

# Quest

Newsletter of Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

## Everyone's a winner at bowling tournament



Re-print from *Cherokee Scout*  
By Karen M. Francis

The Angie Harris Memorial Bowling Tournament was held at Franklin Lanes on Oct. 6.

This was the 35th year that St. William Catholic Church in Murphy sponsored the event, along with IOI - Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

- located in Andrews, and MCE - Macon County Enterprises - located in Franklin.

There were a total of 83 bowlers. This tournament is for mentally and physically challenged adults from workshops. This annual activity demonstrates St. William Parish's continued commitment to embracing our disabled community.

After lunch, medals were given to every athlete who participated in the tournament, as well as awards for first, second, and third place medals for the winners.

Thanks to co-chairpersons Carole Johnson and Jean Hobbs and all the volunteers, who made the day an excellent experience for all of the participants.

## Directors Honored for Impact in Vocational Rehabilitation

Senior Director for Employment Services Claudia Horn and Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division Director Tara Myers each won the Director's Award from the Marketing Association for Rehabilitation Centers, Inc. (MARC).

The awards were presented at the organization's annual meeting and awards luncheon in October. MARC represents a consortium of 14 community rehabilitation programs that provide training and employment services for people with disabilities in western North Carolina.

The partnership between VR and community rehabilitation providers continues to be strong and productive, Myers said.

"Our collaborative efforts create



Claudia Horn, Michael Maybee, President/CEO of Watauga Opportunities, Inc., and Tara Myers

opportunities and help level the playing field for those we serve, equipping them with workplace skills and experiences that foster independence and self-sufficiency," she said. "Together, we have access to more community resources and can develop more meaningful relationships with local employers."

## Evergreen Foundation Awards Grant to IOI

Industrial Opportunities, Inc. staff Dennis Myers, Rosalyn Jones and clients are all smiles along with Denise Coleman, Executive Director of Evergreen Foundation (second from right). IOI was awarded the Evergreen Foundation Grant this summer which in turn made it possible for IOI to purchase a

2017 Ford transit van. This van will allow the company to continue to have client community outings for Vocational Training and Life Skills Programs as well as transporting Cherokee, Clay and Graham County High School students for Job Exploration and Work-Based Learning Experiences for Pre-Employment Transition Services Activities. Since purchasing the van, clients have been on at least two outings per week. When asked about what they liked about the new van, clients responded that they "loved our new van, it's easier to



get in to, smelled good, comfortable, clean, plenty of room and drives good." Students participating in Pre-Employment Transition Services have also given rave reviews and always look forward to exploring community work sites in the van. Appreciation and gratitude are two words that come to mind to express the response IOI had when awarded the Evergreen Foundation Grant. This van has helped enhance the lives of clients and students in the tri-county area of WNC and will continue to do so for years to come.

The award, presented annually by MARC's Board of Directors, selects those whose work, actions or advocacy have made a lasting impact on the economic or social quality of life for people with disabilities or disadvantages.

A team approach is the best way to achieve successful outcomes for clients, Horn said.

"Community rehabilitation programs expand the impact of VR by linking our clients to competitive jobs in their own communities," she said. "These providers

are focused on engaging employers and creating opportunities for training, on-the-job learning experiences, and employment for our clients."

MARC member organizations believe all individuals have the right to be respected, to have equal opportunities, to work and to earn a fair wage. MARC's Board of Directors and staff support the concept that through meaningful, satisfying work, people can live more independently, successfully and productively.



## IOI donates to United Way of Cherokee and Clay Counties

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Presentation of a check for \$1,000 Donated to United Way of Cherokee and Clay Counties by IOI employees! This donation was a result of Payroll deductions made by employees that goes to a very worthy cause. United Way of Cherokee and Clay Counties serves various agencies such as food pantries in Hayesville, Andrews, and Murphy; Reach; etc. IOI also provides the labor for the bulk mailings by United Way of Cherokee and Clay counties. This labor is primarily performed by IOI clients. IOI is proud of being a partner for United Way of Cherokee and Clay counties.



IOI served as the Grand Marshal of the Andrews Christmas Parade in memory of Chris O'Brien.



