



Newsletter | Fall 2022



Putting Faith to Work

JOIN US FOR THE BEYOND26 RIPPLE EFFECT GALA!

We are very excited to announce the return of our fall fundraising gala! This year's theme is the Ripple Effect: come and learn more about how our mission of finding employment for individuals with disabilities affects not only those individuals, but everyone around them! Caregivers, employers, and community members are all experiencing the wonderful effects of inclusivity thanks to the support of our community and business partners!

Hear firsthand stories from our panel of guest speakers. There will also be a strolling dinner, raffle auction, entertainment, and cash bar. This event is free to attend and open to the public - feel free to invite a friend!

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
FROM 6-8:30 PM**

**THE GOEI CENTER (KINDEL ROOM)
818 BUTTERWORTH ST SW
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504**

Can't make it? We'll miss you!
You can still donate by using
the enclosed form or by visiting
www.beyondtwentysix.org/donate-1

We hope to see you there!



ABOUT THE PANEL

Our panel of guest speakers will include an employed jobseeker, Sarah, along with her grandmother and employer to talk

about the "Ripple Effect" that happens when an individual with disabilities finds inclusion in the workforce. Not only does the jobseeker benefit, but all those around them benefit as well!

**USE THE QR CODE TO
RSVP BY SEPT 8**



**OR GO TO
BEYOND26.EVENTBRITE.COM**

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR!

CHOP

JOBSEEKER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to our newly employed jobseekers!

Amy, Crew Member at Tropical Smoothie Cafe

Heather, Volunteer at Women at Risk International

Dominic, Volunteer at Bibles for Missions Thrift Store

Jared, Volunteer at Ottawa County Parks and Recreation

Natalie, Associate at J&H Family Stores

Joseph, Team Member at Meijer

Collin, Volunteer at Women at Risk International

Matt, Independent Contractor at the Imagination Factory.

Ashlie, Volunteer at Women at Risk International

Bradley, Volunteer at North Kent Connect

Nick and Will, Associates at Weller Truck Parts



DIRK'S CORNER

It's a wonderful thing when what we do at Beyond26 comes full circle and impacts my own family. Many of you know my son Will's story; he has been working in our document shredding program with his buddy Nick for years. Will is entering his last year of transition services at school. It's time to start thinking of a work life for him: Where will he land? Who can use his talents and abilities?

Weller Truck Parts approached Beyond26 this spring about becoming a Beyond26 Business Partner. They wanted to not only sponsor our program financially, but also hire our jobseekers. I proposed they begin by giving Will and Nick a summer job to see if these two could meet their expectation and contribute to the Weller Truck Parts team. They're now working two days a week, even during the school year. I am now realizing the impact employment makes in the life of a person with disabilities. Proud dad moment!

Which leads me to the Beyond26 Ripple Effect Gala. It's coming up soon, so if you are seeing this get online today and register! It will be a great event focusing on how employment in the life of an individual with disabilities has a ripple effect in so many areas of life. Join us!

Dirk Bakhuyzen,
Executive Director

BEYOND26 BULLETIN

- Get your copy of *The Beyond26 Story*, written by our very own Executive Director! You can order through amazon.com or Schuler Books. All proceeds benefit Beyond26
- The B26 Gathering place is a monthly social event for individuals with disabilities. RSVP with Ellie at evkeulen49@gmail.com for any of our upcoming meetings:
 - Brookside Church on Sept 19, Oct 10, Nov 7, Dec 5 from 6:30-8 pm
 - Marge's Donut Den on Oct 18, Nov 22, Dec 20 from 1-3 pm

A huge thank you to our sponsors:



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