

Southwest Opportunities Center, Inc.
 1600 Industrial Park Road
 P.O. Box 207
 Lancaster, WI 53813-0207



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SOUTHWEST

Opportunities Center, Inc.



30 years

OF EMPOWERING LIVES & CULTIVATING COMMUNITIES

As of December 2018, Southwest Opportunities Center proudly celebrated 30 years of service.

Since 1988, Southwest Opportunities Center, Inc. (SOC) has been dedicated to providing services to adults with disabilities in Grant County and the surrounding area of Southwest Wisconsin. By promoting independence, personal growth and community connections, SOC has provided individuals with equal opportunities. Our agency has given adults with disabilities the ability to break down social barriers, making our vision a reality. Programs offered include: Work Services, Day Services, Senior Services, My Community, Community Employment and Supportive Home Care. Prior to 1988, the personal development center was created under the name of Twin Platte. The center was located in Platteville, Wisconsin and began as a public, non-profit facility that was owned and operated by the Unified Board of Grant and Iowa Counties. In the early 1980's, the Twin Platte Center

received a grant from the Wisconsin Council for Developmental Disabilities to provide consulting employment placement services. The agency developed the goal to successfully place and supervise individuals into competitive employment with area businesses. With success, the agency developed tremendously. In December 1988, Southwest Opportunities Center, Inc. was incorporated as a private, non-profit organization created by six community and family members. SOC employed 16 staff members and provided services to 43 facility-based clients. Thirty years later, the agency is now governed by 8 Board Members, employs 20 full-time and 17 part-time staff members and serves over 100 individuals within Grant County and the surrounding area.

SOUTHWEST OPPORTUNITIES CENTER *Staff*

- Audrey Johnston, Executive Director
- Vickie Mowry, Business Manager
- Jessica Fuerstenberg, Office Assistant
- John Rank, Procurement Coordinator
- Katy Zart-Kurandt, Work Services Case Manager
- Deena Tracy, Day Service Coordinator
- Rena Kratcha, Community Employment Coordinator
- Tori Leeser, Development Coordinator
- Sara Anderson-Mooney, Greenhouse Operations Manager
- Tim Cardey, Facilities Supervisor
- Jaci McReynolds, Lead Work Supervisor
- Amanda Abing, Employment Supervisor II
- Patricia Knapton, Employment Supervisor II
- Jeannie Seng, Employment Coach
- Jocelyn Andersen, Employment Coach
- Amy Dreckman, Employment Coach/Retail Clerk
- Joan Klaas, Employment Coach
- Amy Leffler, Employment Coach/Supportive Home Care
- Michelle Merkes, Employment Coach/Supportive Home Care
- Theresa Cox, Employment Coach
- Mary Miles, Day Service Assistant
- Allegra Vasquez, Day Service Assistant
- Elizabeth Rood, Day Service Assistant
- Pam White, Day Service Assistant
- Trudie Jerret, Day Service Assistant
- Madison Glass, Day Service Assistant
- Haley Bartel, Day Services Assistant/Seniors Assistant
- Pam Andresen, Day Services Assistant/Seniors Assistant
- Kourtnei Kieler, Day Services Assistant/Seniors Assistant
- Alice Knautz, Seniors Assistant/Employment Coach
- Savannah Kemerling, Retail Clerk/Employment Coach

- Joanne Lange, Retail Clerk/Employment Coach
- Karen Boelman, Supportive Home Care
- Donna Dailey, Supportive Home Care
- Rhonda Stoney, Supportive Home Care
- Faith Krause, Supportive Home Care
- Brianna Udelhoven, Supportive Home Care
- Rebecca Alexander, Supportive Home care
- Jim Houghton, Vehicle Driver
- Jim McMahon, Vehicle Driver
- Clifton Heckman, Vehicle Driver

2019 Board Of Directors

- Steve Berry, President (Fennimore)
- David Helmke, Vice President (Lancaster)
- Nancy Wells, Treasurer (Fennimore)
- Kevin Gallagher, Secretary (Cuba City)
- Tom Hughes (Cassville)
- Kim Cathman (Fennimore)
- Anne Klawiter (Platteville)
- Jo Roling (Platteville)



Our mission is to provide opportunities for individuals to grow in everyday life. Our objective is to support, educate, and empower each individual to reach their full potential and a high level of independence.

To Reach Us...

