The three-day RCS Empowers, Inc. Art Show had an attendance close to 450 visitors. The event featured 152 RCS Empowers artists and a total of 684 pieces of art. The RCS artists sold $823 worth of art work at the event. Artist Joeanne Burrell sold the most pieces to gross $53. The art show received an additional $189 in donations, which included William Castelaz’ prints that sold. Thank you for coming out to support our artists.

A special thank you to our art show judges, Terri Yoho, Kohler Foundation Executive Director, Betty Schmitt, RCS Empowers Vocational Trainer, Tim Dekker, Animation Artist Extraordinaire, and Kitty Lynne Klich, Artist/Owner of The Studio.

“Heigh-Ho, Heigh-Ho, it's off to work we go!” Planning is underway for next year’s annual show! The 2017 RCS show will be a production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. RCS participants, staff and volunteers will be working to put together a fantastic show for our audiences. The dates for the 2017 show are April 3-7, featuring two morning performances and two evening performances. In order to focus our time and efforts on the performances, RCS will not be doing a fundraiser dinner.

Tickets for all performances will go on sale through Ticket Leap on March 1st. For more information visit: https://www.rcsempowers.com/rcs-play/
RCS Empowers, Inc. Community Employment Highlights
Third Quarter 2016

RCS Employment Services prepares and assists individuals to obtain employment in the community. Employers benefit from RCS support services and receive numerous benefits from hiring people with unique abilities. For more information on obtaining employment in the community or to see how RCS Employment Services might benefit your business, call Lynn Justinger, Employment Services Coordinator at 920-694-1206.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following individuals who were hired to work in the community and the individuals who chose not to be publicly recognized. We are proud of your accomplishment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richard Schilsky</th>
<th>Above &amp; Beyond Children's Museum</th>
<th>John Kaiser</th>
<th>Kwik Trip #139</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Josue Nunez</td>
<td>Al and Al's Steinhaus</td>
<td>Jason Fleischfresser</td>
<td>Lake Country Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Meinnert</td>
<td>CleanPower, LLC</td>
<td>David Eirich</td>
<td>Little Caesar's Pizza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelley MacLaughlin</td>
<td>Festival Foods</td>
<td>Therese Schumacher</td>
<td>Salon 511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Meyer</td>
<td>Festival Foods</td>
<td>Lisa Guelig</td>
<td>Service Master</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Gomez</td>
<td>Goodwill Retail Store &amp; Donation Center</td>
<td>Ashley Rohde</td>
<td>Terrace Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monica McClure</td>
<td>Happy Tails Boarding &amp; Grooming</td>
<td>Mary Scudder</td>
<td>WalMart North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maricel Schaefer</td>
<td>International Autos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THANK YOU to the following businesses for providing valuable work experience for RCS participants:

- Al and Al's Steinhaus: Busser, prep cook
- Aurora SMMC: Laundry, cleaning, food service worker
- Bullard Children's Dentistry: Mailings, preparing bags
- Dairy Queen (Sheboygan): Dining room attendant
- Day Dream Café: Dining room attendant, dishes
- Humane Society: Cleaning, laundry, washing dishes
- Mead Public Library: Library assistant
- Meals on Wheels: Kitchen assistant
- Morningside: Dining room attendant
- Pick n’ Save (25th St): Stocking
- Piggly Wiggly (Plymouth): Stocking
- Salon 511: Salon assistant
- Sheboygan Symphony Office: Data entry
- Sheboygan YMCA: Cleaner
- Subway (8th St): Dishes, dining room cleaning
- Suscha News: Cleaning, straightening shelves

Celebrating Disability Inclusion
for More than 70 Years

Reflecting the important role disability plays in workforce diversity, this year’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) theme is “#InclusionWorks.” Observed each October, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a diverse workforce inclusive of their skills and talents.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month!
Lakeland University chefs Mark Wagner and Joe Johnson knew they would enjoy conducting a special cooking lesson at RCS Empowers in Sheboygan.

But judging by the smiles on their faces days later, the excursion was even more enjoyable than they could have imagined.

“It was one of the most rewarding two hours I’ve experienced,” said Wagner, Lakeland’s director of dining services. “When we left, Joe and I got high-fives from everyone, and we also received a lot of ‘I love yous.’”

“It was awesome,” added Johnson, Lakeland’s executive chef and assistant director of dining services. “The excitement on their faces was incredible. The two hours we were there were so much fun ... it felt like we were there 15 minutes.”

