

THE ANNUAL APPEAL — Key to Delivering Lafayette's Programs

“My son looks forward to going to work. Staff is considerate and caring. They have special events, one free lunch a month and free flu shots for the employees. You can see your donor dollars at work.”

The above quote is a verbatim quote from a survey on our workshops. Our Annual Appeal, Lafayette Industries' primary fundraising effort, is underway. Since 1976 Lafayette Industries has been Building Dreams and Creating Opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. Our 2023 Annual Appeal creates an opportunity for you to make a huge personal difference in the lives and work experience of our beloved workers. Our contributors are vital to the success of our organization and funds programs for the direct benefit of our workers.

Remember: We receive donations only from individuals, companies with matching funds whose employees donate to us, our fundraising events, private organizations such as the Knights of Columbus and the Lions Club; and grants from company foundations. We don't receive any funds from local units of national organizations such as the United Way. During the course of the year, we target to raise about \$1,500 per worker, or \$550,000 in order to maintain and expand our great programs. The Annual Appeal is key to that effort. If you are a continuous supporter of this effort, we can't thank you enough for the difference that you have made in so many lives. If you are new to Lafayette, please consider us to be part of your personal annual giving plan. Contributions are tax deductible. Contact our Chief Advancement Officer, Vicky James, at ext. 1118. Vicky can help you with various ways to give and also connect you with other parents who know the critical importance of this Appeal. Also, if you have a lead, or acquaintance, or a connection to a foundation that gives to the community, let Vicky know so she can apply!

Here's to a joyous season for all, and a Happy and Successful 2024!




Rob Libera
 CEO & Executive Director
rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com

Mission: The mission of Lafayette Industries is to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and to persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older.

Goals: ♦ To provide a meaningful and productive work experience to persons who are disabled ♦ To maintain a safe and pleasant work environment ♦ To teach and to train persons with disabilities to acquire better work habits ♦ To enhance self-worth and dignity through employment ♦ To provide high-quality business service through packaging, light assembly and commercial mailings ♦ To operate the center in a professional, fiscally responsible manner ♦ To provide fair wages and good benefits

Please join us for our annual
**LAFAYETTE
WEST**

HOLIDAY PARTY

First Free Evangelical Church

15 DECEMBER

11:30 am-1:00 pm

Let's celebrate
together!

If you wish to volunteer, contact Becky Stillwell by
email at bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com or call
(636) 227-5666 x 1100



LAFAYETTE NORTH'S ANNUAL



holiday
Pancake
Breakfast

22 DECEMBER | 7:30-11 AM

LAFAYETTE NORTH



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR DECEMBER FOLKS

NORTH

Markus	Allen	1
Lois	Ross	1
Tim	Hubbard	3
James	Nelson	3
Michael	Sweeney	3
Tina	Tackett	5
Jamika	Jones	10
Tiffany	Sudin	10
Angela	Taylor	12
Glen	Moore	14
Sheila	Zigrye	16
Torrey	Watson	19
Christina	Sanders	26
Glendall	Davis	29
Vonita	Jimmerson	30

WEST

Daniel	Zeller	1	Matt	Berry	16
Atul	Kakaiya	7	Paula	Aleto	17
Ian	Wainz	7	Camille	Lawrence	17
Coranda	Edwards	10	Jeffrey	Beckerle	18
Vicky	James	10	Mackenzie	Carr	19
Nathan	Hughes	12	Daniel	Scholl	26
Keenan	Retzlaff	12	Samantha	Behlmann	29
Anna	Walters	13	Emily	Prado	29
Elizabeth	Goodwin	14	Grace	Quinn	30



SERGEANT ABSOLON CHECK PRESENTATION – 11/7/2023



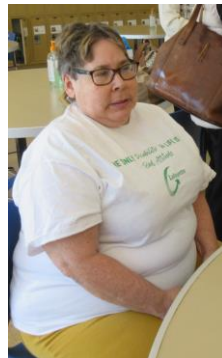
Immediate left: Kate Gregor, Vicky James, Rob Libera, Scott Skarstad (Lafayette staff), Sergeant Absolon (Manchester Police Department).

