# Ability Elevated

## Quarterly News Highlights

Winter 2026

Todd decorates a mug

David has a special moment with Santa

Liz visits the arts and crafts experience

**What's Inside:** Volunteering at Remarkable, Giving Tree Update, Remarkable Style, Board Spotlight

## The Gift that Gives Back: Volunteering at Remarkable

Jan Palacek (left) received the Remarkable Heart Award in 2025 for her volunteer servce.

**When people give their time, something remarkable happens—for the individuals they serve and for themselves.**

While financial donations are essential to nonprofit work, another powerful gift is often overlooked: time. Volunteers play a critical role in supporting Remarkable's daily operations and special events. Their support helps reduce costs, allowing staff to focus more fully on programs, participant support, and advancing our mission. Volunteers also bring fresh energy, ideas, and community connection that enrich the experiences of those we serve. Simply put, volunteers help make more possible.

Volunteering also benefits those who give their time. Research shows volunteerism is linked to lower rates of depression and anxiety, greater life satisfaction, and a stronger sense of purpose. It brings people together, reduces loneliness, and builds meaningful connections within the community. In 2025, more than 200 volunteers supported Remarkable in roles ranging from event support to sharing creative talents, leading activities, and assisting with daily operations. Many volunteers tell us their time at Remarkable is not only rewarding, but deeply meaningful. If you have a skill or interest you'd like to share—whether occasionally or regularly—we invite you to get involved and help continue something remarkable.

**Interested in volunteering?** Contact Ali Schierl at 920-486-3652 to learn more.

# From the CEO's Desk

## Dear Friends and Supporters of Remarkable,

As we step into a new year, I'm filled with excitement for what's ahead at Remarkable. Each season brings new opportunities to live out our mission—to elevate the lives of people with diverse abilities—and this year is already shaping up to be full of momentum.

In this first issue of Ability Elevated for 2026, we're focusing in on volunteerism. If you're wondering how you can make a difference to a nonprofit through the gift of time and talents, our feature article is for you.

We're also bringing you the story of board member Paul Anciaux, who first became acquainted with Remarkable on a personal level. Paul's story highlights our purpose: to connect people with opportunities in their community.

Get your calendars out! You'll want to save the date to our two fundraising events this year. These events do so much more than raise needed funds to support our programs. They are wonderful opportunities to see first-hand the pride and excitement of our staff, participants, and their guardians. Please consider joining us and discovering first-hand what Remarkable means to our community.

As always, thank you for being part of our Remarkable story. Your ongoing support—through time, advocacy, and generosity—helps us create spaces where everyone is seen, valued, and celebrated. Together, we're shaping a future defined by inclusion and possibility.

Warm regards,

# Board Member Spotlight: Paul Anciaux

For Paul Anciaux, involvement with Remarkable began through his family. He shared how he and his wife, Rachel, became connected to Remarkable. "Our older daughter, Sarah, has Down Syndrome, and Remarkable was recommended by her social worker as an excellent place to get supportive work experience. When we moved to the Fox Valley to retire, that meant that Sarah (24 at the time) left the community where she had lived, gone to school, and worked her entire life. This transition was much tougher for her than Rachel and I expected."

Thankfully, the staff at Remarkable helped Sarah establish new routines in her new community. Paul recalls, "The people at Remarkable were so kind and welcoming to Sarah that she adjusted very well to her new environment. Now she loves her work on the production floor and the people she works with. The caring staff at Remarkable have made a huge positive impact on her daily life!"

Paul joined the Board of Directors in 2024, bringing the valuable perspective of a parent of a Remarkable participant. As a retired teacher, he has always enjoyed working with others, and his board service has deepened his understanding of Remarkable's impact on both the people it serves and the broader community.

Some of Paul's most Remarkable moments include the annual Christmas party—especially witnessing the joy on the faces of attendees—as well as the Talent Takeover, which he says truly captures the spirit of Remarkable. He looks forward to seeing how Remarkable continues to diversify its program offerings to better serve both participants and the community.

# Giving Tree/Sensory Space Update

In November, we launched a campaign to raise $20,000 to purchase equipment to make mobile sensory units in Neenah and Oshkosh. These sensory-friendly, portable units are intended to provide sensory regulation and access to calming stimuli for our participants who may experience dysregulation or heightened stress during the day.

Supporters to this project had the option to become a sponsor, allowing us to set up a holiday tree in their business. These trees also included ornaments with items from Remarkable's wish list - items that help us support our clients during their time with us. Our participants added a personal element to this project - they traveled to eleven supporting businesses to deliver and set up the trees. Our youth program participants set up a Grinch-themed tree at Building for Kids, despite the minor setback of a power outage. It gave the experience a very Grinch-like feel!

Thanks to all of our community support, we were able to raise $7,707 to go towards the mobile sensory units. We also received $1,087 in donated items from our wishlist. Thank you, Remarkable community, for supporting this project!

# Upcoming Events

### Remarakble Style

**Saturday June 6 (Time TBA):** Enjoy a sophisticated plated dinner and cocktails alongside just 200 of our most dedicated supporters and be inspired by the individuals whose lives you empower.
**Please note: This event was previously scheduled for May 30. The correct date is June 6.**

### Talent Takeover 2026

Friday, October 2: Join us for the fourth annual Talent Takeover, held at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

# Invest in Remarkable Futures!

Your partnership ensures that our vital services—from job training to life skills—remain strong and vibrant for the hundreds of associates who rely on us. Donate today to empower their success.

☐ I would like to donate: $_____ ☐ One time Gift ☐ Monthly Contribution

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ My check payable to Remarkable is enclosed.

☐ Please charge my credit card.

CC#: _____

CCV: _____Exp Date: __/__/__

Thank you for generosity!

Donations are made easy online. Visit www.remarkablewi.org/donate or use the QR code below.

Remarkable is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible.

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.

## Budget your Gifts through Monthly Giving

Monthly giving makes a lasting impact. For you, it's an easy way to give consistently in a way that fits your budget. For Remarkable, monthly support provides dependable funding that helps us plan ahead and sustain programs our participants rely on year-round. To get started, visit the **Donate Online Now** button on our website and select **"Show my support by making a monthly donation."**

**New to QR codes?** Open the camera app on your phone. Point the camera at the code on the right. A little bubble with text will pop up beneath the code in your camera. Tap on that text - it will take you to our website!

## Thank You, 2025 Donors!

We are deeply grateful for the community support we received in 2025. These organizations awarded grants to Remarkable, helping us move our mission forward:

SAC Developmental Disabilities
SECURA Insurance Companies Charitable Fund
Green Bay Botanical Garden
AMCOR
City of Oshkosh (ARPA)

Fox Communities Credit Union
Socius Foundation
WPS
Basic Needs Giving Partnership
Festival Foods
91.1 The Avenue

Oshkosh Area Community Foundation:

- Boeing Fund
- Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund
- Community Impact Fund