# A Tribute to Paul - A "Founder and Trail Blazer"



In 1974, gathered around the kitchen table of Anne and Arnie Golem, the idea for The Marble Activity Center (now

known as Industrial Opportunities, Inc. - IOI) was born. The group of concerned parents and citizens were gathered to make a better future for their young adults who had completed high school. The Marble Activity Center started with two staff members serving nine adults with disabilities with a \$26,337 budget. Little did they know that their creation would continue to flourish and grow into a \$10,000,000 social enterprise that makes items sold around the world and serves 124 individuals annually with 200 full time employees.

**Paul Golem**, the son of Anne and Arnie, was the catalyst that gathered support from others that brought IOI to fruition. Paul experienced

all the moves and changes that enhanced IOI's growth to the program/company that it is today. Paul participated in the community outings and the classes offered but most of all, he enjoyed working. Paul's parents made plans for his future wellbeing by finding an Alternative Family Living (AFL) where Paul could live and be part of a family as his parents health began to fail. Paul became involved in all the activities the AFL did. As the AFL began to travel more, Paul eventually "retired" from IOI in 2010 so he could also travel. Through these travels, Paul was able to attend a nephew's wedding in Wisconsin and also return to Buffalo, NY, for his high school reunion.

As his health changed, Paul became a resident of the Murphy Medical Center Nursing home in 2015. He was very involved in all the activities. He was crowned the Valentine King his first year there which was a huge honor for him. Paul was the center's official greeter

- not only for other residents, but for all visitors. Paul always had a positive outlook and had an awesome memory. He was an intuitive and caring person. Paul enjoyed life no matter where he was. And if he had a cup of coffee, life was even better!



We were saddened to learn Paul passed away on August 21, 2017. Though Paul had moved on from the programs at IOI, many of us have fond memories of him. Some of us even experienced his jovialness when we would visit family members at the nursing home.

Paul did not realize how many lives he touched by forging the way for IOI to continue to grow. He was just being his gregarious self! The legacy of that small group of people who cared about the future of their young adults will carry on. The spirit of Paul will always be ingrained in IOI.

## A Tribute to Wanda



On August 13, 2017, we lost another member of our programs, Wanda Coggins. Wanda had participated in the programs at IOI since February, 2007. Each day Wanda came to IOI with a bright smile on her face and a hearty laugh in her heart. She loved to show you her new clothes and jewelry. She especially enjoyed having her fingernails painted. That was the ultimate treat for her. On every Friday afternoon and at other special events

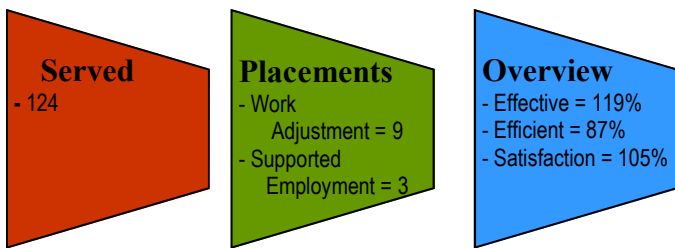
where there was music, you would find Wanda dancing - dancing with rhythm and soul to any song that was played. Even as Wanda's health began to fail, she remained a champion in everything she did until the very end. Though many of us were preparing ourselves for the day Wanda would not be coming to IOI, no preparation truly prepares a person for that phone call. We miss seeing Wanda every day but we know in our hearts that she is smiling and dancing whenever she wants to!



### Supporters

- In honor of Doug Earley & Richard Dean Kohler by Diane Blakemore
- In memory of Maxine Earley by Carolyn Cole
- In memory of Jack Davis by Diane Davis
- In memory of Chris O'Brien by Tom & Susan O'Brien
- In memory of Paul Golem by: Donald & Betty Carpenter  
Denise Goodson  
Tom & Susan O'Brien  
Nancy Fox  
Mark & Janet Stofega  
Robert & Claudia Moran  
Theresa Martin  
Nancy Lee  
Anthony, Barbara & Catherine El-Khoury

### IOI 2016 - 2017 Program Outcomes



### Quest Fellowship

- Hunter Lee Elliott
- Karen Ann Simmons
- Tony & Suzy Deaton
- St. William Catholic Church
- St. William Ladies Guild
- St. William Catholic Church Men's Club
- First Citizens Bank
- Ellen Davis
- Catherine Riordan & Kurt Raschi

Merry

Christmas  
holidays

FROM



IOI

*In warm appreciation from our employees, we extend our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with Peace, Joy and Success*

*This is the artwork of our annual Christmas card designed by our 2017 Christmas Card Contest Winner: Lisa A.*

**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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