



## Meet Samantha

### A girl following her dreams

Samantha Tomlinson found herself at a crossroads. She knew she was ready for work in the community, but she didn't really quite know just what she wanted to do. So, she started in MRCI's Pre ETS program, a program that includes job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, workplace readiness training, as well as instruction in self advocacy. When graduating from that program Sam knew what she wanted to do: work with animals. Her MRCI employment specialists went to work, trying to find a job that would fit.

MRCI Employment Specialist Megan Moe says, "I connected with Camp Bow Wow in Eden Prairie. The owner, Diana, shared that she has never hired an individual without experience working at a doggy daycare but she was open to scheduling a tour with MRCI and Sam. Sam attended a tour at Camp Bow Wow and to our surprise, it was also an interview! Sam was open and honest with her responses and made it a point to share about her love of animals, especially dogs."

Impressing Diana, Sam completed a "working interview" at Camp Bow Wow to see if the tasks would fit her interests. Sam did a fantastic job at the working interview and was hired.

Megan says, "I know when we were initially setting this up, Diana was hesitant to take on someone without experience. But setting up the work experience was a great opportunity for Sam to explore career interests and see what working at a doggy daycare would really be like and for Diana to see if Sam would be a good fit." Now Diana is thrilled to have Sam on the team. "Whenever Sam is here she is a great worker, when we give her a task she gets right to it and works hard. All in all this experience has been really great!" Diana says.



# Meet our Mankato Marathon Runners!

MRCI was selected as one of the Mankato Marathon's charities. Follow our runners as they each raise awareness and financial support of our mission. The events of the Mankato Marathon will be October 14 and 15; however, we will be hosting a pep rally to wish all of our runners well on August 17, 2022 at Sibley Park.



Joseph Broze



"I have a daughter who's name is Emily and a lot of you know her. Seems like everyone knows Emily, but also with her Down syndrome, she goes to MRCI. She's been a client for about a dozen years. And we're just so thankful and grateful for everything that MRCI does and I'm excited to contribute to our community and MRCI by running in the Mankato Marathon."

Ashley Elliott

"Super excited to run the Mankato Marathon for MRCI, which is where I work. I love working with my clients. I'm super excited to see you all there at the marathon cheering us a on."



"I started volunteering with MRCI last year through their virtual program, and it's just been a great experience getting to meet everybody and talk about the community, what we have going on here in Mankato and just seeing what a great organization can do with employing people in the community."

Jessica Gropel

"MRCI is an amazing organization in our community. We use MRCI for CDS services for Kallie. They've been amazing to work with and this is the least I can do to show my support. I also hope you'll join in supporting this cause!"



Sean Morawczynski



## Virtual Day Service Program Turns 2!

**It's "Virtually" impossible to NOT like this program!** With sessions ranging from sports to movies to geography, our virtual programming continues to thrive. In fact, we just celebrated its 2nd anniversary!

Originally, the program was MRCI's way of pivoting during the pandemic to be able to continue serving individuals with disabilities. Today, the program is going strong offering a variety of virtual sessions each day. It can supplement our day service and employment programs, or it can be a stand-alone option.

To learn more visit, [www.mymrci.org](http://www.mymrci.org).







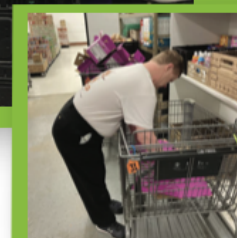
# Out and About



**Take me out to the ballgame** - Target Field was a "hit" with these baseball fans. Unique experiences that provide the opportunity to gain skills and promote community participation are just a couple of the qualities of the Day Service program. Go Twins!



**Making a difference** in our local communities is another feature of our Day Service program. We love volunteering at the ECHO Food Shelf in Mankato!



*Thank you*

**Shop Local!** Bargain\$, a nonprofit thrift store that helps support MRCI New Ulm, donated \$10,000 to our employment and day service programs that serve individuals with disabilities thanks to the generous community's support of our store.



**The spring season was a popular time for our transition programs.** We have had sessions in New Ulm and Truman so far. One day they toured the New Ulm airport to learn about careers there!





# WHOSE LINE IS IT MANKATO

AN IMPROV EVENT BENEFITING



Who will take the stage this year completely unscripted? Be watching our social media starting July 1 as we begin revealing this year's awesome contestants in Whose Line is it Mankato?

**Save the Date: September 16, 2022**  
**Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center**

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