You may have heard Rob speak of Sgt. Absolon of the Manchester police department in glowing terms. She is the officer that saved his life when he died for a period of time a number of years back, but she was able to start his heart beating again. We at Lafayette are forever grateful to her for her life-saving training. There is a phrase “paying it forward” that has made the rounds over these past many years. It means that you have been a recipient of an unforeseen act of kindness, bravery or generosity or all of these that made a huge difference in your life. In return for this act, there is an unspoken expectation placed on the recipient’s shoulders to pass along a similar act to the next person who needs a helping hand. Rob never

forgot the incredible gift that he had been given to live to see another day. When he heard that Sgt. Absolon was having a major health issue of her own, he wanted to “pay it forward” to her in some way. He decided to have Lafayette host a matchbox car race called “Race to Beat Cancer.” We wish the Sergeant the best of health possible as she faces her enemy, and we know that she will win the battle. Sergeant, we are so grateful that you were around when Rob needed someone’s help. We know that you have a lot of people pulling for you. Take care of yourself and your family, and we wish you the brightest future possible ahead.

SIX GOLD WATCHES FOR LAFAYETTE NORTH

On November 1st Lafayette North celebrated 6 of their employees who have worked for 25 years at North, and that makes it a very special occasion. It's a major accomplishment. The 6 employees to receive one of these watches was James Campbell, Antwoine Williams, Barb Richter, Laura Fortus, Alice Gibson and Stefanie Taylor. After the watches were handed out, they got treated to lunch, followed by cake. Below are some of the pictures we took commemorating the occasion. Thanks to everyone who helped out.



CONGRATULATIONS,

EVERYBODY!!!

NORTH – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL – OCTOBER 2023



Front row – left to right: Thile Bryant, Patty Cornell

Back row – left to right: Charles Cooper, Dion Austin, Janay Edwards, Tamara Little

NORTH – CAUGHT BEING SAFE – OCTOBER 2023



Front row – left to right: Anrico Gaddy, Sandy Hite, Tim Hubbard, Sally Grant

Back Row: Matt Knipshild



WEST – CAUGHT BEING SAFE – OCTOBER 2023

Immediate left: Kim Lamb (Staff), Ryan Clemente (Employee), Claude Turner (Employee), Radha Kakaiya (Employee), and Rob Libera (Staff)

WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL – OCTOBER 2023

Immediate left: Kim Lamb (Staff), Stuart Harlan (Employee), Jeanne Adelsberger (Employee), Joe Hagan (Employee), and Rob Libera (Staff)





**Everyone is invited to Lafayette's
Holiday Concert & Art Exhibit**

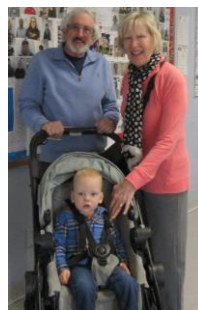
Monday, December 11, 2023 - 7:00p

Manchester United Methodist Church
129 Woods Mill Road
Manchester MO 63011

Art Exhibit Open 6:30 - 7:00p



BOOTS BERRY'S MEMORIAL LUNCHEON



On November 16th we had our monthly Free Lunch. Just another free lunch, right? Right? No, not right. We had a few people die that were special to Lafayette West. Boots was one of those people that died, and there are people missing her being around. Boots Berry's daughter, another Becky, wanted part of the contributions that came in Boots's memory to go towards sponsoring a free lunch. On the 16th we were celebrating our Thanksgiving meal here, and we had our turkey dinner, complete with mashed potatoes and green beans. It was a huge hit, and we ate our way through it all. Becky Pierce came over with her husband, Randy, and their grandson, Arlo. Also present were our monthly helpers from St. Mark's. Rob presented a special award in honor of Boots. It was a great moment to remember a great lady. Thanks everyone who participated, and we never will forget our special Birthday Card Queen!!

