



**RIVERVIEW®
GARDENS**
a place to grow

2017 IMPACT REPORT



OUR MISSION

**Riverview Gardens' mission
is to build dignity through
job-training and employment.**

We believe in the dignity of hard work and allowing people to be part of their own solution. This project engages the entire community in addressing the root causes of unemployment, poverty and homelessness through hard work, creativity and human dignity.





Thank you for supporting neighbors in need!

Because of you, people are breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Our programs positively impact our most vulnerable community members by giving them the tools to become part of their own solution and lead a self-sufficient life.

In 2012 Riverview Gardens opened its once private doors to community members who needed it the most. Founders, staff, and volunteers came together to transform the property into A PLACE TO GROW. By reusing existing resources, five social enterprises were created to provide “on-the-job” training.

We hope you will join hands with us as we fight to the end cycle of poverty and homelessness in our communities. Without you, we never could have achieved so much.



ServiceWorks®

Our transformative 90-hour job-training program, ServiceWorks®, operates through our social enterprises. We train and evaluate participants on four core transferable work skills employers value: (1) use of time; (2) quality of work; (3) relationships with peers; and (4) taking direction from supervisors.



908

Over 908
people paved their path
to self-sufficiency through
ServiceWorks 2012



350+

Over 350 successfully
graduated and have been
placed into employment
since 2012

Following program completion we help participants become work place ready and connect them with one of our 100 partner employers to gain stable employment. Upon employment, we provide our three year Success Program to graduates and employers to ensure a smooth transition and assistance for employers.

“Working with the ServiceWorks program has been rewarding in so many ways. Visually the program has had a huge positive impact on the cleanliness of the downtown. But maybe more importantly, it has brought awareness that there are members of our community that just need another chance to succeed.”

- Paula Vandehey, Director of Public Works for the City of Appleton





Mary Building Dignity

Mary struggled to keep her head above water. Having physical limitations made it difficult to remain employed, get to health appointments, and be part of the community.

Mary heard about our program while visiting the library. She started out by earning a bike so it would be easier to get to and from appointments and job interviews. With the support of staff, community volunteers and her peers she became inspired to take the next step forward, joining ServiceWorks.

The dignity Mary built paved the way to gaining stable employment and being part of the community again. After completing ServiceWorks, our staff helped develop her resume and arrange interviews with employers.

Within a week, Mary had the opportunity to interview at three different partnering employers, and was able to choose the one suited to her well-being.

Mary continues to tell her story of beating adversity with the help of Riverview Gardens and supportive community members like you.



**“Being able to be part of
the community is a value
I hold close to my heart”**

- Mary





Earn-A-Bike

Our Earn-A-Bike program is one of the first steps people take to re-engage with the community. This program allows anyone to gain ownership of a bike and safety gear (lock, light, and helmet) in exchange for 15 hours of volunteering. Once earned, their bike can be brought back to our Earn-A-Bike shop for life time free repairs.



15

Anyone can volunteer with Riverview Gardens for 15 hours and receive reliable transportation



151

Earn-A-Bike has helped 151 people move forward in 2017

Our shop is run by 9 local bike mechanics who donate hundreds of hours each year to keep people in our community moving forward. Community members donate their used bikes and new safety gear to keep people connected to the community.





Nathan Breaking Barriers

Transportation is a barrier for many of the people we serve, including one of our most vulnerable, at-risk youth.



Nathan experienced adversity at home, often leading him into trouble. As a result of his choices, he was required to complete community service ours. Recommended to him by a teacher, he came to Riverview Gardens.

One afternoon, Nathan inquired about how he could get home since he wasn't old enough to drive and had no transportation. Upon learning how many hours he completed, he had enough to earn his very own bike!

Hesitant at the beginning, we saw a transformation in Nathan's attitude and willingness to engage with other people at Riverview Gardens after he earned his bike. He took pride in his bike and began volunteering outside his community service hours.

Riverview Gardens' Earn-A-Bike program helps individuals break barriers to begin transforming their lives.

You make turnarounds like this possible.





Social Enterprises

Riverview Gardens' five social enterprises are the mission muscle for our non-profit mission to provide job training for people in need. Reusing existing resources on the former golf course and country club, we offer five different social enterprise businesses where job-training participants can receive real "on the job" training that they can use immediately upon graduation from ServiceWorks.



**100% of Profits are
Reinvested Back into Our Mission.**

A True Transformation

The social enterprises include: (1) certified-organic urban farm on former golf course fairways; (2) hydroponics greenhouse built over country club pool (only known hydroponics operation over former pool in U.S.); (3) event and park space at former country club building and golf course fairways; (4) maintenance contracts for other non-profit organizations; (5) downtown Appleton building converted into collaborative space. Work is a great venue for the motivation of lifelong learning.





Urban Farm

Group Volunteering
Annually



6,000+
hours

513 Appleton Building

Cleaning up Downtown
Appleton Annually



600+
hours

Hydroponics Green House

Heads of Living Lettuce
produced each week



450+
heads of lettuce

Community Center & Maintenance Contracts

Celebration Lunches Annually



52

lunches served









a place to grow

SERVICEWORKS™

RIVERVIEW GARDENS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Schmidt, Chairman
Cindy Sahotsky, President
Kevin Head, Treasurer
Jeffrey Riester, Secretary

Cathie Tierney
Kathi Seifert
Robin Janson

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