

# Qwest

Newsletter of Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

## A Rapid Response : IOI Responds to the Communities Short Supply of Masks

To say at this point in the year, it would be appropriate for “2020” to be the new curse word. The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced all our daily lives. Industrial Opportunities, Inc. (IOI) utilized the benefit of its dynamic workforce to re-direct product manufacturing during these trying times.

On Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> the IOI Operations Manager & Design & Development Manager showed up to work on the weekend to design & develop samples of Medical Masks in the hope IOI could contribute to the local communities healthcare providers immediate need for face masks.

The Procedural/Surgical type masks that IOI designed were delivered to the Cherokee, Clay & Graham County Health Departments, Erlanger Hospital, and the Cherokee County EMS Department for their evaluation for fit, form & function. After confirming the different agencies approved, IOI launched their first production run of 1,000 units on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>. The IOI employees immediately manufactured 5,000 masks the first week,

to meet the local community’s urgent need for surgical masks. After some re-tooling, adding some additional sewing machines and re-assigning sewing machine operators off our sub-contracts that currently sew medical and defense products for our current customers, IOI ordered raw materials, labels, boxes, and sewing machines with the goal of manufacturing 30,000 mask/week and eventually 120,000 per month. Based on Governor Cooper’s Executive Order and the Federal Government, IOI met the criteria to be deemed an essential business due to the nature of the medical and defense products the company produces.

IOI’s goal was to service our three county region (Cherokee, Clay, Graham), the Cherokee County EMS, and Erlanger Hospital providing masks and offer the masks more broadly to the 19 counties in WNC selling them to other county first responders, to initially cover the cost of raw materials.

IOI is using the sales revenue of masks and donated funding to offset cost of raw materials and labor

to manufacture the masks. To date, IOI has produced over 300,000 masks with approximately 80,000 of those begin donated to frontline healthcare essential workers, county health departments, local hospitals, churches, and non-profits.

IOI is incredibly grateful for the work we have available. Our minds keep going back to our mission and our reasoning for being here. On March 16, 2020, due to COVID-19 & Governor Cooper’s orders, to keep our clients healthy and safe, they were no longer able to come to work.

On June 22, 2020, IOI implemented a re-opening plan for the clients who were eligible (did not live in group homes) to return to IOI under strict rules and monitoring. Being that the clients are our most vulnerable population, this plan was not taken lightly. This plan had to be approved by



Cherokee County Department of Health. 19 clients were interested and willing to return to IOI and follow all the new rules that had been presented to them and their guardians.

Tri-County Community College (TCCC) has maintained contact with many of the clients, especially the ones who live in group homes and cannot return to IOI at this time through virtual media. Since re-opening our services, TCCC has provided lap top computers for classrooms where the teachers can do a virtual class each day with the clients in that room.

## When It’s Good to be Positive

During these trying times, there seems to be a lot of negative in the world. With so many unknowns, its hard to stay positive. However, IOI has received many forms of positive feedback over the past couple of months. From phone calls, e-mails, and cards to donations, we are grateful for them all. Some are life-long friends dropping a note to say “Hi”, but many are showing appreciation for the mask currently hiding smiling faces we all miss!

“They look and feel awesome, and we was SOOOO excited to get them. I think you will make

all the folks in the office feel a lot better about working in these conditions. “

“It was so thoughtful for you and your staff to send us masks for our office. We truly appreciate them. Especially during such unprecedented times. Stay safe”

“They were much more comfortable than the others we tried, and were about as durable as the multi-use ones.”

“Thank you all so much for the facemasks you sent. IOI represents a clear example of how we

as a country should be helping each other at times like this (and all of the time). We need role models like IOI as guidance through this experience. We will definitely use these masks and will also give them to anyone who needs a mask and does not have one. I am very proud of each and every person at IOI.”

