

Qwest

Newsletter of Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

Watts Receives NCARF Annual “Chris O’Brien” Advocacy Award



Noel Watts was awarded the Chris O’Brien Advocacy Award at the NCARF 2016 Fall Conference.

Tom O’Brien, President of Industrial Opportunities, Inc., defined a role model as someone who maximizes their potential to push the boundaries of their circumstances with passion, purpose, integrity and the sensitivity to know they are setting an example for others along the way.

Noel has shown through believing in yourself and others, hard work and dedication, it is possible to achieve your goals and prove the doubters wrong.

Overview of Noel’s work history & dedication:

- Served North Carolina’s Citizens with Disabilities for over 44 years
- Recreational Aide at Western Carolina Center 1972-1974
- Managed a IDD Group Home 1974-1976
- Employed at SSEACO Community Rehabilitation Program 1976-2005, becoming the CEO in 1990.
- Became the MARC CEO in 2005 leading the organization until his semi-retirement in July 2016. He continues to work as a consultant to the MARC Association.
- Noel has served on numerous statewide boards and committees advocating for services to people with disabilities.

On a personal note, Tom gave a few examples of Noel’s passion, integrity and sensitivity to people with disabilities: Talking with Chris, Tom’s son, every payday Friday, right after we came out of the Bank, Chris would ask me to “Call Noel”. Chris would tell Noel how much his check was that payday and let him know he had 25 stars for the week and was getting Taco’s for Friday Supper.

Chris would ask me to call Noel on Saturday mornings to let Noel know who won the Friday night Murphy Bulldogs football game. Chris would say “Call Noel” on our ride to Murphy, to let him know he was buying us a pizza for Saturday night supper. Chris would then ask me to call Noel on Sunday Morning while he was watching Meet the Press to talk to Noel.

Noel & George Marshall, always made time to take Chris and I to the Asheville Tourists baseball games and the UNC-Asheville Basketball games, Chris would be grinning the 2 hours on the way over to Asheville and back. Asking me to call Noel so he could tell Noel Cheeseburgers, French fries and Ketchup!
“Noel not only talks the talk he walks the walk”.

IOI celebrates adult graduates

Re-print from The Andrews Journal
By Kelsey Richardson

Adult basic education students celebrated their year-long accomplishment of taking college courses with an afternoon filled with well-deserved recognition, lively dancing and rambunctious music.

Tri-County Community College’s 15th annual awards program for Adults Basic Education students at Industrial Opportunities Inc. took place Friday at IOI.

The program coordinator for the college’s Adult Basic Education program Angie Jaco said the awards ceremony provides an outlet for the students to showcase their newly acquired skills and gives them a sense of accomplishment.

Throughout the school year the students took math, reading, cooking and other basic skill courses. The classes were catered to each of the 52 student’s learning level.



Photo Credit: Ben Katz - The Andrews Journal
Festivities at the IOI awards banquet.

the students,” Adult Basic Education instructor Polly Kilpatrick said. “Look at how positive they are. You can’t come in here sad, they’ll cheer you up.”

This year’s ceremony theme encompassed college sports teams, following the award presentation with musical and dance entertainment. Each performance highlighted either the North Carolina Tar Heels, Georgia Bulldogs, Tennessee Volunteers, Alabama Crimson Tide or Duke Blue Devils. The Adult Basic Education students donned their favorite team colors and danced to their consecutive sports-related songs.

The instructors also incorporated the sports theme into their courses. The students learned about the different college teams and participated in sports/math related activities.

Tri-County Community College’s President, Dr. Donna Tipton-Rogers, said the awards ceremony helps motivate the students to continue taking courses and offers a great medium to advance their learning. “I love looking in the faces of the student,” Tipton-Rogers said. “They’re just so happy and appreciative - it makes it so worthwhile.”



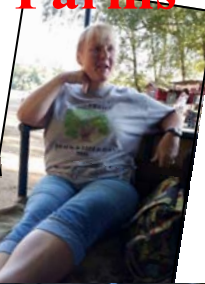
Photo Credit: Ben Katz - The Andrews Journal
Davi Brooks shows off her award. “I like my work because it makes me feel good,” she said.

Adult Basic Education instructors and students put together the ceremony. The students even used their new cooking techniques to make cupcakes for the event. “My biggest reward for doing this comes from

Chris O'Brien Track & Field Day 2016



Fall Fun at Darnell Farms



EMS Tourniquet Project

Thanks to the United Way, Cherokee County, Tactical Medical Solutions, IOI Employees and others for their support of our local Emergency Medical Responders. United Way along with IOI spearheaded a push to help provide tourniquets produced at IOI for Tactical Medical Solutions to all local EMS personnel under the direction of Cherokee County EMS Director Al Lovin-good. Al commented "I greatly appreciate your help on this project which could very well be instrumental in saving the life of a citizen or visitor. Additionally I am honored that emergency services and our local businesses can recognize the advantages of partnering to improve our services." Per Al, Cherokee County has 403 EMS responders and none of these EMS personnel have tourniquets provided to them except 40 which were previously donated earlier this year.

