

Together  
we can  
make a  
difference

MEC is a manufacturer that provides a broad range of prototyping, manufacturing, production fabricating, coating and assembly services to a variety of markets including agricultural, construction, military, recreational, medical and industrial. MEC maintains an extensive manufacturing infrastructure in 17 facilities across five states. These facilities make it possible to offer conventional and CNC stamping, shearing, sawing, laser, plasma, and water-jet cutting, forming, drilling, tapping, grinding, tube bending, machining, welding, assembly and logistic services. MEC also possesses a broad range of finishing capabilities including shot blasting, e-coating, powder coating, wet spray and military grade chemical agent resistant coating (CARC) painting.



## Any More Like Joe?

**Chad Verges**, Senior Regional Human Resources Manager for MEC (Mayville Engineering Company), has many roles and responsibilities. Recently he put together a job fair at the 100% employee-owned company in Mayville that is highly involved and actively supports the communities in which MEC facilities are located. Turn-out was good and Chad was happy to see a number of motivated applicants take the next step and fill out applications for employment at MEC. He was particularly impressed with a young man who confidently stated that he had come to work at MEC. His name was Joe LaBudde.

Joe gave Chad no doubt that his intention was to use his welding education and skills to not only work at MEC, but to excel at that work. Chad got the distinct impression that Joe isn't just a welder, he loves welding. He talks welding and has a ton of pride in in welding. Chad decided to followup on the references Joe had listed on his application, one of whom was Dan Brunner, Joe's long-time advocate. He asked Dan about Joe's abilities and skills

and then mentioned that Joe was a very unique young man. Dan agreed and then he volunteered that he was Joe's advocate through Citizen Advocates and that Joe was indeed unusual; he was a very talented but autistic young man. Chad hired Joe and he hasn't been disappointed. According to Chad, Joe always shows up not only on time but early. He puts his full effort into every job and makes each job a challenge to do more and excel while always maintaining a high level of quality. Joe loves to work and that's something that companies like MEC care a lot about. According to Chad, "If you (CA) have any more workers like Joe, please send them directly to me."

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relationships

SUMMER  
2016

CITIZEN  
ADVOCATES  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

"MAKING A POSITIVE  
DIFFERENCE IN THE  
LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES."

VOLUME 12 NO. 3

**Citizen Advocates**  
Making a positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Our mission is to create relationships that make a positive difference in the lives of persons with disabilities.



Above: This late model Toyota Prius, parked in the MEC employee lot, is Joe's pride and joy. He just recently purchased the car with the help of his parents, Peter and Barb LaBudde, long-time CA supporters. Far Right: Dan, Joe's advocate on left and Joe at right.



## Any More Like Joe?



(Continued from Page 1)

I walked away from my visit to MEC not only with a some great photos of Joe LaBudde hard at work, but with Chad's words ringing in my ears. Like so many of the partners in our advocacy program, Joe has worked hard, along with his parents, Peter and Barb LaBudde, to overcome his disability through education, understanding, patience, the CA advocacy program, and just plain hard work. Joe took the initiative to take the next step and pursue his dream, to work and live independently despite his disability. Congratulations Joe from everyone in the CA program. If there are any more like you out there, we will be sure to send them your way Chad.

Mark Brunner  
[markcbrunner@gmail.com](mailto:markcbrunner@gmail.com)



## 2016 Gala Recap



Over the last seven years our annual Gala event has blossomed into the largest fundraiser in the nearly 40 year history of Citizen Advocates. Our return on investment has risen from a mere 1.2 to 1.0 (income to expense) to 6.3 to 1.0 last year. Even though this year's event had record attendance of over 350 guests, the voting fell off the record setting 2015 pace. Nevertheless, since 2010 *Dancing For A Difference* has become the number one source of program support income for CA amounting to over 60% of our annual program support income.

Once again this year's event witnessed celebrity dancers from the community competing for an overall event trophy (signifying the most money raised) and a technical winner (the dancer judged to have performed the best dance by the three judges.) The major difference this year was that we fielded 12 dancers for the first time ever. This year's dancers raised over \$22,000 in \$10 votes. Terry Lynn Johnson won the overall event raising the most money for the event and Lucille Becker won the judge's award for the best technical performance. *Dancing For A Difference* has rapidly become the largest fundraiser in the history of CA program fundraising. Next year's event is scheduled for May 12, 2017 at the Chandelier Ballroom in Hartford. See you there!

Mark Brunner  
[markcbrunner@gmail.com](mailto:markcbrunner@gmail.com)



## 3rd Annual Fundraiser On Tap



- Sporting Clays
- 14 Station Course
- Shoot rain or shine
- Course opens 9:00 AM
- High-grade Shotgun Raffles
- Food and drinks available for purchase



For more information go to: [www.cawash.org/shootingfordifference](http://www.cawash.org/shootingfordifference)

All proceeds benefit individuals with disabilities. Contact Mark Brunner @ 414-412-1820 for more information or [markcbrunner@gmail.com](mailto:markcbrunner@gmail.com)

Bring your own shotgun. Come every day or the day of your choice. Rain or shine!

You get 50 clays to shoot at 14 stations—teams welcome!

Enter raffle for a high-grade shotgun at outside station!

Play the shotgun shell raffle to possibly win another quality shotgun in clubhouse!



## Al Jung Wins Emerging Leader Award

On June 15, I was able to attend the *Volunteer Center Champion for Change* event. It was a great night of celebrating people who are changing Washington County through volunteering. Their stories were inspiring and their passion for others was amazing.

Surrounding me at the event were a few of the awesome volunteers Citizen Advocates get to work with. The Kettlebrook small group, nominated for the *Team Spirit Award*, Samantha George, nominated for the *Rising Star Award*, Laura Emmer, nominated for the *Power of One Award*, Fred Astaire, nominated for the *Community Partner Award* and Al Jung nominated for the *Emerging Leader Award*.

We were so excited when Al was chosen as the winner in his category. Al's commitment to his community and his willingness to help out, do not go unnoticed by all who interact with him.

Congratulations to Al and all of the Citizen Advocates nominees. We are so grateful for your support!



Jessica Frederick

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### Relationships

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Creating relationships that make a  
positive difference in  
the lives of those with disabilities.





**Advocates  
Needed**

We are currently looking for Advocates. Advocates can be individuals or groups, students or retired, male or female, who enjoy spending time with other people and have a desire to build a relationship with someone new. You can be an advocate!

An advocate is matched with an individual of any age with developmental disabilities who need advocates to: prevent isolation from the community, encourage community friendships and enhance meaningful personal relationships, mentor and assist with life decisions.

Interested in learning more about the advocates that we are looking for? Please go to our website to see a list of advocates that we are currently looking for. <http://cawash.org/advocates-needed>.



## Coming Events

- Shooting For A Difference August 19-21
- Annual Meeting October 13
- 2017 Gala May 12, 2017

To order tickets to the 2016 Annual Meeting, detach and Send to CA, PO Box 582, West Bend, WI 53095



## 2016 Annual Dinner

Our 38th Annual Dinner will be taking place at the Hartford Auto Museum, Harford, West Bend, on Thursday, October 13th. If you would like to attend, please call Mark at 414-412-1820 or go to [www.cawash.org/2016annualdinner.html](http://www.cawash.org/2016annualdinner.html) and sign up

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of tickets @ \$35: \_\_\_\_\_

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