



RNI Chatter



Happy 6th Anniversary to the Chatter!

Volume 6 Issue 1

NOVEMBER 2023

Krista Grove wins OPRA award

Krista began in 2015 as a summer PT job coach working with transition youth in the Summer Youth Work Experience and working weekends providing follow up and job coaching services. Krista moved to a full time job coach in 2018. Krista is a versatile job coach that can easily adapt to assignments ranging from a professional office environment, to a busy restaurant kitchen, to a hospital setting, to a hot and dirty factory floor, to a livestock production farm environment all with a smile on her face and encouraging words for the persons she serves. Krista is the consummate



**JOB COACH
AWARD WINNER**

Krista Grove
(Richland Newhope
Industries)



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professional that cheers on the persons she serves and assists employers in building professional work relationships. Krista is so dedicated that during the winter storms of 2022, Krista coached an individual at a local hospital for their first day and spent the night and next day at the hospital so she would be on site to job coach him on his first two days of work. During the fall of 2020, Krista worked with a young lady at her first job at a large pig farm. Krista would have to be at the job site 40 minutes from her home at 6:00am, shower at the facility and change into their uniforms, provide job coaching on the care of birthing sows, care and vaccination of newborn piglets, as well as removing piglets that had passed away. This assignment lasted for multiple months and Krista never complained about the working conditions, hours, or the early morning drives, but rather talked about what a wonderful opportunity it was for the young lady she was serving. Krista always had a kind word to say, boasts the person's served self esteem, and is recognized as a consummate professional by her peers and customers. In her 8 plus years with RNI, Inc. Krista has built long term relationships with persons served, employers, and other stakeholders. Krista was the only job coach in the state to win the OPRA award.

More Community Employment Spotlights to celebrate NDEAM



Sean Conrad - Sean has been employed as a Shift Leader at the City Garden Cafe for 8.5 years. He provides excellent customer service, prepares meals to order, and runs the cash register. Sean is helpful and enjoys talking with customers as they come in. If you get a chance to stop at the City Garden Cafe, Sean will be more than happy to make you a delicious breakfast! Sean loves going to Cedar Point and attending church with his family. Sean lives with his brother, loves hunting Pokémon, and playing video games, especially Zelda. Sean recently attended the Taylor Swift concert in Cincinnati and had a blast.

Nathan Black - In December, Nathan Black will finish his first full year of being employed at Cracker Barrel. Nathan works in the gift shop and does various tasks from running the cash register to bringing out inventory. Nathan has learned numerous skills for the position and is always willing to learn more. He does his best to provide outstanding customer service and wants customers to leave the restaurant on a high note.

Aside from working, Nathan is a Special Olympics athlete. He plays both Softball and Bowling and is thinking about trying Volleyball next season. Nathan enjoys going out to eat with his wife, friends and family, but couldn't pick a specific favorite place to eat. If you stop by Cracker Barrel, be sure to say hello to Nathan.



Wendy Harmon—Wendy has been working at the front desk of the Richland Newhope Service and Support Office for almost 8 years. She greet and directs visitors, answers incoming phone calls, scans files, sorts and distributes mail, plus shreds documents as needed. Wendy works hard to give her best everyday. Wendy said her work hours are perfect for her and she is looking forward to attending the upcoming holiday parties as she loves to attend them!

Wendy is an avid watch collector and likes to coordinate them with her outfits. She enjoys reading and attending theatre performances with her family. Wendy spends time coloring on her iPad to help her relax and uses her Alexa frequently to keep herself organized.

Zach Sites has been employed at Lucas Tool for 3.5 years. Lucas Tool is a local business that specializes in repairing tools back to their original condition. Zach's main responsibility is to dip the tools after they have gone through the re-grind process, so they aren't damaged during shipping. Zach helps out with other tasks around the shop. He especially loves mowing the grass with the riding lawnmower and is always willing to keep up with it. Zach enjoys traveling with his family. He said he recently spent time relaxing in Michigan at a condo with a hot tub! Zach happily talks about his niece and his 9 cats at home. When he wants to have fun, he loves to go to Planet 14 to play Air Hockey, The Fast and the Furious Arcade game and Skee-ball. Zach mentioned he would like to go back to Topgolf and he has a good time playing board games with his friends.



Calvin Herritt just celebrated his 3-year work anniversary at Arbors of Mifflin. Calvin is officially a floor technician, but he is willing to help with any of the Housekeeping department's duties. Calvin began as a part time employee, but worked himself into full time hours. Calvin receives positive performance evaluations and consistently delivers quality work. He really likes his coworkers, especially his supervisor. Calvin has built some great relationships in his workplace! Outside of work, Calvin enjoys riding around town on his motorcycle, competing as part of the Special Olympics Softball team, and spending time with his wife, Donna.

