

October 2025

Winona ORC Connection



**Winona ORC
Industries**

Established 1973

1053 East Mark St.

507.452.1855

www.winonaorc.org

Facebook [WinonaorcIndustries](https://www.facebook.com/WinonaorcIndustries)

“Inclusion is not bringing people into what already exists: it is making a new space, a better space for everyone.” ~George Dei

Educate ★ Empower ★ Employ

Welcome back to our newsletter.
We are excited to share the many activities happening at Winona ORC.

Open House Friday October 24th 3-5pm



Miriam Cavanaugh from Joyful Light is preparing the front of the building for our second mural project.

Please join us on October 24th at our Winona ORC Open House, from 3pm-5pm at our location at 1053 East Mark St. Come and see the great work from our clients as well as the unveiling of our 2nd mural on the front of our building. Tasty treats and tours will be available. Spread the word and bring your co-workers and friends. We hope to see you there!!

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

SAVE THESE DATES

Pictures from our SET program.



Open House

Friday
October 24th 3-5pm
@ Winona ORC
1053 East Mark Street
Winona, MN

Starlight Stroll

Friday, Nov. 7th
6:00pm
Lake Park Lodge
@ East Lake Winona
Register on our website or @
WORC

Annual Banquet

Friday, April 17th
5:30pm
Signature's Event Center
22852 Co. Road 17
Winona, MN

Annual Golf Tournament

Thursday, July 23rd
@ The Bridges
Winona, MN





Friday, NOVEMBER 7th
6pm Meet @ Lake Lodge
Foot of Main St. and Lake St. Winona



Get ready to run, walk or roll! Join us with all your glowing glory for our 13th annual Starlight Stroll- 1 mile and 5K race. (You may register with the QR code or download a paper copy from our website). There are also paper registration forms at our front desk. Groups of 5 or more are discounted and need to register using our paper form. This is an event for all ages and abilities. All participants will receive a t-shirt and goody bag if registered by October 17th. If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Shella at 507.452.1855 or at sschneider@winonaorc.org.

We want to thank our Starlight Stroll Sponsors

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Gold Sponsors



T-shirt sponsors: Boomer's Quality Plumbing and Erbert's and Gerberts, HUMBL Studio, Winona Post, and Riverside Integrated Solutions

Steamboat Days Parade



Kelsey Yuman, Employment Development Specialist, led the Winona ORC parade committee for a 2nd year winning 1st place for commercial units.

This year, WORC carried on the Hawaiian banquet theme. As you can see, there was a ton of fun even with the heat. It was fantastic to see so many clients turn out in their ALOHA shirts and be such great representatives for WORC. Special thanks to Missy Beyers, Courtney Zeinert, June Slyvester and Tabatha Sneed for participating and helping with the decorations.

Banquet Highlights

Our annual banquet is usually in the spring. Therefore, we celebrate milestones from the previous year. This year we highlighted a client that reached the 50-year mark and a staff member that achieved 25 years of service with Winona ORC.

Lynn Meyers celebrating 50 years of service with Winona ORC!!

What were you doing in 1974?

Lynn Meyers was starting her first year with WORC! She was a founding member of worksites like Riverport and Super 8. She is still going strong working at our laundry facility and has no plans of retirement. Lynn always has a smile to share and is one of the most positive people. Lynn has a passion for dogs, walking, and a love for all her friends and family. She has had an immeasurable positive impact on Winona ORC. Thank you, Lynn, for your enthusiasm and being an amazing role model for all those around you.



Marcus Tyler honored for 25 years of Service at Winona ORC



Left: Marcus (with hair) at the banquet last April Right: Eric Decker with Marcus. Eric states, "Marcus is a great job coach, and he has made a real difference in my life. He is a special person."

