

Quest

Newsletter of Industrial Opportunities, Inc.

Industrial Opportunities, Inc. Gives Back to Community



Throughout the year, Industrial Opportunities Inc. employees participated in several fundraising efforts resulting in \$4,225 to donate to local charity, including a \$1,000 donation to the Cherokee County Food Bank. Shown at the presentation are Gene Craig, Frank Jones (front from left), Claudette Morgan, Barbara El-Khouri (second row), Juanita Phillips, Eloise Mason (third row) and Jacob Bradley (back).



Industrial Opportunities Inc. HR Clerk, Kristen Matheson (center) presenting gifts on behalf of IOI to Carrie Jump (left) and Jill Thistle (right), the Community Connections Angel Tree Program representatives.

Wednesday, December 2, 2020
Cherokee Scout
This year 2020 has been like no other. Even with the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it has brought to everyone, Industrial Opportunities Inc. Chief Executive Officer Tom O'Brien said, "IOI has been blessed, and we are glad to be able to share our blessings with others." Throughout the year, IOI employees participated in several fundraising efforts raising \$4,225 to donate to charity. IOI employees also purchased gifts for 20 angels from the Angel Tree program through Community Connections. Donations were made to

the Cherokee County Food Bank, Toys for Tots and the United Way of Cherokee and Clay Counties. IOI also produced and donated more than 150,000 face masks to frontline health-care workers at the three county health departments, EMS, physician offices and the hospital. Other face mask donations were made to schools, churches, and other local non-profits, with another 150,000 face masks being sold to others at cost. "Just a small part IOI felt it could give back to a wonderful community that has given us so much support throughout the years" O'Brien said.



Industrial Opportunities Inc. employees in Andrews donate more than \$800 to Cherokee County Toys for Tots. Shown are (from left) Martin Barros, Toys for Tots Marble/Andrews coordinator; Angie Dailey, David Rogers, Anna Garland and Shannin West, IOI Human Resources Manager.

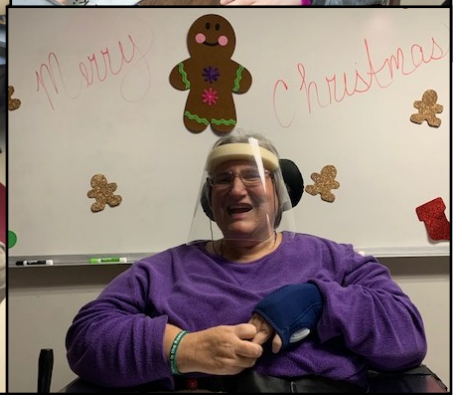
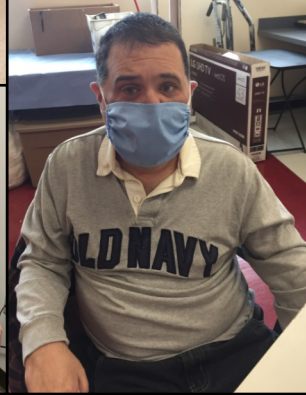
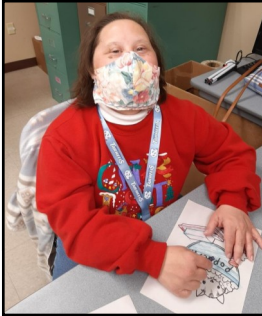
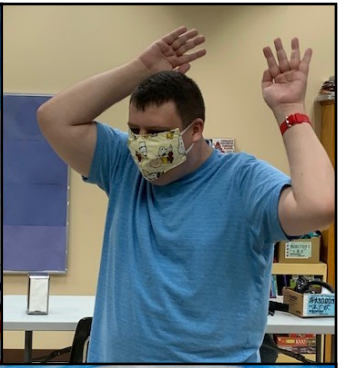
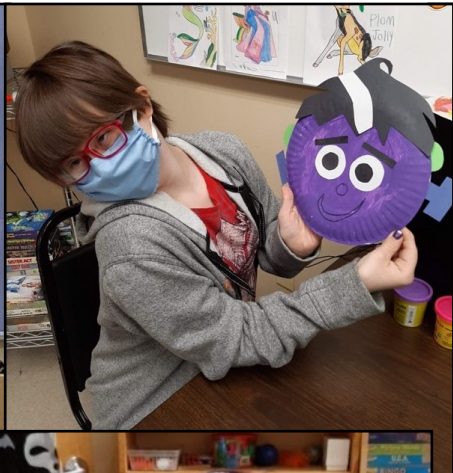
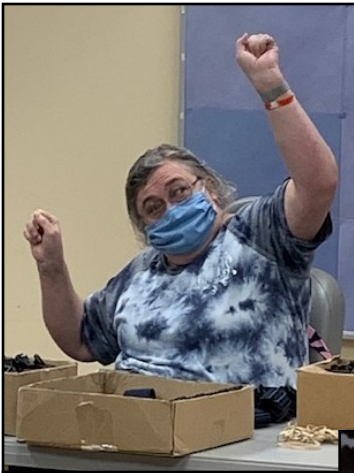


