



Miracle



Special points of interest:

- Dorie S. Self-Advocate in action
- Katie M. is running for office
- Roberta B. got it on with government updates
- Marcus F. and Bill G. are the Stars of the Season!

Why its called Miracle news

The name Miracle was chosen for the name of this new newsletter by the Shooting Stars because it means—a wonderful thing, a marvel. It is a miracle to watch self-advocates go for their dreams.



2011 MN State Self-Advocacy Conference - Learning as we go go go
Self-advocates are amazing!

Dorie trains staff on self-advocacy at Merrick

Dorie S. first came to Merrick, Inc., in 1999. She was asked to train new staff about self-advocacy. She has new staff watch the training video, "Take A Walk in My Shoes", and invites them to come to a self-advocacy group to meet the self-advocates. Dorie

also has them fill out a form about what they learned from her training.

Dorie has been doing these trainings since April of 1999 - over 13 yrs-wow!

Dorie said she is so proud of herself and wants everyone to know that she also gets paid for training.



Standing by her goals and dreams

Legislative Updates from Roberta B. Self-Advocate Mentor

By Roberta
Blomster, Self-
Advocate Mentor

The first issue that I have is a very important one: Redistricting! Yes the new maps for our state's Legislative & Congressional district have been out for some time. I will be working on the new legislative districts for the clients here at Merrick, but if you want to find out in advance, the Minnesota Legislature's website does have an interactive map where you can put in your address and find out what your new districts are.

The next two issues

are important as well: Voter ID & the Guardianship issue. House File 2738 is going to be on the ballot on November 6th. The League of Women Voters of MN & the ACLU of MN will be filing lawsuits against it & I will keep you up to date on the court proceedings in future Legislative Updates. I did meet with Representative Kiffmeyer on Monday, March 12th at the Capitol on the Guardianship issue and it went over really well. She did clarify really well the language in H.F. 2188: that people under full guardianship would not be able to vote & those people who are under limited guardianship (including just for finances) would be able to vote. She does plan to come out to Merrick on a date during our Get Out The Vote Drive effort this year! By the way, there have not been any other hearings on S.F. 1753 & H.F. 2188 so far.

We have had two very successful legislative visits at Merrick! The

first one was on October 19th, 2011 with Senator Roger Chamberlain (well before he was chosen to be one of the Senate Assistant Majority Leaders!). It went over really well and Senator Chamberlain was so blown away by the culture at Merrick that he made a deal: that Merrick would not lose their funding on the State level and if we were to be on the chopping block to contact his office immediately. It was amazing to hear that. The other visit was with Bethany Snyder from Senator Al Franken's office and it was on January 19th, 2012. She met with myself,



Roberta with Representative Kiffmeyer on March 12th

Tim M., Katie M., Ed H. & John Wayne Barker in his office. This one also went over very well. Bethany was happy to hear about the concerns that the self-advocates who were there & also the concerns that John Wayne Barker has as well.

Shooting Stars meeting times



The Shooting Stars Self-Advocacy groups meet at Merrick:

- Tuesday afternoon 1:40 to 2:10pm,
- Wednesday morning 8:00 am to 9:00am, And
- Thursday morning 8:30 to 9:30am.

Also Katie has a J. Arthurs Self-Advocacy off site group every other Thursday afternoon from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm and everyone is welcome, J. Arthurs coffee shop is at 2441 Rice St. Roseville, MN. If questions please

Contact Katie @ 651-815-2262.



J,Arthurs coffee shop—it's a great little group



Wednesday Morning group another wonderful group

Plant Sale / Self-Advocacy fundraiser

The dates for the yearly Plant Sale are May 4th and 5th. The Self-Advocate group will be selling really cool purses,

and lunch totes, coin purses, umbrellas on Friday May 4th 3pm-to 6pm, and Sat May 5th 9 am –to 12 noon at Merrick.



Self-Advocates Spring Fundraiser items for sale

Katie M. running for SABE

SABE is a National Leadership self-advocacy organization, that means Katie will be a representative of the Minnesota Region #5 like IL, IN MI & OH & WI. At the SABE conference coming up in August, (this

is in our state so we need to be Minnesota Nice) there should be about 1,000 self-advocates from everywhere. Katie said, “I am running because I feel that I am strong advocate, I like helping others, and I’m a Peer Mentor. This

opportunity would mean a lot to me to represent Minnesota. Vote for me please!”



Let the good times roll

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[Shooting stars
Facebook page](#)

To submit an article for the Miracle newsletter please contact the Editor, Katie McDermott at 651-815-2262 , or katiemariemcd@gmail.com

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

This is called a Wordle. It is a visual representation of What Merrick, Inc., a nonprofit community organization is about:



Stars of the Season

Name: Marcus F.

Nominated by: Annie P.

Reasons for nomination:

1. He is a hard worker
2. He is a funny person
3. He is a very nice guy to hang out with.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I like to watch sports, especially basketball and football.

How has self-advocacy changed your life?

Self-advocacy has helped me to speak up for myself and I want to help others learn about self-advocacy.

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

I started at Merrick in April of 2011 and work on the work floor.

What are your favorite foods?

I like good ol' seafood and gumbo shrimp, southern cooking.



Marcus chilling
at Merrick

Name: Bill G.

Nominated by: Ricky B.

Reasons for nomination:

1. He is a nice friend
2. He likes to do fun things
3. We like to hang out together.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I like to watch movies and the news , like watching TV.

How has self-advocacy changed your life?

It helps me learn how to speak up for myself and lets me make new friends.

How long have you been at Merrick and what do you do here? Here at Merrick I work in the car wash and on the work floor .

What are your favorite foods?

Spaghetti and pancakes and many more!



Bill hanging out at
Merrick