

Providing employment and other services to people with disabilities for over 40 years

Achiever

Building skills, careers and independence

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Achievable Ink!

Tierza Loskota is a big believer in the power of art.

She's been helping Achieve participants find their creative talents – as well as therapeutic benefits – through art. The projects have culminated in paintings and other works that have been used to create notecards. The notecards, which are made from recycled materials and are environmentally-friendly, are for sale at Achieve, Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts in Fridley and AML Expressions in Anoka.

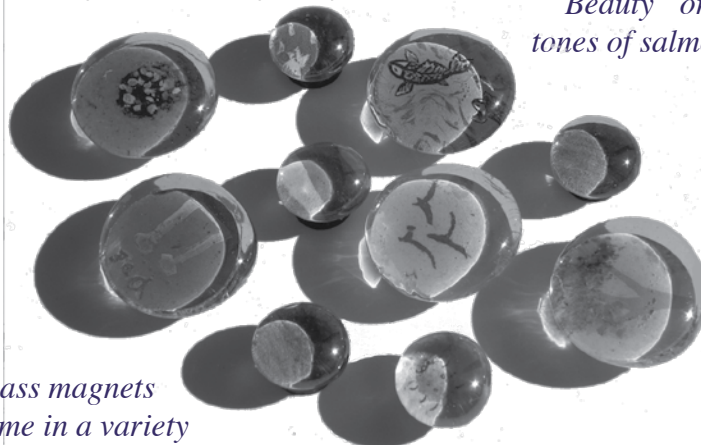
The project has been so successful, that it is expanding. The new venture has a name: Achievable Ink. "It's a way to get more exposure for our participants art-

work as well as a way to advertise the products that we'll be making," Loskota said.

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"Beauty" original in frame. Painted in tones of salmon, mustard, sage and plum.



Glass magnets come in a variety of sizes and vibrant color schemes. They are boxed in a metal tin.

Artwork created by Achieve participants available Achievable Ink. Visit the website at:

www.achievableink.com

For more, turn to page 3.

Newsletter of



Volume 21, Number 1
Winter 2010

SO FAR, SO GOOD



By: Richard Bro, CEO
Achieve Services, Inc.

“It’s the economy.”

How many times have you heard that phrase in the last couple of years? The effects – and reminders – of the economy are all around us. We see well-established businesses cutting costs, downsizing or even closing.

It’s a time in history that provides challenges like most of us have never encountered before.

The economy is creating parking lot problems for the Human Service Center of Anoka County, where Achieve is located on the first floor. The issue has become so urgent that we’ve formed a committee to address it. Simply put, there are more customers coming to the building than there are parking spaces.

Why is this?

Also located in our building are the Unemployment Office, Work Force Center and Income Maintenance. These offices are being utilized to the maximum and this has left the Human Service Center with a parking lot issue. We don’t have enough space in our parking lot to accommodate everyone who needs to access the services within our building.

Businesses, parking lots – everywhere you look you can see effects of the economy. Achieve is no exception. When it became apparent that we were going to experience budget cuts from the state, we knew we had to develop some contingency plans to accommodate those cuts.

In most private, non-profits, like Achieve, there isn’t much wiggle room in the budget before personnel, benefits and other major areas are impacted. Our contingency plans looked at days of operation, use of temporary staff, salary and hiring freezes as well as some other belt-tightening strategies. It’s amazing how creative people can get when jobs are on the line.


It took a unified effort on everyone’s part – from board members to staff to participants. Everyone worked together with a common goal of maintaining quality services in a tight economy. Maybe that is the silver lining of this whole situation – people working together toward a common goal.

We have a saying at Achieve. We say, “At least we are still on the first floor.” What we mean by this is that we are still here. We are still providing services to adults with developmental disabilities. We will continue to do so through tough times

and in times of plenty. We are working together to find success.

We provide an economical and reliable work force to many area businesses that are also struggling in this economy. If you are a business that needs help, give us a call. We’re all in this together.

So far, so good.

Richard Bro, CEO
Achieve Services, Inc. 

How Achieve can help your business:

- Achieve can provide workers to your location with or without a job coach.
- Achieve has an on-site production workshop to do your work at our site.
- Achieve maintains a very high level of standards for work quality and can offer competitive pricing to your business without jeopardizing quality!

Achievable Ink

Artwork created by Achieve participants used to create beautiful products.

(continued)

Original artwork, prints and images printed onto various products – such as coffee mugs and magnets will all be for sale.

“The original artwork will be either framed and matted or just matted,” said Loskota. “The prints will be for sale as well. We’ll offer an 8” x 10” print for \$10. A 5” x 7” will be \$7. We are also making coffee mugs and glass magnets from the art. The magnets will come in little tins. They’d all make great gifts,” she said.

The images are vivid and full of color; they are much more vibrant than shows printed here in black and white.

The various products will be available at Achieve. “We hope to offer them online soon,” said Loskota.

Participants creating the artwork benefit from its sales. “A certain percentage of the proceeds goes to the artists who created the work,” said Loskota.

Best of all, the participants love creating the art. “They take a real sense of pride in it,” said Loskota. “And for many of them, they have found a talent that they didn’t know they had. Some of them would paint all day if they could!”

For more information, or to order any of the products available through Achievable Ink, contact Achieve - 783-4909.