This holiday season, we are forever grateful of the blessings that IOI has received this year. The year 2020 has been full of uncertainty for us all. We would like to thank each of our friends and family for all of the continued support that has been shown to IOI over the years. Thank you for all the positive e-mails, cards and calls.

"Hi Tom, I got the masks yesterday. They're great! Many stops along the way, sharing a little of the wealth each time. They are more comfortable than the ones I've got here. Sadly, I think your product will be in greater demand in the months to come. These are hard times for everyone in many ways, connections with friends and loved ones are more important than ever. I wear the masks and know that you're out there, and that's a good feeling. I hope you are well, keep up the good work. "

"We'll use some for ourselves and then distribute the rest to people who need them. I know that some of our neighbors can use them, and I'm going to put them in my therapy bag to give out to families at my home visits."

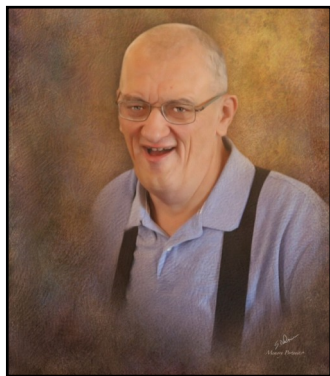
"Thank you for the box of masks you recently sent me. Rest assured I am using them. This was a thoughtful gesture indeed. I appreciate IOI for what you do and offer to our area. You are to be commended for making many lives better."



In Memory...

Jimmy Gay Hardin, age 57 of Andrews, NC passed away on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

He was a native and lifelong resident of Cherokee County, NC and the son to Lois Ann Gibby Baker and the late Ronald Gay Hardin. Jimmy was a member of the class of 1981 of Murphy High School. He began a most rewarding job at Industrial Opportunities Incorporated at the age of 18 and continued working there for the past 39 years. His favorite job was stringing and threading suspenders. He always wore suspenders! Jimmy loved to go, go, go! The beach was his favorite vacation. Church was his special place to go where he always sang loudly! He always had his radio playing gospel and country music and you could hear him whistling and singing from a distance. Jimmy enjoyed playing his guitar. He loved to walk, bowl, participate in Special games and attend dances and parties and getting dressed up. He was a master architect, building perfect pyramids with pennies. He always started the day with a shower, shave and a perfectly coordinated outfit. He got excited over new shoes, watches, Christmas and birthdays. He was known for his dancing to every song at events, singing Amazing Grace, and his big smile and friendly greeting. He was so loved by his family and friends. Haylee loved his "Beep, Beep" and walking the country roads with him. His sister, Donna, was his game and TV partner and best friend. Payton was his personal tutor and achieved counting success with him. Lynn spoiled him rotten making him her



co-pilot and fostered his language development. He loved his Granny and his Mama. He was a member of the Robbinsville Church of God. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his granny, Edlee Gibby; great aunt, Lucy Gregory; great grandmother, Jincy Gibby; nephew, Ashley Jordan; and stepfather, Ralph Baker. He is survived by his mother, Lois Ann Gibby Baker; five sisters, Teresa (Terry) Hardin, Joy Acker, Rhonda Smiley, Crystal Slivers and Donna Earwood; and two step sisters, Lisa Foster and Teresa Wilson. Jimmy was also blessed with a very special family including Lynn and Justin Hyde, Carver, Kathy, Tricia, Dalton, McKensey and Payton. Services were held at 3 pm, Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Townson-Rose Funeral Home Chapel of Andrews. Pastor Curtis Ledford, Roman Bailey and Pastor Hank Kirkland officiated. Music was sung by Brenda Gibby and the King family. Eulogy was given by his baby sister, Rhonda Smiley. Burial was in the Valletown Cemetery. Pallbearers were Hayden Smiley, his nephews, Zachery and Kanon Acker, Justin

