

Quest

Newsletter of Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

Laughter, Bowling at Harrah's

By Kelsey Richardson
Andrews Journal

Cheering and laughter resonated from the UltraStar Multi-Tainment Center at Harrah's Valley River Casino & Hotel, as people participated in the 36th-annual Angie Harris Memorial Bowling Tournament on Friday. Around 100 collective members from Industrial Opportunities, Inc., Macon Citizens Abilities, Inc. and Vocational Opportunities of Cherokee, Inc. packed into the center, eager to share in the activity and see old friends. "We've been doing this for 18 years," said Bonnie Bennet, coordinator at Macon Citizens Abilities, Inc. "Watching these guys come year after year, it's wonderful."

Hosted by St. William Catholic Church, this week's event marked the 36th year of holding the tournament. Carole Johnson, one of the church's volunteers, said the tournament became dedicated to Angie Harris during its 14th year. Harris, who was the chairperson of the event, passed away and the competition was changed from the IOI Bowling Tournament to the Angie Harris Memorial Bowling Tournament in her honor.

Usually held in Franklin, the event moved to Murphy because of the opening of the UltraStar Multi-Tainment Center. Josh Chatham, who works at Industrial Opportunities, Inc., said he was impressed with the new facility and happy to bowl with his friends. "I like the new bowling alley," he said. "It's fancier and nicer than the other bowling alleys." Dennis Jumper, one of four members from Vocational Op-



portunities of Cherokee, Inc. who attended, was pleased to bowl for the first time and successfully knock over pins. Misti Webb, Operations Manager at Vocational Opportunities of Cherokee, Inc., said one of the most rewarding aspects of the trip was witnessing everyone's laughter. "We do this mostly so they can have fun, are able to handle crowds, experience something new and exercise," Webb said. While having fun was focused upon more than the competitive side of the tournament, teams and individuals were still awarded for their efforts. Michael Orr from Industrial Opportunities, Inc. finished second in individual scoring. The second-place team included Industrial Opportunities, Inc. members John Christopher, Tim Martin, Judy Bailey, Jimmy Hardin, April Cable and Brad Penland. Third place went to Vocational Opportunities of Cherokee, Inc.'s team of Dennis Jumper, Nathan Gaddis, Thomas Smith and Robert Kanott.

Pre-Employment Transition Services Program Aids in Students Success

Industrial Opportunities, Inc. was awarded a grant contract with the Department of Health and Human Services that allowed IOI to offer a program called (Pre-ETS) Pre-Employment Transition Services. IOI was one of the six original facilities to receive the grant. There are currently thirteen statewide. Pre-ETS is a class that gives high school students the opportunity to participate in a specific set of activities that are mandated by law to expose them to employment skills and various options. During this course, students complete job exploration counseling, workplace readiness training and work-based learning experience activities. These activities help them to understand how to better transition from high school to their choice of post secondary education or straight into the work force.

Last year the Pre-ETS team traveled to six different schools within the 3 surrounding counties, an area covering 920 square miles, to serve a total of 72 students. All of these students were chosen to participate in the program by the Exceptional Children's personnel. During the class, Pre-ETS staff assisted students in deciding what they would be interested in doing after high school. Out of the 72 students who participated in the program, approximately 21 students have found employment in the community. The various employment opportunities include retail, food

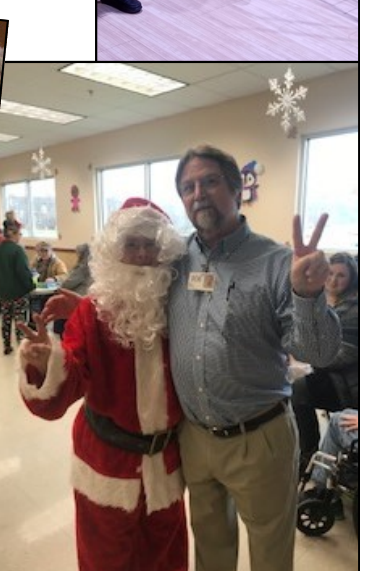
service, industrial and technical jobs.

One student in particular attended Tri-County Community College in order to attain his class A commercial driver's license (CDL). This certification expanded his employment opportunities and allowed him to find employment at Builders First-Source in Blairsville, GA. Another student was hired at Industrial Opportunities, Inc. shortly after he graduated. Pre-ETS staff spoke with him to ask how the



Pre-ETS program helped to contribute to his employment and he said, "The class helped me learn how to fill out applications the right way. I didn't even know what a reference was before I took the Pre-ETS class. It also helped with my communication

skills." He also told staff that working at IOI enabled him to get approved for a car loan through the State Employees' Credit Union, which he used to buy a black, 2017 Dodge Challenger. Staff could tell that he was very proud of his new car and proud to have a job. Students who have completed the Pre-ETS program have really seemed to benefit from it. It has helped to teach them the skills they need to achieve their goals in life. IOI will continue to make great efforts to assure that students in the program gain employment and have the same equal opportunities as everyone else.