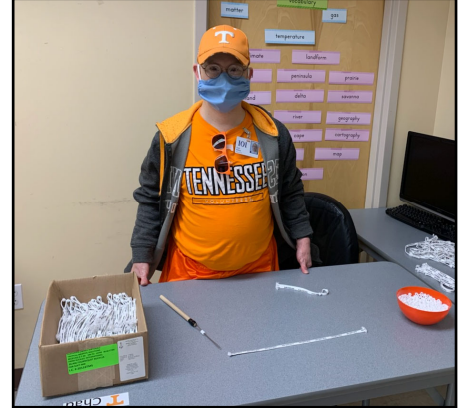
“I brought them to my group homes to have some residents and staff try them out- they had very positive reviews.”

“It has helped out our extended family in Florida mainly. This

was an unexpected gift. Fortunately, Maine is one of the few states which is doing well in this pandemic. We hope you are doing well during this strange time. God Bless and stay safe.”

“These are very comfortable and great quality. Again I cannot thank you enough for your donation, our staff and our patients thank you and your organization for all that you are doing to help us remain safe and healthy during this time.”







**Jack Ernest Earley**, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away at age 87 on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, in Marshall. Jack was born Aug. 16, 1932, in Polk County, N.C., the son of Charlie E. Earley and Odesa Searcy Earley.

Jack was blessed with two loving marriages, to Maxine Randolph Earley for 59 years before her death in 2014, and to his best friend, Nan Earley, who survives him. He also is survived by sons, Douglas and Gary (fiancée Elizabeth Griffiths); daughter, Lynn Roberson (Glenn); grandson, Connor Roberson; granddaughter, Katie Moser (Drew); and great-grandson, Chase; stepdaughters, Faith Ashe and Maria Wise and their families; sisters-in-law, Kaye Earley and Reba Earley; and a number of cousins, nieces and nephews. His parents and his

brothers, William "Bill" and Charles, preceded him in death. A celebration of Jack's life was held at noon Saturday, Feb. 8, at Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church with Dr. Chester Jones and the Rev. Noah Crowe officiating, with military honors conducted by Murphy American Legion Post 96, Hayesville VFW Post 6812 and Hayesville American Legion Post 532. Memorials may be made to Industrial Opportunities Inc., P.O. Box 1649, Andrews, NC 28901. Jack & Maxine actively supported IOI in the 1970's in it's formative years.



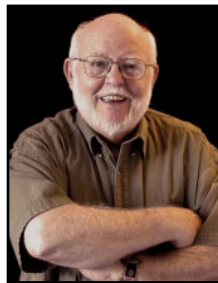
DeJarnette Hay of Atlanta, GA; a son Thomas Robert Hay III of Wilmington NC; a sister Ardith Hay Beadles of Durham NC; four grandchildren, Charles Frederick Eaton III, Daniel DeJarnette Eaton, Morgan Victoria Young and Neil Alexander Young; and two nieces, Ardith Elyse Hertzog and Elena Beadles Moul.

A private Memorial service will be planned at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be made in honor of Robert Hay to Industrial Opportunities Inc. P.O. Box 1649 Andrews, NC 28901.

Robert was a very avid supporter of IOI.

held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, August 8, 2020. The Rev. Volley Hanson officiated and military honors were provided by the Hayesville VFW Post 6812, Hayesville American Legion Post 532, and Murphy American Legion Post 96. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Boy Scouts of America, <https://www.bsafoundation.org/donor-information/howtogive/>, Salvation Army, 681 Dorsey Street, Gainesville, GA 30501, or St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Roy served on the IOI Board of Directors for eight years.



**Robert Hay**, 82, of Andrews, NC, passed away Thursday, July 9, 2020, at his residence following an illness.

Robert was the son of the late Thomas R Hay Sr and Ardith Bastow Hay. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth DeJarnette Hay of Andrews, NC. In addition to his wife Robert is survived by two daughters, Heather Hay Eaton and husband Charles of Charlotte NC and Holly

**Roy Donald Sargent**, 89, of Andrews was born on June 1, 1931 and was the son of the late Roy Coleman Sargent and Elsie Florence McDonald.

