

# The Insider

Getting to know the PossAbilities Community

## Cold Weather Freezes Bond

As the temperatures drop and the snow flies, a group of Rochester kids gear up and head out to Northern Heights Park. For them, it's "the" spot to slap around some hockey pucks and hang out with their "#1 goalie" Jed, a PossAbilities participant.

"He makes it fun," said Sam.

Sam is an avid hockey player and has been skating at the Northern Heights Park ice rink since he was six years old. It was during that time when Jed was hired by the Rochester Park and Recreation department to open the park warming shed for skaters and attend to the fire. Young and still learning the game of hockey, Sam turned to Jed for some input.

"I was like his bigger brother," said Jed. "I use to play floor hockey so I started playing with him."

It wasn't long after their first time on the skating rink that Jed became a mentor for Sam and other young hockey players that took to the ice at Northern Heights Park.

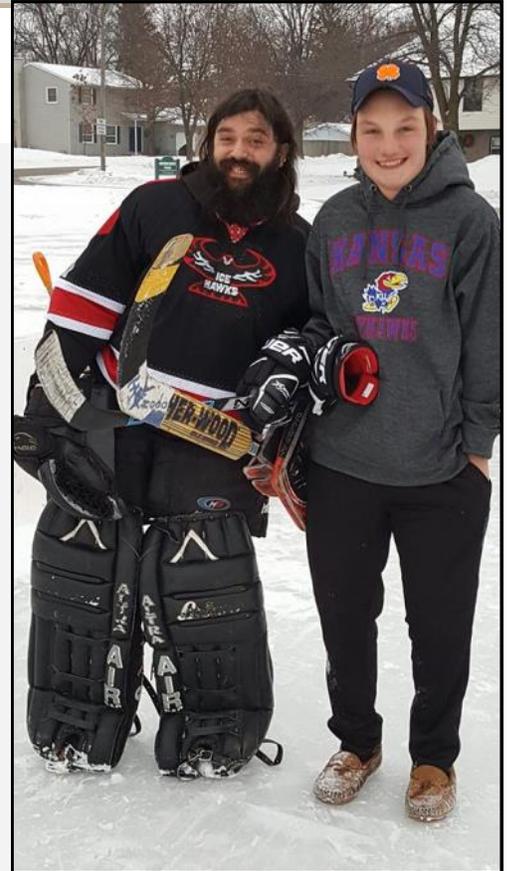
"It's all about the kids," said Jed.

Jed will help the skaters tape up their hockey sticks and tie their skates but he is well known in the area for playing goalie on the ice so the kids can practice their game winning shots.

"I play with every kid that wants to play hockey," said Jed.

"He has taught me a lot about hockey," said Sam. "He's good at it."

Ten years have passed since Jed and Sam first met, and their bond is stronger than ever. Now as a teenager, Sam still waits for Jed to open the warming shed after school so the pair can shoot some pucks, crack some jokes and help the younger skaters achieve their dreams of becoming hockey players.



## Eye Opening Award

Some may say that there is no stronger friendship than Hannah Sendlhofer and PossAbilities participant Jay.

“He was probably the hardest worker I had there,” said Hannah. “The way he interacted with the customers was just amazing. He remembered every detail about every one of them and made sure to make their day.”

The past six years, the pair worked side by side at a local Cenex gas station and when they weren't working, they spent time with Hannah's family.

“His birthday is the day before my sons,” explained Hannah. “So every year at my sons birthday party we add Jay's name to the cake.”

It was obvious to PossAbilities that Hannah was making a big impact on Jay's life but Hannah was unaware until this past October when she was recognized by PossAbilities with the Joseph Fitzpatrick Guide Award.

“That was the start of me realizing that this is what I wanted to do,” said Hannah.

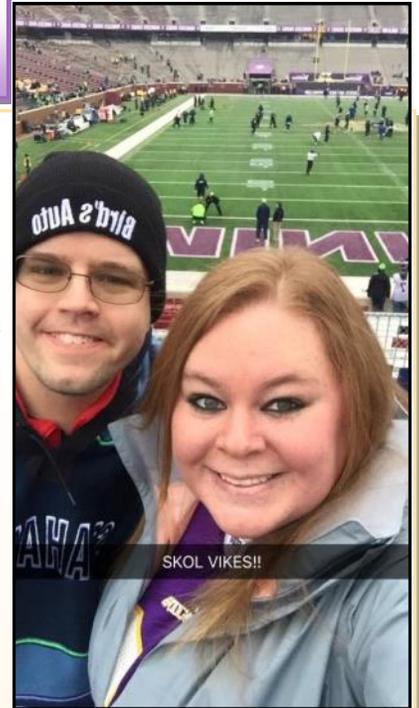
The award is given yearly to an exceptional co-worker who has made a special effort to work closely with a PossAbilities participant employee to help them become part of the team.

“The way it made me feel and made me realize that without even trying I was making a huge difference in Jay's life,” said Hannah. “I wanted to make a difference and go home at the end of the day knowing that I made a difference.”

Shortly after accepting the award, Hannah applied for a job at PossAbilities. She is now working full time in PossAbilities Employment program.

“I owe it all to Jay,” said Hannah. “He completely opened my heart and mind to this field.”

Even though Hannah is no longer working along side Jay, they both are still great friends and plan to continue to take adventures together to football games or to Hannah's family's farm.



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.

# Happy Retirement Sandy!

After working at PossAbilities for 20 years, Sandy Riess decided to retire. Sandy started working for PossAbilities as an on-call staff member at the Seniors program in 1997. About one year later, she was promoted full time at the Seniors program and that is where her roots grew over the last years.

PossAbilities wants to wish Sandy the best of luck in retirement!



## Save the Date!

Start the evening off at 5:30pm with wine and/or craft beer tasting while enjoying awesome appetizers. Each attendee will receive five tickets at the door to use on five wine and/or craft beer options. Wine and craft beer experts will be on hand to talk about their products.

While you mingle and enjoy your beverages, you can enter to win close to \$3,000 in diamonds or a hunting bow, bid on the silent auction and purchase a bottle or wine or craft beer decorated by PossAbilities participants.

At 7pm, the main event will start with a sit down meal served with a glass of wine or craft beer of your choice. Followed by a dessert buffet that will satisfy anyone's sweet tooth.

Guests will learn about PossAbilities, meet PossAbilities participants and have the opportunity to donate to PossAbilities during the live auction and special appeal.

Come join us at this event!



# What else have we been up to?



Signup for PossAbilities Newsletters at [www.PossAbilities.org](http://www.PossAbilities.org)