Merry Christmas!





This year, I want Santa to bring me some Hatchimals - April C.



This year, I want Santa to bring me Elvis Presley Blue Christmas music and some Orange Tennessee Volunteer stuff - Chad P.



My favorite food at Christmas is omelets - Richard K.

My favorite Christmas Tradition is our church Christmas play. - Penny L.

My Christmas wish is for me and my family to have a blessed, happy & healthy 2019. - Brenda L.

My favorite Christmas Tradition is spending time with my family. - Naomi Reid.

My favorite food at Christmas is ham and potato casserole. - Jacob B.

My favorite food at Christmas is turkey & stuffing - Charles B.

Quest Fellowship

- Catherine Riordan & Kurt Raschi
- John & Carol Campbell
- John & Laura Przepyszny
- Rev. Arnold & Amanda Hovis
- Karen Ann Simmons
- MARC
- Tony & Susanna Deaton
- Jack Earley
- Helping Hands Circle
- Jerry & Linda Pullium
- Sue Baldwin
- A+ Products

Supporters

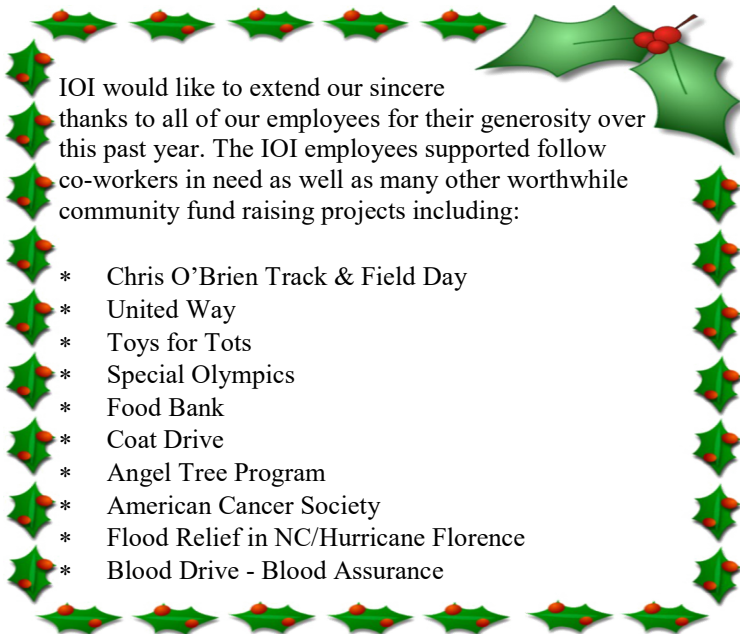
- In memory of Maxine Earley by Sue Baldwin
- In memory of Mary Ella Mauney by Harry Baughn
- In memory of Susan O'Brien by Mary & William Block
- In honor of Doug Earley by Nannetta Ealey
- In memory of Susan O'Brien by Joseph & Elizabeth Walton
- In memory of Judy O'Brien Sheridan by Tom Sheridan
- In memory of Susan & Chris O'Brien by Tom O'Brien
- In honor of "the excellent work of IOI over the past 40 plus years" by George Heilner
- In memory of Annabelle & Paul Golem by Betty Carpenter
- In memory of Susan O'Brien by Patricia Slagle

From the Mail Bag...

A Heartfelt Thank You from Appalachian Angels

Thank you for your donation to our second annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. Our sincere appreciation cannot be overstated. This event was a huge success; the total raised is in excess of \$7,300.00. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization with no paid staff or overhead, therefore, one hundred percent of funds raised go to support children in foster care. Your support of these children, who, for many reasons, no longer reside with their families, is exemplary. Thanks to you, and your support of our community, The 30th Judicial District of the State of North Carolina is a better place for children.

David Lance
Chairman
Appalachian Angels
Board of Directors



IOI would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our employees for their generosity over this past year. The IOI employees supported follow co-workers in need as well as many other worthwhile community fund raising projects including:

- * Chris O'Brien Track & Field Day
- * United Way
- * Toys for Tots
- * Special Olympics
- * Food Bank
- * Coat Drive
- * Angel Tree Program
- * American Cancer Society
- * Flood Relief in NC/Hurricane Florence
- * Blood Drive - Blood Assurance

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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 card was handmade by our 2018 Christmas Card Contest Winner: Chad P.

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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