Edward Lee Ferguson 60, of Murphy passed away Friday, September 25, 2020 at his residence. He was a native and lifetime resident of Cherokee County and was born and raised in the Peachtree community. Lee was a 1978 graduate of Murphy High School and later received his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from Western Carolina University. He had worked for Southwire for 33 years, serving as Plant Manager for the last 17 years. Lee was currently employed at Clay County Soil and Water Conservation. He was a fourth-generation farmer on Ferguson Farms, which was his passion. He enjoyed spending time with his wife, children, and granddaughter. Lee was a member of Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. He was also a member of Gideon's International. He was the son of the late Jack and Madge Ferguson formerly of Peach-

tree. Lee is survived by his wife of 32 years, Susan Ridenhour Ferguson. In addition to his wife he is also survived by a daughter; Leanne Ferguson Grady and Jacob, of Raleigh, a son; Bryan Ferguson and Kerrigan of Murphy, a sister; Maryann Lundstrom and Steven, of Huntington Beach, CA, and one granddaughter; Evie Kate Ferguson. Memorial services were at 1:00 pm Monday, September 28, 2020 at Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church, with Dr. Chester Jones officiating. The church requests that those who attend wear a mask prior to being seated. The Family received friends from 11:00-12:45 Monday, September 28, at Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to Gideon's International PO Box 164 Murphy,

Hyde, Richard Harris, Jan Barnett and James Sertain. Honorary pallbearers were Jerry Holloway and Charles Bradley.

The family received friends from 1 pm - 3 pm, Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Townson-Rose Funeral Home Chapel of Andrews. In lieu of flowers, donations to Industrial Opportunities Incorporated, IOI, 2586 US-19 BUS, Andrews, NC 28901, in Jimmy's memory. Townson-Rose Funeral Home was in charge of all arrangements.

"I Made It Home"

I just wanted to let you know that I have made it home.

Everything is so pretty here, so white, so fresh, so new.

I wish that you could close your eyes so you could see it too.

Please try not to be sad for me. Try to understand.

God is taking care of me...I'm in the shelter of His hands.

Here there is no sadness, and no sorrow, and no pain.

Here there is no crying, and I'll never hurt again.

Here it is so peaceful, when all the angels sing.

I really have to go for now...I've just got to try my wings.

P.S...I'll be the first face you see when you get here!



NC 28906 or Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church Youth Program 1650 NC Hwy 141 Murphy, NC 28906. Ivie Funeral Home, Murphy was in charge of all arrangements. Lee served on the IOI Board of Directors for multiple terms holding positions of chairman & vice-chairman.

Supporters

- Thomas Carew
- Frederick & Karen Willes
- George Heilner
- Andrew Reichman
- Glen & Carolyn Carson
- Anne Finn
- A+ Products
- Charles & Sue West
- Jack Smoot
- Doug & Cathie Odom
- Tom O'Brien
- Betty Kilpatrick Ttee
- Ramona Hicks
- Kathleen R. Roberts
- Hampton Dejarnette
- Joel Storrow
- Karen Simmons
- Sisters of Saint Joseph
- Martin Mellett & Judith Walsh-Mellett
- Dean Baughn
- Joseph & Elizabeth Walton
- Sue Baldwin
- Elizabeth Hay

Quest Fellowship

- In memory of Annabelle Golem by Betty Carpenter
- In memory of Chris & Susan O'Brien by Jim & Ellen O'Brien
- In memory of Robert Hay by Jerry & Linda Pullium
- In memory of Paul Golem by Theresa Martin
- In honor of Tom O'Brien by Dwight & Linda Dickinson
- In memory of Robert Hay by Brian Mitchell
- In memory of Jack Earley by Brian Mitchell
- In honor of my grandchildren, Justin & Jayda Holley by Betty Kilpatrick
- In memory of Lee Ferguson by Phil & Virginia Mattox
- In memory of Jimmy Hardin by Dean & Peggy Gibby
- In memory of Jack Earley by Jim Lunsford, Sam & Kathy Fuerst
- In memory of Jack Early by Judy, Jere & Lisa Annis
- In memory of Jimmy Hardin by Harry Baughn
- In memory of Robert Hay by Frank & Erla Jones
- In honor of Keith Smith by Aline Ware
- In memory of Jimmy Hardin by Tom O'Brien
- In memory of Lee Ferguson by Tom O'Brien
- In memory of Jimmy Hardin by Lynne Manning
- In memory of Lee Ferguson by Patricia Slagle
- In memory of Jimmy Hardin by Patricia Slagle

Merry Christmas from our Herd!

claire
Davi
Susan
Nicki
John
Isaac
mika P
charles
CHADLER



SHAWN
Mansard
Keith
TIM
Angela H.
Dwight
Patrick
alvin

As the Holiday Season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on previous years and on those who have helped us shape our business. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come.



We wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Peace & Prosperity!

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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