



*Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with Peace, Joy and Success*



Tricia designed the artwork for the IOI 2016 Christmas card. The clients who chose to participate, submitted a hand drawn Christmas card to be voted on by the IOI staff.

## Jackson achieving dreams at IOI

Opportunity is what Industrial Opportunities, Inc. is all about. Rheuban Jackson can tell you why this community rehabilitation program and employer is so important to Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties.

Thanks to the IOI mission of helping individuals achieve gainful employment, this was just the opportunity Jackson needed to start realizing his dreams.

Jackson is a charming 21-year old man with autism spectrum disorder. After graduating from high school, he did some volunteer work in Maryland, where he is from. Having relatives in North Carolina, he decided to move and get a new start.

Upon arriving in North Carolina a little over a year ago, Jackson knew he would need a driver's license, car and a job in order to achieve his dream of becoming independent. He applied for services with the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and was referred by his rehabilitation counselor for a vocational assess-

ment at IOI, since he didn't have a work history.

In order to assess his vocational strengths, Jackson was provided an opportunity to train on a variety of production jobs at IOI. When the assessment was complete and it was time to work with an employment specialist for employment, he was offered a full-time position at IOI.

"Rheuban does a great job. He assembles two types of tourniquets and can assemble the one with the most steps faster than the other one," said Samantha Loudermilk, IOI Employment Specialist who works with Jackson. "He does an amazing job and has lots of friends at IOI."

According to Tom O'Brien, IOI President, these specially designed tourniquets are provided to U.S. military soldiers on the front lines. It is critical for the quality to be very high in order to save lives. Jackson not only assembles them quickly but more importantly, according to the stringent specifications necessary for the

life-saving device.

"I like my job. I make good money and have good benefits like PTO (paid time off) and insurance," Jackson said. "I have my driver's license, a car and I live in my own house now. I try to do something to better myself every day."

Jackson has worked hard and achieved many of his dreams over the past year but still has time to enjoy his family and other things in the community. He likes music, all types, and especially enjoys singing pop and gospel songs.

Jackson also has additional goals for his future.

"I want to buy or build a house to live in or for rental income," said Jackson with a smile.

Employment at IOI will help him achieve these goals.

To learn more about the opportunities available at IOI, visit the website

[www.industrialopportunities.com](http://www.industrialopportunities.com)

This past year, IOI has been able to expand its employment opportunities because of a grant from



the Evergreen Foundation.

To find out more about grants to support programs and services for individuals with mental health, substance abuse or intellectual/developmental disabilities, visit the Evergreen Foundation website at

[www.evergreenfoundationnc.org](http://www.evergreenfoundationnc.org).

The writer is executive director of the Evergreen Foundation. Call her at 828-456-8005 or e-mail [dcoleman@evergreennc.org](mailto:dcoleman@evergreennc.org).

# Life-saving Equipment



The Andrews Police Department would like to thank Tom O'Brien and Roger Holloway of Industrial Opportunities, Inc. for having us over. The staff of IOI all pitched in and donated their own money that was matched by the United Way so that they could donate Tactical Tourniquets to all emergency services personnel in the local area. We, at the Andrews Police Department are some of the first to receive these life-saving pieces of equipment. As a military veteran, I know firsthand how these tourniquets save lives. Officers of the Andrews Police Department will be issued these tourniquets immediately. God bless you, IOI, for

your support and concern for the safety of those that hold the line for the safety of the community. We presented 375 tourniquets to Cherokee County Manager Randy Wiggins, Al Lovingood, the new EMS Director, and EMS personnel. United Way was the primary sponsor of this project. 500 tourniquets – 100 for Clay County EMS and 432 for Cherokee County, counting the 16 to Andrews and 41 given earlier to Cherokee County EMS in the summer.