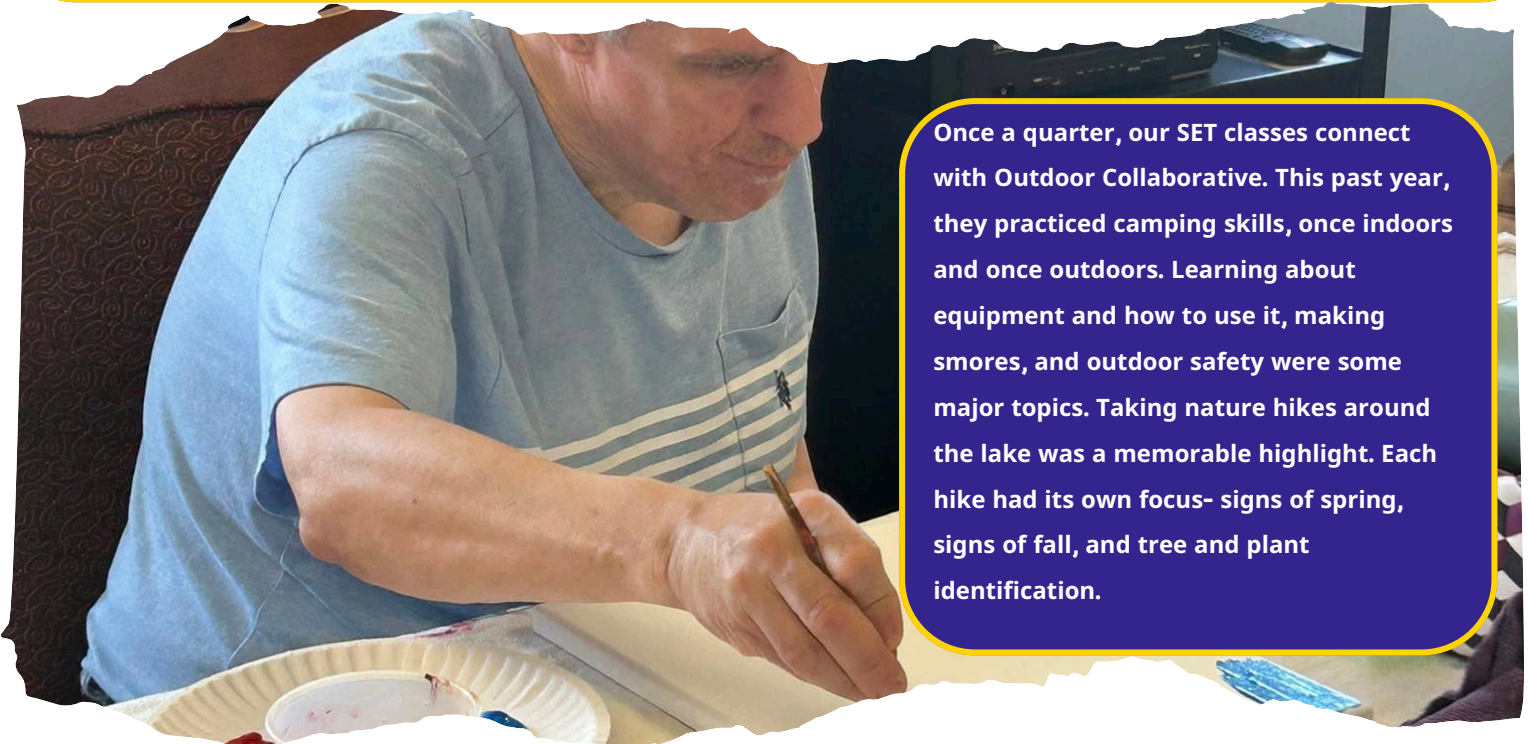
In 1996, Marcus started working here as a lead worker in the sewing department and fixing sewing machines. Marcus took a brief break to go to school and came back as a job coach and bus driver. It was soon evident that his job coaching skills and talents were needed more so he worked in the DT & H room. He described this experience as "baptism by fire" and dedicated his talents to designing more efficient ways to complete tasks. The number of different jobs that Marcus has supervised is too numerous to list.

