

June, 2016

THE INSIDER

Getting to know the PossAbilities Community

POSSABILITIES
Serving children and adults with disabilities

The Story Behind the Picture



It was a moment in time, captured in a photo, by a cellphone, that has gone viral. At the end of April, PossAbilities Employment program held a severe weather drill for the participants and staff members.

“Drills can be stressful for everyone,” said Paul Pedersen, PossAbilities Program Director.

Participants that are used to routine had to adjust that morning to the sudden change in their work schedule because of the drill. After about 15 minutes, the drill was over and everyone slowly got back to their working stations. It was in that moment, when an unexpected act of kindness happened.

“Jacob doesn’t walk steady,” explained Paul. “James must have seen that and just took his hand to help.”

The caring gesture has gone viral on Facebook and the two men barely know each other. Jacob spends about 30 minutes a day working in the Employment building. James works in the same building daily, labeling test tubes for the Mayo Clinic. Once in a while the men will give each other a brief nod, a hello or a smirk.

“It’s just small interactions,” said Paul.

But when Jacob needed a helping hand during the drill, James didn’t hesitate to step in.

“James has always had a sensitive heart,” said Paul. “He keeps an eye out for Jacob.”

PossAbilities is an exceptional organization of caring leaders and experts providing innovative person centered supports and services for people with disabilities. Small, passionate gestures like this are common throughout PossAbilities but not always captured on camera.

“I quickly took four or six photos on my phone,” said Paul. “We model caring here at PossAbilities and they pick up on that model. It just shows you that everyone in the building is watching.”

The spontaneous hand holding only lasted about a minute but it will be remembered and talked about at PossAbilities and throughout the community for months to come.

Step inside and be inspired by more participant stories by
taking a tour or joining the club!
www.PossAbilities.org



James and PossAbilities Board President,
Guy Finne at Wine & Roses.

A Case of Good Timing

A month ago James, a PossAbilities participant, was living the good life.

“I was doing a little bit of everything but mainly washing dishes,” explains James. He was working two jobs, part time and had a steady income coming in the door.

“It was good,” said James.

Until a phone call changed everything.

“My sister called me and said there was a closed sign up at the Clarion Inn,” said James. “There was a mandatory meeting that morning and I couldn’t make it. They called me. They said, ‘we were closing’.”

After 21-years working at the Clarion Inn, James was without a job.

“I was shocked,” said James. “I said ‘do I still have a job? I have bills to pay’.”

James was one of about forty people let go from the hotel. Fortunately James still had income coming from his other part time job, washing Go Direct vehicles at PossAbilities, but the job alone wasn’t enough to pay all of his bills.

“I had to start all over,” said James.

James reached out to PossAbilities Discovery team for help.

“It was a case of good timing,” said Tiffany Sanborn, PossAbilities Employment Consultant. “Forager had just contacted us because they needed help staffing their dish room.”

Within in a week James had a job interview at the Forager Brewing Company and a day later a job offer washing dishes.

“PossAbilities helped find me a job,” laughed James. “A relief.”

James is excited for the new adventure and hopes this job will last another 21 years.



Side by Side

Wayne and Sid, PossAbilities participants, lived separate lives growing up. Wayne lived with his grandparents and Sid lived at home with their mom and dad. For 30 years Wayne and Sid lived in two different homes and only got together a couple times a month. However, that changed in the early 1980’s when they started coming to PossAbilities.

“It was important for them to be in the same program,” said past caregiver, Kristianna Maier.

At PossAbilities, Wayne and Sid are in the Life Enrichment II program and every day they sit side by side in the same room.

“Sid and Wayne are both OCD in opposite ways,” said Kristianna. “What Wayne would do, Sid would try to undo and vice versa. PossAbilities is a neutral space that they can just enjoy being together.”

Also at the PossAbilities the men can rekindle their relationship as brothers.

“Having Wayne and Sid in the same program is great because over the years the staff have been able to help them cultivate and maintain that family relationship,” said Kristianna. “Otherwise, they wouldn’t spend time together at all.”

That’s what PossAbilities does: provides opportunities to connect with the community—even when that community is your brother.

We are saddened to say that Wayne passed away on May 29th. He will be missed at PossAbilities.



Dance and Dream!

It's prom season at PossAbilities! The Senior Participants sported their suit coats and ball gowns during the "Dance and Dream" event.



Puppy Day



Every spring, Participants get to spend a couple of hours with a litter of puppies. This is a great opportunity for them to learn new skills about how to care for pets and to get great puppy hugs.

SAVE THE DATE!

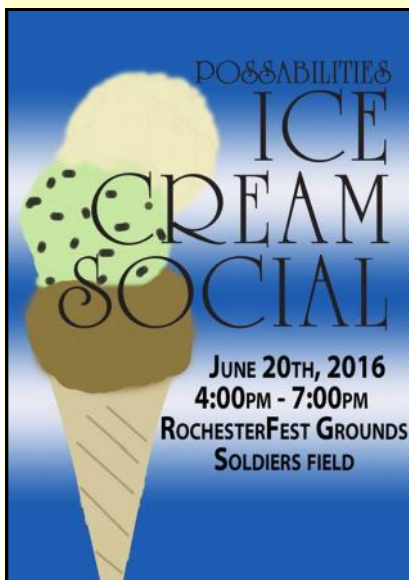
Enjoy PossAbilities Annual Ice Cream Social while listening to "Six Mile Grove" during this year's Rochesterfest!



"Six Mile Grove" will perform on stage starting at 4:30pm!

Starting at 4pm, carnival games, face painting, ice cream and much more!

Ice Cream Eating Contest at 6pm



Date: Monday, June 20th

Time: 4pm until 7pm

Place: Soldiers Field, Rochester

Wristbands can be purchased starting June 1st at PossAbilities, 1808 3rd Ave SE, Rochester, for \$3 or the night of the event for \$5.

Children two and under are FREE!



RSVP for the Ice Cream Social on our Facebook page!

What else have we been up to?

Signup for PossAbilities Newsletters at www.PossAbilities.org



Happy Birthday Dorrance!

STARS

PossAbilities is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation committed to serving children and adults with disabilities through individualized, community based programs. We help people find and keep jobs, become engaged members of the community, contribute through volunteerism, and experience integrated social and recreational opportunities.