Richard Taylor, Andrews Police Chief

# BC Machining



(Back - L to R) Brent Schill, Mike Christiansen, Roger Holloway (IOI), Ricky Lancaster, Bob Merrill, Levi Gentle, Bobby Merrill, Steve Nicholson (Front L to R) Mike Driskell, Tim Merrill

BC Machining gave 75% of the cost to purchase 100 tourniquets for Clay County Emergency Responders. Ricky Lancaster EMS Director will be responsible for the distribution in Clay County. Clay County paid the remaining 25% of the cost. The tourniquet is a tactical tourniquet and the best on the market. BC Machining provides the rod for these tourniquets and IOI makes these tourniquets for Tactical Medical Solutions. IOI makes over 3,000 per day and they are shipped all over the world to different counties. IOI is very proud to partner with BC Machining and Tactical Medical Solutions to not only provide this life saving device all over the world, but to have it available for the local emergency responders in Clay and Cherokee counties. Tactical Medical Solutions gave a reduced price on these tourniquets which allowed this project to happen. This was a good community funding project that benefits all citizens of Clay and Cherokee counties.



# United Way



IOI employees and clients help United Way by providing the labor for the Christmas mailing that goes to all citizens in Clay and Cherokee counties. This is just another small effort of IOI giving back to our community, as our community has given so much to the clients of IOI. Support for both is very important. Thanks in advance for your continued support!

**Merry Christmas!**

May your holidays be happy days, filled with love and laughter.

And may each day bring joy your way in the year that follows after!



# Gentex Awarded Business Partnership Award



Clients & Hab Techs working on Gentex products.

Every year the MARC group recognizes a business within the MARC group which provided business opportunities that help serve companies serving adults with disabilities. MARC ranges from Murphy to Charlotte and is comprised of 17 organizations serving over 30 counties. IOI presented Jim Montenegro, Gentex Vice President of Purchasing, with a plaque recognizing the value of the business opportunities that Gentex has provided IOI employees and clients during the past year. These opportunities continue to grow and open new opportunities for products to be manufactured by IOI. Currently, IOI produces helmet liners and helmet covers for helmets that Gentex produces for the military.



Roger Hollway, IOI CFO, Jim Montenegro, Gentex Vice President of Purchasing, & Pat Lennex, IOI Operations Manager

## 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.

## From the Mail Bag...

Thank you and your staff for generously supporting our benefit lunch on Tuesday. It is amazing the success that comes from such positive partnerships to benefit our local underprivileged children. We don't have the final figure yet, but we anticipate clearing over \$4200 which will be split evenly between Shop-with-a-Cop and Toys for Tots. IOI was the largest purchaser of meals this year and we very grateful for your support. Regardless of the challenge, we are blessed to be so strongly supported by our local businesses and citizens and are proud to serve and make every attempt to continue being an asset to the businesses, citizens and visitors to our community.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas to you, your staff and each family member.

Al Lovingood

## Supporters

- In memory of Cherry Jarrett by Martha Rockwell
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Thomas Carew
- In memory of Maxine Earley by Sue Baldwin
- In memory of The O'Brien & Isidor Families by Ken & Peg Isidor
- In memory of D. Joseph O'Connor from the Ginsberg Family Fund
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Tom & Susan O'Brien
- In memory of The O'Brien and Pruzinsky Families by Thomas Sheridan
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Kenneth & Toni Lovingood
- In memory of Warren Wise by Nan Earley
- In memory of D. Joseph O'Connor by Brian O'Connor
- In memory of Douglas Earley by Jack & Nan Earley
- In memory of Rose El-Khoury by Tom & Susan O'Brien

## Quest Fellowship

- A+ Products
- Jerome & Julie Chautin
- Jack Baughn
- George Heilner
- BC Machining, LLC (Tourniquet Project)
- Phillip & Virginia Mattox
- Ashid & Abiha Khan
- United Way (Tourniquet Project)
- Cherokee County (Tourniquet Project)
- Clay County EMS (Tourniquet Project)

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

Sign-up to  
 Receive our newsletter on-line



# Merry Christmas from the clients of Industrial Opportunities, Inc.



**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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