

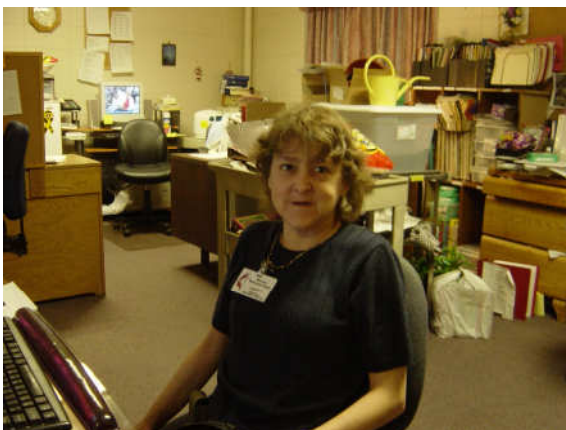
# Real Work for Real People



## Dedication Rewarded at Morrow Memorial Home

By Christy Heitman, Monroe Division

Lauri Potter was dedicated to finding a job despite all odds. At 20, she lost her vision due to diabetes. Since then, she raised a son, became a grandmother, earned her high school equivalency diploma, and learned to use a computer with a keyboard she modified to accommodate the lack of sensation in her hands due to diabetes. Recently, Lauri's kidneys began requiring dialysis four times a day. Concerned this would keep her from working, she solved the problem by remodeling a room in her house to create a dialysis space. Michael Bonello, director of the Morrow Memorial Home, heard her story through Riverfront and wanted a person with that level of dedication as an employee. Armed with her strong work ethic and a text-reading program called *Jaws*, Lauri was hired to enter data from meetings between residents and the activities department. When the department's program was not compatible with *Jaws*, a collaborative effort between Lauri, Morrow Memorial Home, and Riverfront succeeded in getting the two programs to work together. With her own patience and dedication, Riverfront's support, and Morrow Memorial Home's assistance, Lauri found a place to use her talents.



Lauri works on her computer at Morrow Memorial Home.



John updates the Hale, Skemp, Hanson, Skemp, & Sleik law library.

## Hale, Skemp, Hanson, Skemp, & Sleik Law Office Keeps Employee on the Run

By Greg Sheehan, La Crosse Division

Keeping attorneys up to date with the latest law information is just one part of John's job at Hale, Skemp, Hanson, Skemp, & Sleik law office. Office Manager Gena Pederson called Riverfront looking for the perfect employee, and John fit the bill. He is completing a 4-week work experience leading up to direct employment at the office. He keeps the library updated with law change inserts, delivers mail, makes copies, researches, and runs materials to businesses and courts. According to John, the best part of his job is library updating and running, while the most difficult part is remembering everyone's name, as there are 12 attorneys, paralegals, and other staff. John has a Master's degree in literature, and the job fits his skills and interests perfectly. Currently, he works 10-12 hours a week and will have the opportunity to work 32 hours a week by September. The law office keeps John running, and John keeps them organized—a winning combination.

## A Dream Job at the Green Mill Restaurant

By Shelly Cherry, Buffalo/Winona Division

Bridget Lange started Riverfront employment services while she was in high school and, in 2001, was hired at Winona's Green Mill Restaurant. It was her dream job—bussing tables at a fancy restaurant. Bridget works during the lunch rush 3 days a week, and Riverfront checks in weekly. What Bridget enjoys

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### A Dream Job at the Green Mill Restaurant (continued)

most is her bosses. Owner Mike Rivers jokes that she is really the assistant manager, and the manager, Paul Christensen, says that everyone appreciates her fine work. The highest praise comes from her coworkers. According to floor manager Daneya Severson, Bridget is the best bus person on staff; she helps out when needed and always stays busy. Daneya says they feel lucky to have Bridget, and she plays an important role at the Green Mill. If you are looking for a great lunch in Winona, stop by the Green Mill and enjoy Bridget's friendly service!



Bridget is excited to start the work day at the Green Mill Restaurant.

### A Good Job at the YMCA Becomes Great

By Debra Rimmel, Rock Division

Geoff Sugden was looking for a challenge. He had been working 4 hours a week at the YMCA since high school graduation and wanted something to which he could dedicate more time. Geoff was well established at the YMCA, excelled at his tasks, and thoroughly enjoyed the work but was struggling with an employment agency to find a new job with more hours. After the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation referred him to Riverfront, it became clear that he and the YMCA were already a great match. With Riverfront's aid, he added 16 hours to his schedule and increased his duties. Now, Geoff cleans the equipment, picks up weights, and assists with laundry, using an adaptive technique to pull the towel bin behind his wheelchair. He receives a lot of praise for his work from supervisors and YMCA members. He was thrilled when a YMCA member commented that the equipment looked great thanks to his hard work. The added responsibility promises to keep Geoff and the YMCA at their best.



Geoff picks up weights at the YMCA.

### Lifelong Success at Coop Credit Union

By Kathy Leffingwell, Jackson Division

Through Riverfront's assistance, Melissa Gaede found the perfect job 10 years ago that she plans to enjoy for years to come. She was hired at the Coop Credit Union after graduation from Black River Falls High School. Her duties include mailing, coin wrapping, cleaning conference rooms, and filing. Benefits she enjoys are annual pay raises, employee bonuses, and the office holiday party. The credit union has aided her success by answering job-related questions and making schedule accommodations for her work transportation. Riverfront provides periodic check-ins. As for her future plans, Melissa loves her job and plans to stay indefinitely. Her supervisor says, "My favorite thing about Melissa is that she's still just as happy and eager to please as she was on her first day."



Melissa poses at the Coop Credit Union.



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