



# MOSAIC

Summer 2019

*building community by honoring the gifts of each person*

The Threshold Mosaic is a publication of The Threshold Inc.  
By Laura Eggert, Director of Public Relations and Fund Development



## Secret Language Discovered at Threshold!



Greg Reich, former ADS Program Activity Coordinator conducts a sign language class with Ricky and Dylan. Some clients use sign language as a means of communication.

If you find yourself wandering around the halls at our Rolfs location, you may come across this secret language. Not many know this, but clients are communicating with each other without speaking. One such occurrence happened just recently as we checked into Adult Day Services, Team 6. Two clients, Ricky and Dylan, were laughing at an unspoken joke just moments before being discovered. They looked at each other from across the program room, made some strange hand gestures, and burst into laughter. What was going on here? This particular day was supposed to be a serious program to teach clients about life skills, and these two were silently having a special “hidden” joke together unknown to anyone else. Or so they thought! As I began investigating their actions, I observed more

hand gestures and giggles and more sly smiles. Just what were they up to? After a few more moments of me explaining serious life-skills like brushing, flossing, and cleaning teeth to clients, it seemed like Ricky and Dylan were not quite done with their jokes. A few seconds later, a Program Coordinator witnessed more hand gestures followed by uncontrollable laughter from both of them!

Now I wanted to know more! I boldly approached these two, and calmly asked them, “What is so funny?” (We found it was an inside joke). Ricky and Dylan were using sign language, as you may have guessed. Several clients at Threshold are hearing impaired and non-verbal and rely on Signing between each other to communicate. In Team 6, we are now teaching a Signing program to the majority of clients. We started with signing the letters of the alphabet and have progressed to learning full word signs. An online video program called 100 signs, has become a great resource for the clients and continues to inform and entertain everyone who is involved. Our goal is to allow the hearing impaired and non-verbal clients to be able to interact with everyone else using signing as a bridge to friendships.

Written by Greg Reich with input from staff in ADS, Edited by Laura Eggert

# Thoughts from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Last year, I wrote that Rolfs Avenue was going to become a thru street. I had some reservations about this at the time. It has been nearly eight months and except for some changes with parking, everything is going fine! We see several hundred cars going past our building daily, exposing our agency to many more people, who now know where we are. This is great news!

What a winter we had! If you like snow (and I do), you had fun. However, the cold and snow was a real problem for us. We had to close our services for six days! This was rough on us financially, but more importantly, the 180 people who come to our facilities daily for services had to stay home. For some, this meant they were not able to work and earn pay. For others, they may have been looking forward to an outing in the community and could not participate, due to weather. In addition, our closing affected caregivers and residential providers. Some caregivers may have had to stay home, and I know residential providers had a challenge with staffing during the day. So let us forget this past winter and enjoy the summer!

This spring, we held our \$5,600 FREE Sweepstakes and netted \$22,000 in profit through sponsorships and donations from the community. THANK YOU to our wonderful sponsors and to those of you who gave a gift! Your generosity will help us continue providing caring support to the people we serve. The winning tickets for the Sweepstakes were randomly drawn at our Annual Celebration and Awards Night on April 16. In case you have not heard, the \$100 winnings went to an anonymous person, the \$500 winnings went to Jeanie Nelson of West Bend and the \$5,000 winnings went to Teri F. of Mt. Calvary. Congratulations to all three winners!

On Saturday, May 18, we hosted a "Caregivers in-the-Know" informational session for 20 people caring for someone with a disability. We invited presenters from The Aging and Disability Resource Center, Disability Rights Wisconsin and Managed Care Organizations to talk with families about their options and rights. At the Threshold, we like to ensure families and guardians are up to date with the latest options in care for their loved one.

If you have questions or would like to talk, please feel free to give me a call 262-338-1188, ext. 507, or email me at [jbloor@thresholdinc.org](mailto:jbloor@thresholdinc.org).

Thank you for your continued support of the people we serve. You are making a difference in the lives of many people. Enjoy the warmth that summer brings!



