



# CONNECTING PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

SPRING 2022

## Ali's Story

“A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES  
BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP.” - LAO TZU

Ali is a determined young lady who never gives up and is always taking steps forward to achieve her goals. Ali's team has supported her through every step of her journey to find meaningful opportunities in work and life.

As with any journey, there are speed bumps and detours along the way. Ali's journey is no exception. Recently, Ali's goals were put on hold to allow her to focus on her health and well-being. Ali was determined to overcome her health concerns and get back to pursuing her goals.

She was more determined than ever and ready to tackle anything that was presented to her. Ali and her team explored opportunities for meaningful volunteer experiences with the ultimate goal of securing employment.

ODC's Service Navigator Erin says, "We learned a lot through Ali's willingness to try several volunteer opportunities. We found she likes to stay busy, loves using her hands and is meticulous. She enjoys working and being productive."

"It's not about just finding a job; it's about finding the **right** job. We look for opportunities that utilize a person's skills and match them with the needs of a business. It's about creating the perfect match and a



true partnership," said Carla, ODC's Prevocational Manager.

After a tour at Gamber-Johnson things started falling into place. Gamber-Johnson's product line uses more than 1,500 hand assembled hardware bags each day. When they met Ali and learned about her skills and abilities, they were eager to explore an opportunity that would fulfill their needs and was the perfect fit for Ali. Ali's strengths were the perfect match! Ali has successfully secured a job that she loves!

Nick, Production Mentor & Lead, says, "Gamber-Johnson is excited to partner with ODC. We are very happy with Ali's work. In her first week, she was able to achieve our production

rate with 100% accuracy. We appreciate the help from ODC in finding us such a great employee!"

"I so appreciate Gamber-Johnson for creating a space for Ali to be successful and working with ODC. What a wonderful opportunity. Ali has overcome a lot and I'm proud of her," says Ali's mom, Mae.

They say a smile is worth a thousand words... and Ali's smile says it all!

Congratulations Ali, and thank you Gamber-Johnson for choosing to #HireAbility.



## Together, we reached our goal!

Thank you for helping us reach our **\$1.5 million goal**. Your generous contributions to the ODC Foundation allowed us to maximize the matching grant opportunity from the Legacy Foundation of Central Wisconsin!

With the support of countless individuals, businesses and foundations, we reached the goal! We are forever grateful for your gifts.

### YOU'VE ENSURED

- long-term sustainability
- ability to provide critical services that are unfunded or under-funded
- ability to respond to critical emerging needs

### FOR ODC'S FUTURE!



## Amazing things are happening

### OPPORTUNITY FOR HOPE

ODC's **Mental Health Services** are expanding! Construction of an outpatient mental health clinic is underway at our Wisconsin Rapids ODC location. Our clinic name "Opportunity for Hope", reflects the ODC name as well as the spirit behind the clinic, which will provide people with hope as they work through some very difficult challenges in their lives.



The Wisconsin Rapids clinic is scheduled to open this spring. A satellite location is scheduled to open in Stevens Point this fall. Our Stevens Point clinic will be located in the Inclusa Non-Profit Center building on Hoover Avenue.

ODC Mental Health Services supports adults, adolescents and children through recovery from mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. In 2019, ODC supported 45 individuals. In 2021, that number grew to 125.

To learn more about these services visit [www.opforhope.com](http://www.opforhope.com).



### ODC STEVENS POINT IS MOVING!

Our Stevens Point offices will be moving into two new locations. In spring/summer 2022, our Community Services programs will be moving to the newly constructed Berkshire Building on Water Street. We are excited to be in the heart of downtown Stevens Point. This location will offer true community connecting and inclusion opportunities with easy access to businesses, local events, the library, parks and a walking path along the Wisconsin River.



Our Mental Health and Employment teams will be moving into the Inclusa Non-Profit Center building on Hoover Avenue this fall. Having space in the Inclusa Non-Profit center will allow us to easily coordinate and collaborate with our partners and other non-profit agencies.

Top: ODC Stevens Point Community Services will be located on the lower level of the Berkshire Building on Water Street in Stevens Point. | Bottom: ODC Stevens Point Mental Health and Employment teams will be located in the Inclusa Non-Profit Center building on Hoover Avenue in Stevens Point.

Be watching for open house and ribbon cutting events at our new locations.

