



Weekly eWheel for the

Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor



Michigan, USA • District 6360 • Chartered 1918

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Another bright sunny day with 60s in the forecast for the end of the week. It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is next week and there's only a little over a month until Christmas!

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS *JUST* TACO BELL



Tim asked the crowd how many people in the room had been in a position where they had to hire someone. Many raised their hands. He acknowledged that when you're hiring someone, you can't take chances. You need to find someone that you can count on 100%. With their employment support services, Gateway seeks to take away some of that risk from the employer.

A Job Developer goes out with a Gateway client to help find them the right job. Finding a job is easy, it's keeping the job that's hard. It can take a person with disabilities longer to learn a new job and they may need certain accommodations in the workplace. Gateway also employs Job Coaches to stay with their clients 100% of the time they're at work. They stay during the training phase and then as long as it takes after that point to ensure success. Gateway does this because without this level of support, the employment opportunities would not be there.

Rotarian Tim Smith is Executive Director of Gateway Services and was our guest speaker this week. He's had a career in health and human services for around 18 years and has dedicated much of that time to helping those with disabilities.

Most people know Gateway for the employment support they provide to people with disabilities. They also provide varying levels of support to enable independent living. For Tim, the biggest thing that he hopes that Gateway achieves is to change people's perspective on what it means to have a disability.

IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 11/17: Career Night sponsored by Interact Club at SJHS, 6:00-8:00 PM
- ❖ 11/20: Raking for Rotary Interact Fundraiser
- ❖ 11/21 Meeting: Joe Goepfrich, Child & Family Services
- ❖ 11/24: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- ❖ 11/28 Meeting: Tom Watson, Friend of the Court
- ❖ 11/30: November Board Meeting at 7:30 AM at Area Agency on Aging
- ❖ 11/30: American Red Cross Blood Drive at Hilton Garden Inn, 12:00-5:45 PM
- ❖ 12/8: Rotary Holiday Party at the SJ River Yacht Club, 6:00-9:00 PM

Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

JOKE OF THE WEEK



ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Debra Trapikas brought Dan Maxon

HOLIDAY PARTY

SAVE THE DATE

The annual Rotary Holiday Party is coming to town! Thursday, December 8 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the St. Joseph River Yacht Club. \$20 per person. Prizes are needed for the event--if you can make a prize donation, please let the planning committee know. Please see Debra Trapikas at one of our next three meetings to RSVP or via email at tawana53@aol.com.

NO SUCH THING AS JUST TACO BELL (CONTINUED)

If you look through a different lens, you might see that there are many opportunities for people with disabilities to contribute to the workforce. Tim shared a great example.

Consider a person who is mild to moderately autistic and they're applying for a job stuffing envelopes. They might not make a great first impression and they may not fill out the application well. Compare that to someone like Tim who would go in and fill out the application perfectly and make a great first impression. Tim's likely the person who would get hired, right?

It would absolutely be the wrong choice. Tim would stuff envelopes for a while and then chat with a coworker...wander over to the water cooler, take a long lunch, etc... Whereas a person with autism is going to sit there and stuff envelopes until you tell them it's break time. They'll return on time and do the job until you tell them it's lunch time. The person with autism is likely the better fit for this kind of work.

Gateway seeks to send a message of MaxAbility instead of disability. It's the belief that every person has something that they're good at. It might take time and it might not be easy to find but it's there. It's just a matter of taking the time to discover it.

Tim also shared a few examples of the work they do. Some of the work they actually do on-site. Tim showed us a big box of car battery chargers. They just needed to be sorted by type. Central Packaging provided them with 25,000 pieces of flat cardboard that needed to be folded into boxes. Both of these are examples of work that needs to be done and is the perfect type of task for their particular population.



VETERAN'S BREAKFAST

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

November 17th, 8-10am
St. Joseph High School Student Center

We will be serving breakfast food and hearing from different speakers.
We appreciate your service for our community immensely.
We look forward to seeing you! Thank you Veterans!

Please RSVP by November 11th via
<https://goo.gl/forms/lfDdAjG64jj5vjP32>
or
leave a voice mail at (269) 519-3385



Student Senate Veteran's Breakfast

The St. Joseph High School Student Senate is putting on the 3rd annual Veteran's Breakfast on November 17th in the Student Center from 8:00 to 10:00am. Veterans and anyone who is related or knows someone who has served is invited to come. Please RSVP by clicking here <https://goo.gl/forms/lfDdAjG64jj5vjP32> or call Ved Amerash at 1(269)-519-3385. Thank you Veterans!

NO SUCH THING AS *JUST* TACO BELL (CONCLUDED)

Tim shared a personal story about chatting with his teenage son and his friends and talking about work. One friend had gotten a job recently and said "it's *just* Taco Bell" to which Tim replied "there's no such thing as *just* Taco Bell." Tim reminded us that there is dignity and honor in all work. If it weren't important, they wouldn't pay you.

What should be understood as well is that Gateway is not training people to fold boxes so they can have a career as a box folder. It's about teaching people basic skills like being able to follow a process. It's not just those tangible skills but also soft skills such as how to behave in the workplace, how close to stand when speaking to someone, etc...

Job Developers and Job Coaches are paying jobs at Gateway and Tim shared that they are almost always hiring. This type of work requires a special type of person. You need patience. You need to be able to coach the person with the disability but you also need to go out and learn the job that the person was hired to do.

There are currently between 350 and 400 people receiving services from Gateway. Many are referred from Riverwood Center and others from Michigan Rehabilitative Services. When asked what Gateway Services needs from the community, Tim said that while donations are always necessary and appreciated, the real thing that the community can do is just to look at people with disabilities through a different lens and understand that we are all more similar than we are different.




American Red Cross

Give the perfect gift.

Give blood.

Blood Drive

**Hilton Garden Inn
Chateau B**

1300 Cinema Way
Benton Harbor

**Wednesday, November 30, 2016
12:00 PM to 5:45 PM**

To schedule an appointment, log onto redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: HiltonBH) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Give Something that Means Something.®

Download the Blood Donor App | redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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