John Bloor  
Executive Director



*"Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water -it will make ripples throughout the entire pond."*

– Jessy and Bryan Matteo

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS!**

**Nathaniel (Nick) Hoffert** - Doris Fisher Personal Achievement Award- Rolfs

**Robert "Bob" Knop** - Doris Fisher Personal Achievement Award- LVS

**Crystal Garbarek** - Community Employee of the Year Award

**Joanne Stautz** - Organizational Employee of the Year Award

**Culver's of West Bend** - Employer of the Year Award

**Chris Beerends & Hawkeye** - Robert J. Steiner Volunteer of the Year Award

**The Family of Patty Shoon** - Friend of the Threshold Award

**Knights of Columbus Council #1964** -Norman A Schowalter Service Award

**Flutter Down** - Artwork of the Year Award-Adult Day Services: Greg Reich Activity Coordinator, with clients-Dylan Carrillo, Waylon Draginis, Gina Falbo and Jarad Potter

## **A BIG Thank you to our Awards Night Sponsor**

**The Threshold Foundation** which supports the Threshold agency by "**Sustaining the future for people with disabilities.**"





SUSTAINING THE FUTURE FOR  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

### **Thank you Threshold Foundation Board!**

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### **DID YOU KNOW? YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO HELP SUSTAIN THE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES!**

Making a difference is important to you. Charitable giving is an important part of your life and your core values. Like many people, you'd like to know that the Threshold you care about today, will continue to thrive in the future.

In addition to supporting the work of the Threshold through cash donations, consider making a planned gift. It is long remembered. It is easy to do and you don't have to be wealthy to do it. Whether it is naming the Threshold in your will or trust for a modest amount, or a gift of house and property, there is an easy option that is right for you.

With recent tax changes, consider a gift of your monthly Required Minimum Distribution from your 401(k) or 403(b), which you can deduct as a charitable gift. Other assets might include a life insurance policy, real estate, stocks, business holdings. A checking or savings account. These are all assets that can be leveraged in planned gifts.

If YOU would like to help us continue our mission into the future, give your financial advisor a call and contact us for more information. 262-338-1188, ext. 504

**Thank you for caring about their future!**

### **What have we been up to? See for yourself!**



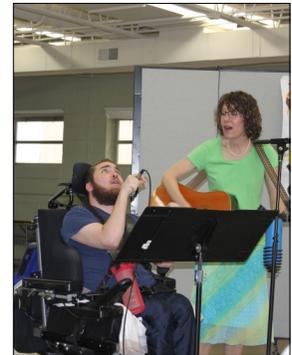
Legislative Breakfast  
in January at LVS



Joanne S. receives  
her Award at the  
Annual Dinner



Ricky K. shakes hands with  
Kent and John, veterans  
representing the Stars &  
Stripes Honor Flight



Andrew W. sings along  
with singer/songwriter  
Carrie Labinski as she  
performs at Rolfs Ave.



The 1022 Club in Hartford  
sports a new sign! The  
Threshold and the Medical  
Center Foundation of  
Hartford shared costs.



Meet the West Bend Mutual Insurance  
Project SEARCH class of 2019! Interns are  
learning important work skills. Thank you for  
hosting, West Bend Mutual Insurance!



Bobbie M. prepares peppers  
for personal pizzas in ADS  
Team 6

**THESE ARE BUT A FEW OF THE OPPORTUNITIES YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE!  
A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

# LINK is Growing!

In our last newsletter, we shared with you that we were starting new programs to offer new choices for clients. LINK, our “Learn, Include, Nurture, Knowledge” program is mostly community based and has been gaining a strong footing with clients! As of now, we have 17 clients in the program, and they have been quite busy! Clients choose from a variety of options they wish to



participate in. The program offers clients an opportunity for socialization on days they prefer not to work at TTI Industries or in the community. Quote for the day....”All work and no play is not good for the soul.”

- Felix Sabates



*Thank You!*

2019-2020

## Board of Directors

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At Threshold, we believe in being active in our community!

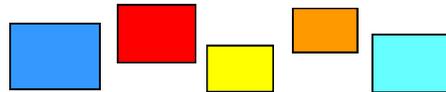


Writers:  
John Bloor  
Laura Eggert  
Laura Eggert  
Jamie Schroeder  
Laura Eggert

Photos:  
Laura Eggert

Proud to be a United Way Partner Agency!

United Way of Washington County



- August 3, Threshold working Music on Main—Downtown WB, 6:30-9:00 pm
- September 14, Threshold Showcase of Authors—LVS Center—10:00 am—1:30 pm
- September 26, Threshold Society Social—LVS Center 4:30—7:00 pm

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

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600 Rolfs Avenue  
West Bend, WI 53090  
262-338-1188  
f 262-338-9453  
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www.facebook.com/thresholdincorporated  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0kx0LCPHt50g5218>