



Miracle



Special Points of Interest

- *Shooting Star of the Season*
- *Legislative Update*
- *Ramsey County I/DD Citizen Advisory Council*
- *Ambassadors' Photo Show*

Spring Bloomers

Katie's reflections as a member of the Ramsey County I/DD Citizen Advisory Council:

I am the only Self-Advocate on the committee and I would love to have other Self-Advocates join me because our opinions are important. I feel like my voice has been heard. I really enjoy having inside connections with other professionals who support people with disabilities. It has been a great learning experience for me. I have been able to present to the Ramsey County Commissioners and share my real life story and how I started my current peer mentor opportunity. I have also presented to the commissioners about my experience with public transportation in efforts to get improved transportation for people with disabilities. I really like knowing that my voice is being heard and making a difference for others. I recommend that you get involved with this committee—it is worth your time to help make your community better.

Shooting Star: Leon K.

I had a good time being interviewed for a TPT program. I talked about my life, how I want it to change. I want to buy a car, and I want to move into a more independent setting. I need to get myself in check first and not have such a temper. I was born in Mississippi and times were hard back then. I like my life now and someday, I even hope to get married.

Self-Advocacy is good

Because it helps me with better judgment of people making sure I have positive friends in my life. I like working on the recycling crew. I go around picking up plastic bags from different buildings. I meet a lot of people working hard. Self-Advocacy also helps me get what I want in life. It taught me how to make changes. I love speaking for myself, and helping others. I like making new friends.



Leon was included in a TPT documentary in April 2014. Visit www.mnvideovault.org, use search word "inclusion" to see his story.

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 at 2441 Rice Street—Roseville, MN.

Everyone is welcome to join.

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

Shooting Star Family



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.

Legislative Update by Roberta B.

Update # 1-Safe & Supportive Schools Act (House File 826). Thanks to your short stories (and emails/ phone calls), the bill passed the Senate Floor on April 3rd and it went back to the House Floor so that the



House could concur (as in agree) with the Senate language. After 11 hours of debate, it passed the House on Tuesday, April 8th. It was signed into law by Governor Mark Dayton on April 9th. Abby H. got a really cool letter back from Representative Peter Fisher on his support for the bill!

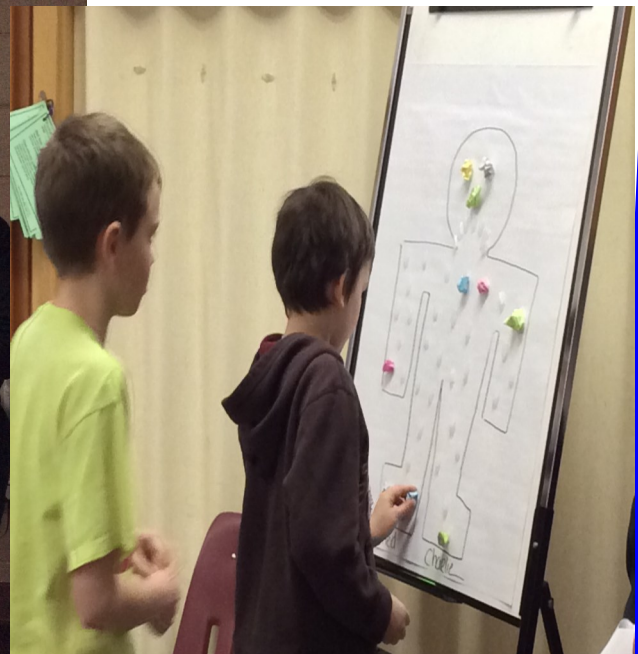
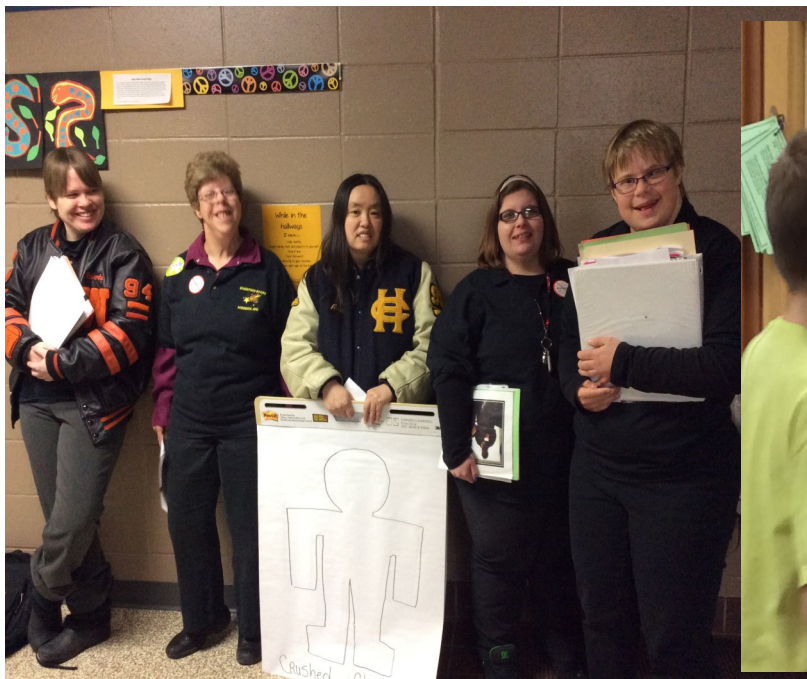
Photo Credit: www.knuj.net.

Update #2-The 5% Campaign. It wound up making it into the House & Senate Omnibus (smaller bills being combined into one big bill that is over x number of pages) Supplemental Appropriations bills. Both the House and Senate have passed their bills and since there are some differences between the two bills, it means that it would have to go into Conference Committee (where a few senators and a few representatives meet to work out the differences and try to come up with which version they like better or compromise between the two bills).

Ambassadors of Respect Photo Show

1st photo-left: Presenters at Vadnaïs Heights Elementary on April 3, 2014.

2nd photo-right: Students at Cowern Elementary participating in Crushed Charlie activity on April 7, 2014.



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. at katiemariemcd@gmail.com 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-Advocates' newsletter "Miracle" please send the article to my email address.

(katiemariemcd@gmail.com)

The deadline for the Summer 2014 issue is July 31st.

Take a chance to show who you are!!!

Stars of the Season

Name: Crystal R

Nominated by: Nick M

Reasons for nomination:

1. She is kind
2. She is a calm person
3. She is a cool friend

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Hanging out with friends and spending time at my volunteer job.

How has Self-Advocacy changed your life? It helped me stand up for myself.

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

I've been at Merrick for almost 10 years and I'm at the ADS North St. Paul site.

What are your favorite foods? Spaghetti, pizza and ice cream.



Styling with my new look!!!

Name: Kelsey S.

Nominated by: Abby H.

Reasons for nomination:

1. She is a good friend.
2. She has a wonderful personality.
3. She is kind.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I like to listen to my music play on my iPad. I also like to help my mom clean.

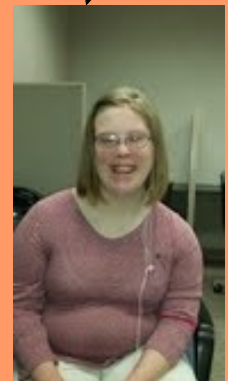
How has Self-Advocacy changed your life?

It helps me speak up, learn from others. I would like to try to attend a Self-Advocacy group some time.

How long have you been at Merrick and what do you do here? I started in September 2013. I work on the work floor doing cards and many other contracts.

What are your favorite foods?

Spaghetti, pizza and I also like ham sandwiches.



Listening to my music.