COLTON'S CORNER

By Vicky James (Proud Lafayette Staff)



Colton John Armengol was born on March 16, 2000. Within a few months his parents knew he was not developing as expected. Colton received a diagnosis of the rare GABRB2 associated neurodevelopment disorder.

Though he was stricken with a rare and incurable disease with a five-year life expectancy, Colton shattered the odds and lived a significantly longer, full

life. He visited Disney World, graduated from high school, and in the end, left a meaningful legacy, first by way of organ donation and then through Colton's Cause. Angie Kane Colton's Mom founded Colton's Cause in memory of Colton.

Colton's Mom, Angie Kane, came by to visit Lafayette West, and she was immediately impressed with the dedication of the workers on the Production Floor. As a way to support the mission of Colton's Cause, Angie donated materials and labor to create Colton's Corner.

Colton's Corner will provide a place for Colton's Wheelchair to be parked for when our workers might need it while at Lafayette. Angie wanted to make certain Colton's chair was donated in his memory to help others. Colton's cause purchased new cabinets, labor to paint the corner and other items needed for workers at Lafayette. The most notable addition to the corner is a mural that was painted in memory of Colton.

The mural was painted by Sherri Talbott, a retired art teacher for the Northwest School District. Sherri was my 8th grade art teacher. Sherri and I have remained friends since the first day they met. I was in the classroom the first hour Sherri began her teaching career as a student, and I attended the last hour she was in the classroom as President of the School Board. After Sherri retired from teaching she worked at Sunnyhill University in a program that taught art skills to their residence. When asked to paint the mural of Colton, without hesitation she replied, "Yes." Sherri donated her time and talent to complete the mural.

We are grateful to Colton's Cause for their generous donation. Lafayette is honored to be a part of Colton's Cause mission to help others and remember Colton in such a meaningful way.



LAFAYETTE WEST SAYS THANK YOU
TO COLTON'S CAUSE AND TO
SHERRI TALBOTT, THE ARTIST

100+ WOMEN WHO CARE STL WEST

By Polly Rutherford (Proud Mother)



Immediate left – left to right: Lisa Rosenstock (100+ Women), Polly Rutherford (Lafayette), Rob Libera (Lafayette), Alicia Rutherford (Lafayette), Jeanne Clauson (100+ Women) and Julie Herrmann (100+ Women).

100 Women Who Care chose Lafayette Industries as their charity of choice for the second time in October.

100 Women Who Care is a philanthropic organization who meet quarterly. Members submit their charity of choice to a bucket. Three charities are randomly drawn from the bucket at each meeting. The member who submitted the charity gives a 5-minute presentation. Each member writes a check for \$100 to the charity that receives the most votes. The charity also receives a matching half-grant from Best Buy and the Richard M Schultz Family Foundation.

I initially presented Lafayette Industries in 2017. At that time, 100 Women had a membership of 29, so 100 Women presented Lafayette with checks totaling \$2,900. This was before the matching 50% grant. I presented Lafayette again last month, and it was the charity chosen. Also presented were “Santa’s Helpers” and “Arts for Healing.” You are allowed to present the same charity again after 2 years. This was only the second repeat winner.

On November 1st, 100 Women Who Care presented checks totaling \$5,500 to Lafayette. The 50% grant will be coming later. Lafayette will receive over \$8,000. Pictured above are the three ladies from 100 Women who presented the check to Lafayette – Lisa Rosenstock, Jeanne Clauson and Julie Herrmann. Accepting the check on behalf of Lafayette was Rob Libera, the Executive Director of Lafayette, myself (Polly Rutherford) and my daughter, Alicia, who works at Lafayette.

100 Women Who Care meet in January, April, July and October at The Gatesworth. We are graciously hosted to Happy Hour by The Gatesworth from 6:30-7:30p. The meeting is from 7:30-8:30p. There is a thank-you presentation from our previous winner, and then the new charities for the next quarter are presented and one is chosen.