RCS is a multi-faceted non-profit organization with many roles, one of which is to offer citizens with disabilities opportunities to learn life skills that will help them become independent and thrive in careers.

Wagner and Johnson taught eight students between the ages of 18 and 50 how to prepare fresh pasta and homemade Alfredo sauce. The two-hour lesson included meal prep and clean up. After the meal was prepared, everyone sat down together and enjoyed it.

“It was really neat to have Mark and Joe come in and offer their expertise and hands-on training,” said Jody Merenick, public relations manager for RCS. “It was fun watching our students’ faces light up as they realized they were training with actual chefs. They were so excited, and they cannot wait for Mark and Joe to come back.”

The students won’t have to wait long. Wagner and Johnson had so much fun, they immediately committed to returning on a regular basis. Upcoming lessons include homemade pizza, Asian food and Mexican food.
RCS Empowers, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity Lakeside were catalysts in helping Michelle and Lisa Guelig achieve their dream of home ownership. Before the two sisters worked together to make their Habitat home dream come true, they were each living on their own.

The ladies are not letting anything hold them back and are each working hard to build the life they have imagined. Michelle and Lisa worked with RCS Empowers, Inc.’s Employment Services to get their work life in order. Michelle has recently accepted a position at RCS Empowers and is working in North Plant’s subcontract department. Lisa worked with Individual Placement and Support (IPS) to obtain a position at Service Master. In addition to their work both ladies volunteered their time at the Habitat for Humanity Restore as a contribution and commitment to their new home.

Michelle and Lisa have beaming smiles as they give tours through their new home. Lisa proudly points out the doorways where volunteers wrote heartfelt messages to the two ladies wishing them good luck in their new home. The entire home is open concept and handicap accessible. The kitchen is the heart of their home. Michelle and Lisa take turns cooking meals and are excited to host the holidays in their new home with family.

Most siblings can’t wait to move out and get away from each other. Not Michelle and Lisa, they both are glad they are not living alone. They enjoy each others’ company and support each other on a daily basis. Each sister pushes the other to try new things and is there to support the other through thick and thin. Michelle and Lisa have also reached out to their neighbors and are working on building relationships in their new neighborhood.

Habitat for Humanity offers homeownership opportunities to families who are unable to obtain conventional home financing. In most cases, prospective Habitat homeowner families make a down payment on their home. Additionally, they must contribute 300 to 500 hours of “sweat equity” on the construction of their home or someone else’s home. Because Habitat houses are built using donations of land, material and labor, mortgage payments are kept affordable.

Michelle and Lisa are a testament to what you can do when you put your mind to something and work hard to make your dreams come true. Congratulation on your new home.

---

**Campbell’s Labels for Education**

Collection Alert! Labels for Education needed! RCS is collecting the Campbell’s UPC Labels for Education. You will find a picture below of the label portion that needs to be cut off to be redeemed. Please drop off your labels at RCS!
One Big Shebang at RCS Empowers. While walking through the halls of RCS you could never in a million years imagine all of the activities happening simultaneously. RCS hosted Day of Caring volunteers and had the added excitement of a show by Dr. Prof. Tomáš Kubínek that was enjoyed by volunteers, participants and staff. Internationally renowned, Dr. Prof. Tomáš Kubínek directed the extravaganza spotlighting the remarkable talents of his invited guest artists and more than 100 area residents at this years Sheboygan Shebang.

Throughout the day volunteers assisted in classrooms with special projects. Nourish Day of Caring volunteers worked on the RCS Nourish Urban Educational Garden and a few landscape projects. Thank you to our Day of Caring volunteers and Dr. Prof. Tomáš Kubínek for making the day memorable.

Save the Date

Sheboygan’s 4th Annual Sunflower Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts

Saturday October 15, 2016
9:00 a.m.—3 p.m.
1607 Geele Avenue, Sheboygan

Hand Forged Enamel Jewelry, Silverware Art, Candles, Handmade Soaps, Candles, Pottery, Crocheted Items, Knit Items, Wreaths, Handmade Cards, Dog Coats, Original Photography, & more!

