

FALL **2021**

One moment of kindness, one big break!

Sometimes all it takes is one act of kindness, one moment of understanding, one big break. That's how Jeff Kosbab's story starts.

"I always wanted to work with cars, well, actually, I just wanted to work," explains Jeff, who found it difficult to find work after his Schizophrenia diagnosis. "Finally, someone gave me a chance."

That "someone" are the owners of Buff Kings in NewUlm. "I have a lot of respect for him, his desire to work and his understanding of being accountable and responsible for the work he does," explains co-owner Cassie Thompson. "We just wanted to give the guy a break and I really hope he continues to make stepping stones toward a healthy life."

Jeff is making great strides toward living his best life. While Schizophrenia is a serious mental illness, it is also very treatable. While he still experiences anxiety from time to time, Jeff has learned to manage life with the diagnosis, thanks, in part, to his job at Buff Kings.

"It's great, it's a wonderful place to work. They are flexible with me and I want to do a good job for them," says Jeff. "I didn't have a job for a long time, so I am excited to get back to work. I do car detailing and finishing work for them."

Jeff earned the job with the help of MRCI's Stephanie Haas, who works in the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program. Stephanie knew Jeff would enjoy working in the auto industry and really listened to his needs when guiding him in his job search.

"Stephanie is always very helpful and considerate, I can't thank her enough," says Jeff.

Jeff is appreciative too, to the Thompson family who have made him feel right at home at Buff Kings.

"They gave me a chance, when few others would," he says. The Thompson's say it's been a good fit for them as well. "Jeff seems to take a lot of pride in his work and shows that he is very appreciative of having a job," says Cassie. "He has a great attitude and is very highly regarded by other employees."

"We hired him because of his initiative and his determination to overcome significant mental health issues to be successful. We just think he is a great example for others and we are happy he is with us."



*To provide innovative and genuine opportunities
for individuals with disabilities or disadvantages
at home, at work and in the community.*

www.MyMRCI.org
800.829.7110



MRCI knows life is a marathon, not a sprint. We understand to be successful takes training, perseverance and the right mindset. At MRCI, we are committed to going the distance to help our clients achieve their dreams. We strive to provide innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with disabilities at home, at work and in the community.

We are so thankful of the support we get from the communities we are in, from volunteers to employment partners. And now, we can add champion runners to that list!

To support our awesome charity runners, please visit <https://www.mymrci.org/mankato-marathon2021>



We are proud to introduce our four charity runners in this year's Mankato Marathon!

DAVE BORCHERT
Brown County
Commissioner/
New Ulm
Police Chief

MRCI is very important and serves many people within the community, region and entire State of Minnesota.



BEN BROZE
Staff Assistant to
Senator Tina Smith

My sister Emily has been a participant in MRCI programming for over six years, and I want to support her and others like her.

JESSICA GROPEL
Marketing Manager,
Eide Bailly

I'm not a runner, however I ran the Boston Marathon in 2015 to raise money for the organization that provided a living situation for us during my daughter's rehabilitation and brain cancer treatment. We now do a lot of work with MRCI and I'm happy to support this organization. That keeps me motivated!



ASHLEY ELLIOTT
Day Support
Specialist at MRCI

MRCI is also where I work. I am committed to helping this charity because I love my job and the mission that we have to support our clients!



MRCI Stronger Than Ever Officially Launches New Program

The Burnsville Chamber of Commerce and the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon on MRCI's new Community-Based Day Service program. We are excited to celebrate the expansion of services!



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SEPTEMBER 10

<https://www.mymrci.org/whose-line-mankato-2021>

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(DSPs) FOR ALL YOU DO!

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our mission without you!

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NATIONAL DSP WEEK
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