Phone: **(608) 723-6659**
 Fax: **(608) 723-7320**
 Website: **www.socinc.org**

If you would like to provide us with your e-mail for updates, please send them to tleeser@socinc.org





OUR STORY IN A SNAP SHOP: *Passing through the Years*

<p>1990</p> <p>SOC received a grant from the Knights of Columbus for a shredder to begin the agency's Confidential Document Destruction Business.</p>	<p>1992</p> <p>Forces were convened with the goal of raising \$180,000 to build a new facility.</p>	<p>1993</p> <p>Ground broke on the new facility in Lancaster's Industrial Park</p>	<p>1994</p> <p>SOC's new location opened, along with a large shop area, the new building featured classrooms, offices, a locating dock, cafeteria and a place to store materials.</p>	<p>1999</p> <p>SOC began a new venture with a Contract Janitorial Business. Clients were provided with community-based work opportunities.</p>
<p>2000</p> <p>Addition was made to the production floor adding a shredding room, metals shop and additional storage space for production work.</p>	<p>2003</p> <p>The agency's retail store 'Your Neighborhood Thrift & Gift' opened off of Lancaster's historic square.</p>	<p>2005</p> <p>SOC created a Memorial Fund</p>	<p>2009</p> <p>Eckstein Wing was built, adding a full-size kitchen and cafeteria area for group gatherings and SOC began a partnership to provide music therapy to clients.</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>Raised beds and paved area were built through a grant from the Knights of Columbus for a handicap accessible garden.</p>
<p>2012</p> <p>SOC created a new program, Golden Opportunities, for those who are 55 and older.</p>	<p>2013</p> <p>The journey began for the agency's greenhouse, SunGarden Greenhouse.</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>Ground broke on the SunGarden Greenhouse and produce was available to the public in mid-December.</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>Agency received a generous donation of a handicap accessible van, which expanded community outings and opportunities for client-employees.</p>	<p>2018</p> <p>The agency celebrated 30 years</p>

2019: *My Community, a community integration program, was developed and offered to clients of SOC*

Our agency has grown tremendously in the past 30 years, and as we move through the next 30, we will continue to find new ways to fulfill our mission statement! We would like to thank all of those who have supported our agency throughout the years. We wouldn't be where we are today without you, and we are eager to see what the future brings!

RECYCLE - REPURPOSE - REUSE

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THRIFT & GIFT

- We offer continuous assortments of Men's, Women's, & Kids Apparel, as well as wide selection of home goods!
- Donations are welcome! Donations may be dropped off at the back entrance next to the BMO Parking lot! Front door will be available for use during construction!
- Giving Back: Revenues generated by Your Neighborhood Thrift & Gift directly support programs for adults with disabilities in Grant County and the surrounding area of Southwest Wisconsin.
- Your Neighborhood Thrift & Gift provides community-based work opportunities & personal growth for the individuals we serve!

233 W Maple Street
Lancaster WI, 53183
(Downtown Lancaster--Right off the Square/Across from the Post Office)

608-723-2505

Store Hours
Monday - Wednesday (9am - 4pm)
Thursday - Friday (9am - 5pm)
Saturday (9am - 2pm)

Don't let the construction stop you from getting a GOOD DEAL!

VINES & STEINS

SAVE THE DATE:
MARCH 20, 2020

On Friday, March 22nd, 2019, Southwest Opportunities Center held their 16th Annual Fundraising Event, Vines & Steins, at Holiday Gardens in Potosi. The event included a delicious fish-fry dinner, wine, beer and cheese tasting, as well as live and silent auctions, feature products and gift certificates from local businesses.

Southwest Opportunities Center is thankful for the support given by so many. Whether you were an event sponsor, vendor, donated an item for auction, purchased a dinner ticket, joined the raffle or were many of the volunteers, your participation was greatly appreciated! Without you, this event would have not been made possible! We look forward to next year's event and hope you will be able to attend!



Thank You to our **EVENT SPONSORS:**

Honorary Sponsor:

Allegiant Oil

Presenting Sponsors:

TRICOR Insurance
Memories Tour & Travel, LLC,
Sue Rinehart
Holiday Gardens

Platinum Sponsors:

Honkamp Krueger & CO, P.C.
LV Laboratories, LLC
Walnut Hollow,
Applied Micro Technologies
1UP USA

Gold Sponsors:

Community First Bank
JAS Candies
Southwest Wisconsin
Technical College
Tennyson Potosi Community Bank
The BARn

Silver Sponsors:

Kraemer's Water Store
Reddy Ag Services/
Ross Soil Services
Lancaster Machine & Tool
The Hair Shack (Sandi Wood)

