

## ABC - Owned Transportation Expands...

Expansion enables our people to work more hours in more locations

More individuals working in the community equals more fuel consumption



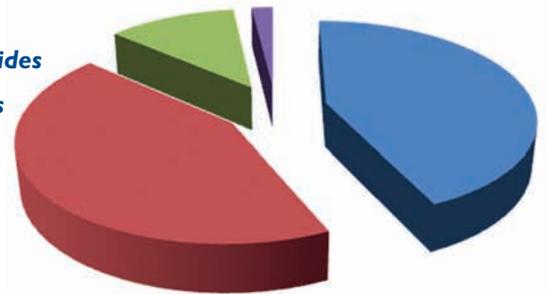
New vehicles like this means more rides!

The high cost of fuel has impacted everyone's budget, and the transportation budget at ABC is no exception. Even with gas prices now receding, we are averaging approximately \$12,000 per month for fuel alone.

Our drivers, transportation team, and job coaches are working hard to maximize rider capacity with more efficient routes and extra "individualized" rides throughout the day. The effort has resulted in a reduction of expensive, contracted rides. But this has pushed our fleet of vehicles to capacity.

### ABC - owned ridership per week

- ABC provides 450 morning rides
- ABC provides 450 afternoon rides
- ABC rides to 122 different job sites
- ABC rides to 20 different educational and social events



More about transportation at [www.abcinc.org](http://www.abcinc.org)

## Volunteers Make a Difference

-Valerie Halverson Pace, West Region Manager IBM



ABC received 10 desksides and 4 laptops!

supports the strategy, and be reviewed by the United Way Technology Solutions team. ABC has been exemplary, indeed a role model, in adapting technology for innovation and achieving measurable results.

We are all extremely proud of the work that ABC does for its clients and for our community! IBM is able to support this work through our volunteers and two special programs, IBM's On Demand Community and Teaming for Technology.

Through the On Demand Community, the IBM volunteers have earned a Community Grant for ABC each year. This is a volunteer team grant for technology to support the work of ABC.

For more than ten years, IBM has partnered with the United Way of Olmsted County to help nonprofits increase their technology capacity and innovation. ABC has been a long-term partner in Teaming for Technology and they have demonstrated a great focus on the importance of technology in meeting their mission. To earn these competitive grants, organizations must develop a

technology plan, have a governance and management system that

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## Ability Building Center

Published for friends of **Ability Building Center**, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Southeastern Minnesota by providing rehabilitation and employment services for persons with disabilities and other special needs.

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PO Box 6938  
Rochester, MN 55903-6938  
(507) 281-6262 (voice/TTY)

**ABC Works**  
62 North 3rd Street  
PO Box 151  
La Crescent, MN 55947  
(507) 895-7161 (voice)

**ABC Works**  
730 North Pine  
PO Box 408  
Caledonia, MN 55921  
(507) 725-2057 (voice)

**Ability Options**  
308 Elton Hills Drive NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
(507) 280-3489

**FACTT**  
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[www.abcinc.org](http://www.abcinc.org)

## Cans Can Do So Much!

On August 21st *Abilities Unlimited* staff and participants loaded up several vehicles and headed to Lake City for a cruise on the Pearl of the Lake, which is a very nice paddle boat operated by some really wonderful folks. Though there seemed to be a looming threat of rain, the weather held, and after enjoying a nice lunch on the deck overlooking Lake Pepin, we took to the boat. Participants were able to enjoy the view from the upper deck and outer deck, and for those that just wanted to hang out, there was a nice air conditioned enclosed space. We were given the grand tour of Lake Pepin, and the group even spotted an eagle along the shore. Upon returning to the dock, we were greeted with yummy treats from Dairy Queen. For many of our participants this was an extra special day as their incomes do not always allow for such activities. Great thanks to so many people that supported this outing with their donations of aluminum cans. We are now working on developing a formal recycling program here at ABC, turning collected cans into cash to support programs and agency activities.



*Enjoying a day in the sun!*

## Reaching for the sky!



*Kicking the odds!*

*Courtesy of Post Bulletin*

By day, Bruce Stolp works on the ABC custodial crew at Resurrection Lutheran School, but when the work day is done, Bruce has been a student at Rochester's National Karate three nights a week.

For the last 10 years Bruce has been reaching for the sky to achieve a black belt. His instructor warned him that it would not be easy. It was going to take a lot of discipline and hard work. Bruce stood up to the challenge, religiously attending classes and practicing.

Along the way he met with many frustrations and watched fellow students move through the program faster than he did.

In late September, Bruce traveled to the Twin Cities to test for his black belt and proved he was worthy.

Beyond earning his black belt, Bruce earned first and second place in a national competition in the Twin Cities. Will he keep going - Bruce said, "Yes, I do!"

## ABC'ers Are Mean, Green, Recycling Machines!

Kevin and David have become critical to the recycling efforts in Dodge County



*Serious Recycling!*

have become so knowledgeable that when Dodge County decided to produce a video to show young people the how's and why's of recycling, Kevin and Dave were asked to be in the video.

