The A-Team Wisconsin made Ascend Services, Inc. one of the stops on its “Vote Your Choice Tour.” They visited on October 29 and shared information with clients, families and staff.

The A-Team Wisconsin “Vote Your Choice Tour” is a tour across the state to engage and educate individuals with significant disabilities and their family members about state and federal candidates. The A-Team started in Wisconsin to unite persons with diverse abilities and their families to advocate in a grassroots effort, create awareness in the community, and advise those who care for our citizens with special needs to ensure a full array of service choices.

Today, Wisconsin has 12 active A-Team chapters and thousands of members. There are also 15 states across the country that have activated an A-Team. More information is available at www.ateamusa.net.

The A-Team has become a leader in the grassroots movement because it was founded and cultivated by stakeholders and families with passion, integrity, and commitment to making the world a better place for all. The A-Team activity engages champions from both parties who support the message of individual choice.

Volunteering is A Great Way to Make a Difference in your Community

One of my favorite quotes was written by Denzel Washington, “At the end of the day it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished... it's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back.” Giving back or volunteering can be a fun and easy way to explore your interests and passions. It's a way to find an energizing escape from your day-to-day routine of work or other commitments.

People volunteer because they want to make a difference in their community, their world, and they want to help others succeed. Volunteering makes people feel good, it balances their work and personal life, and feeds that creative part of the soul.

When you focus on someone other than yourself, you promote positive feelings, such as optimism and joy. I believe that communities infused with charitable people grow to become communities of hope and possibility. So why not volunteer? I challenge each of you to connect to our community and make it a better place!
CREATE Program is a Successful Addition to Ascend Services
by Marissa Meyer, CREATE Curriculum Coordinator

CREATE is a Community Based Prevocational Service that serves four to five individuals eager to learn about community resources and educational avenues that help lead them into employment in the community. It takes place two days a week for 12 weeks. On the first day, classroom instruction centers on a specific set of job skills that will assist with obtaining and retaining a job. Some of the topics covered include:

- Hygiene and Nutrition
- Safety in the Community
- Workplace Attire
- Conflict Resolution

The second session of the week is spent applying the knowledge learned from the previous class. We work on city bus training, touring area businesses, and volunteering. We love to volunteer in our community as it’s a great way to help other organizations with our time and talents.

In a little over a year CREATE has impacted the lives of 25 individuals that have completed the course. Many of the program participants have been successful in finding employment upon completion of the program. As an instructor of CREATE, it is great to be instrumental in helping so many individuals who initially were scared of getting a job or were unsure of their own potential. The CREATE program has been a wonderful addition to the menu of services offered at Ascend Services, Inc. I am excited to be sharing my time and talents to make the dreams and goals of others a reality.
Community Employment Services is Strong, Due to Our Partnerships!
by Sherrie Tuma Czechanski, Employment Services Coordinator

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.

Ascend Services, Inc., sends a heartfelt Thank You to all the companies and organizations that we partner with in our community to provide jobs to our consumers! Formrite Company is the 2018 recipient of the Exemplary Employer Award from the State of Wisconsin in appreciation of their commitment to the employment of people with disabilities. The State of Wisconsin acknowledges your community commitment as indicated in your mission statement. Congratulations!

Left to right: Sherrie Tuma Czechanski, Employment Services Coordinator, Craig Woida, Formrite Employee, Shawn McCredie, Formrite Employee, Ryan Arnold, Formrite Employee, David Wage, Owner/CEO Formrite, Jennifer Mikalowsky, Director Department of Workforce Development, DVR, Michael Glaser, Business Services Consultant, Department of Workforce Development, DVR, and Whitney Hostettler, Supervisor, Department of Workforce Development, DVR.

Halloween Fun!

www.ascendservicesinc.org
Day Services Scores a Touchdown Tour!

Our Day Services Program participants recently took a trip to the frozen tundra to tour Lambeau! What an awesome experience to see where the Green and Gold get to play. We are grateful that we are able to visit places like this and see so many wonderful things. Go Pack Go!

Don't forget to Watch for our float in the Lakeshore Holiday Parade
November 21

Happy Thanksgiving!
We will be CLOSED November 22 & 23

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 12:30

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.