Marcus is gifted to help clients adapt to a job and reach goals. The most meaningful aspect for Marcus as a job coach is to help clients go from not having many life skills to being able to work with them until they achieve full autonomy. He had a client progress from needing 24-hour care to living and working independently. Witnessing this transformation and being a part of it is quite fulfilling for Marcus. Marcus thrives in his work to accommodate for individual needs and to find ways for clients to prosper and grow while still reaching the end goal. His motto is, "work and fun." He loves combining these two ideas. He embodies the qualities needed for a successful job coach: passion, dedication, compassion, and patience.

He is always looking to learn more. Flexibility is Marcus's middle name. He stated, "I go where the needs are. If there is a need to help, that is where I go- I was just raised that way." Marcus shared that his inspiration for his life work was being raised with neighbors and two cousins with disabilities. He grew up with a heart to help people with these needs. When asked if Marcus ever wanted to do a different job at Winona ORC, Marcus said that he never wants to be in a position that is tied to an office or a computer. He loves being out in the community and feels he does best with hands-on work.

SET PROGRAM UPDATE

The Skills Education & Training Program (SET) transitioned to having a coordinator rather than having each Employment Development Specialist teach a section. For the past year and a half, Kelsey Yuman has taken on the position as SET coordinator. Kelsey stated, "I took on this role because I like to be able to see clients' active transformation through the program." As the coordinator, she is in the perfect position to watch this growth and celebrate it with clients. She helps clients that are enrolled in these programs set personal goals to enhance all their skills. It is an important time for clients to socialize and make meaningful connections. This past year has seen a growth in the programming provided for our clients. Looking back over the past year, here are the highlights from this program:



Once a quarter, our SET classes connect with Outdoor Collaborative. This past year, they practiced camping skills, once indoors and once outdoors. Learning about equipment and how to use it, making smores, and outdoor safety were some major topics. Taking nature hikes around the lake was a memorable highlight. Each hike had its own focus- signs of spring, signs of fall, and tree and plant identification.

One event that was open to all clients was learning about abstract art. Miriam Cavanaugh was commissioned to once again teach art classes and create a 2nd mural on our building. After learning about abstract art, clients were afforded the opportunity to create their own abstract art on a canvas. Miriam then translated this art into a 2nd mural on the front of the building. This mural will be revealed on October 24th at our Open House. (see Open House article for details).

Some new programming added this year was an interactive calendar that practices dates, weather, and sign language. Clients are given opportunities to build vocabulary and communication skills. In addition, some classes are having book studies. Some titles that they read so far this year are Little House in the Big Woods, Little House on the Prairie, and Charlotte's Web.

The number of field trips increased this past year. Last fall they traveled to the International Owl Center in Houston, MN. Recently some clients traveled to the Laura Ingalls Museum and her first home near Pepin, WI. With the bee grant in place, clients were able to help and observe the wax and honey collection last year. Learning about bees and their importance to our food will be an ongoing topic for SET clients.

In the future, there are plans to travel to an apple orchard and pumpkin patch. The plan is to do some baking after these excursions. Next spring, the gardening projects will resume. A hot topic of interest is dinosaurs so that will be a new unit of study in the coming months.

Winona ORC Annual Golf Tournament

On July 24th, Winona ORC hosted 70 golfers for our annual tournament at The Bridges in Winona. Even with the high humidity and heat, everyone enjoyed the pin events and golfing for a great cause. Many thanks to The Bridges and Signatures for helping make the event a success. Plan to join us next year!!





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Steph Simmons and
Wendy
Kronebusch
with



Bob and Deb Leaf



Hole Sponsors

Bub's Brewing Co, Leighton Media, Midtown Foods, Pizza Ranch, Winona Eagles, Degallier Leadership Solutions, Custom Alarm, Vision Design Group, RTP, Itechra, River Hills Dental

Deep gratitude to our In-kind Donators and Volunteers for the golf tournament

Ashley Furniture, Acoustic Café, Avient, Bronks Gardens, Beno's Deli, Cabin Coffee, St. Charles, Culligan Water, Farmers Insurance Doug Troke Agency, Formgraphics, Heirloom Seasonal Bistro, Hiawatha Valley MHC, Kolter Bicycle, Kathy Gerry, La Crosse Loggers, Leighton Media-The River 101, Many Hands Many Lands Coffee, Marge Weichers, Merchants Bank, Miller's Market, Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, Ocean Sushi, Pizza Hut, Pizza Ranch, Plexus, Pleasonings, Reba Brommer, Scooters, Saponi di Sicilia, The Bridges, Winona Health, WNB Financial, WSU Foundation, Z and A Country Market, 929 Bar and Grill.