New members are welcome. Contact me, Polly Rutherford (pollyrutherford@gmail.com), if you are interested.

Editorial note: A big thank you to Polly for presenting Lafayette to 100+ Women Who Care, and a big, big thank you to 100+ Women Who Care who chose Lafayette to receive their votes. We are humbled and grateful to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

See the calendar on Wednesday, December 13th about Life @ Lafayette meeting at 4:00p.

LAFAYETTE'S GROUP OF GOLD AND SILVER MEDALISTS IN BOWLING FROM THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Immediately above: Andy Rossel, Drew Pinkston, Steve Schroeder, Robbie Gregg, Jennifer Schweiss, Dan Scholl



Immediately above: Steve Schroeder

It started out with Jennifer Schweiss showing us her medal. She had won it in bowling. What we didn't know is that there were 5 other people who had also won medals in the same event. It was a mixed group of gold and silver winners. They were equally proud, no matter the color of the medal. It was a major accomplishment. Bowling medals include an individual winners, doubles and teams. Whether they won it on their own or whether they won it as part of a group effort, it is something to be able to show it off. Steve Schroeder is in both pictures because he forgot his medal on Monday. When we took the group picture, we knew he would want you all to see his medal as well. We told him to bring it on Tuesday, and we'd get his picture with the medal. He already was wearing it, and we got his picture soon after he arrived at work. 6 people played really hard to get their wins. Now they will go on to state. Congratulations to all! Jennifer, thanks for letting me know that there were more people. Thanks to everyone who participated in the picture, and good luck to you in the next round of bowling. We'll be cheering for you!



We learned that Chas Pfeil had been a partner with Jennifer Schweiss, and had also won a gold in golf. Congratulations, Chas. We wanted to be sure that he got recognized for his achievements along with our other medal winners above. Congratulations to you, Chas, and cool medals.



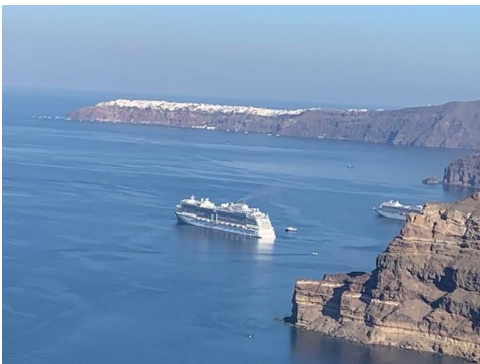
HOPE YOU HAD A HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!

Immediate left: Alison Hanners taught we Lafayettters how to dress for a festive Halloween. It's all in the way you accessorize your orange t-shirt. Ali, thanks for being a good sport and letting me take your picture. We hope everyone had a great 2023 Halloween, and now let's have as great a December. This year is passing very quickly, and soon it'll be time for Christmas.

ANNIE WALTERS EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRIP

By Tricia Walters (Proud Mom)

Annie had a wonderful time from Rome, to Tuscany, to Naples, to Turkey, to Greece, to Sicily, to Montenegro and finally, Barcelona. The Cruise portion was 14 days, with 3 days on either end. Exhausting, but fun!





DECEMBER DRIVING

Greetings, my chilled-to-the-bone friends. Baby, it is cold outside. There are plenty of safety issues for winter, but our emphasis this month is driving on America's roads. We shall bring our focus to 5 of them.

DISTRACTIONS

- 1) We bring some tongue-in-cheekness to this, but the threats really do exist. Sliding gifts. Really. Let them slide, folks. Eyes on the road!
- 2) Hot drinks can totally get your attention. A spill on those legs and oh boy. Happened to my father-in-law. Second degree burns. Can't believe he didn't wreck? Maybe wait to get where you're going, if a short distance.
- 3) Christmas music. Traveling with a Scrooge? Set the rules BEFORE you leave. Keepa you hands off that dial, eh?
- 4) Texting. Enough has been said about that.
- 5) Dancing with sing-a-longs. This is big in my family. Lots of singers, and they all dance. Trips with them scare me.
- 6) Reaching the glove compartment is risky. I hadn't been driving for a week as a youngster when I reached for the glove box that was too far to get at. My foot slipped off the brake, and the car rolled into the car in front of me.

