From the Executive Director

We’ve had a great summer here at ESR. Individuals in our service took part in many fun activities. We also made progress on a number of fronts. The ESR sales team has facilitated many new job placements, and secured several new work contracts, including one with the Minnesota State Lottery.

We were also very excited this summer to “break new ground” in a couple of areas. We literally broke new ground when work began on our new home in New Richmond, WI. This new site will allow us to continue to serve over 100 individuals in St. Croix County and should give us plenty of room to grow as we serve even more people and continue to find ways to develop employment and community integration opportunities in western Wisconsin. We were also pleased with the support we received for our first ever Hope Golf Classic & Banquet which took place at the Stillwater Country Club. We had a great time and plan to continue growing this event in future years.

Please read below to see even more about what we have been up to. As always, we are grateful for the support of our many friends. We couldn’t do our jobs without you.

Ed Boeve, Executive Director

ESR Breaks Ground on New Richmond Program Center

On Friday, August 26 ESR held a ground breaking ceremony at the site of our future home in New Richmond, WI. Our new building will be located at 650 St. Croix Ave., New Richmond, in the New Richmond Business and Technical Park and will serve over 100 individuals with disabilities residing in St. Croix County.

Thanks for Supporting the Hope Golf Classic & Banquet

ESR held its first even Hope Golf Classic & Banquet on Monday, August 29. It was a great day with almost 100 golfers and even more banquet attendees joining us at the Stillwater Country Club to raise money to support ESR’s programs and services. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us, and a very special thank you to our event sponsors: MidWestOne Bank; 1st State Bank & Trust; Werner Electric; Raleigh Foundation (Lake Elmo Bank); Minnesota Bolt & Nut; Bayport Printing; Bremer Bank; Stillwater Motors; North Central Bus; Ruth Jungbauer; American Polywater Corporation; and Polaris Industries, Inc.

ESR Welcomes Two New Board Members

ESR recently added two new members to our Board of Directors, Jake Peterson and Chad Bauer. Mr. Peterson has been a participant in ESR’s services since 2009. He works at ESR’s New Richmond center. Mr. Bauer is a financial advisor at Edward Jones in New Richmond, WI.

“On behalf of the ESR board I am pleased to welcome our two newest board members, Jake Peterson and Chad Bauer. We know Jake well, as he has been a regular at many meetings, and we look forward to getting to know Chad.” – Ron Jungbauer, Board President

ESR Launches Updated Website

ESR recently launched an all-new, updated website to keep all of our participants, friends, business partners and other supporters updated on our activities. Visit www.esrworks.org to check it out. Also, please make sure to visit and like our Facebook page for the latest updates.

Get the latest ESR news and information:
www.esrworks.org
Participant Spotlight: Jason Slattum

Jason Slattum has worked at Cub Foods in Stillwater for 15 years. He currently works in the deli section, which he loves. His favorite part of his job is customer service. “I love helping people”, says Jason. He also appreciates the help of his ESR job coach, Teka Debalkie. “Teka is a great guy. He gives really good advice that helps me a lot.” When Jason isn’t working, he’s an avid participant in the Special Olympics. The highlight of his career was when he won three medals in swimming at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games in Shanghai, China. ESR is lucky to have such a great guy on our team!

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

In the 26 years since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act we still have a long way to go to raise awareness of obstacles to employment faced by those with disabilities. The labor force participation rate for Americans with disabilities is less than one-third the rate of those without a disability, and the unemployment rate is more than twice as high. To help raise awareness of this issue, the Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month every October. ESR supports this effort to educate employers and we will continue to fight for more access to employment for those we serve.

Save the Date!

Open House @ ESR Forest Lake
Thursday, November 3, 4pm to 6pm

Join us for a tour of our newly renovated site in Forest Lake. Learn about ESR’s programs & Services. All are welcome.

744 West Broadway Ave.
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Community Jobs Employees of the Month

1. Ronald Braithwaite (March 2016) works at Super Target in Woodbury as a cart attendant. His supervisors describe him as “very hard working and disciplined.”
2. Melissa Cass (April 2016) has recently moved to the deli at Wal-Mart in Cottage Grove and has been trained on working the meat slicer and weighing and pricing out hot food items. Her co-workers state that she is friendly with the customers and is eager to learn new tasks.
3. Stacy Fontaine (June 2016) works at TJ Maxx and at Famous Dave’s where she exhibits a strong work ethic and the ability to advance within both establishments.
4. Morgan Herried (August 2016) has worked for North St. Paul City Hall for almost six years as a Data Tech. She loves her job and plans on being there until she retires. Her co-workers describe her as being reliable, friendly and always eager to learn more!
5. Kayla Helsper (September 2016) has learned a lot at Trader Joe’s since starting this past January. She continually shows great customer service skills and is always ready and willing to help.
6. Nerissa Labrador (October 2016) works at Culvers in Woodbury. Over the past several months she has continued to grow, work hard and exude enthusiasm!