

# Around the Organization...

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## Dean's Desk...

Dean Emerson, C.E.O.

Well, it certainly has been a long summer and fall. We are all continuing to deal with COVID19 pandemic, as it has surely changed our world. Our rehabilitation programs that had been the lynch in of the organization for the past 50 years has all but ground to a halt and will not likely ever reach the numbers it once had. Those programs will continue, and we will continue to assist people to access their community and employment, because that's what we do! That is what we have done for 50+ years and will have to continue that fight for the people who do not have a voice or think they do not have hope to access or work with their community!



Our world of work has changed and at a moment's notice, more of our workforce began serving our customers from home and supporting them in new ways. The focus will continue to be more technology based and virtual meetings, the world doesn't move backwards! Organization have realized savings in having employees work from home and interact with customers in new ways. We must embrace these technologies and continue to move forward with our own technological advances in our services. I encourage to look to a technological future that SVRC Industries can grow with and continue to do the important work that you all do every day. Most of us have a cell phone, computer, and any other number of wonderful electronic devices; however, there are many in our at-risk populations that do not have these devices or opportunities. (Continued on Page 3)

## Neville's News...

A modified version of one of Neville's favorite poems during the Christmas season:

When it's easier to stay down - you choose to get up  
When it's easier to be weak - you chose to be strong  
When it's easier to be afraid - you chose to act courageously  
When it's easier to remain deceived - you chose to know the truth  
When it's easier to flee - you stay  
Honor, Integrity and wisdom  
They don't come with easy choices.  
Take pride today - Your choices are celebrated. Author Unknown

SVRC  
Industries, Inc.

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### Upcoming Holiday Closings

- *Christmas Eve - Thursday  
December 24, 2020*
- *Christmas Day - Friday  
December 25, 2020*
- *New Year's Eve - Thursday,  
December 31, 2020*
- *New Year's Day  
January 1, 2021*

*Please check with your supervisor for your specific work schedules.*

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## Sending Sympathy ...

Longtime SVRC Board member, Richard A. Greketis passed away on August 27, 2020 at the age of 79 year from esophageal cancer. He will be lovingly remembered by his long-time partner, Patricia Lynes; children Carla Greketis, Collette Smith and their families.



Richard worked for over 35 years with General Motors Steering Gear Division until his retirement in 2001. He was a longtime supporter of his alma mater, Michigan Tech, graduating in 1964, but never truly left. His love for "TECH" permeated his personal and professional life, serving on their alumni board and traveling there almost every summer to relive his college days. His illness and death were quite unexpected, but throughout his battle he kept up-to-date on politics, debating anyone and everyone.

Richard served on the SVRC Board of Directors for 18 years and had a great impact on our organization. He was part of the Boards' Building & Grounds Committee and took part in many walk-throughs of buildings with SVRC Admin Team providing his engineering insight. He always had a big smile and was eager to help; we'll miss his support.

## Around the Organization...

Deb Snyder, President / COO



### Did you know....

- International Persons with Disabilities Day was December 3<sup>rd</sup>?
- Even though we are working remotely, and our participants are home receiving virtual services, that Christmas Cheer and Santa will still be arriving?
- Westlund Guidance Clinic has moved their offices to downtown Saginaw into the SVRC Marketplace? All therapists have joined with the autism and trauma departments.
- The Autism program will soon be providing Community Living and Respite services?
- The Culinary Program is still a work in progress and hopefully when restrictions from COVID-19 are lifted we can actually have a start date?
- Our Workforce Development teams received high scores on their monitoring reports?
- SVRC submitted a grant on behalf of Westlund Guidance Clinic to provide expanded services to LGBTQ+ teenagers?
- SVRC Marketplace has welcomed many new vendors and is the place to be in Riverfront Saginaw?
- SVRC's one-man IT department has been working diligently updating computer operating systems, phone and network connections, writing IT policies along with an updated technology plan?

## Success Stories...

Brooke Foulds, Director of Rehabilitation ...

Technology success stories are blossoming at 919 building, so lets get to sharing them. One of our participants and parents were fearful of technology changes and the virtual experience. They were skeptical on how it would work, but once acclimated, the experience has turned into excitement. They are now engaged and excited to attend the CLS session and eager to participant.

