50 years of Hope Haven sheltered workshops have come to an end in Northwest Iowa. We’ve known the federal site rules mandate would bring us to this day, but it’s a change for many people we serve. Thankfully, Hope Haven has been in front of community integration and career development for those we serve. “We started seriously planning to shift focus to competitive integrated employment in 2012, and My Choice Employment began in 2013,” remarks Scott Witte, Director of Employment Services.

My Choice Employment is an employment service of Hope Haven that operates with the viewpoint that people with disabilities can work in competitive community settings regardless of severity of disability, if provided with the necessary supports. While My Choice started up in 2013, Witte recounts that community employment has been an integral piece of Hope Haven’s stance since the beginning, “We’ve always seen competitive employment in the community as what we desire for people with disabilities.”

So what’s next? Prior to the implementation of the site rules, Hope Haven support teams were hard at work preparing alternatives for individuals who previously participated in facility based workshops. These alternatives consist of community employment (often facilitated through My Choice Employment), Group Supported Employment, Day Habilitation, among others. “We have worked hard to make sure that every individual has access to a meaningful day of programs,” confirms CEO Matt Buley. The planning has come to fruition, and previous Hope Haven sheltered workshop participants in Iowa have now made the changeover to their new schedules, jobs, and programs.

As we enter this new era, it’s undeniable that future waves of change will sweep through. Hope Haven remains receptive, possesses a willingness to adapt, and will continue to advocate for the best interests of people with disabilities in the workforce. “I’m proud of the great work Hope Haven has put into this transition,” asserts Buley.
**GENERATIONS CONNECT**

The Hope Haven Wheelchair Workshop in Ireton, IA is looking a little bit different these days. While the workshop is normally occupied by local retirees, lately it’s been filled with the robust energy of 5th-8th grade students from Ireton Christian School. The students are at the workshop a few times a week as part of a service learning project, initiated by their teacher, Phyllis Van Gelder.

Phyllis, a teacher at Ireton Christian School and a part-time Hope Haven employee, was searching for a meaningful community project for her students to engage in. She drives by the Ireton Wheelchair Workshop every day, and out of curiosity contacted John Schelling, a volunteer at the workshop. Initially, both parties were unsure as to what the children’s involvement would look like. After some time and prayer, Phyllis also connected with International Ministries Manager, Luke Russell, and the ball started rolling.

Now, six students travel with Phyllis and the Ireton Christian School Principal, Marlin Schoonhoven, to the workshop on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The students are there for about 30 minutes each time. While they’re there, they help with a variety of tasks – from sorting parts, to boxing wheelchairs for shipping, to assembling chairs with direction from John and the regular volunteer crew.

Not only are they directly involved with helping to rebuild wheelchairs, but they also have learned about the work of Hope Haven’s International Ministries, and where the wheelchairs end up. “It makes them feel like there’s a mission they’re a part of,” says Phyllis. Phyllis’ goals for this program include helping students develop compassion for their neighbor, as well as instilling a sense of service learning and community goodwill as a regular part of their lives, not just something they partake in a few days a year. She affirms, “We are all learning so much and are truly enjoying this venture.”

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**NEW TAX SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES**

For smart taxpayers, the new law provides easy opportunities to lower taxes even more. Instead of itemizing your deductions, the most significant opportunity is probably the standard deduction. Here are a few other ideas that can potentially help you save:

- Fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder unitrust
- Make an outright gift of an appreciated asset to charity
- Give from your pre-tax assets by making an IRA rollover gift

Interested in learning more?
Contact Mark Siemonsma at msiemons@hopehaven.org or 712-476-2737.
HOPE HAVEN MEMORIAL

Memorial Gifts to Hope Haven honor the lives of relatives, friends, or associates by enhancing the future for people with disabilities. Such lasting tributes also affirm the donor’s love for the Lord and provide a legacy that supports the practical work of God’s kingdom. These gifts will provide for special needs among clients.

Hope Haven’s “Book of Remembrance” provides an attractive, permanent record of all memorials.

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Stan Van Peursen, Mr. & Mrs. David VanNingen, Clayton Arend, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Baartman, Mr. & Mrs. Dixon Granstra, Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Helmus, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Hietbrink, Mr. & Mrs. Vern Kooima, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Leonhardt, Mr. & Mrs. James Like, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Netten, Faye Pluim, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Reitsma, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Siemonsma, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Simonsen, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Van Holland, Brenda Vande Brake, Mr. & Mrs. Norlyn Vande Brake, Esther VandenBerg, Rich & Carol Olson, Denise De Vaar, Mary & Jenette Van Beek, Case Van Roekel, Brad & Kathy Kooima, Randy & Rhonda Swaztkey, Steve & Eileen Harringa, Hal & Shirley De Jong

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Hope Haven, Inc.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

FISHING BENEFIT

JUNE 7

Ft. Randall Dam, Lake Francis Case Pickstown, SD
This event has been a favorite for over two decades! Includes supper, entry gift, and eligibility to win weigh-in prizes.

BROOKS GOLF BENEFIT

JUNE 19

Brooks Golf Club Okiboji, IA
Enjoy a beautiful summer day of golf at Brooks Golf Club on Wednesday, June 19th! It’s the 29th year of this event – and it just keeps getting better.

GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL

JUNE 21

City Park Sioux Center, IA
Mark your calendar for this two day festival, featuring groups and soloists performing gospel music. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the sunshine and music!

CLASSIC CAR & TRUCK TOUR

JULY 26

Various Locations
Sanborn, Okoboji, IA & Worthington, MN
Participants will travel by bus to the following locations: Spencer Classics & Museum in Worthington, Yesterday’s Memories & Vander Haag’s Truck Museum in Sanborn, and Okoboji Classic Cars in Okoboji.

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