RNI, Inc. salutes top employers and employees

Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. (RNI) saluted more than 200 area employers during its annual Employer Recognition Breakfast on Nov. 2.

Major Metals Company of Mansfield was named 2018 Community Employer of the Year. The company first began working with RNI about one year ago and has hired four individuals who are supported by RNI. Currently, one is employed full-time while two others are part-time.

“We have been nothing but pleased with the level of the people we’ve gotten,” said Major Metals’ Sam Mason. “It’s made our company a much better place to work.”

The Industrial Employer of the Year is School Specialty, Inc. Since 2004, RNI, Inc. has packaged educational kits for the Mansfield company. The in-house work opportunities provided by School Specialty allow more than
200 individuals to work on increasing their skills and earn a paycheck.

The Community Employee of the Year is Scott Weikle of Mansfield. Scott has been employed at Major Metals for about one year. Sean Stichler was honored as the Business Development Employee of the Year. Sean is part of the custodial team at the Mansfield Municipal Building. The Facility-Based Employee of the Year for 2018 is Dottie Cains. Dottie does various jobs at RNI, Inc.'s Fourth St. location, works two days a week at City Garden Café, and is a contracted artist at Element of Art Studio/Gallery.

RNI, Inc. Executive Director Amanda South said over the past year the agency has provided supports to more than 300 individuals with disabilities to try out jobs in the community and at RNI-operated businesses such as City Garden Café and Element of Art.

Forty-five high school students and 35 employers participated in RNI, Inc.’s Summer Youth Career Exploration and Summer Training Employment programs this past summer.

RNI, Inc. serves more than 600 individuals annually in Richland and Crawford Counties. In addition to employment, RNI, Inc. also offers community-integrated and volunteer opportunities.

The non-profit agency is one of more than 150 provider partners that Richland Newhope (Richland County Board of Developmental
Disabilities) works with to provide supports for people with developmental disabilities.

**Special fundraiser**

Richland County Special Olympics is holding a holiday wreath fundraiser through Nov. 16.

The 24-inch handmade wreaths from The Iris Patch in Lucas are decorated with pinecones, various fresh pines, and a plaid ribbon. The price is $35. They'll be delivered Nov. 24 - Nov. 30.

All proceeds will go to support over 200 athletes from Richland County and costs such as registration fees, hotels and meals, uniforms, equipment, facility rental, and athlete/volunteer awards.

Richland County Special Olympics has an annual budget of about $12,000 that's entirely financed through local fundraisers and donations from various service clubs, organizations, and individuals.

Click [here](#) to download a wreath order form. For more information, call Tom Hehmeyer at 419-564-9461.

**Halloween fun!**

There were plenty of smiles and tasty candy during the annual Halloween Trick or Treat at the Early Childhood Center (ECC) on Oct. 31. Families joined in the fun, too!

After parading around the ECC building, the preschool classes walked next door to
Foundation Hall for more goodies. Service and Support Administration staff enjoyed dressing up and passing out candy to the youngsters in what they hope is the start of a new tradition.

Pumpkin Day!

The morning preschool students at the Early Childhood Center were excited to receive a pumpkin from Mickey and Minnie Mouse on Oct. 17.

Despite the bad crop season, Marion Correctional Institution staff donned costumes and passed out 235 pumpkins. Students in the afternoon preschool classes were able to pick out their own pumpkins from a special 'pumpkin patch' that was set up.

Special thanks to the Marion Correctional Institution for donating pumpkins for the 14th straight year!

In Memoriam

Jessica Lange - Oct. 19, 2018

Dennis Crevoisier - Oct. 27, 2018

Patty Straub - Oct. 30, 2018

Calendar
**Nov. 12** – Veterans Day Holiday Observance: Richland Newhope’s Administrative Offices, Service & Support Administration, and Early Childhood Center closed

**Nov. 22-23** - Thanksgiving Holiday: Richland Newhope’s Administrative Offices, Service & Support Administration, and Early Childhood Center closed

**Nov. 27** – Provider meeting, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Longview Center, Rm. 235, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield.

**Dec. 5** - Richland Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m., Newhope Administrative Offices, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield

**Dec. 5** – Provider Recruitment and Retention Seminar, 10 a.m., Knox Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities, 1170 Upper Gilchrist Rd., Suite A, Mount Vernon

**Dec. 7** - Richland Newhope Christmas Party, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Fairhaven Hall, Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 Home Rd., Mansfield

**Dec. 7** - First Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield

**Dec. 12** - SCRAP recycling trailer, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Early Childhood Center, 255 Hedges St., Mansfield (no stop in November)

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