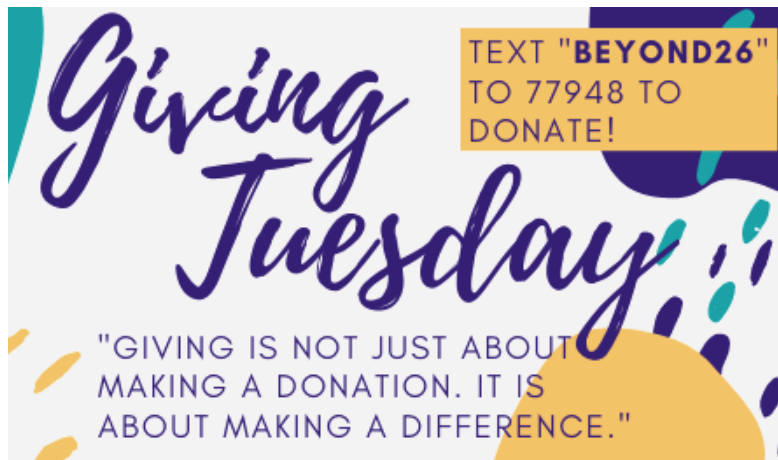




Newsletter | Winter 2020



Putting Faith to Work



Giving Tuesday is a day to celebrate the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. Last year, our supporters channeled that spirit by donating almost \$1,500 in one day!

Since then, our network has grown. Over the past year, we've gained the support of some West Michigan giants, like Meijer and J&H Oil. In most ways, this is a great thing! But sometimes this results in people thinking that their small donation won't be meaningful. We want to tell you that every single donation has been a huge blessing to us.

Like many organizations, COVID-19 hit us hard financially. There was a time when we weren't sure exactly how we would pull through, except by the grace of God. Especially as a young nonprofit, this was the time that those \$10 donations meant the world.

For this Giving Tuesday, we ask that you please consider donating anything you are able, so that we can continue to find meaningful opportunities for individuals with different abilities. You can donate by: (1) using the enclosed form, (2) visiting beyondtwentysix.org/donate-1, or (3) texting **BEYOND26** to 77948. Thank you for your support!

DIRK'S CORNER

I can not help but marvel at the drive and ambition our jobseekers have! We are all still reeling, dealing with Covid-19 challenges but our Beyond26 jobseekers are calling and wanting to work. Our West Michigan business community is responding by offering employment!

I just left a job interview where the employer is willing to give a job to a particularly challenged jobseeker. His motor skills are slow but improving. His inner drive to work is evident and our business partner is willing to give him a part time job so he can earn money and have a work community. All this within 5 miles of his home! He starts next Tuesday. Is it always this easy? Not a chance!

Another placement this week took 9 months to find. Our jobseeker only wants to work 2-4 hours per week and needs her service animal with her. These requirements become an obvious limitation in finding employment. Once again, a local community businesswoman stepped up and said, "YES, I need her to help me process my fresh flower delivery on Tuesday afternoons." This business is within 3 miles of their home.

It is great when the community steps in and includes our jobseekers in their workplace. Inclusion is not easy at times. But the rewards outweigh the "inconvenience". Thanks West Michigan!

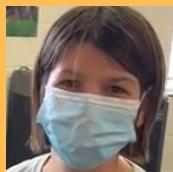
Sign up for our "Exploring Beyond26 Virtual Event" coming up on October 20, 2020. Details to register are in this newsletter. It is a fundraising event that is important to our budget. Invite your friends and family!

Dirk Bakhuyen,
Executive Director

JOBSEEKER SPOTLIGHT



Join us in congratulating our newly employed jobseekers!



Devin is happy to be joining her friends on our document shredding team! - at *Beyond26 Document Shredding*

Jonathan found employment as a web developer. He's excited to get his career started! - at *LaFleur Marketing*



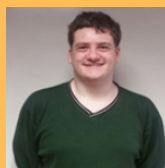
Scott is putting smiles on faces as a customer service provider. We're so excited for you, Scott! - at *Pizza Ranch*

Sarah is doing great in her new volunteer position! Her coworkers say she's "such a sweetheart." - at *New Life Thrift Store*



Jason is working hard as an associate at J&H! His stepmom said, "he loves being 'normal' again and working." - at *J&H Family Stores*

Jason is working at Burger King! His mom said that he is very conscientious about being on time and ready. Good job Jason! - at *Burger King*



Anonymous is "really excited" to be working! They came home from their first shift with a bouquet of flowers and a smile! - at *local flower shop*

OUR FALL FUNDRAISER WAS A SUCCESS!



Our inaugural fall event, Exploring Beyond26, took place this October LIVE on Facebook! The event was a success by all measures, raising over \$6,500 and awareness for our mission!

The event kicked off with a video featuring the powerful story of Jason, one of our employed jobseekers. We then moved into a discussion panel with several amazing guests, including another employed jobseeker, Robbie (pictured above). Thank you so much to everyone who watched, shared, commented, and donated! Your support is appreciated more than we can say.

If you missed it, you can still view it at www.beyondtwentysix.org or Facebook.com/Beyond26



A huge thank you to our sponsors:



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