

Dreams in Action



Lifebridge Partnership

“I used to play [basketball] for Special Olympics, but it was too far and I did not have transportation.” said Jesse Carpenter, an employee at Lafayette North. Many obstacles, including cost and transportation, prevented Jesse, and many other Lafayette North Employees, from being able to participate. “At West, we do Glee Club and Art Therapy, but at North, they weren’t interested in these offerings and transportation is a major problem for families.” Stacey Elster, Chief Program Officer, explained (con’t on page 5)

Letter from the CEO

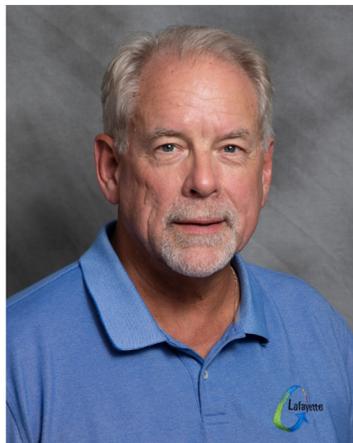
Introducing the first of Lafayette’s newest publication, ***Dreams in Action***. ***Dreams in Action*** grew out of a desire to acknowledge our donors and partners for their contributions and to highlight the lives your contributions have changed. Expanding on our tagline of 48 years, “***Building Dreams . . . Creating Opportunities***”, we hope to share the dreams and opportunities our supporters have built and created.

In this issue we are spotlighting some of our many successes that have resulted in collaborations with individuals and organizations in the area. Lafayette is as successful as our partnerships and we are grateful for all the time, talent, and treasure our partners have provided.

Thank you again for your support,



Rob Libera
CEO/Executive Director
Lafayette Industries



HOT DOG DAY(S)

Monthly Free Lunch is now twice a month; thanks to our donors!

Lunch is a great way to participate at Lafayette! We need up to six volunteers **each month** at **each location** to serve over 300 lunches! If you are interested or know a group who is, please contact Vicky James, Chief Advancement Officer.
Vicky James
(636) 227-5666 x 1118 or vjames@lafayetteindustries.com

In May and June alone, SFW Partners, Enterprise Bank and Bussmann Enterprises sponsored and volunteered at our West location.



SFW Partners volunteers grilling and serving lunch



Enterprise Bank newest staff grill and serve



Eaton Bussmann Partners



GRANT'S FARM FIRST

Vicky James, Lafayette's Chief Advancement Officer, met Nicholas

Clemens at a Kirkwood Chamber of Commerce Meeting in Fall of 2023. This networking opportunity turned into an offer by Grant's Farm to host the 2024 Employee Celebration Picnic.

465 Employees and their families showed up on May 18th to our most adventurous picnic ever! Unlimited goat feedings, a photo op with a Clydesdale, a private macaw demonstration and access to the entire park were just some of the advantages of hosting at this location. All of this was free for all attendees – thanks to our generous picnic sponsors.

Thank you Vicky, Nicholas, Grant's Farm and Kirkwood Chamber of Commerce for coming together to create this memorable event.



A macaw demonstration and pictures with the world famous Clydesdales



Grant's Farm provided a large shaded picnic area and a BBQ buffet

Lafayette Company Picnic



Lafayette's annual picnic is another way of saying thank you to our employees and their families for the continued success of Lafayette's mission



STEPUP EXPANSION



Jefferson Foundation

Wicked Chicken

Ed Pupillo, the genius behind the Wicked Chicken Restaurant in High Ridge, welcomed the STEPUP expansion into Jefferson County. STEPUP combines classroom education and on site training to create a long term job skills training program for adults with developmental disabilities in both St. Louis and Jefferson Counties.

The Jefferson Foundation of Jefferson County awarded a large grant to Lafayette to bring our award winning employment training program to Jefferson County. We partner with two successful and established food service organizations and were able to launch our inaugural class of nine individuals in summer of 2023.



Cool Beans

Cool Beans Cafe serves the best coffee, sandwiches & baked goods in Hillsboro! Owned and operated by Michelle Rinehart, Cool Beans provides a STEPUP training opportunity on Monday mornings for one participant.

Cool Beans
316 Locust St
Hillsboro, MO 63050



Wicked Chicken
3021 High Ridge Blvd
High Ridge, MO 63049



LifeBridge Partnership

(con't from page 1)

LifeBridge Partnership provided the missing pieces for North employees to engage in after work life-enrichment activities. Funded by multiple sources, including the Productive Living Board of St. Louis, LifeBridge Partnership's mission is *"Building Bridges to a life of social well-being for individuals with disabilities."*



Since May 2023, LifeBridge's Out and About Program has been providing service to six employees each Friday. One of the many aspects that make LifeBridge unique is their ability to provide transportation – they pick up from Lafayette after work and drive all employees to their home after the outing! Each employee was responsible for a small transportation fee and the cost of the specific outing admission, i.e, movie ticket price or dinner cost.

