Ability Elevated

Quarterly News Highlights

Earth Day Volunteerism

Krystal, Jenny, Beth, and Ali volunteering at Pizza Ranch

Youth outing!

What's Inside: Dogs bring elevated connection, Fundraising Update, Board Spotlight, Retirement Recognition

Wagging Tails and Caring Hearts

At Remarkable, some of the most meaningful moments are often the simplest ones: a smile, a calm presence, or the excitement that spreads when a familiar four-legged friend walks through the door. While our staff bring compassion to their work every day, many have also chosen to share something deeply personal with our participants: their love for dogs.

Our values of Care and Connect come to life in many ways, including through visits from the dogs our staff members bring to Remarkable. Over time, several beloved dogs have become part of our extended community: Sarah (owned by Rita), Lolli, (Maleah), Reggie (Jennifer), Dearest and Pooh (Courtney), Bella and Bear (Kate), Sundara (Kim) and Tera, Mark's beloved dog, whose memory continues to hold a special place at Remarkable. Each dog brings its own personality and charm, helping our spaces feel even warmer and more welcoming. Even Wade, our board president, plans to bring his new dog, Floyd, in for visits when the puppy is ready!

These visits do far more than brighten the day. For some participants, dogs spark conversation, laughter, and interaction. For others, they offer calm, companionship, and comfort. A dog's presence can create connection in a natural and gentle way, opening the door to engagement and bringing people together.

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Pictured from top to bottom: Lolli, Sarah, Bella, and Bear

From the CEO's Desk

Dear Friends and Supporters of Remarkable,

It hardly seems possible, but summer is just over a month away as I write this. As we look ahead to a new season, we are grateful to share a few meaningful updates from Remarkable.

In this issue, we are taking time to celebrate some very special four-legged friends who regularly visit our programs. It never ceases to amaze me how animals can brighten spirits, bring comfort, and create natural points of connection between people. We are so grateful for the staff members who generously share their pets with us, helping us live out our value of connection in such a joyful and heartfelt way.

We are also saying farewell to Mark Salzer, a talented and valued member of our leadership team, as he begins the wonderful next chapter of retirement. While we will certainly miss Mark, we are also excited to welcome Brandon to our team. We'll share more about Brandon in a later edition of Ability Elevated.

In keeping with tradition, we are also highlighting one of our board members. This quarter, you'll meet Karen, who first connected with Remarkable by attending one of our events.

Thank you for allowing us to grace your mailbox with these quarterly updates. It brings us joy to share our ongoing story with you as we elevate the lives of our participants!

Board Member Spotlight: Karen Schneider

This June, Karen Schneider will mark the end of her first year of service on Remarkable's Board of Directors. Karen first connected with Remarkable by attending Talent Takeover, an experience that left a lasting impression. "I was honestly smitten," she shared, noting that what stood out most was seeing the people impacted by Remarkable's mission at the heart of the event.

As publisher of the Oshkosh Herald, Neenah News, and Winneconne News, Karen brings a deep understanding of local storytelling, community connection, and the importance of helping people see the heart behind Remarkable's mission. She is passionate about helping people understand why Remarkable's work matters and how it is important to the community. She also thinks deeply about sustainability and how Remarkable can continue to grow stronger for years to come. Her perspective helps keep both the people we serve and the broader community at the center of important conversations.

As she looks ahead, Karen hopes to see even greater awareness of Remarkable throughout the community. She believes that once people understand the mission, they naturally want to be part of it. For Karen, Remarkable's work is important because inclusion strengthens all of us — our schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and community as a whole. We are grateful for the insight, care, and community-minded leadership Karen brings to Remarkable!

Wagging Tails (continued)

What makes this especially meaningful is the generosity behind it. Our staff are not only sharing their time and talents, but also inviting participants into something they personally love. Some of these special dogs have even become certified therapy dogs or are working toward that distinction, reflecting the intentionality behind these visits and the powerful role dogs can play in supporting emotional well-being.

At Remarkable, connection can take many forms. Sometimes it happens through conversation or a shared activity. Other times it arrives with a wagging tail, a nudge of the nose, or a quiet presence that says, "You are safe here." We are grateful for the staff members who share their love of dogs with our participants and for the many ways these visits bring our values to life.

Above: Reggie, therapy dog in training

Above left to right: Pooh, Dearest, Sundara, and young Floyd
Top Right: Tera brought joy to Neenah participants on her visits

Remarkable Bids Farewell to Mark Salzer

In April, we said goodbye to a valued member of our team. Mark Salzer retired from his position as Director of Production and Sales. We will miss Mark's enthusiastic tours, his fantastic drumming skills, and passion for all things production. We wish Mark well as he lives out his retirement dream!

We also welcomed a new Production and Sales Director - Brandon Thresher. We'll officially introduce Brandon in the summer edition of Ability Elevated.

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100 W. Fernau Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901

REMARKABLE

Our Mission:
Elevate the Lives of People with Diverse Abilities

Our Vision:
We cultivate an inclusive community with innovative services to empower personal success.

Fundraising Update

In recent years, we've made it a goal to diversify our fundraising efforts to ensure that we are able to provide high-quality, enriching program options for our participants. To this end, we've started holding monthly fundraisers at local businesses, with a goal to raise an additional $1500 to support programming.

As of April 30, we've **raised just over $1400 - 93 percent toward our annual goal!** Watch for updates on upcoming fundraisers on Facebook and in our monthly newsletter. Even small contributions mean so much to us. If you'd like to consider a single or recurring gift, please see the "Invest In Remarkable Futures" at the bottom of page 3.

Quarterly Mailing Update Request

As much as we love sharing updates with you, we want to respect your communication preferences. If you would prefer not to receive Remarkable's quarterly mailing in the future, please contact Jessica Skaaland at jskaaland@remarkablewi.org, and we will remove you from our mailing list.