Roy married his wife Daphne Mary Irene Minton on November 14, 1953 while stationed at the USAF base in Salisbury, England. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by a grandson, Coleman Edward Sargent, and a sister, Juanita Elsie Dillard. Roy is survived by his wife, Daphne Mary Irene Sargent of 66 years; four sons, Roy Geoffrey Sargent and wife, Midori, of San Lorenzo, Calif., Mark William Sargent and wife, Louise, of Salt Lake City, UT, Robin Ian Sargent and wife, April, of Andrews, NC, and Kevin Woodley Sargent and wife, Kathy of Murphy, NC; three grandsons, Taylor, Ian, and Josh; three granddaughters, Kirsten, Ashley, and Daisy; and four great grandsons, Ian, David, Peyton, and Cillian. A private memorial service was

## Quest Fellowship

- In memory of Cherry Jarrett by Norma & David Wooden & Linda Boyles
- In memory of Glen "Carl" Smith by William & Barbara Ferguson
- In memory of Riva Callum by Mark & Susanne Parker
- In memory of Susan & Chris O'Brien by Tom O'Brien
- In memory of Dr. Jeff Larson by Celia Larson
- In memory of Maxine Earley by Sue Baldwin
- In honor of IOI by George Heilner
- In memory of Cecil Mattox Campbell by Jane E. Campbell
- In memory of Judy O'Brien Sheridan by Tom Sheridan
- In memory of Susan & Chris O'Brien by David & Susan Winterle
- In memory of Paul Golem by Betty Carpenter
- In honor of Doug Earley by Betty Massey
- In honor of George Heilner's work & ministry with military veterans by Kathryn Hoyt
- In memory of Carl Smith by Darryl & Karen Kephart
- In memory of Carl Smith by Aline Ware
- In memory of Kenneth Baker by Jean Baker
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Mark & Susanne Parker
- In memory of Robert Hay by: Fred & Karen Willes Charles & Sue West John Carringer Jannette Carringer Schuele Linda Carringer Helms Elizabeth Hay Jim & Brenda Garner Maurice & Susann West Doug & Catherine Odom Hampton DeJarnette Harry Baughn Phil & Virginia Mattox Dr. Peter & Patricia Cook Tom O'Brien
- In memory of Jack Earley by: NC Assoc of Co Ag Agents Betty Massey Sue Baldwin Charles & Judy Miller Mack & Betty Sue Cowan Carolyn Cole Neil & Robin Mara Roy & Louise Gilbert Johnny Hensley Charles & Sue West Mike Stevenson Tom O'Brien Andrew Reichman

## Supporters

- Jere & Judith Annis
- Brian O'Connor
- Dr. Peter & Patricia Cook
- Jerry & Linda Pullium
- Brian Mitchell & Nancy Troxler
- Andrew Reichman
- Ramona Hicks
- Patricia Slagle
- Bob & Judy Grove
- Catherine Riordan & Kurt Raschi
- Jill Kelly
- John & Laura Przypyszny
- Stephen & Jenny Hart
- Harriet Mulford
- Mike Stevenson
- Rashid & Sabiha Khan
- Jack Smoot
- Andrew Reichman
- Charles & Judy Miller
- David & Diane Copeland
- Phil & Virginia Mattox
- Glen & Carolyn Carson
- Jack Baughn
- Delmer & Deborah Chilton
- Harry Baughn
- Daniel & Patricia Braccio
- Sue Baldwin
- Nannetta Earley
- Thomas Carew
- Charles & Eileen Garven
- David & Susan Winterle
- Chris & Mary Jane Galvin
- John & Carol Campbell
- Daniel & Margaret Sifferlin
- Terence & Susan McNamara
- United Community Bank
- Douglas Klaucke
- Marty Mellett & Judy Walsh-Mellett

## 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.

Visit our website  
[www.industrialopportunities.com](http://www.industrialopportunities.com)

Sign-up to receive our  
newsletter on-line

# Client Questions - What's Your Thoughts?

What do you like about being back to work at IOI?

