



Chris O'Brien Track & Field Day



On Friday, May 19th IOI celebrated its first Chris O'Brien Track & Field Day since 2019. It was such a wonderful day that everyone had missed dearly! Though the event was closed to the public, our clients and employees had a fantastic time and we can't wait to make next years event even bigger! Photo credit goes to our very own Jim Maennle.

TCCC Adult Basic Education Program Annual Awards Ceremony

Industrial Opportunities, Inc. has partnered with Tri-County Community College for 49 years to offer learning opportunities to their employees. Since 1974, IOI has invited TCCC instructors into the facility to teach classes. This allows students to apply academic and life skills in real word experiences. This past year, the theme focused on celebration & investing in yourself, along with a couple of other areas. Lee Beal, TCCC Director of College & Career Readiness Program, presented the awards. Each student was presented with a certificate and a special gift on behalf of Dr. Donna Tipton-Rogers, President of TCCC. The gift was a golden key to remind them they have the key to accomplish great things, success, happiness, and the BEST life to unlock a world of possibilities! On behalf of IOI, President/CEO, Tom O'Brien, would like to congratulate all of the students on another successful year!

* Additional pictures on back.

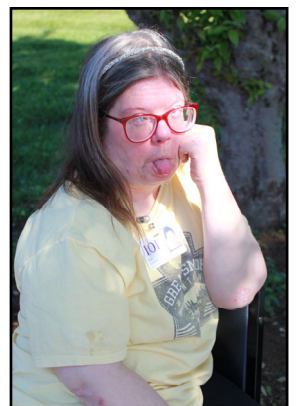
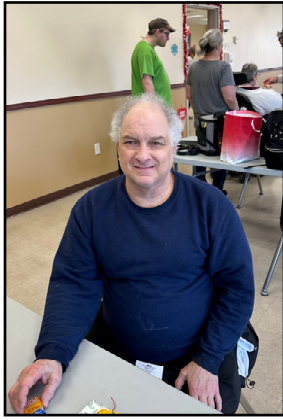
IOI Job Placement Celebrating 25 Years



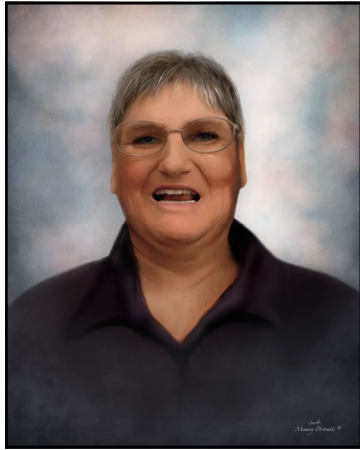
Pictured: Store Manager Lora (right) and Coach Kyle (left) and all the associates at the Murphy Walmart want to congratulate Wes Tetherow (center) on 25 years.

Wes Tetherow is celebrating 25 years of employment at Wal-Mart. IOI's current Operations Manager, Jim Maennle was Wes' former job coach. He placed Wes at Bud's then he moved to Wal-Mart when Bud's changed over. Wes is celebrating 25 years with Wal-Mart and still going strong. Wes is known for his great work ethic and has a very supportive family. His sister, Trudie has been a big part of his support system.





In memory of Angela Hovis



Angela Denise Hovis, age 54 of Hayesville, passed away on Friday, May 19, 2023. Angela was born in Gaston County, NC to Amanda Shannon Hovis and the late Arnold Hovis. She was employed by Industrial Opportunities Incorporated

rated (IOI) of Andrews since July 1988. Angela enjoyed camping, church, Special Olympics and her job at IOI. In addition to her mother, she is survived by her brothers, Michael (Gene) Hovis and wife, Cheryl, and John Hovis; her sister, Nancy Arthur and husband Ronnie; three nieces, Tracy Cates and husband Mike, Kayla Hovis, and Adrianna Portello; and her great nieces and nephews, Carson Cates, Violet Cates and Alyak Vick.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at Tomotla Baptist Church. Rev. Harold Stiles officiated. Burial was in Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA.



Congresswoman Dr. Virginia Foxx Visits Watauga Opportunities in Boone North Carolina



Our major discussion with Dr. Foxx, Chairwoman of the Committee on Education and the workforce, was related to the Section 511 Rule of the Rehabilitation Act, WIOA. And to discuss the very positive implementation of the Pre-Employment Transition Services being offered in her District and throughout Western North Carolina. Amy Carnevale, K&L Gates requested from Dr. Foxx the probability of holding a congressional hearing to review the 511 Rule of WIOA, titled: "Employment Opportunities for People with Intellectual Disabilities." The current 511 Rule has had a negative impact on services to the 18–25-year-old youth with a significant disability.

After a meeting and lengthy discussion in the conference room, Dr. Foxx was taken on a tour where she was able to see several

work areas including plastic thermoforming for a specialty chocolate manufacture and a medical assembly area. The workforce on site is integrated, consisting of a blend of people with and without known disabilities.

Attendees: Michael Maybee, President/CEO of Watauga Opportunities; Tom O'Brien, President/CEO at Industrial Opportunities; Mike and Cindy Hayworth, parents of Beth Hayworth; Amy Carnevale, K&L Gates.



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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.

Quest Fellowship

- In memory of Jack & Maxine Early by Sue Baldwin
- In honor of Doug Earley by Sue Baldwin
- In honor of Gary Kilpatrick by his family
- In memory of Joe & Rose El-Khoury by Theresa El-Khoury Martin
- In memory of Chris & Susan O'Brien by David & Susan Winterle
- In honor of Tom O'Brien & IOI Clients by Dwight Dickinson
- In memory of Chris, Susan & Dan O'Brien by John & Dolores Potterton
- In honor of Tom O'Brien by Jerry Pullium
- In memory of Jere Annis by Lynne Manning "Thank you for your advocacy throughout your life for individuals with DD"
- In memory of Jack & Maxine Early by Steve & Betty Massey
- In honor of Doug Earley by Steve & Betty Massey
- In memory of the deceased members of the Sheridan & O'Brien families by Tom Sheridan
- In memory of Riva Callum by Randy & Cathy Davidson
- In memory of Angela Hovis by Lynne Manning
- 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

“Happy Jack” inducted into AHS Athletic Hall of Fame



of Fame he was overcome with emotion. “As soon as he got off the phone, he just sat there and wept,” said his wife, Barbara. “He was so happy. It was just something he never expected.” Better known by his nickname, “Happy Jack,” David was first a manager for the Andrews football team in the late 1970s after his friends talked him into it. He then became a part of the “chain gang,” which means he’s responsible for helping set up the down and distance during all Wildcats games at Hugh Hamilton Stadium. “I just love football,” David said. And after 40 years, David has drawn quite a following. Go anywhere in Cherokee County, and David is likely to have

someone recognize him. Of course, that means asking if he’s still doing the chain gang, and the answer remains yes. Even David doesn’t know at this point how long he’ll keep doing it. When asked how much longer he sees himself hauling the chains up and down the field, his response was simple. “When the Lord says you’re done,” he said. Robinson is around something he loves, and whenever people see him, he brings a smile to their faces. David has worked at IOI since 1978.



TCCC Annual Awards Ceremony



All Gifts are Tax Deductible

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- ☐ To benefit the client activity fund / IOI Endowment fund.

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