



Miracle



Special Points of Interest

- *Harry M. Life Story*
- *Roberta's New Job & her making history at Merrick*
- *We are still looking for Miracle Crew please let Katie & Roberta know.*
- *Shooting Stars of the Season.*

Chilly willy winter



Harry grew up on Northeast Minneapolis. He attended high school in St. Paul and then attended the 916 Transition Program. Harry has been at Merrick over 15 years. He's had work at a variety of jobs where he started on work crews at Ground Round and the Village Inn. He showed progress and independence and soon was recommended for Independent Employment. Harry also worked at Godfather's Pizza where he worked with another Merrick client. He became the management team's right hand man. He is currently employed at McDonald's in Midway. Harry is a great guy and fun to be around. Work is only a piece of Harry's story. In May 2013 Harry was diagnosed with testicular cancer and it changed his world dramatically. His world became doctor visits, lots of tests at the hospital and many new unfamiliar people. But it also became a world of many caring and concerned people. It became a story of positive energy and lots of courage. On the day that he was diagnosed with cancer he made it very clear what his approach and attitude was with regard to cancer when he said, "I don't want to be under dirt. I'm going to beat cancer! The doctor told me I was a tough nut! I would like to thank everyone for supporting me throughout this journey."

Shooting Star Harry M.

On July 2, 2013, I had surgery for testicular cancer. It was determined at that time that I would also need to undergo chemotherapy because the cancer had spread to my lymph nodes around my stomach. Because of this a stint was also inserted during the surgery and also a hernia was repaired at this time. The stint was inserted to help protect the function of my kidney. During my stay in the hospital I also learned that I'm not a fan of hospital food,

"yuck". I was so anxious to get home for good to enjoy a cooked meal.

I also had chemo treatment, which consisted of 5 days of treatment (approximately 5 hours each day) for one week. After two weeks of rest I went through the process again. I would like to tell the self-advocates: "I'm glad to be alive. I hope nobody has to go through it. It's a hard process to go through."



Shooting Stars Meetings



The Shooting Stars SA groups meet:

- Frankettes every other Monday 10:15-11:00 a.m. at the North St. Paul site
- Tuesday afternoon 1:15 to 2:10 p.m. at 3210 Labore
- Wednesday Morning 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at 3210 Labore
- Thursday morning 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. At 3210 Labore

Also Katie has a Self-Advocacy offsite group that meets every other Thursday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at J. Arthur's. Everyone is welcome to join.

Location:

J. Arthur's coffee shop
2441 Rice Street
Roseville, MN

Any questions please contact Katie @ 651-815-2262.

Shooting Stars Giving Back to the Community



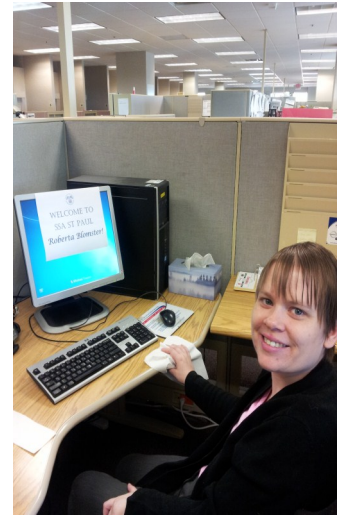
ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN HELPING WITH THE
QUARTERLY SA
NEWSLETTER,
"MIRACLE"?

Roberta B. & Katie M. are looking for self-advocates who are interested in helping with conducting interviews, taking pictures, and editing, etc. for the "Miracle" newsletter. If you are interested in being on the committee please contact either Katie or Roberta. This is a fun and exciting way to get to know other people and make new friends. We also have sign up sheets in the Commons area and on the work floor.

My New Job!

By Roberta B., Self-Advocate Mentor

On September 16th, 2013, I started my new job at the Social Security Administration St. Paul office as their Claims Intern. I work along with Nick W. who has been employed there for about 6 years. My position is strictly volunteer, so I don't get paid by them for the days that I work there (which is Mondays for 8 hours & Tuesdays and Fridays for 6 hours). This is a 6-month internship and I have the option to extend it for another 6 months, which I've chosen to do since Social Security is in a hiring freeze (where they are not hiring anybody at this point). The work that I do there is office work: working on the outgoing mailing, helping with the incoming mail, pulling out old files and other miscellaneous duties. Nick W. is hoping that I do get hired there! I enjoy my co-workers there and love my supervisor, Linda Wetterlin. The photo here shows me cleaning my new desk on the first day! I'm enjoying working for the federal government and have worked through the recent government shutdown in Washington, D.C.



Bullet points:

- Volunteer internship: a position where you don't get paid.
- Office work: a variety of tasks that you do in a office-type desk.

Making History on the Merrick Board of Trustees!

By Roberta B., Self-Advocate Mentor



On the night of December 11th, 2013, I was elected to serve my first three-year term on the Merrick, Inc. Board of Trustees. I'm the first Self-Advocate to serve on the Board and it feels great that finally, the Shooting Stars have a representative on the Merrick, Inc. Board of Trustees.

JoAnn Lizakowski was blown away by my knowledge of the acronyms, which I have heard at many self-advocacy conferences and also knew from which organizations that I've been associated with. I went through Board Orientation in John Wayne Barker's office on the night of November 18th, 2013 and met the other nominees that were not at the September 2013 Merrick BOT meeting and they are a great group of people.

If you have any concerns that you want to have brought up at the Board meetings, please don't hesitate to contact me at the email address on the back or at Merrick's main number, (651) 789-6200 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Shooting Stars of Merrick, Inc.
3210 Labore road
Vadnais Heights MN 55110



[Shooting stars
Facebook page](#)

If you have any questions on how to write an article please contact the Editor, Katie M. or Co-Editor, Roberta B. at blomstersa@comcast.net

Shooting Stars "Miracle" is a newsletter written by self-advocates to share their good news with everyone. It is published four times a year.

If anyone is interested in writing an article for the Self-Advocate's newsletter "Miracle" please send the article to my email address.

(KatiemarieMcD@gmail.com)

The deadline for the Spring 2014 issue is March 10th.

Take a chance to be who you are!!!

STARS OF THE SEASON

Name: Jenny S.

Nominated by:

Anonymous

Reasons for nomination:

1. Jenny is funny.
2. Jenny a wonderful friend.
3. Jenny is an awesome advocate for herself.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to watch movies, hang out with my friends and do others fun activities

How has self-advocacy changed your life?

Making new friends and going to the conferences and learning how to speak up for myself .

How long have you been at Merrick and what do you do here?

Just over a year and a half at the Franklin Center. I love doing crafts, going out in the community, taking pictures & dressing up with costumes.

What are your favorite foods? Spaghetti and cheeseburgers.



Hanging out with my friend Katie at a party.

Name: Amy D.

Nominated by: Nick M.

Reasons for nomination:

1. Amy is kind.
2. Amy is a good listener.
3. Amy is respectful.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I like arts and crafts and love to go shopping with my family.

How has self-advocacy changed your life? I have learned how to stand up for myself and meet new friends.

How long have you been at Merrick and what do you do here? I have been with Merrick for over 20 years. I work on the White Way Crew where I deliver clothes.

What are your favorite foods?

Hamburgers from McDonalds.



Runner up for Vice President