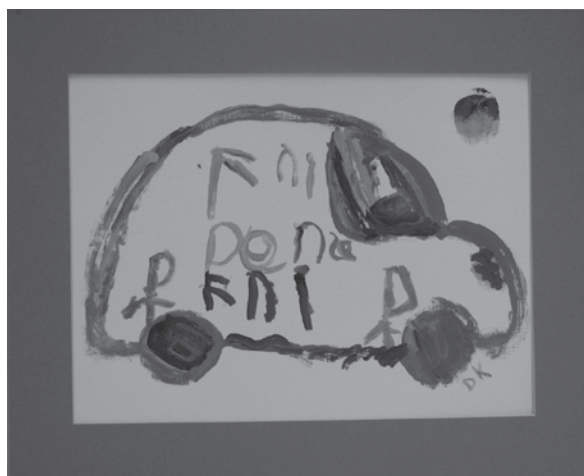
“Owl in Twilight” painting. Created in vividly saturated shades of plum and magenta.



“Old Oak Tree” notecard. Painted in tones of hunter green, burnt sienna with warm flecks of sunshine yellow.



“Music and Headphones” Goldenrod with midnight blue, hints of chartreuse and muted slate.



“Love Bug” matted original. In teal, midnight blue, vivid fuchsia and earth. Matted in teal.



“Rose Garden” sample design coffee mug. Painted in poppy red and sunflower yellow.



Collaboration: *Sharing the Turtle Top*

What do you get when you take a program like Achieve, one group home, one bus, a transportation grant and a whole lot of collaboration?

According to Carol Donahoe, Achieve Program Director, “You get two facilities that share one vehicle to everyone’s benefit.”

Achieve and Community Living collaborated to apply for a MN/DOT 5310 grant. “It is part of the Federal Transit Administration,” said Donahoe. “Through the program, a grant can be awarded to cover 80 percent of the cost of a vehicle. To qualify you have to show collaborative effort in sharing the vehicle.”

Achieve had utilized the 5310 grant program on two prior occasions – to acquire a large and medium-sized bus.

When Achieve was considering utilizing the grant program a third time, to purchase a small Turtle Top bus, they contacted Monica Schmidt, director of Community Living Group Home about applying together.

“We talked with them and it seemed like it would be a good fit,” said Donahoe. “There were details to work out between the programs and with insurance, but everything worked out and both programs benefit by using the vehicle.”

“We share costs,” said Donahoe.

*“Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.”*

Henry Ford



Achieve shares this “Turtle Top” vehicle with Community Living, a group home.

“Community Living pays a portion of the overall costs based on utilization. Since both programs already had established relationships with fuel providers, we agreed that both programs would be responsible to always maintain a certain amount of fuel in the vehicle,” she said.

A weekly schedule determines which program has access to the vehicle when. “Achieve has the vehicle during the week, from Monday through Friday, to do morning and afternoon bus routes,” said Donahoe. “Community Living has the bus in between routes and on nights and weekends.”

The bus in question accommodates up to three wheelchairs and 10 ambulatory passengers. Achieve is the registered

owner of the vehicle and only authorized staff members from both agencies are eligible to drive it.

“The size is perfect,” said Donahoe. “It isn’t as large as most buses, and that makes it easier to get some people out into the community. It’s also great for taking individuals to appointments. It provides a lot of flexibility to both programs, and doesn’t require a special license to drive it.”

“This has been a successful endeavor,” said Donahoe. “And it comes because of the working relationship that we have with Community Living. The two programs have worked together for many years. We have a high level of trust and mutual respect between the agencies.”

Building positive relationships

On the job, at home and in the real world

Achieve is a program that brings people with disabilities together with community employers to create a relationship that is mutually beneficial to both. Success on the job requires skill. But it also requires positive relationship building.

Achieve workers strive to:

- Fulfill job expectations and complete all job duties in a competent manner.
- Accept corrective feedback and training from supervisors.
- Ask questions and request help when needed.
- Show flexibility in job duties and assignments.
- Be a positive co-worker and role model to others.
- Come to work on time. Stay until the end of the shift.
- Be a coworker that others can count on.

“A positive attitude may not solve every problem but it makes solving any problem a more pleasant experience.”

Grant Fairley


“There are few, if any, jobs in which ability alone is sufficient. Needed, also, are loyalty, sincerity, enthusiasm and team play.”

William B. Given, Jr.

Achieve works to support its workers so that they can reach their maximum potential in building positive relationships

Achieve strives to:

- Identify and build upon a worker's strengths.
- Provide high-quality job training.
- Provide work options and choices.

- Look for innovative and creative ways to help workers become more independent on the job.
- See similarities between Achieve workers and other employees at a job site.
- Celebrate diversity in the workplace.
- Reward, recognize and thank workers for a job well done. 

Other ways you can...Get on Board

- **Make a donation to Achieve's silent auction. All donations are tax deductible.**
- **Make a tax deductible donation online. Go to www.achieveservicesinc.org**
- **Purchase tickets to our fundraiser. It's as easy as clicking your mouse. The transaction is secure.**

Buy a Bus for a Buck

At any Village Bank



Your dollar donation helps raise money to purchase a standing device for Achieve participants with physical disabilities

We're on YouTube!

Check out our awesome 2010 Get On Board video advertisement:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahUGGMf7Svk>

5TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Get on Board!



Saturday April 10
Majestic Oaks Golf Club
701 Bunker Lake Blvd, Ham Lake

Tickets **\$40**
available March 1

- Buffet dinner
- Silent auction
- Cash bar

(\$45 after March 26)



Featuring...

C. Willi Myles

America's Everyday Comedian

Get your tickets online:

www.achieveservicesinc.org

Or at any Village Bank

or contact Achieve:

763-783-4909

for tickets or to make a
tax-deductible donation

Send comments or questions to the editor: perfmn@guest.net
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Writing and design by Jill Fertler

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The Achiever is published quarterly by
Achieve Services, Incorporated, a private,
non-profit day training and habilitation service
which provides work and other opportunities
for people with developmental disabilities.



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