gifts and handmade cards that are sure to brighten anyone's day.



TJ started working in our prevocational program 19 years ago. She has worked on many different projects over the years and is always up for the challenge of learning new things. She has also been a part of our janitorial team for the past nine years and does a great job of helping keep CRI clean. TJ is a great mentor to her peers and is usually the first one volunteering to visit the state capitol and share her story with legislators. She is one of CRI's biggest advocates for keeping a full array of services for everyone. Thank you for your courage, kind heart, strong work ethic, TJ! We are lucky to have you on our team!

SERVICES

Our services department continues to grow along with our excitement for expanding existing, and developing new, programs to serve more consumers in the near future!

During the first quarter, our placement programs received 18 referrals! 14 individuals were placed in community employment, working an average of 29 hours a week, at an average pay rate of $15.01 per hour. Our Rice Lake office continues to thrive. We added a second Job Developer position to help support that office. There are more individuals coming through our doors every day looking for community employment support, which also means we are hiring for Job Coaches quite often. If you or someone you know might be interested in coaching, please reach out to us for more information.

Our pre-vocational program remains healthy with several new referrals! Also within our PreVoc program in Chippewa Falls, we welcomed a new Case Manager, Ella Zias. You will learn more about Ella in upcoming editions of this newsletter.

Meet Rick! He takes pride in his work and is always ready to help his co-workers and supervisors. Since starting at CRI almost 6 years ago, Rick has strived to take on more responsibility and expand his work skills. He is always willing to fill in when needed and is respectful and kind to all those around him. He enjoys when he is offered extra responsibilities assisting with record keeping and setting up new product lines. Keep up the great work, Rick, and thank you for all that you do!

ENTERPRISE

Our enterprise team remained active with new customers in quarter one. Customer demand grew in late Q1, keeping our staff and clients actively working on assembly and inspection to meet customer expectations.

The Services, Enterprise, and HR departments collaborated to develop a new training system to coach staff on how to facilitate alternative activity sessions in the event there is a lull in production work available to clients due to things like setting up a new line or waiting for a new job to be delivered. The goal of our alternative activities is to keep clients engaged, facilitate team building, and enhance their knowledge and skills.

Our department partnered with the University of Wisconsin-Stout and their engineering department to work on a more ergonomic tool for a project that requires the straitening of metal parts. This partnership not only benefits our team ergonomics, but helps support the UW-Stout seniors in completing the final stages of their program for graduation!

Business Development has onboarded a few customers, working alongside production to help meet our organization goals and broaden our customer base. Our team has been busy and focused on all opportunities in our enterprise and we are looking forward to what the rest of the year has in store for CRI!