Xcel Energy Foundation Grant

In the spring, we were awarded a \$ 5,000 grant from XcelEnergy. The funds will go to support our staffing for our Employment Development Specialists. Our EDS staff directly support our clients with their employment goals and a variety of career services.

Merchants Bank with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Grant



In June, the directors, David Bittner, Raven Tillman, Steph Kraus, and Suzanne Johnson, job coach Marcus Tyler, and clients, Lynn M., Michael M., Gail R., Danny P. and Tom L. accept a check from Andrew Guzzo, Dave Pierret and Lucas Stangl.

In June the staff of Merchant's Bank awarded Winona ORC a \$10,000 grant. Merchants Bank, in partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB Des Moines), selected Winona ORC to receive a grant from the Member Impact Fund. This matching grant program results in \$20 million in funding to support affordable housing and community development in Minnesota.

Merchants Bank is a proud partner of Winona ORC, and together, they are dedicated to improving their community through development initiatives. This grant will help fund our programs as well as contribute to staff development and operational costs.

"Merchant's Bank's support of our work is invaluable," said David Bittner, Executive Director at Winona ORC. "Their commitment to community initiatives directly enhances our ability to provide essential job training and employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities, we're extremely grateful for this grant and the impact it'll have on our work."

We are filled with gratitude that not only is Merchants Bank a Make a Difference Sponsor this year, but they decided to go above and beyond and nominate us for this grant opportunity.

Slaggie Family Foundation Grant



Winona ORC was awarded a \$20,000 grant. These funds will go toward covering the unexpected costs in the spring due to a weeklong shut- down. We are so thankful to the Slaggie Family Foundation for their partnership in helping us in our time of need.

Winona Community Foundation Grant



Winona ORC acquired a \$7,470 grant in September. This grant will purchase iPads for our SET program. This grant will include adaptive accessories, storage and charging stations, adaptive covers, access to apps, training and set- up. These iPads will support various individualized skill building for our clients.

We are so appreciative toward the Winona Community Foundation for fully funding this much needed project to assist us with individualizing the needs of our clients.



Left– Mandi Olson, President/CEO for the Winona Community Foundation with Shella Schneider, Fund Development Coordinator for Winona ORC.

Big Thank you to the following:

**Leighton Media and The River 101 for donating advertising
for our Starlight Stroll
WNB Financial for partnering with us at the shredding event
in August and September
Miriam Cavanaugh for her amazing talents with
Winona's ORC 2nd mural**

Our Production and Laundry Depts. appreciates partnering with these businesses and organizations this year:

Wincraft, Watkins, Fairchase Products, Black River Distributing, Peerless,
and the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce.

Winona Health, Sauer Health Care, Benedictine, Cedar Ridge, Winona
State University, Saint Mary University, Carriage House, Winona Co. Jail,
RTP, Big River Escape Cabins, Front Porch Management, Sport and Spine,
Avient, Good Shepherd, Cedar Ridge Resort, and the Warming Center.

Our Community Based Services Dept. appreciates partnering with these businesses this year:

Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center, Construction Ventures, Oakridge
Fabrication, Watlow, RTP, Fastenal, Home & Community Options, Winona
Knitting Mills, Avient, The Watkins Company, and Winona Heating &
Ventilation

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Jerry and Pat Papenfuss

Mike and Joette Gostomski

Champion the Cause Sponsors



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An Independent Senior Living Community



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Contributions January -June 2025

Thank you for the support of our mission!

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Ray & Colleen Cenfield
Sharon Flatten

Mission

Provide services for people with disabilities in our community, including vocational counseling, comprehensive job-related skill training and meaningful employment.