IOI has been making tourniquets for Tactical Medical Solutions since 2003 and considering they are made at IOI, it would be a shame to not have our local EMS responders outfitted with this life saving device. As a result, money was donated by the United Way, United Way Board Members,

IOI, IOI employees and Cherokee County to purchase tourniquets at a reduced price from Tactical Medical Solutions. The tourniquet drive came up a little short where \$5,642 of the \$7,000 needed was raised. An order has been placed for 325 tourniquets. If there is anyone else who wishes to donate toward this project to help purchase the remaining tourniquets needed you may do so by sending a check to IOI and marking it for EMS tourniquet purchase. Once Cherokee county has been equipped we would like to start working on supplying the EMS from Clay, Graham and the Nantahala community with tourniquets. The number remaining to be purchased is about 300. Please note this is only 1 tourniquet per EMS responder and in some cases once used they are discarded. All EMS responders in these areas lack this life saving device.

As to IOI producing tourniquets, we take pride in knowing that IOI has already contributed to saving thousands of lives. Our clients and employees work daily to produce about 2,500 tourniquets which are then shipped all over the world by Tactical Medical Solutions.

Supporters

- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Joan & Steve Law
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by William O'Brien
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Lynne Manning
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Pauline Mallon
- In memory of Sarah Foster & Joseph Rutkosky by Karen Ann Simmons
- In memory of Maxine Early by Jack Baldwin
- In memory of Alice Baillargeon by Gary Baillargeon
- In memory of Annabelle Golem by John & Jeanette Golem
- In memory of Chris, William & Shirley O'Brien, Kathy Pruzinsky, Judy Sheridan & Richard Kittle by Tom & Susan O'Brien
- In honor of Glenda Crisp by Rita Rowland
- In memory of Cherry Jerrett by Elizabeth Walton

Quest Fellowship

- Town of Murphy Power Board
- Thomas Sheridan
- Tom & Susan O'Brien
- Jere & Judith Annis
- Kathleen Roberts
- Jane Campbell
- Duncan Oil
- Chuck & Eileen Garven
- Gary & Glenda Stiles
- Phillip & Virginia Mattox
- Kurt Raschi & Catherine Riordan
- Linney Teague
- Harriet Mulford
- Diane Davis
- Jack Baughn
- Arnold & Amanda Hovis
- George Heilner
- Robby & Michelle Russell
- Elbert & Ida Timpson
- Snap-On
- Roger & Regina Holloway
- John & Carol Campbell
- St. William Ladies Guild
- St. William Catholic Church
- St. William Catholic Church - Men's Club
- MGM Brakes
- United Community Bank

2015-2016 Outcomes Measurement *Overall Program Review*

Total Number Served	129
Adult Developmental Vocational Program	22
Supported Employment Program	2
Extended Employment services	7
School Transition programs	1
Vocational Evaluation	31
Work Adjustment	20
Innovations Waiver	46

Job Placements in Competitive Employment

Work Adjustment – 7 placements
Supported Employment – 2 placements

Program Goal achievement

- All programs achieved an average of 95% effectiveness in the results of their services.
- All programs achieved an average of 71% efficiency in the timeliness of their services.

Satisfaction

Individual's satisfaction with services – 104%.

Inclusion... It's all around you

Samantha Loudermilk
Employment Specialist, IOI

October is a month dedicated to crisper air, Halloween, and fun fall activities. More importantly, it is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and this year's theme is #inclusionworks.

Having a disability can be difficult, mainly because of the perceptions about disabilities, especially when it comes to the workforce. Actually, many people in America including our county and surrounding counties who contribute to the workforce, have a disability. With that being said, all individuals can and should be employed on an equal basis.

Tucked away in our mountain community of Andrews is a place of employment called Industrial Opportunities, Inc. IOI is dedicated to *Working with Adults with Disabilities to Achieve Employment* and promotes inclusion in the workplace. IOI has a

Work Adjustment training program that is designed to prepare clients for competitive job placement and has an intended outcome of employment. Supported Employment is another program offered through IOI. Clients work with the Employment Specialist that helps them with job placement, on-the-job training, and ongoing supports in order to achieve and maintain employment. IOI collaborates with NC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and NCWorks to achieve their goals of inclusion. Vocational Rehabilitation makes referrals to specific training programs. NCWorks assists with job matches and provides information about current needs of employers in the local job market.

In the past six months, three individuals have utilized the services of Supported Employment and now are employed either part time or full time. These young people have tri-

umphed over any perception of not being able to obtain employment. Not only are they productive members of society, they have expanded their social network, and have overcome barriers that may have been in their way. The expression on their faces when payday comes around, knowing they have earned every cent on that paycheck, is priceless and truly humbling.

So, this month you are challenged to educate yourself on employment opportunities for people with disabilities and how important it is to our community, and to America. When you put on your fuzzy boots, go on a hayride, or pick out that perfect pumpkin, be aware and be thankful that we live in a place where inclusion matters and inclusion works.



Yes, I would like to contribute to the capital needs of I.O.I.

All Gifts are Tax Deductible

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ toward capital improvements at I.O.I.

I make this gift:

- In memory or honor of _____
- To benefit the client activity fund.
- To benefit the IOI Endowment Fund.
- Enclosed is my Quest Fellowship donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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