

Shift

"Reinventing Opportunities"

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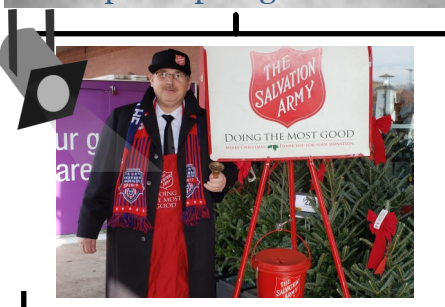
Opportunities
Inc

Opportunities, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization committed to serving adults with disabilities.

Executive Director's Message

With the promise of spring in the air (at long last), I am thinking about Opp, Inc.'s growth and the fruit we plan to see from the investments we have made over the past year. One of those investments is staff training. Several of our staff have been trained in the customized employment process. This process is technical and consists of various steps that aim to discover the personal genius of each individual. The process also involves learning about the business community in order to find ideal work conditions for our participants. The Germantown site started a "discovery" group, where participants explore the business community with staff. The participants are coached by staff to advocate for their interests with managers and business owners. We have received a lot of positive feedback about this group and hope to add more "discovery" groups in the future. I am excited about what the spring will bring as we continue to put new skills into practice. I hope you enjoy this issue of *Shift*. ~Tenille Ademiluyi

Participant Spotlight



John P. had a paid position at the Salvation Army as a Bell Ringer through the holiday season. Although he was told he would have to stand in the cold four hours a day, he remained enthusiastic. John dressed professionally and warmly for his day. He arrived to his post and at the end of his shift, he was excited to report that he had rang the bell, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, and filled his pot. Thanks John for your commitment! ~Beverly M. Powell, Vocational Counselor

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A Process of Discovery

In December 2018, Opportunities, Inc. (Lanham office) successfully introduced its participants to personalized community schedules supported by an online application called Teamup. Developing weekly community schedules is a process of discovery to learn about our participants' favorite places to go and activities to do in the community. On Fridays, the Vocational Counselors have meaningful conversations with each participant intended to encourage them to play an active role in building their own schedule based on volunteer and recreational opportunities available within the agency. Participants are excited and enthusiastic about planning how they wish to connect and contribute to the community. Some choose to volunteer at various sites to obtain skills and experience for further resume building, and some want to expand their community awareness by taking part in leisure activities. The Opp, Inc. team believes that participants should be the ones who structure their day and staff is here to provide support toward achieving their personal goals. ~Elena Laun, Program Manager (Lanham)

Out of the Box

Out of the Box is a great place for our participants to volunteer while building their resume. Some of the tasks they perform

at the store are putting clothes on hangers, sorting and organizing shoes, boxes and bags. The staff is friendly and open to working with our participants and helping them obtain the skills and experience needed to pursue their retail goals. Overall, it is a wonderful place and the participants truly enjoy volunteering there. ~Muna Fodys, Vocational Counselor





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Established 1964

About Us

Opportunities, Inc. assists adults with disabilities allowing them to achieve their fullest potential for independence and self-confidence. Our services include supported employment, employment focused training and support, and community inclusion activities.

Have You Heard?

The Fight for \$15 Bill was recently voted on by the House and has moved on to the Senate for a vote. Included in this bill were rate increases for employees who provide direct care to individuals with disabilities (HB 166). The proposed rate increases were 5.5%-7% annually; however these rate increases have been cut to 3% annually. At the same time, there are higher rate increases for several other Medicaid provider groups including: medical day programs, behavioral health, and nursing homes. If you want to take action, contact Senate President, Mike Miller with the following message:

- Explain your connection to DD services (you receive, you provide, you have a loved one who receives, etc.)
- The 3% increase in the House bill is not enough to sustain the DD community workforce- people with DD will be hurt without the needed funding.
- We are counting on you as the Senate President to make sure that people with developmental disabilities can continue to live in the community.

Senate President Mike Miller

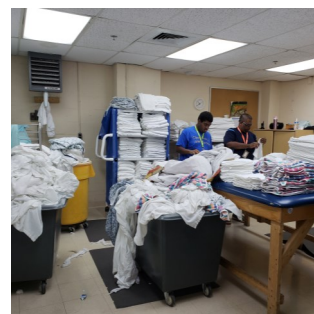
Phone: 410-841-3700 | 301-858-3700 | Toll-free in MD: 1-800-492-7122 ext. 3700

thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us

Community In Action

During the month of January, I was able to accompany a group of participants to their volunteer site at the Cadia Nursing Home in Hyattsville, MD. At Cadia Nursing Home, participants offered their assistance in the laundry room by sorting items; and folding towels, wash cloths and the residents' clothing items.

It was an amazing experience to see the participants in a different environment because I was able to witness some of the things they are capable of doing. They did an awesome job and seemed to really enjoy their trips to the Nursing Home. ~Lauren Pearson, Vocational Counselor



"Reinventing Opportunities"

Plan a visit to Opportunities, Inc. and take a tour. We are excited about our new community programs, and would love to show you around.

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