A second participant was placed in the CIE program in October 2020 and is nearing 60 days on the product floor. They are doing all the job duties and daily responsibilities, is excited to be back and most of all, earning a paycheck. Staff members are confident they will reach the 90day milestone of being in a competitive employment status.

The Salvation Army posted a heartfelt note thanking Emily and SVRC Industries, Inc. for participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree once again this year. Emily coordinated the effort which had 34 donations for the Army to distribute, mentioning that SVRC is a blessing to the Saginaw Community. Thank you, Emily.

## Dean's Desk (continued)...

By taking a proactive approach, SVRC will have to advocate for technological equality, or our customers will suffer as a result, losing access to that on-line community that most of us know and use constantly.

Thank you for helping and serving our customers throughout this difficult year! I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.



## Human Resources ...

Rose Jurek - V.P. Community Services & Talent Development

### New Hires - October / November / December

2020

- Colorgio Rosas - Server
- Khris Grayson - Janitor
- Austin Sayen- General Labor
- Lauren Masud Visuri - Wellness Coach
- Ta'teiona Lipsey - Janitor
- Christopher Mullen - Facilities Supervisor

It's a great time of year to review your deferred contributions into your retirement account...increase now for maximum growth; a good thing!

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*"It's not how much we give, but  
how much we put into giving."*

*Mother Teresa*

## SVRC Staff Highlight...

We're highlighting **Katie Maul** this quarter who has been with SVRC since October 2017 as the Human Resource administrative assistant. In her role, Katie is the first face you see when visiting or calling SVRC. She previously worked at Dow Chemical in the Learning Center providing Katie with a depth of knowledge on HR processes and procedures. This experience lends itself to the background and experience she brought with her to SVRC. Currently she attends the University of Phoenix for business studies with an HR focus. Graduation is October 2021 with a BS degree.

Katie loves her job and has grown into the position feeling respected by staff for the new skills she is learning daily. Covid19 and the challenges it has presented has presented her with opportunities for growth in her current responsibilities. These include: orientation and on-boarding of new staff members, assists in open enrollment and benefit updates, follow-up on all certifications/licensures/trainings for all SVRC staff. She manages the application tracking software, takes minutes at all Board meetings, and answers questions that all staff members present to her with smile and professional response. AND is helpful to anyone needing assistance with a project. Katie recently celebrated her first wedding anniversary, loves to run 5Ks, and remains optimistic about 2021. Thanks, Katie!

## SVRC Industries, Inc.

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Removing Barriers

## What's Next...

While December has not offered us any snow accumulations, the weather has certainly been cold and the holidays are quickly approaching. Covid19 presents us with challenges and changes to the way we conduct business, stay connected with friends and relatives, and more so, keep a check with our mental health.

Here are some things for what's next:

- SVRC will host the next Versiti blood drive on Friday, January 8, 2021 from 11-4, in the historic lobby at the SVRC Marketplace. Please consider donating - the gift of life is needed more now than ever.
- Have you had your flu shot yet? While some are reluctant to receive the vaccine, it can make a difference if you happen to catch the flu. Many local pharmacy stores, as well as Meijer offer the services. Its fast, simple and painless (almost).
- Please buy local/eat local/support small businesses..
- We're not out of the woods yet, so please wear your mask, wash your paws, keep your distance.

## Philanthropy...

Are you thinking of making a contribution to a an organization helping others, help themselves? The please, consider SVRC Industries, Inc. Your contribution will provide needed services in a number of different program. Charitable giving is an effort an individual or organization undertakes based on an altruistic desire to improve human welfare - giving for the greater good. If you are so inclined to make a contribution to the SVRC Foundation, your dollars will be put to good use...

- \$100 provides a job seeker with resources to begin new employment
- \$200 provides social recreation activities for individuals with developmental disabilities
- \$1000 provides trauma assessments for a child who has experienced distressing situations

Working with your tax consultant can make a difference in your charitable giving. As you prepare for next years' giving, please consider SVRC in your planning.

Donations made to SVRC Industries, Inc. are tax deductible. SVRC is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to providing services for people with developmental and other disabilities.

