

Meet Tom Lohse – Member of our Building Fuller Lives Program

What do you like about BFL? Is there anything you would change?

Being with my friends and learning about different things. I would not change a thing.

What has been your biggest achievement in BFL?

My biggest achievement is becoming a better self-advocate.

Do you consider yourself successful?

Yes, I did some things I thought I would never do again.

What are you proud of for yourself and those who are in BFL?

I am proud of being a self-advocate and being able to help others.

What is your biggest challenge?

Knowing what I want from the program.

What has been your favorite connection?

Personal and Community-The Family Center.

Do you feel like you are in control of your life? How? Is this different from when you started BFL in January of 2019? How?

I know where my life is going now and know a little bit more about what I can do than I did before.



Welcome to Andrea Pederson's BFL Journey

Andrea and her Volunteerism at Interfaith Caregiver office and the h.e.i.p. Corner, July – October 2019
Andrea was a valued and part of the team!
Andrea's Reference Letter:



January 28, 2020

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Andrea Pederson to work for your company. Andrea volunteered with us at Interfaith Caregivers for a few months after being connected through The Threshold. Everyone in the office was pleased with her positive attitude and hard work ethic.

During Andrea's time at Interfaith, Andrea adapted to change quickly all while being confident in her abilities to work alone. While Andrea was at Interfaith she ran copies of our brochures, shredded paper, sat with me to listen how professional phone conversations and scheduling go, and she took initiative when it came to refilling our snacks and water. Every day at Interfaith was a little different for Andrea but I believe that is what she enjoyed about her experience here.

Looking at Andrea's future, I know she would be successful at your company because she knows how to work efficiently and effectively. Once she knows her tasks for the day, she focuses on them until they are completed. Andrea is great at interacting with others and is respectful of their time and space. Andrea was a pleasure to work with and her bright smile brought joy into our office as well as our other volunteers. In Andrea's short time with us she completed tasks we would otherwise not have had time for. She impacted our organization.

I recommend Andrea Pederson without any reservations – she would be a great asset to your team. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or comments. You can reach me at my email.

Sincerely,

Clare Robbe, 2374A W Washington Street. West Bend, WI 53095 – 262-224-8356
clarecrobbe@gmail.com



2019- Live Learning Modules- Small Business and Professional Journey Days



Andrea began BFL without an email and now uses it regularly to communicate and advocate. She has worked hard to revise email content and uses the suggestions on the keyboard to make sure her spelling is accurate. May 2019

Andrea and her friend Shannon used each other for support. Here are examples of how they helped each other:

- Pushed each other to learn new skills, like emailing and phone etiquette
- Encouraged each other on a day when things were changing. Pike Lake with the 'Hartford Ladies'- April, 2019
- The two went to the YMCA and also went bowling together





Harvesting: Partnering with The Hub, a local non-profit Café and the entity it supports, The Volunteer Center of Washington County, Andrea and three others worked alongside the UW Extension Master Gardener and Volunteer Center Staff. September 2019

Working in the Community Garden in West Bend, Andrea used her vast knowledge to mentor others working in the garden to harvest produce. She taught others the concept of quality control, which she learned within last years growing season. September 2020

Harvest's Bounty- Using produce from the garden reduces costs so The Hub café can give more to the community!



Delivering Mystery Bags to those who can only participate virtually, and volunteering using safety measures due to COVID-19. Andrea has also offered to be the resident photographer and a virtual partner. – August 2020



Redefining Recreation and Volunteerism during COVID:

- Spent time outdoors doing social activities
- Creative Kid Kits were packaged with items collected and paid for by the group
- Andrea helped organize and plan the packing and delivery, playing to her strengths
- The Kits were dropped off at Casa Guadalupe in West Bend for their virtual after school program



Andrea working at Culver's as a trusted employee, keeping the dining room sanitized.

Andrea showed interest in having a job where she could clean for a living! Even in 2020!

Andrea and Tom have reaped many benefits through the Building Fuller Lives Program within Achieve Employment. Their many learning experiences will help them excel in their future endeavors!

Congratulations Tom and Andrea!