Tammi Black - Tammi has been the owner/operator of Treeder's since January of 2007. Treeder's is a cozy snack bar on the second floor of the Richland County courthouse and is open during typical business hours. Tammi is always stocked up with hot and cold drinks, plus crackers or cookies, and always has something to satisfy a sweet tooth. Tammi strives to keep a variety of options for her customers. Be sure to follow Treeder's on Facebook to keep up with what's happening, new products, and changes to business hours. Tammi likes to stay busy and enjoys going to dinner and on dates with her husband. She loves taking photos at Special Olympics events while supporting the teams. Tammi recently planned a weekend adventure for her husband's birthday.



November Employee Anniversaries

Jill Boyd	11/29/1993	30 Years
Tonya Crall	11/29/2012	11 Years
Leeann Means	11/24/2014	9 Years
Krista Grove	11/18/2016	7 Years
Joni Hyde	11/29/2021	2 Years
Jane Glaze	11/29/2016	2 Years
Molly Hall	11/17/2021	2 Years
Gwendolyn Yockey	11/21/2022	1 Year

Congratulations

Jill

THANK YOU for your 30 years of service!



Special Visit to the Mansfield Art Gallery

Missy Davis, Kandi Takacs and Tammy Wilcox went on an outing to the Mansfield Art Gallery's Crow Fest Event with Support Specialist, Heather Gibson. They feasted their eyes on a variety of unique art works all centered around crows. The painting titled, "Metanoia," was the group favorite this visit, but there were others that were thought provoking, funny, and just beautiful. There was even a painting by our very own Wenn Yockey, Art Coordinator at the Element of Art Studio/Gallery. After they were finished touring the gallery, they discussed the jobs that would be available at the MAC. Tammy thought that the janitorial staff would need help with all of the sweeping, mopping, dusting, and keeping all of the huge windows clean. Missy thought she would be able to get a job there as a cashier with her experience that she got while working at the EOA."



SAFETY starts with S, but begins with YOU...

RNI Safety TOPIC for November: Thanksgiving Safety

HAVE A SAFE THANKSGIVING
~REMEMBER TURKEY!~



T

Thaw turkey at a safe temperature – 40°F or below



U

Use extra caution when frying a turkey and oil-free fryers if possible



R

Remember to clean all cooking surfaces regularly



K

Kee children away from hot foods and surfaces, and kitchen utensils



E

Ensure turkey is cooked and has reached minimum temperature of 165°F



Y

Your smoke detector should be tested prior to cooking



Halloween dance party and costume contest



Visit us on the Web at rniinc.com

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RNI, Inc. Team: Let's increase our presence on social media and increase our LIKES on Facebook. LIKE or FOLLOW or SHARE us on Facebook to invite your friends to LIKE us too. UPDATED 11/20/23; we are at:

City Garden Café is at 495 LIKES, can we get to 500 LIKES, 5 LIKES to go?

Element of Art Studio/Gallery is at 1,962 LIKES, can we get to 2000 LIKES, 38 LIKES to go?

Richland Newhope Industries is at 2027 LIKES, can we get to 2500 LIKES, 473 LIKES to go?

Trillium Event Center is at 1048 FOLLOWS, can we get to 1500 FOLLOWS, 452 FOLLOWS to go?

Help us increase our social media exposure by liking and sharing our four (4) Facebook pages. City Garden Café, Element of Art Studio/Gallery, Trillium Event Center and Richland Newhope Industries, Inc!



Element of Art Studio/Gallery Schedule

Element of Art is open to the public Monday-Friday 8:30am-3pm and every other Saturday from 10am-3pm. Classes with our contracted artists are currently in session. For sales orders or questions about our public programming, reach out to us on social media, give us a call at 419.522.2965, or email gyockey@rniinc.com.

Schedule and Classes for the month of NOVEMBER:

***** Studio Saturdays ***** - Every other Saturday from 11am-2pm. Bring a craft from home to work on in our collaborative studio space or work on one of our free monthly crafts.
November dates: 11/25, 12/9, 12/23

First Friday @EOA | December 3rd from 5-7pm

Our Recurring Events/Classes are open to the public:

- Mixed Media** - (Every Monday) \$15
- Acrylics & Watercolor** - (Every Tuesday) \$15
- Ceramics** - (Every Wednesday) \$30 Must attend two classes (building & glazing).
- Jewelry** - (Every Thursday) \$15
- Art 101** - (Every Friday) \$15

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RNI Bucks issued for the month of October

We would like to take a moment to THANK all of employees that received RNI BUCKS during the month of October 2023:

Shannon Ruhl - opening and closing the buildings when CE staff member was out with an illness

Tonya Crall (2) - has been nominated by multiple coworkers (ES) for assisting in setting up CBA sites, taking individuals cloth shopping and interviews to cover for them, and covering annual meetings. Since CE Dept. has had so many CBAs and new hires, Tonya has also been communicating with the job coaches and assisting them with needed follow-up visits. Tonya has been proactive in sorting out transportation for individuals impacted by the CNMT changes.

Tarn Owens - for getting belt job done within a tight deadline

Lori Barker - for getting belt job done within a tight deadline

Matt Cole - Assisting with the Lawn Crew while Kevyn was on vacation!

THANK YOU for the nominations and the employees for going above and beyond in your position!!