Ascend Services, Inc. Planning Seminar Helped Families and Caregivers Prepare for the Future

Tuesday evening, September 25, the lunchroom at Ascend Services was filled with people wanting to learn more about planning for individuals with disabilities.

Ascend Services presented a seminar titled, “Planning for Individuals with Disabilities: Today, Tomorrow and Beyond”. The evening’s speakers were Ariel Yang from the ADRC, Michelle Birschbach, an Attorney at Steimle Birschbach LLC and Skip Pfeffer, owner of Pfeffer Funeral Home.

Ariel spoke about the aging process and the resources that are available. She discussed the difference between normal age-related memory changes and more serious memory problems.

Michelle focused on why it is important to have an estate plan in place to make sure your wishes are carried out and how to create a memorial through estate planning. She addressed Guardianship and Power of Attorney both financially and for health care decisions. She explained what happens to someone’s assets at the time of their death. You also should think about Third Party and Self Settled Special Needs Planning as it can help you and your child protect their money. Finally, she explained how Memorial Gifts and Charitable Giving can be a wonderful way to honor a loved one.

Skip was the final speaker of the night and addressed end-of-life wishes. He provided an overview of how to plan ahead for a funeral to relieve the burden after a loved one has passed.

If you would like to know more about these subjects please contact Ascend Services, Inc. at 682-4663.
The Ascend Services Client Council is made up of Ascend participants who represent their peers. The current members of our council who have volunteered to serve their peers and the community are: Dan Treptow, Jordan Koch, Jacob Brown, Greg Leslie, Shaylene Morris, Kristy Johanek, Betty Schuh, Mark Pribek, Donna Boldt, Dan Neuenfeldt, Bob Hieber and Travis Boettcher.

Some of the service projects and peer concerns that the council worked on this past year are:

The safety of our participants and staff when they cross Meadow Lane in front of the building. The council made posters to help raise awareness of the concerns of speeding and cars not stopping to allow people to cross safely. The posters the council made were taken to the Manitowoc Safety Committee Meeting when members of our staff attended to seek approval for the installation of flashing lights at the crosswalk in front of the building. The lights were installed in November.

We organized a food drive for the Salvation Army in May. The council collected 110 boxed meals like Hamburger Helper because that is what the Salvation Army stated was a need they had at that time.

At the Ascend Dance in April we had council members volunteer to help clean up after the dance. Other members volunteered to be on the clean-up committee for the Fall Dance on September 21. The council is also planning to have a Sharing Tree for the Salvation Army starting on November 15. We will set up a Christmas tree and want to collect new mittens, gloves, hats and socks for children and adults. We would also like to collect new children’s books for the Salvation Army Christmas Baskets.
Different Ways to Make a Difference by Donating

Ascend Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Corporation. Both the people we serve and our community recognize the value and results of working together and focusing on what people can do when given the chance. Ascend accepts donations from individuals, families, area support groups and companies to help us provide the best services possible on a daily basis.

There are a variety of ways to donate to Ascend Services. You can make an unrestricted donation that would be used for the day to day operations and provision of services. You may also designate a donation to be utilized for a specific purpose or for a specific program. You may also donate toward the Participant Activity Fund which pays for special activities not paid for by funding sources. This would include the dances, gardens, annual picnic and the participant Christmas Party.

Ascend Services also receives donations through outside avenues such as: local service organizations, corporate donations, the Thrivent Choice Program, The Kwik Trip Milk Moola Program and Amazon Smile. A Preservation Fund was established several years ago to provide assurance that Ascend Services will be able to provide high quality services to people with exceptional abilities that will assist them to choose their own paths to success well into the future. This fund is administered by the Lakeshore Community Foundation which sees that Ascend Services has a managed and diversified investment portfolio.

All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. If you would like to make a donation, or have a question about possible bequests, please call Ascend Services at (920) 682-4663 and we will gladly answer your questions.

Ascend Services is looking for Volunteers

Lunch Room Helper
(11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Provide assistance to people with exceptional abilities during lunch time with the following tasks:

- Vending machine purchases
- Heating food in microwaves
- Carrying food and drinks to the tables
- Opening drinks and lunch containers
- Wipe Tables

Of the greatest gifts you can give is your time.

Office Helper
(12 noon - 2 p.m.)

A nice casual customer service role in a setting that serves people with exceptional abilities:

- Greet guests
- Answer phones
- Light clerical fill-in duties

Other volunteer opportunities available call today!

For more information, contact Barbara Nack at 920-682-4663 ext. 139.

www.ascendservicesinc.org
Parents, Guardians and Participants

SAVE THE DATE
We are gearing up for a great Vote Your Choice Tour and national Disability Employment Awareness Month Recognition! PLEASE Save the Date! More info to come!

October 29, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Ascend Services Multi-Purpose Room

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Celebrating Disability Inclusion for More than 70 Years

Reflecting a commitment to a robust and competitive American labor force, the 2018 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) theme is “America’s Workforce: Empowering All.” Observed each October, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents.

NDEAM dates back to 1945, when Congress declared the first week in October “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.”

Halloween Dance
October 26
Ascend Services would like to thank Carron Net Company, Inc. for sponsoring this event! Thank You!!!

Day Service Themes

| 1 - 5 | Fall Craft Week |
| 8 - 12 | Communication Week |
| 15 - 19 | I Can Do It Week |
| 22 - 26 | Spooky Craft Week |
| 29 - 2 | Music Week |

How can you help?

Donate
Volunteer

Ascend Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization. Donations may be tax deductible as allowed by law.

Ascend Services, Inc. appreciates any and all donations.

Enjoy Service with a Smile Every Time You Visit!

Our Ascend Services, Inc. office is open each client payday at Plant 1 from 11:30 to 12:45

Ascend Services, Inc. and UnitedOne Credit Union, working together for your convenience.

684-0361 • 1117 S. 10th St. • Walmart SuperCenter

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

www.ascendservicesinc.org