Thank You to our **EVENT VENDORS:**

Spurgeons Vineyards & Winery, Whispering Bluffs, Eagles Landing, Next Door Brewing Company, Potosi Brewing Company, The Cider Company, Lactalis, Saputo, Mexican Cheese Producers, Emmi Roth, JAS Candies and Popcorn Kernel, LLC

Thank You to our **EVENT DONORS:**

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1UP USA | Farmyard Primitives | Lancaster Vet Clinic | Sharon Beirman |
| Adventure Rock | Fredericks | Let's Go Bus | Shedd Aquarium |
| Allegiant Oil | Great River Plastics | Linda & Randy Bendorf | Southwest Health Center |
| Alternative Recycling | Guilty Café (Madison) | Marcia & Kelsey Leibfried | St Clement Quilters |
| American Lady | Green Bay Packer | Milwaukee Brewers | Steph's Sweet Treats |
| Amy & Nate Dreckman | Guilty Café | Northwood Bear Products | Sue Rinehart |
| Badger Brother's Coffee | George Risberg | Nancy & John Wells | Tashner Vision Clinic |
| Benny & Lisa Gotzinger | (Dewalt & Fastenal) | Pam Andresen | The Shopping News |
| Bloomington Meats | Holiday Gardens | Paulette Gundlach | The Market House |
| Brittany Neise Photography | Hootin Hill | Penny's 1-Hour Photo | Timothy's Cafe |
| BY Baits | House on the Rock | Phillis Adrian | Tom & Kim Cathman |
| City Service Brewing Co | James Neff | Potosi Brewfest | TRICOR Insurance |
| Community First Bank | JAS Candies | Potosi Brewing Company | Vikings Travel (John Haskins) |
| Connie Larson | Jeannie Seng | Precious Moments Photography | Walnut Hollow |
| Creative Appeal | Jubeck Brewing Co. | River Bend Gallery | Y'ALLBEE Tubing |
| Deer Valley Lodge | John & Karen GreFe | Rod Leibfried (Verlo Mattress) | Haley & Colton Bartell |
| Discovery World | John's Crazy Socks | Rustic Road Photography | Hickory Grove Golf Course |
| Dona Houston | Karla Witzig | Scooters | Rod Pink |

2018

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all of the supporters of our 2018 Annual Fundraising Campaign, who helped us raise over \$34,000! Your donations have made a significant impact on furthering our Mission!

2018 MATCHING DONORS

\$1,000

Frank and Laura Richard
Royal Bank
Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative
Sue Rinehart

\$500

Clare Bank
Hughes Dental Clinic
Majestic View Dairy
Midwest Builders, Inc.
Peoples State Bank

TRICOR Insurance

Verlo Mattress-Rod Leibfried

\$250

Dupaco Community Credit Union
Esterline AVISTA

Harold & Judith Reddy
Joe and Stephanie Mohlmann
Martha's Hot Mustard
Mike and Brenda Dalecki
Mound City Bank
Southwest Heath Center

2018 GRANTS RECEIVED

Alliant Energy Foundation
Andersen Community Foundation

Knights of Columbus
Lancaster Community Fund

Platteville Community Fund
United Way of Platteville, Inc.

My Community:

CAREER DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

In the spring of 2019, Southwest Opportunities Center developed a new community-based program called **MY COMMUNITY** designed broadly for adults with disabilities to gain meaningful community involvement and targeted skill development. The services provided through My Community focuses on career development and community integration within two separate programs called **CAREER TREK** and **COMMUNITY TREK**.

CAREER TREK provides opportunities to safely explore community-based employment. The end-goal of this program is for participants to build social, self-advocacy, and employment skills toward greater independence. Participants in similar programs throughout the state of Wisconsin have achieved the skills and confidence necessary for community involvement and community-integrated employment with decreased reliance on prevocational programming.

COMMUNITY TREK allows participants to become engaged in the community, learn how to access community resources, and develop the skills necessary to achieve a level of independence. Through volunteer experiences, community events, and other social opportunities, participants build positive social behavior. Participants also develop daily living skills, and situational awareness through intentional learning activities.

Individuals who participate in **MY COMMUNITY** develop a weekly schedule of program activities tailored to their needs and interests. A person-centered assessment and team-based planning process are used to develop specific goals and program timelines with these individuals. Participants are put into a group of no more than four other individuals based on similarities in goals and interests.

Our agency is excited to bring these new services to adults with disabilities in Grant County. For more information on MY COMMUNITY, please contact the center at 608-723-6659 or email Katy Zart-Kurandt, Work Services Coordinator/Case Manager, at kzartkurandt@socinc.org.

