

Enhancing Lives Through Work



Community Work Services

FALL 2025

A Special Friendship Built on the Number “8”

Some friendships grow from shared interests, mutual work, or simply a warm smile every day. In the case of Danny and Elizabeth, it all began with the number 8.

Danny, one of our valued clients who shreds confidential materials for the Dane County District Attorney’s office, has an amazing eye for spotting his favorite number. Whether it’s finding an 8 on license plates during his walk into the building, noticing office numbers or signs as he picks up shredding, or discovering hidden 8’s in the marble walls of the City County Building, Danny rarely misses one.

Elizabeth, who also works in the City County Building, has always appreciated Danny’s friendly “hello,” big smile, and his dedication to his work. So, when she learned about his passion for the number 8, she decided to surprise him with a number “8” bracelet. Danny was absolutely thrilled!

Thank you, Danny, for making work fun for all of us! “That’s pretty sweet!” as Danny would say.

▼ *Danny & Elizabeth pose next to the City County Building marble wall – a favorite stop along the way to Danny’s office.*



Celebrating 35 Years with Candy Knick!

It’s not often that an organization is lucky enough to have such a qualified, compassionate, and absolutely wonderful employee on their team for nearly its entire history – but for the past 35 years, Community Work Services has been incredibly fortunate to have someone like Cathleen (Candy) Knick, do just that!

Candy’s contributions have been invaluable. Over the years, she’s built lasting relationships with our clients and their families by helping our clients be successful at their places of employment, played a key role in developing new job sites, ensured that our existing job sites run smoothly and efficiently, and so much more. And as a manager, Candy has trained countless team members – it’s safe to say that every single one of us has learned a thing or two from her!

Candy, on behalf of all our clients, families, employers, and staff – thank you for dedicating your career to Community Work Services. We are beyond grateful for the impact you’ve had on our lives and for all you continue to do for this community!

◀ *Daniel was thrilled to give Candy a card he made just for her.*

35 years at the Department of Corrections for Jack Koch!



This year, the Department of Corrections had a very special reason to celebrate — the incredible 35-year work anniversary of one of our cherished CWS clients, Jack Koch.

For three and a half decades, Jack has been a familiar and friendly face around the building, making deliveries on his daily mail run. But Jack’s contributions go far beyond that. Whether it’s filing and sorting documents, restocking the printers with paper, or assisting with mailings, Jack approaches every task with care and dedication.

If you need directions to a co-worker’s desk, help finding a conference room, someone to join you for lunch, or even a bit of history about DOC before its move to East Washington Ave., Jack is your guy! His knowledge and kind nature make him a valuable part of the team.

Jack loves his work, his co-workers, and his job — and it truly shows. It’s no surprise that over 35 years, he’s built so many friendships, past and present.

Congratulations Jack, on 35 years of outstanding service — keep up the great work!!!

◀ (upper left) Jack poses with two of his direct supervisors, Tonja Hesselberg and Kyle Ebel. (left) Jack was presented with a Service Award by the Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Kari Beier.



A huge year for Nancy

2024 was a huge year for one CWS client, Nancy Dornfeld. She celebrated not one, but two big job anniversaries!

In April of 2024, she celebrated her 30-year anniversary with the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center. She started her career with Juvenile Detention in April of 1994 and has been an uplifting and committed team member ever since!

Fast forward to October of 2024, and she celebrated an even bigger milestone, her 35-year anniversary with the Dane County Department of Human Services Facilities Management! She was one of the first supported workers at DCHS back in October of 1989 and is well known amongst many in the community for her work ethic and for always bringing a smile to everyone she crosses paths with. When asked if she was ready to retire, she made sure to make it known that her answer was a strong "No!" So, with that being said, here’s to celebrating one devoted, proud, and enthusiastic woman, Nancy Dornfeld!



2024/2025 Campaign Donors

All of us at Community Work Services continue to be grateful for and touched by the outpouring of support we have received from our friends, families and supporters!

Your generosity has been, and will continue to be, vital in allowing us to fulfill our mission of enhancing lives through work. As always, you have our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. We couldn't do it without you!

We'd also like to thank our many donors who wished to remain anonymous.

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Honoring Dora's Legacy

We are incredibly grateful to share that Dora Brand, a strong advocate for people with disabilities and a true visionary, left a very generous legacy gift to Community Work Services, Inc. Dora was not only a wonderful mother, but also a smart, forward-thinking woman with a fantastic sense of humor — qualities that live on in her daughter, Barbara Brand.

Her commitment to making the world a better place will continue to inspire our work every day, and we are honored to help carry her legacy into the future.

Employee of the Month!

Justin Cain, a CWS client who works for the City of Madison Fleet Service won a very special award this year – Employee of the Month! Way to go, Justin!!!

Justin works very hard cleaning several areas around the Fleet building, and like his supervisor, Rachel Darken said, he's happy to do so! Rachel said Justin was nominated for this award for regularly covering his job and even happy to pitch in with additional responsibilities if co-workers are unable to, "without complaint." She also said, "Justin is here every day with a smile and a kind hello, and we really appreciate that." Thank you for the recognition, Rachel, and CONGRATS on your award, Justin! Keep up the great work!

Justin proudly poses with his "Employee of the Month" certificate. ▶



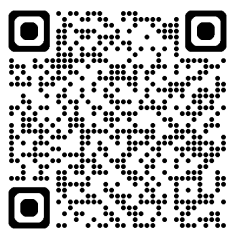


With Gratitude

A huge thank-you to Kip, Shelly, and Loren for their thoughtful donation of wet wipes to Community Work Services! When Shelly learned how practical and appreciated this item is, she went a step further and added wipes to her shopping list as an ongoing gift. Now we can distribute them amongst all of our job sites! Your generosity helps us keep our spaces clean, stocked, and ready for the work we love. We are so extremely grateful—thank you to all 3 of you!

Would You Like to Support Our Mission?

Scan Below!



Volunteer - Be a friend!

Are you interested or know of anyone who would be interested in being a volunteer for one of our clients? Check out our volunteer opportunities at: www.volunteeryourtime.org or call Jeri Murray at Community Work Services: 608.233.0115.

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Our mission...

Community Work Services is guided by the belief that all people have value and that supporting individuals with disabilities to actively participate in all aspects of community life results in a more diverse, compassionate, and stronger community for everyone.

With that as a foundation, the agency works in partnership with employers to make a positive difference in the lives of the people we support by helping them find and keep individually meaningful community jobs.

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