Vision

Every person with disabilities – physical, mental, or learning – is living their full potential through meaningful work, community interactions, family and friendships.

Contact and Hours

Open Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

(Except holidays)

Receiving Hours 7:00 am – 2:30 pm

1053 East Mark Street

Winona, MN 55987

Phone 507-452-1855

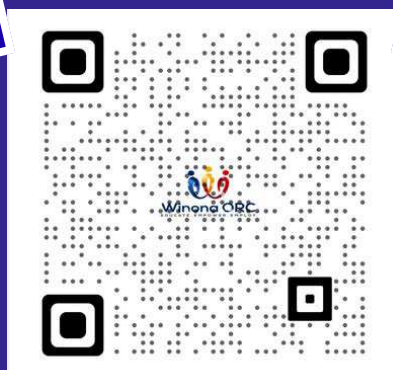
Fax 507-452-1857



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www.winonaorc.org



**Friday,
November 7,
2025**

**Start Time:
6:05 p.m.**

**5K (3.1 mile)
Run/Walk/Roll**

**1 Mile
Run/Walk/Roll**

Lake Park Lodge, Winona, MN
Wheelchair entries start 5 minutes prior to the
runners/walkers 5k and 1 mile event



Register with the QR code, mail, or email this form to:
sschneider@winonaorc.org

Groups must register using paper form.

Proceeds support: WinonaORC Programs & Services

Participants that register by October 17th receive a T-shirt.

Refreshments after the event at the American Legion

Early packet pickup: Thursday, November 6th.

**Race day registration and packet pickup: 4:30pm at Lake
Park Lodge - foot of Main St. and Lake St. Winona, MN**

Course: East Lake Winona , out and back, flat and fast

**5K Awards: Top male & female racer, Top 14 year-olds &
under. No awards for 1 Mile distance**

Entry Costs

**5K Registration: \$25 per person by October 17th to guarantee a T-shirt on
race day \$20 per person for groups of five or more- register with this
form- NOT QR code \$30 per person race day or after October 17th (not
guaranteed a T-shirt) Mile registration: \$20 per person by Oct. 17th to
guarantee a T-shirt on race day \$25 per person race day or after October
17th (not guaranteed a T-shirt) Children 12 and under may race with a parent
for free- no T-shirt**

Registration Form Check one:

- 5K
- 1 Mile
- Competitive
- Walking
- Youth/ no shirt

Male _____ Female _____ DOB____/____/_____

Age on day of race: _____ Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Group Name (min 5 people):_____

Groups may only register via this form- not QR Code
Adult T-shirt Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

None

With my signature signed below, I acknowledge my understanding that participating in the Winona ORC StarlightStroll 5k and 1 Mile event, involves a strenuous activity which I am physically capable of undertaking and I represent that I have received no restrictions on such activity from any physician. I further understand that my participation in the Run/Walk/Roll involves inherent risks of personal injury and loss of property. I hereby absolve myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, forever, any and all rights and claims or damages I may accrue against Winona ORC Industries and its employees, the City of Winona and its employees, volunteers and any other advertised sponsor as well as individuals having connection to this event for any and all illness or injuries, accidents, property losses or hazardous health conditions suffered by me while participating in the race on Friday, November 7, 2025. I also grant to the Released Parties the right and permission to copyright and/or publish, reproduce or otherwise use my name, voice and likeness and/or written material, photographs, motion pictures and audio-visual, magnetic recording about me as a result of or in connection with my participation in the Starlight Stroll 5k/1 Mile Road Race. I agree to relinquish all rights, title and interest I may have in the finished product or the advertising copy that may be used in connection there with and waive all rights to payment or compensation therefore.

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian (if under 18): _____

Email address: _____

Mail to: Winona ORC
Attn: Starlight Stroll
1053 East Mark Street
Winona, MN 55987

Make checks payable
to: **Winona ORC**
MEMO: **Starlight Stroll**

Enclosed: _____

For additional information, please contact
Sheila Schneider at
sschneider@winonaorc.org