Over a year ago – September 4, 2007 – Kevin and Dave joined the team at Dodge County Transfer and Recycling Station. Both are participants in ABC's Supported Employment program, which provides the specific level of support each one needs to be successful in his community-based job.

Kevin and Dave run the sort line at the facility, sorting all the recycled material: plastic, glass, tin, aluminum and newspaper. It's a physically demanding job, but it also requires a practical knowledge of recycling. Since starting the job, they both



*Kevin, Matt, David and Gary*

## RCTC Recognizes the Taher Crew!



*Andy, Dan, Doug, Joe, Jill and Brett*

"I have been working at Rochester Community and Technical College for over ten years. Yet, it's not as long as some of the guys from ABC.

Dan, Andy, Doug have been here some 15 years along with Joe who has been here going on 8 years. All are supervised by a ten year veteran, Jill. Prior to my start at RCTC I had not worked with a program such as ABC. So, not knowing what to expect or what I was getting into I was somewhat cautious.

Of course things change. We've gone from workers in the kitchen to family members at work. The guys are eager to tell us how their weekend went. They love to share their trophies they won from some sporting event or another. They also like to keep tabs on me and my co-workers; asking us how our kids are, remembering their names or what we are doing for the weekend. Andy loves to make sure we are going to church on Sunday!

I've come to see that our staff from ABC are really above average guys doing their best to make people happy."

Gary Peterson, Taher Food Service Director at RCTC

# Two banquets, two nights of celebrating with family, friends

## Rochester



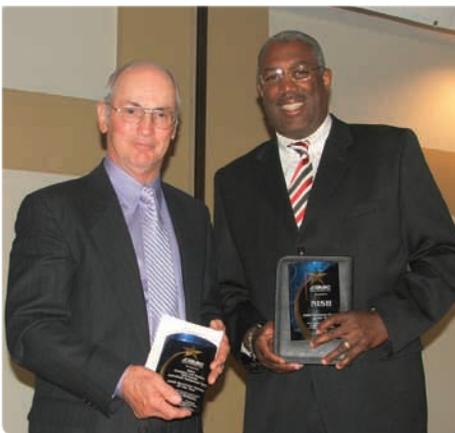
Rochester Community and Technical College Taher Crew

### ABC and Taher Inc. at Byron Public Schools

“It was one of the stipulations when we took bids for a new food service last summer that we wanted to keep the ABC people in our kitchens,” Jennifer Walsh, business manager for the Byron Public Schools, said. “The people do a great job for us,” she said. “Employing them is a good way for the district to give back to the community. It is an important job and they take responsibility and do it well.”

Jennifer added that it blew her away to see the enthusiasm of the people at the banquet.

### Supply Center Philadelphia and National Industries for the Severly Handicapped, ABC’s Business Partner of the Year....



Larry Erickson and NISH’s Martin Williamson

“On behalf of the Individual Equipment Team I want to thank you and Ability Building Center for successfully completing our contracts for Laundry Bags through the years.”

“Regardless of the item required, meeting the needs of our military is a noble task and we at DSCP appreciate your efforts in supporting our troops.”

– Mark Twardziak  
Defense Supply Center Philadelphia

### ABC and Taher Inc. at RCTC

“In October ABC awarded Taher Inc. the Business Partner of the year. After attending the awards dinner all I can say is ‘wow!’ What a night. It’s amazing to see a room filled with so many dedicated people. We are honored to have received this award. We are grateful to have this relationship with ABC and the crew at RCTC. Thank you to ABC and the hard working people that make it a success!”

Gary Peterson  
Taher Food Service Director at RCTC



Byron Public Schools Taher Crew

[Continued at www.abcinc.org](http://www.abcinc.org)



**Kevin, Darlene and Adam were three of the six Lowry Award winners from 2008!**

**Way to go team! Keep up the great work!**

# and business partners.....

## Houston County



**Joni Ralf and Cathy McCabe**  
*ABC Works Business Partner of the Year*

On October 23rd we held our annual Houston County Recognition Banquet at the Four Seasons Center in Caledonia. Our theme this year was "Grow with Us", and was symbolized by a live tree decorated with the many different areas of support provided by ABC. This tree was then planted at ABC Works in LaCrescent to continue to grow as a perpetual symbol of ABC and our commitment to finding new ways to assist others. There was a wonderful turnout again this year. We would like to thank all the benefactors, volunteers, and board members that attended. We really appreciate you making the trip.



**Helen Olson and Shawn Cleven**  
*Woodland Industries Employee of the Year*



**Cathy McCabe and Cindy Burg**  
*ABC Works Employee of the Year*

Business Partners of the Year went to Kerndt Livestock Products from Woodland Industries and the LaCrosse School District Nutrition Program from ABC Works. The Employers of the Year were the Pepsi Bottling Company from ABC Works and the Good Times Restaurant from Woodland Industries. Our Employee of the Year Awards went to Cindy Burg from ABC Works, and Shawn Cleven from Woodland Industries. The Vicki Wilkes Spirit of Independence Award winner this year was Jolene Sabo.



**Tim Bye and Cathy McCabe**  
*ABC Works Employer of the Year*

We are looking forward to making all our partnerships grow. Thank you to everyone!



