

# Qwest

Newsletter of Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

## Governor Cooper visits IOI



Pictured L to R: Mike Kennedy, Tom O'Brien (IOI President), Rosalyn Stiles, Governor Roy Cooper, Lynne Manning & Sarah Pattison

Governor Roy Cooper visited Industrial Opportunities, Inc. on April 12, 2019 to recognize their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to take a tour. This was a really good opportunity to make a strong emphasis that individuals that have significant disabilities still want the choice to work and the importance of the Special Wage Certificate that allows wages paid based on an individual's skills and productivity. The Governor was very attentive and engaged with the workers with disabilities, and supportive of IOI's Mission. Special thanks to IOI's supporters that made this visit possible.

## 45 Years of Service



David Hughes is recognized for 45 years of service at Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

## IOI celebrates its employees

By Ben Katz  
Cherokee Scout

Industrial Opportunities Inc. celebrated its annual Chris O'Brien Track & Field Day on Friday, May 3, 2019. IOI employs a large number of people with special needs, who create



tourniquets and other useful tools for first responders and military personnel. On April 26, IOI hit \$100 million in wages and benefits paid to employees over the course of 16 years since moving into the Andrews Lee plant. David Hughes, who has been working with IOI since the beginning, was recognized for his lifetime of contribution. Volunteers from Er-

langer Western Carolina Hospital, Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino & Hotel, the N.C. Forest Service and N.C. Highway Patrol donated their time to help at Track & Field Day. A number of other sponsors also donated materials and services for the event. For CEO Tom O'Brien, the special day is "one of the highlights of the year." Arlie Jones, who has worked at IOI for at least 16 years, said the event gives employees a chance to "get out in a good breeze," practice throwing balls, jumping the long jump, and running as far and as fast as they can. Billy McGarr normally works with bolts for drills, but on this day he enjoyed the balloons and ball

throw. Chaston Jerez, who has been working at IOI for 25 years works with bolts, bands, and yolks. He likes "staying busy" by working at IOI because "it keeps me on my toes." At IOI, Jerez learned "to be kind to others, and they will be kind to you." After 10 years of trimming and inspecting the suspenders at IOI, David Gardner enjoys getting to



"meet everybody who is friendly." Ariah Brown is one of the volunteers. The Andrews High School senior, who will be attending UNC-Charlotte in the fall, has volunteered since she was in the sixth grade. She especially loves being at IOI for events such as the Track and Field Day and Valentine's Day Award celebration. The Track & Field Day is Brown's "favorite day of the

year" because she gets to "see all the joy" in people's hearts and "learn a lot of lessons" at IOI. Through her hours of volunteer service, Brown has learned to "smile through the rain" because "the show must go on."



# Chris O'Brien Track & Field Day

Industrial Opportunities, Inc.



Industrial Opportunities, Inc.  
Track & Field Day Sponsors

Andrews Middle School  
Andrews High School  
Marching Band & PE Students

Thank You for your support!

NC Forest Service  
Tri-County Computer  
Integrated Machining Class



## 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.

## Supporters

- In honor of Laura McKenzie Hays by W. Arthur Hays
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Thomas Carew
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Kenneth & Jean Baker
- In memory of Cecile Mattox Campbell by Jane Campbell
- In honor of Harry & Rachel Baughn by Jack D. Baughn
- In memory of Susan & Chris O'Brien by James & Ellen O'Brien
- In memory of Susan O'Brien by David & Susan Winterle
- In memory of D. Joseph O'Connor by Brian O'Connor

## Quest Fellowship

- Harriet Mulford
- Douglas Klaucke
- Kathleen Roberts
- Peter & Patricia Cook
- Rashid & Sabiha Khan
- Town of Murphy Power Board
- Roger & Regina Holloway
- Harrah's Cherokee Casino
- Tom O'Brien
- Brian Mitchell & Nancy Troxler

1974 - 2019

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

### Forty-Five Years of Service To Our Community

The staff and clients of Industrial Opportunities, Inc. express their appreciation & gratitude to the concerned citizens who have served on the IOI Board of Directors

### Current Board of Directors

Randy Wiggins, Chairman  
Lee Ferguson, Vice Chairman  
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Wheeler, Joe  
Wheeler, Robin  
Williams, Alan  
Wilson, Eleanor  
Wiggins, Randy  
Woods, Brother Ken  
Worley, Paul

# The Public Paid Attention...

## National Day for Choice Hits Record Marks



The National Day for Choice,  
April 16, 2019,  
organized all across the USA,  
asking members of Congress to

### **SUPPORT CHOICE**

Self-advocates, families,  
and communities reached  
out about the need to  
protect the guarantee of person-centered  
choices for all people with a disability.

Social media post reached more than  
30,000 people nationwide as views of  
viral videos surged to more than 10,000!

**Within the past few years new laws and regulations have taken away my choices of where I want to work, receive training and support services, even where I live.**

**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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