

December • 2025

# Qwest

Newsletter of Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

## Industrial Opportunities, Inc. Supports Local Causes



We would like to thank our clients and employees for their kindness and generosity, which allowed us to support our community and these wonderful causes:

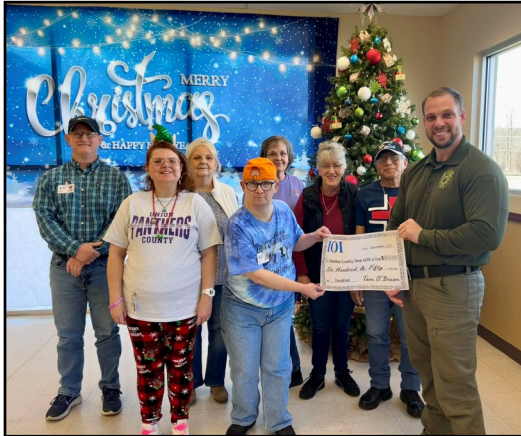
- The Cherokee County Food Bank Shop with a Cop
- Toys for Tots
- The Cherokee County Coat Drive for Foster Children and DSS Food/Gift Box Items for Elderly and Insecure Clients in Cherokee County

We again would like to recognize one of IOI's employees who has been a "Secret Santa" for their ongoing support and donation to Toys for Tots.

From everyone at IOI, we would like to say "thank you" for the ongoing community support that

we receive and the opportunity we have been given to give back as well.

May the gifts of love, peace, and happiness be yours this holiday season and beyond.



## Andrews, NC "Christmas On Main"



Clients and staff of Industrial Opportunities, Inc. joined the annual Andrews Christmas on Main. This is a day where Main Street is filled with food trucks, vendors, bakers, artists, music, and small local businesses. The clients enjoyed making Christmas crafts to sell to raise money for the IOI client classroom activity fund.



# IOI program inspired by “The Smurfs”



Students from Industrial Opportunities, Inc. who participated in the Halloween program include (from left) Tim Martin, TCCC Bridge Academy Instructor Jesse Farthing, Melanie Stiles, Mary Laura Bandy, Judy Bailey, Dana Gates, Haylee Smiley, Donna Earwood, Josh Chatham, Robbie Bryson and David Gardner.

By Jordan Phillips

Students from Tri-County Community College’s Adult Basic Education program at Industrial Opportunities, Inc. recently performed a Halloween play inspired by *The Smurfs*.

Kilpatrick, is patient and dedicated every single day, and it shows in the confidence and joy her students carry. The program continues to provide opportunities for learning, friendship and personal growth for adults with special needs.

“We are so proud of these students and the effort they put into everything they do,” said Dr. Donna Tipton-Rogers, President of Tri-County Community College. “Their smiles and enthusiasm remind us what education is truly about and why it’s so important to continue creating opportunities for every learner.”

Tri-County Community College is thankful for its ongoing partnership with IOI and for the chance to celebrate the accomplishments of such a special



group of learners who bring joy wherever they go.

*The writer is a digital medial & web communications coordinator at Tri-County Community College.*



The show was full of laughter, creativity and heart. The students did an outstanding job bringing their characters to life.

Their instructor, Polly

## Quest Fellowship

- In honor of Tom O’Brien by Charles Garven, with deepest gratitude for the decades of faithful service.
- In memory of Dwight Dickinson by Maurice & Susann West
- In honor of Tom O’Brien by William O’Brien
- In memory of Annabelle Golem by Betty L. Carpenter
- In honor of Tom O’Brien by Peggy Isidor
- In memory of Thomas Robert Hay Jr. by Hampton DeJarnette & Leslie England
- In memory of Dwight Dickinson by Tom O’Brien & Cathy Henson
- In memory of Jack & Maxine Earley by Nan Earley
- In honor of Doug Early by Nan Earley
- In honor of Tom O’Brien by Peter & Patricia Cook & family
- In memory of Lee Ferguson by Susan Ferguson
- In memory of William, Shirley & Dan O’Brien by Tom O’Brien
- In memory of Kathy Pruzinsky, Judy Sheridan & Kenny Isidor by Tom O’Brien
- In memory of Chris & Susan O’Brien by Tom O’Brien

## Supporters

- John Potterton
- Bill Block
- John Strawn
- Noel & Susan Watts
- Karen Ann Simmons
- Jack Smoot
- Ronald & Becky Parker
- George & Marleen Marshall
- John Pittenger Estate
- Joel Storrow
- AgSouth Farm Credit
- WNC Marble & Granite

Find us on Facebook!



## Mission Statement

We believe that individuals have a right to economic opportunity and personal development. The Board of Directors and staff Actively incorporate the concept that through meaningful, satisfying work, people are able to live more independently, successfully, and productively. We believe that every individual has the right to respect, equal opportunity and gainful employment.

Warm Wishes for a joy filled  
Holiday Season and  
a peaceful and  
Happy New Year!



The IOI Team

Ross

Tom

Jim

J

Jessie

Chris

Shannie

This card was designed by the winner of the 2025 Christmas Card Contest: Christina

All Gifts are Tax Deductible - Industrial Opportunities, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

**I make this gift:**

- In memory or honor of \_\_\_\_\_.
- To benefit the client activity fund / IOI Endowment fund.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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