Volunteering:

SOCIAL INCLUSION, COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP & FRIENDSHIP

In late months of 2018, client-employees of Southwest Opportunities Center began an amazing partnership with the Grant County Humane Society (Lancaster). Individuals of the Senior and Day Service programs began volunteering with the non-profit organization as a means to explore interests and gain community connections. Throughout various months, client-employees volunteered at the local Humane Society where they brought companionship, love and support to the sheltered animals through play. These individuals not only made an impact on the lives of the animals awaiting their forever home, but they made an impact on our community!

Our agency is eager for this developing partnership with the Grant County Humane Society, as well as with other local non-profits, as volunteering is an important and most useful avenue for social inclusion! Thank you Kathy Nelson and the Humane Society Team for allowing our agency to come and spend time with these amazing animals!

If you are a non-profit and would like to partner with our agency, please contact Tori Leeser, Development Coordinator, at 608-723-6659 to discuss volunteer opportunities for our client-employees.



GOLF OUTING

SAVE THE DATE: **JULY 20, 2019** | Lancaster Golf & Country Club

On Saturday, July 21, 2018, Southwest Opportunities Center held its Annual Golf Outing at the Platteville Golf & Country Club. This was the second consecutive year the agency held the event on a weekend, and it turned out spectacular--raising over \$5,800!

Overall, the event was filled with enjoyable memories and participants were able to show their competitive side by competing in Best Ball through 9 holes of golf. Contests were presented at each hole, which allowed each golfer to add to their loot of raffle tickets! The day concluded with prizes, raffle drawings and a delicious meal prepared by the Platteville Golf & Country Club.

Our agency would like to thank all the event sponsors, donors, volunteers and golfers for their participation in the event. Without you, this event would not have been possible. Please Save the Date for this year's event and we look forward to seeing you on the green!

Thank You to our EVENT SPONSORS:

Presenting Sponsor:

Allegiant Oil

Platinum Sponsors:

Rayovac
Southwest Health Center-Platteville
Schnellers Properties, LLC/
Professional Properties
(Jim and Karen Schneller)

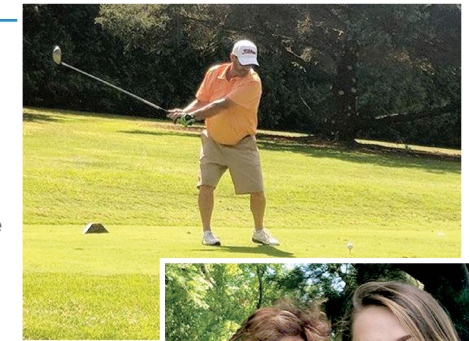
Gold Sponsors:

Royal Bank
Midwest Builders

Hughes Dental Clinic
Wisconsin Bank & Trust
Southwest Wisconsin Technical College

Silver Sponsors:

Faherty Inc.
Zippy's Brass Rail
JAS Candies
Martha's Hot Mustard
Mound City Bank
Premier Cooperative
Tri-Com US Cellular/Radio Shack
Reddy Ag Services/ Ross Soil Services



Business Partner Spotlight: ANDERSEN-EAGLE WINDOW & DOOR MANUFACTURING, INC.

Southwest Opportunities Center has long been a partner with businesses of all sizes. Providing quality, reliable and timely completion of each project is what our agency takes pride in. Whether its subassembly of a larger product to facilitate the job's timely completion or boxing items for shipment, our staff and client-employees get the job done!

While Southwest Opportunities Center has many business partnerships, few are as long-lasting as the one with Eagle Window & Door. This Dubuque plant has had a connection with our agency for over 15 years, and currently provides a number of job opportunities for our client-employees. In fact, over half of the agency's Production Floor revenue and work comes from Eagle Window & Door, themselves! Southwest Opportunities Centers does everything from cutting bars and sills in the agency's metal shop to assembling part kits on the production floor, which are required by contractors and "do-it-yourselfers" to install window or door units, and that's not all! Our agency has expanded to well over 100 jobs with this company, many which are too in-depth to describe. Jobs are completed weekly by client-employees and parts are delivered every Friday.

We are proud to partner with Andersen-Eagle Window & Door and take pride in helping produce high-quality doors and windows! Thank you for your support and we look forward to expanding our partnership, even more!

Business Partner Spotlight: WALNUT HOLLOW, POTOSI BREWERY, 1UP USA & BADGER BROS COFFEE

Our agency continues to be thankful for the many years of work that these businesses have provided for our client-employees. We are proud to be a partner in each of their success!