Admission - $1.00 or a Non-Perishable Food Item

Masquerade Prom

6-8 PM

October 21, 2016

Our annual prom will have a Masquerade theme...so, get your friends and come out to have an amazing evening of fun and dancing! You will have a blast with all the decorations and the wonderful music by none other than, Ricky Raybire!
This year’s RCS Trip was a whirlwind tour of Florida. RCS partnered with Threshold of West Bend for the Florida trip.

The tour group visited several exciting places including Walt Disney’s Magic Kingdom, Sea World, Gatorland, and NASA Kennedy Space Center. These were just a few of the special stops they made on their trip.

The fun ranged from riding the tea cups to holding alligators. There was something for everyone on this trip. Participants enjoyed evening dinners, swimming, shopping and more. To learn more about the RCS trip and see the 500+ pictures please visit our 2016 RCS Florida Trip Facebook photo album.

RCS 2016 Florida Trip

Sheboygan Press Editor visits Job Club

RCS Empowers, Inc. provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to learn about various places in our community to work. Our Job Club explores the different work opportunities at businesses throughout Sheboygan County. Leah Ulatowski, Sheboygan Press Editor, visited RCS Empowers, Inc. and shared all the opportunities available at our local Sheboygan newspaper. Individuals not only learned about the career opportunities available but also several methods to receive news in our community.

If your business would like to be featured during one of our Job Clubs please contact Angie Buechel at 920-694-1233.

Thank You to Staff and Participants

2016 has been a very busy year in the RCS Packaging department. Fastener orders have been up 30 percent compared to last year. The increased orders also meant an increase in workload. Packaging needed to bring in extra employees. RCS staff from other departments came in after their regular shifts and most of the summer was spent working overtime from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings. This year, RCS will surpass the yearly five million package mark and is close to breaking the six million package production mark.

“We are so thankful to everyone who worked so hard to get our orders out and on time,” said Mary Leahy and Dan Hochrein, RCS West Plant Packaging co-coordinators. “RCS had a significant increase of workload but our employees rose to the challenge.” Thank you to everyone who helped with our increased orders!
In Memory of Jenny Miske

Jennifer “Jenny” Miske, who had been an active participant of RCS since 1996, passed away on February 22, 2016. Jenny enjoyed being around others, vacations and visits with her family. She was active in the Day Service Program at RCS Empowers, Inc. where she participated in several plays and enjoyed time with friends.

RCS would like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny’s family for including RCS in her memorial remembrance. Jenny’s family and friends donated over $2,200 of her memorial funds to the Special Needs and Art Therapy Programs at RCS in Jenny’s name. These funds will be used to enhance the programs at RCS that Jenny had been a big part of for the past 20 years.

Prom Shopping Day at RCS

If you would like to volunteer at the RCS Prom on October 21, 2016 please contact Ruth Weigel at 920-694-1219.

RCS Hand Bell Choir Featured at The Big Sheboygan Shebang

The RCS Empowers Bell Choir was one of the distinguished participants at the return of The Big Sheboygan Shebang on September 24th. The RCS Hand Bell Choir had their debut performance in April at the RCS Play under the direction of Rebekah Hesketh, playing Walt Disney’s “It’s A Small World After All.”

The caption featured in the return of The Big Sheboygan Shebang program and the photo of the Hand Bell Choir says it all.

“What can be said of these fine artists that has not already been trumpeted by the most revered media outlets in the land? Their dedication to the craft is leading a wildfire resurgence of the bell choir art form across the county and as far west as Southeast Asia.”
RCS Wish List

URGENT NEED: New or Used Xbox or PlayStation game console systems & games

- 2-32 inch flat screen televisions
- VHS to DVD electronic converter
- T Pins for Sewing
- Bodice sewing form
- Singer sewing machine needles
- Thread
- New/used sewing machine that prepares zigzag stitches
- Sewing table or large space sewing screen
- Glue sticks and bulk glue
- Construction paper, any color
- Finger paints, markers and colored pencils
- Fiber board, mat board
- Clay

Thank you to those who have given $1,000 or more the last quarter to help support the mission of RCS Empowers, Inc.

Sheboygan Rotary Club
Oostburg Area United Fund, Inc.

*Please accept our apologies if we have inadvertently omitted anyone’s name from the list.

Mission Statement

RCS empowers individuals with disabilities and special needs so that they may work, live and function with dignity and respect.

RCS Empowers, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of IRS codes. To make a donation of items on our Wish List please go to our website www.rcsempowers.com or call Josh Senkbeil at 920-694-1215