

June 2019

Welcome to our June issue of News and Views!

Consumer Spotlight



Helping Build a Better Community

Helping individuals develop the skills needed to be better integrated in their communities is one of the most important things we do at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises. When it comes to community integration, few people are a better model for success than Tom.

Tom is not just a participant in our community, he is an active and engaged member.

Tom regularly attends monthly Freeport city council meetings and volunteers his time to serve on the RAMP Wheel-a-Thon committee.

He has been independently employed in Freeport for the last 15 years. While Tom does have independent employment in the community, he continues to attend MEE where he works on honing his job skills. Tom's favorite job at Malcolm Eaton is working in our janitorial program, where he works on cleaning bathrooms and vacuuming.

"Malcolm Eaton is pretty cool," Tom said. "I like working and making good money, and I like the staff."

Tom lives in a group home with two other roommates. Tom enjoys doing his own laundry and making his own meals.

Tom is a long-time participant in the Special Olympics, and enjoys participating in track and field, bowling and snowshoeing.

In This Edition

Consumer Spotlight
Staff Development
Staff Anniversaries

Upcoming Dates

July 4-5

Independence Day
No Day Services

September 2

Labor Day
No Day Services

Our Mission

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises encourages and assists people with disabilities, and those who touch their lives, by promoting informed choice and creating opportunities which foster independent community living, work and play.



Law Enforcement Torch Run Makes Annual Stop at MEE

The Law Enforcement Torch run made it's annual stop at MEE on Thursday, June 6.

Members of the Freeport Police Department, along with some of their family members, arrived at MEE to a chorus of cheers, clapping, and even some hand-made signs.

The Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run is an annual fundraiser that raises money for the Special Olympics. Over the past 30 years the Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised over 40 million dollars for the Illinois Special Olympics.

We want to thank everyone from the Freeport Police Department for their continued support of individuals with developmental disabilities!!



Our Motto



Our Staff



Tim Cook
Executive Director

tcook@malcolmeaton.org



Kori Huneke
Business and Accounting Manager

khuneke@malcolmeaton.org



Tracey Kempel
Clinical Programs Manager

tkempel@malcolmeaton.org



Jason Withrow
Paper & Production Manager

jwithrow@malcolmeaton.org



Brian Babcock
Community Liaison

bbabcock@malcolmeaton.org

Good Luck, Jason!

After working as a member of the management team for over ten years, Jason Withrow will be leaving MEE this week. In the past ten years, Jason has worked in a number of vital leadership roles, most recently as the Paper and Production Manager. As the Paper and Production Manager, Jason managed the conversion and distribution of the Spirit bathroom tissue line.

Jason is relocating to Arizona with his family. We wish you the best of luck. You will be missed!



Staff Development



The Autism Project Visits MEE

MEE DT Trainer John Liburd, center, reacts to being bombarded by the smell of markers, the sound of a tambourine, and the touch of two rubber centipede toys during a recent training by Lori Davie from The Autism Project.

John volunteered to have other staff distract him with various sights, sounds and smells while he tried to focus on remembering a passage read to him by co-worker, Jennifer Nall. John said the worst stimulus was when MEE staff collectively sang to him. (We must be pretty bad singers.)

The exercise was meant to help MEE staff better understand and empathize with individuals who have sensory disorders.



Staff Development



Dionne Reid, left, and Ashley Graves, right, both completed their BA degrees to become Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professionals or QIDPs. Dionne graduated from Columbia College with a BA in Human Services in December of 2018. Ashley graduated from Columbia in March of 2019 with a BA in Psychology.

Two From MEE Complete Degrees

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises is pleased to celebrate not one but two very special staff members who have dedicated many hours of study toward advancing their education and professional certifications.

Both Dionne Reid and Ashley Graves began working for the agency as Direct Support Professionals or DSPs. DSPs work closely with individuals with developmental disabilities to help them become more independent and better integrated within their community. Being a DSP is an important position that requires a great deal of patience and compassion for the individuals we serve.