- ⇒ "I like working in the classrooms and being with some of my friends." - Claire
- ⇒ "I like the people, working and having fun with friends." - Patricia
- ⇒ "I like being at IOI and working with my friends." - Chad
- ⇒ "I like socializing again and making money." - Susan
- ⇒ "I like being back to work, making money and being back to see girlfriend." - Alvin
- ⇒ "I like being back to work." - Charles
- ⇒ "I like to come here and work." - Shawn
- ⇒ "I like being able to work." - Tim

What did you miss the most about IOI?

- ⇒ "I just missed being here, EVERYTHING, my friends!" - Claire
- ⇒ I missed by job and my friends." - Patricia
- ⇒ I miss working on the floor with my supervisor and I miss my girlfriend." - Chad
- ⇒ "I missed the people and not being able to earn money." - Susan
- ⇒ "I missed working, money, class & my girlfriend." - Alvin
- ⇒ "I missed making money." - Charles
- ⇒ "I missed my workers and friends." - Shawn
- ⇒ I missed class, seeing friends & working." - Tim

How do you like the changes at IOI since you got to come back to work?

- ⇒ "I like the classroom and getting to see my teacher on the computer." - Claire
- ⇒ "It's different. I like the classroom, but the mask irritate me a little." - Patricia
- ⇒ "I liked it better before." - Chad
- ⇒ "It's different, takes getting used to. I would rather be on the work floor." - Susan
- ⇒ "For safety purposes, it is good." - Alvin
- ⇒ "I like being back & being able to work, just don't like having to wear mask during work." - Charles
- ⇒ "I like it the way it is now." - Shawn
- ⇒ "Yea, I like the changes." - Tim

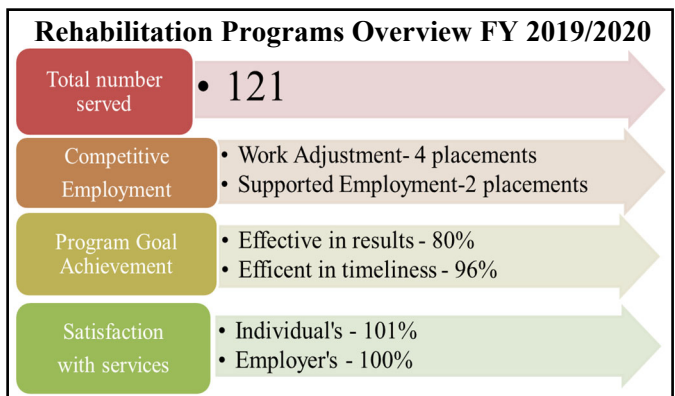
What did you do while you at home?

- ⇒ "I hung out with my mom." - Claire
- ⇒ "I spent time with my AFL." - Patricia
- ⇒ "I helped my mom with chores and watched movies." - Chad
- ⇒ "I did laundry, emptied the dishwasher, folded clothes, vacuum, & visited husband." - Susan
- ⇒ "I watched TV & played with my nerf guns." - Alvin
- ⇒ "I weedeated." - Charles

- ⇒ "I watched movies, listened to CD's & colored." - Shawn
- ⇒ I walked, listen to CD's & watched DVD's." - Tim

How do you feel about having to wear a mask?

- ⇒ "I don't like it but gotta do what you gotta do!" - Susan
- ⇒ If it keeps you safe good, but I do know that wearing one stops you from spreading the virus. It does not stop you from getting it." - Alvin
- ⇒ "Not very happy at all, mask make me feel uncomfortable. I would like to be able to take it off and breath." - Charles
- ⇒ "Feels uncomfortable." - Shawn
- ⇒ "It's uncomfortable." - Tim



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Industrial Opportunities, Inc. • P.O. Box 1649 • Andrews, NC 28901  
828-321-4754 • Fax 828-321-4784 • 800-872-4264 • E-mail jessie@elasticproducts.com**

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