**Dick Kerndt and Helen Olson**  
*Woodland Industries Business Partner*



**Helen Olson, Kris and Rachelle Wedl**  
*Woodland Industries Employer of the Year*



**Danielle Burg and Jolene Sabo**  
*Vicki Wilkes Spirit of Independence Award*

## Lowry Award Winners

The Lowry Award is given bi-monthly to recognize workers in any of ABC's vocational programs for their outstanding progress towards goals and improvement in overall work performance.



**Darlene Mielke**, who works in the fulfillment area was nominated by Danielle Hampel, General Services Supervisor.

Danielle said, "Darlene has good co-worker relations, work quality, and is a very kind and caring person."

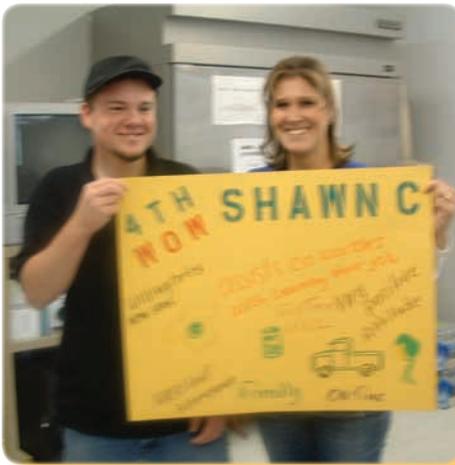
*Congratulations Darlene, Keep Up the Exceptional Work!!*

**Denise Lujan** was nominated by General Services Supervisor Lisa Springborg for her wonderful attitude, courteous and pleasant manner, and her flexibility to try different jobs on the work floor.

*Congratulations Denise, Keep Up the Great Work!!*



## 4th Quarter WOW Award Winner



**Shawn Clevon** is Woodland Industries 4th quarter WOW award winner.

Shawn has shown a great deal of growth in his employment, just recently taking on a full time job at UWL Chartwells.

Shawn has worked hard this past year and has accomplished many of his goals. Woodland Industries

is very proud of Shawn and the accomplishments that he has made both in his work and personal life!

*Thanks for all your hard efforts this past year!!*



**900**  
**Accident-Free**  
**Days at**  
**Woodland Industries**

# Tributes and Memorials

ABC is honored to have received gifts from family, friends and loved ones in memory of those who have died and in tribute to others who live on. The following gifts were received through November 30, 2008.

## In Honor of:

Vicki Barry's 30 yrs. at ABC  
Pat Cutaia  
Don MacGillivray  
Greg Mullally  
Richard T Nelson  
Susan Olson

Justin Riekmann  
Mark & LaVonne Young

## Donor:

Chuck & Kitty Barry  
Alfred & Thelma Cutaia  
Leslie & Elaine Beyer  
Ralph & Lois Mullally  
Trudy Nelson  
Duane Olson  
Calvin & Inez Smith  
Eugene & Marilyn Wojtczak  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Pileggi

## In Memory of:

Albert Bowie

Leon Demerest  
Sara Frettem  
Emma Hafner

Heather Kraetsch  
Boyd Kester  
Donald Harrington  
Glen Hartman  
Ken Lawrence  
Hilary Mahoney  
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Tony Tschida Sr.

## Donor:

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Trudy Nelson  
Barb Wolfs  
Cliff & Shirley Jossart  
Judy Tollefsrud  
American Legion Post  
Kaye Fenske  
Margaret Thompson

Sandra Tschida

**Make a gift  
On-line Today  
at [www.abcinc.org](http://www.abcinc.org)**



## Transitions: One of ABC's First Participants Passes Away



Gene Parkin is being remembered as a very nice, very dependable man, and an employee with a great attitude and dedication to work and volunteering.

Eugene "Gene" Parkin passed away on Monday, November 3, 2008, after a lengthy illness. He was 80 years old at the time of his death, but 52 years ago he was a young man with a disability and a desire to work. At that time, ABC was a new organization dedicated to providing work opportunities for people like Gene. Gene started working at ABC when it was located in the basement of Samaritan Bethany, and stayed with ABC through its migration to the 1500 building, where Gene would wheel himself to and from work each day from his home in Southeast Rochester. Gene eventually left ABC to take a full-time clerical job at Olmsted County Social Services, where he retired after many years. In 2006, Gene was among the many current and past ABC'ers who celebrated the 50th anniversary of ABC.

*"It's amazing to me that one of the earliest ABC folks I met when starting on the board was older than I am", said Tom Murray, a longtime ABC supporter, former Board President, and benefactor.*

# Ken Zubay - AFP 2008 Outstanding Fundraiser



Since 1956, Ken Zubay has helped set the standard for contributions on behalf of many of the area's most pressing needs. Because of his involvement with Ability Building Center, the Soldiers Field Veteran's Memorial and the Salvation Army, Ken was selected as the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser. Over 200 AFP chapters across the country present this award! Ken's nomination will now be submitted at the international level.

*Congratulations Ken for your great work!*

Laurie Kellagher, Development Director at ABC, and Ken Zubay

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carf  
Commission on Accreditation  
of Rehabilitation Facilities



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