While working as DSPs, both of these dedicated staff members continued taking college courses. As you can imagine, this additional study was at times difficult to balance with full-time jobs. Both staff members, ultimately, completed their bachelor's degrees, as well as additional training, to become Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professionals, or QIDPs.

Becoming a QIDP is no easy task. In addition to the education requirements, a staff person must have one year of experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities, and then complete an additional forty hours of training, typically over the span of two months.

QIDP's are responsible for coordinating and monitoring each client's progress toward goals. This work involves writing individual service plans, developing and monitoring each person's goals, and planning annual meetings with each client's interdisciplinary team.

We want to congratulate and celebrate both of these staff members for their exceptional dedication and hard work over many months. We are very fortunate to have them be part of our team!

Partners



Staff Development (Continued)

Dionne Reid

Dionne joined the Malcolm Eaton Enterprises team in September of 2014 working as a Developmental Training (DT) Trainer. Since her hire, Dionne was promoted twice. She was first promoted to DT trainer lead in 2016 and was later promoted to Community Job Developer in 2018.

Dionne started working towards continuing her education in 2015, most often working through one course at a time. At times, it was a real challenge to balance her schooling with a full-time job and four children.

After many late nights of study, Dionne persevered and graduated with a BA in Human Services in December of 2018.

Prior to completing her degree, Dionne had worked as a DSP for ten years. According to Dionne, that time helped teach her valuable lessons – most importantly how to have patience and understanding when working with individuals.

Dionne enjoys her new position as a QIDP and is appreciative of Malcolm Eaton for allowing her to have flexibility in her schedule.

Ashley Graves

Ashley joined the Malcolm Eaton Enterprises team in April of 2017 as a support worker in our 24-hour residential program. Just three months after being hired, Ashley was promoted to the position of Home Coordinator. Ashley spent 2017 and 2018 working in both our residential and day training programs.

Ashley completed her BA in Psychology from Columbia College in March of 2019, and shortly thereafter began working as a DT Instructor / QIDP.

For Ashley, working full time and completing college coursework left little time for anything but work, study and sleep. At one point, Ashley recalls taking 18 credit hours per semester. To get through that semester, she studied any place, and any time, she could.

But the sacrifice was worth it. Ashley finds working as a QIDP to be a very rewarding experience.

“I really like being able to watch the individuals grow and work towards their goals,” Ashley said.

Learning and Having Fun

Four times a year, MEE conducts all-day staff training sessions called “Institute Days.” Institute Days are a great chance to learn new skills, but they are also a chance to have fun. Our most recent Institute Day was Triple Crown / Kentucky Derby themed. All staff were encouraged to wear outrageous hats. There were some really great hats, but Beth’s Spirit Paper themed hat, won by a mile!



Staff Development

MEE Visits Tech Conference

On June 5, MEE QIDP Ashley Mathieu attended the Technology Enhancing Capabilities conference (TEC conference) at the NIU conference center in Naperville, Illinois.

The event was hosted by IARF, The National Association of Qualified Intellectual Disability Professionals, Technology Enhancing Capabilities, Disability Cocoon, and The Autism Program of Illinois.

It was an all-day event featuring vendors that were showcasing a variety of new technologies and products that can help enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities.

The event also hosted speakers that discussed how these technologies can help individuals become more independent, better integrated within their communities, improve safety, and become involved with new recreational opportunities.

Staff Anniversaries

We want to take a moment to highlight the staff anniversaries we celebrated in April, May and June.

15 Years

Jeff Cummins celebrated his 15-year anniversary in April. As a Paper Conversion Supervisor, Jeff plays a vital role in the production and packaging of Spirit Bathroom Tissue.



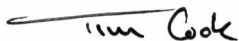
5 Years

Scott Nolan celebrated his 5-year anniversary in May. As a DT Trainer, Scott works with individuals in a classroom setting to help them work towards greater independence.



We want to thank you for your interest in Malcolm Eaton Enterprises.

Sincerely,



Tim Cook
Executive Director
Malcolm Eaton Enterprises
tcook@malcolmeaton.org