Beginning October of 2023, Lafayette's Board of Directors voted to fully fund the LifeBridge events so no employee pays out of pocket. During this conversation Susan Ratz, board member at Lafayette and the YMCA, offered to connect the three organizations.



Susan Ratz

A new program was born! Two cycles, four weeks each, enabled 12 total participants to engage with the YMCA's Adaptive Fitness program. The feedback has been wonderful. "I love playing basketball with LifeBridge" Jesse told us upon completion of his four week cycle. Employees are not only learning to play basketball but the additional life skills team sports provide to the individual. The current cycle began mid July and is a "No Limits Fitness Class".

The YMCA Activity fee and LifeBridge's transportation fees are fully funded by Lafayette's donors. Thanks to your support and generosity, employees like Jesse Carpenter are not only learning to play basketball but also finding joy, camaraderie, and empowerment in ways they never imagined possible.

New Threads

For the past 20 years Lafayette has celebrated the milestone 25th anniversary with a Gold Watch presentation and celebratory lunch. This fiscal year we expanded that program to include “milestone” shirts and special apparel items to recognize additional important anniversaries.



Above: Jenny Merlo, board member, hands out milestone shirts

Below: North employees show off their new apparel

New Digs

Colton John Armengol was diagnosed as an infant with a rare neurological disorder. Stricken with a rare and incurable disease with a five-year life expectancy, Colton shattered the odds and lived a significantly longer, fuller life.

Throughout the years, Colton’s family experienced firsthand the immense financial burden that can go along with caring for children and young adults with special needs.

Colton’s mother and stepfather, John and Angie Kane, founded Colton’s Cause to help with this financial burden and improve the quality of life for families of children and young adults with special needs. They provide financial support for nursing care, mobility equipment, home accessibility modifications, and similar needs.

Colton’s Cause donated Colton’s wheelchair and a designated “Care Corner” to Lafayette West in a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 8, 2024.



If you know of a family in need of financial resources to assist with a child or young adult with special needs, visit the Colton’s Cause’s website.

coltonscare.org



Newsworthy



Stacey Elster appointed to Governor's Council on Disability

Lafayette Industries proudly announces the appointment of our Chief Program Officer, Stacey Elster, to the Governor's Council on Disability by Governor Michael L. Parson. With over 16 years in disability services, Stacey has led innovative programs at Lafayette since 2016, including the award-winning STEPUP training program.

A former Special Education Teacher and adjunct professor at Webster University, Stacey's dedication and expertise make her a valuable addition to the Council.

Lafayette North and West are two of 87 workshops in the state of Missouri. Twice a year the workshop organization, MASWM, converges for a two day conference covering vital topics for workshop success.

Rob Libera just completed his tenure as the MASWM President but is still on the executive board as Immediate Past President.

The MASWM board took the opportunity to thank Rob for his years of service in his consecutive roles of Vice President, President and currently, Immediate Past President. His tenure was marked by



Tim Poepel, current MASWM president and Rob Libera, Immediate Past President

innovative leadership which carried the organization through the difficult COVID pandemic.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lafayette Welcomes our 2024 New Board Members



Tom Lantzy
Clayco, Inc.

Tom Lantzy has over 10 years of financial leadership experience, including roles as VP of FP&A at Clayco and CFO at Inside Rx. Tom holds an MBA from UMSL, and a Bachelor's in Accounting from Luther College. His financial and strategic expertise is crucial to our mission.



Kelly Fischer
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Kelly Fischer is a skilled Chief People Officer who excels in HR leadership. Her expertise in talent management and cultural transformation makes her a valuable board member.



Jeff Kammermeyer
Altru Group

Jeff Kammermeyer has over 20 years in sales, marketing, strategy, and operations. He was CCO at Elemental Enzymes and Sr. Director at Elanco, with leadership roles at Monsanto and Express Scripts. He is passionate about supporting organizations that positively impact families.

About

Dreams in Action is a regular publication by Lafayette Industries drawing attention to the successes of our organization's employees, participants, and board members.

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2024 Presidential Election

In October 2024, Lafayette's board will elect our new President. Kirsten Dietrich has served as President since 2021 and has been instrumental in many successes, including recruiting and growing our Board of Directors to the well rounded organization it is today.

Rich Waigand, the President Elect, has been a Lafayette Board Member and the Treasurer since October 2018. Thank you Kirsten for your years of service and thank you Rich for continuing to volunteer your expertise to Lafayette!



Kirsten Dietrich
ADM



Rich Waigand
SFW Partners