BLOCKED WINDOWS

Over did it in the gift buying department? Safety hazard! If you can't see out a window, you have too many.

STEAMED UP WINDOWS

Holiday season in particular leads to additional folks in our cars. Lots of reasons for this. Of course, more people bring more steam to the windows. Some vehicles can be worse than others because of their design. Start that defroster early.

WEATHER

Leave room between cars this month. Check those tires. New ones? Clean and defrost well before leaving the curb, lot or driveway. Don't be tempted to do just enough. Our son did, and he hit the teacher he had in his first class in the school parking lot. Aaaawkward.

ALCOHOL

The U.S. Department of Transportation says there is an average of 300 drunk driving crashes the week between Christmas and New Years. This is a problem throughout the month because of office parties, homecomings, and other celebrations.

STRESS AND OVERTIME

There is a lot of it this time of year. There are a lot of tired people from overtime work hours as well. Be mindful.

Can't help but repeat the old highway department phrase: Watch out for the *OTHER* guy.

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT - **MORE LATER!**

BETH GOODWIN'S TRIP TO ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

By Marian Goodwin (Proud Mother)



Beth Goodwin traveled with her father and me, to Anchorage, Alaska on November 13th to see her brother, Jeff, sister-in-law, Christina, and nephew, Evan. We celebrated Evan's first birthday on November 17th.

Anchorage had a 27 inch snowfall five days before we arrived, and another eight inch snowfall the night before we got there. It was a LOT of snow. Beth's sister, Chris, who lives in Seattle, was able to join us in Anchorage for a few days.

WEST GLEE CLUB – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023

(Pictures by Becky Kohler (Proud Parent))



The West Glee Club, for the fall session, is coming to an end next week. Time to show everyone what we have learned. How do we do that? They have the art class projects displayed like an art gallery. After everyone has had ample time to ooooooh and ahhhhh over the art, it's time for the Glee Club to make their presentations. There are three groups – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – and each one of the groups gets a chance to present what they have learned during the prior months. Becky Kohler sent these great pictures taken after the Wednesday class. You can see the interaction of the group leader with her “students.” Truly music reaches almost everyone on some level. You only have to hear these folks to understand about how much music means to them. These folks are here because they want to learn about music, and to share it with others. The leader allowed those who wanted to do so to touch her guitar, and if lucky, maybe even gently strum it while she's holding the chord for them. Becky's son is the one touching the guitar in the first picture. Obviously he loves this unexpected chance to see what a guitar feels and sounds like. Come see them on Monday, December 11th. See the announcement earlier in the newsletter.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE
WE HAVE OFF MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH AND
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH – FOLLOWED BY
MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST FOR NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY!**

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 First day of Hanukkah	9
10	11 Art Concert at Manchester UMC, 129 Woods Mill Rd., Manchester Art Exhibit open 6:30-7:00p	12	13 Amy Parker from Metro St. Louis will be on the Life@Lafayette meeting to discuss transportation options for our employees. Meeting is scheduled today at 4:00p.	14	15 West's Annual Holiday Party at First Free Evangelical Church 11:30a-1:00p (will serve as Free Lunch)	16
17	18	19	20 Board meeting 6:00 pm at West	21 Winter begins	22 North's Annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast – 7:30-11:00a (will serve as Free Lunch)	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 <u>Both Workshops are closed for the Holidays.</u> Christmas Day	26 <u>Both Workshops are closed for the Holidays.</u> Kwanzaa	27	28	29 North dismisses early at 1:00p for New Year's on Monday.	30
31 New Year's Eve	****Both Workshops are closed on Monday, January 1 st for New Year's Day****					