Board of Directors Quarterly Report

September, 2024

Have you ever heard of Taylor Crowe? He is an Autistic adult and an accomplished artist, who does lecture tours with his father, to talk about art and autism. He lectured at MSU-B a few years ago. His art was exceptional and his speech well written. He read it verbatim from a notebook. He asked people to save their questions until the end of the lecture because the interruption in his train of thought would make him lose focus. Someone in the audience ignored that request though and asked a question. There was a very long pause, then an answer to the question, and then he started over reading his lecture. I bring this up because we have been working on rewriting RSS’s mission statement. I don’t know if you’re familiar with the old one, but it was quite formal. It now reads, “RSS’s mission is to provide a safe environment where having a disability does not prevent a person from achieving their fullest potential in every way possible, thus building a stronger community for all of us through participation, inclusion, and greater understanding.” It is our commitment at RSS to help our people to be safe, but also to flourish.

The board at RSS has been busy discussing the future of RSS with a new director, since Cal has made it clear that he wishes to retire as CEO of the company in a year. I seriously doubt that he will leave and never look back. Helping others is in his blood. Working with our population of people is so fun, and rewarding, and full of heart, but it’s also so a full time job. It’s never an eight hour day. It’s a lifetime commitment and it becomes a way of life. Helping others isn’t a chore, it’s one of the greatest gifts there is. Cal will always have plenty of work. He’s made it his business to help others. It’s not a job, it’s a way of life.

I believe that happiness is a by product of helping others. No one ever finds happiness thinking only of himself. Happiness comes when we lose ourselves in the service of others. “Our true work is not our job. That is what we do, not what we were created to do. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other, and to be of benefit to one another. Bill Gates said that.

Muhammad Ali said that service to others is the rent you pay for your room on earth. We are not alone on this planet. We all live together, so it is essential that we help others when we can. It doesn’t have to be a grand gesture, like running a company that cares for people with developmental disabilities. Helping someone walk across the street can have a big impact on someone’s day. Even a smile might be just the nudge someone needs. No matter who we get to be the CEO at RSS, you can be sure it will be someone who is a helper. It’s in our blood! Have a great Fall everyone!