



MIRACLE



Special points of interest:

- Katie & Roberta winning awards
- Roberta got it going on in government
- Tricia P., Alec M. & Abby H. are Stars of the Month
- Roberta has a new job at Vadnais Heights City Hall

SUMMER TIME FUN

The Arc gave awards to Katie and Roberta earlier this year. Katie won on her work with the abuse prevention project, also Katie's interview with Channel 5 is pending, & Roberta won on her work of public policy. These two ladies work hard to get where they are going and it pays off.



Katie & Roberta winning Awards at The Arc Award ceremony. It was a great time.



ABBY-A NEWCOMER TO MERRICK



I just started Merrick, after Monday of this year in September 2nd. I've only been here 6 months and I became the Wednesday Morning President. I'm learning how to speak up for my self and meeting new friends its great. Life is good so far

I'm a bright pretty lady, I love the sunshine, I like to go shopping, and do fun things hanging out with advocates, every Morning I learn something new just cause I'm learning how to be a leader & how to write agendas it's so cool. Also went to Capitol for first time now that was awesome !!!



Abby & Katie—Abby first lesson with Katie on how to Be a leader. As peer mentor That's my Job to make sure she knows how to be a wonderful President !!!

SHOOTING STARS

The Shooting Stars SA groups meet on Tuesday after noon 1:40 to 2:10pm,

Wednesday 8:00 am to 9:00am, And

Thursday morning 8:30 to 9:30am.

Also Katie has a self-Advocacy group off site

called -Advocate Ace's @ J. Arthur's coffee shop site every other Thursday after noon from 4:00 pm to 5:30pm and every one is welcome, J. Arthur's coffee shop

2441 rice Roseville, MN , if questions please Contact Katie @(651-815-2262)



Advocate Aces , learning how to safely surf the web



Wednesday Morning group another wonderful group

Welcome To the Advocates' ACE's OPEN HOUSE

August 2nd time 4-7pm

ONE YEAR FOR THE OFFSITE Self-advocacy group

J. Arthur's Coffee shop

2441 Rice Street

Roseville, MN

Performing - August blues , from 4:30-6:30

ADVOCATE ACES @ J. ARTHUR'S GROUP

Hello my name is Annie Marie , I started J.Arthur's group about 3/5/12 , I am new bee . I would like to see

it grow and expand with more self-advocates . I like going to self-advocacy group its positive and I made new friends , I have fun helping others on the computers , surfing the web , on self-advocacy , this month we are going to start an anti-bullying campaign its going to be great.



Miss Annie Marie from J.Arthur's offsite group

ROBERTA HAS A NEW JOB

I started working at Vadnais Heights City Hall on 7/10/12 and go through 10/10/12. This is a contract between the City of Vadnais Heights and Merrick (where the City pays Merrick and then Merrick pays me).

I work for the City on Tuesdays-Thursdays from 12:30-4 p.m. and I'm doing Office Assistant-type work and am having a great time. The hope is that if the City has more money in their budget and they like what I do, then I

could be permanently hired on a later date. During this time, I will be working at Merrick for my Peer Mentor job on Mondays & Fridays from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

ROBERTA \ LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Legislative Update for Miracle News- letter issue # 2

By Roberta Blomster, Self-Advocate Mentor

I was in Washington, D.C. for the Disability Policy Seminar on April 22nd-25th. I learned lots of new things on Voter Engagement, Progress in Community Integration, Hot Topics in 2012, Defending The Lifeline, News Briefs from the Administration, Education and Employment, ABLE Act, White House Update, Shaping Our Messages, & Advocating in the New Budget Reality. On April 24th (in the evening), there was a special Reception on Capitol Hill hosted by the office of U.S. Senator Tom Harkin from Iowa. On April 25th, I went to 6 meetings and it started off by doing the Breakfast

with Senator Al Franken (and yes, I did have my picture taken with him!). The meetings were with these Staff Members: Emily Hogin (Senator Franken), Elizabeth Frosch (Senator Amy Klobuchar), Matt Gallivan (Representative Erik Paulsen), Jenn Holcomb (Representative Betty McCollum)-which I was the lead for, Yelena Vaynberg (Representative John Kline), & Leah Rosales (Representative Tim Walz). All of the visits went well and I have sent out the Thank You letters hoping to even get the Members of Congress and the staff that I had met with out to Merrick. I know that Senator Klobuchar & Representative McCollum have previously been out to Merrick but with the Redistricting issue this year, it would be nice to meet with new constituents. The top issues for this year on the federal level are: ABLE Act of 2011, Affordable Care Act, Community Living, Education & Employment, Federal Funding and Social Security & SSI. Representative Ellison is the chief sponsor for the Voter Access Protection Act of 2011 (H.R. 3316) that says NO to Voter ID in regards to federal elections.

Here is an update on Federal Legislation for people with disabilities.

President Obama is supporting these Anti-Bullying bills:

#1: Student Non-Discrimination Act of 2011

S. 555-Senator Franken is the Chief Sponsor and Senator Klobuchar is a co-sponsor.

H.R. 998-Representatives Ellison, McCollum and Walz are co-sponsors.

2: Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2011

S. 506-Senators Franken & Klobuchar are co-sponsors.

H.R. 1648-Representatives Ellison, McCollum & Walz are co-sponsors.

On the ABLE Act (S. 1872), Senator Franken has signed on as a co-sponsor.

There is also a Voter Empowerment Act of 2012 (H.R. 5799) that also would say NO to Voter ID for federal elections. Representatives Ellison & McCollum are co-sponsors.

On the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it has been referred to the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. In regards to the Affordable Care Act, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled it constitutional, which is a huge victory for people with disabilities like not being denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions.



Roberta in DC in April

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

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.



[Shooting stars](#)
[Facebook page](#)

To submit an article for the Miracle newsletter please contact the Editor, Katie McDermott at 651-815-2262 , or katiemariamcd@gmail.com or Co-Editor, Roberta Blomster at blomstersa@comcast.net

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: Tricia Paul
Nominated by: Kelly
P.

Reasons for nomination:

1, she has a hard
work ethic, 2; she
makes me laugh 3
she is a strong self-
advocate

What do you like to do in your spare time? I like to hang out with friends , I love going to .JArthur's offsite group **How has self-advocacy changed your life?**

Self-advocacy has helped me meet new friends I learn how to speak up for my self , it makes me feel good !

How long have you been at Merrick and what do you do here? I been here for five yrs. Lots of jobs but my favorite on is the cleaning crew

What are your favorite foods?

I love me some Cheese
burger & pizza I do say
I'm not
picky I eat
every thing.



Tricia is scrapbooking @ J
Arthurs off site group

Name: Alec Mons

Reasons for nomination:

1. He is a nice friend
2. He likes to do fun things
3. I like to hang out with friends

What do you like to do in your spare time? I like Sports & my favorite time is the Wild hockey season

How has self-advocacy changed your life?

It help speak up for my
self—tell people what I
want

How long have you been at Merrick and what do you do here? Here at Merrick I work on power aid making good money I been at Merrick for about five years– a long time !!

What are your favorite foods? I like cheese burgers & many more



A really nice pic of Alec
with a big smile