

Contact: Al Schraeder
Diverse Options, Inc.
Phone 920 748 6387
Fax 920 748 6030
do_alschraeder@yahoo.com

571 Fenton Street
P.O. Box 449
Ripon, WI 54971
Phone 920 748 6387
Fax 920 748 6030

Diverse Options, Inc.

Press Release

Local Business Receives State Award

Mike and Cathy's Good Old Days Receives Rehabilitation For Wisconsin's "Excellence in Rehabilitation" Award in Ripon.

Ripon, WI, April 27, 2007 – When you think about Mike and Cathy's Good Old Days on Lake Puckaway, you think about great food, excellent service and a fun and relaxing atmosphere. Now, you can add the term "State Award Winner" when referring to Good Old Days for their efforts in employing individuals with disabilities in Marquette County.

Mike and Cathy's Good Old Days received the 2007 "Excellence in Rehabilitation" Award from Rehabilitation from Wisconsin; a statewide association of 58 community rehabilitation programs. Good Old Days was nominated for the award by Diverse Options, Inc. and the award was presented at the organization's annual recognition banquet held recently in Ripon.

Diverse Options, Inc. (DO) began providing employment, day services and independent living services to individuals with disabilities in Marquette County in 2003. At that time, the idea of individuals with disabilities being employed by businesses in the community was a relatively new concept in the county. As DO's programs took hold and established themselves, discussions with county staff continued regarding the option to offer community work opportunities for consumers who attended DO programs. One day, Calvin, a DO consumer, informed staff that he wanted to work in the community. An assessment through the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation indicated that Calvin had a real interest in working in the food service area. That assessment led to staff from the Marquette County Department of Health and Human Services and Diverse Options, Inc. going to work on Calvin's behalf. That work resulted in a phone call to Mike and Cathy Vales of Good Old Days.

The Vales decided to give Calvin an interview and hired him on the spot. That was over two years ago. Since that time, Calvin has been working bussing tables, washing dishes and performing other duties that are needed at Good Old Days.

In presenting the award, Al Schraeder, DO's President and CEO reflected on the leadership the Vales exhibited in their efforts to hire Calvin. "We were a relatively new company in town, offering a new program that was different regarding employing individuals with disabilities. Mike and Cathy had a very successful business and literally "took a chance" to give Calvin an opportunity. Their willingness to work with Calvin and our organization resulted as a springboard for our Marquette County Supported Employment Program. Their support has resulted in 8 others that we serve being involved in the process of community employment. The success of this program, and most importantly, the people involved in the program, would have never been possible without the efforts of Mike, Cathy and everyone at Good Old Days."

For Release 9 a.m. CST, April 27, 2007

Schraeder says that Diverse Options, Inc. was very pleased that Good Old Days was selected for the Rehabilitation For Wisconsin award. "The progressive attitude, ongoing support and leadership of the people of Good Old Days has served as an example in the Marquette County community regarding businesses realizing the true abilities of individuals with disabilities. It is for these reasons and many more that we nominated them for this state award. We simply wanted to thank them for all of their efforts on behalf of Calvin and the consumers in Marquette County.

The award was accepted by Bonnie Ehle and Calvin Kelly of Good Old Days at the organization's Annual Recognition Banquet held April 27th in Ripon.

Diverse Options, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization that serves the vocational and independent living needs of people with disabilities in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara counties. DO's mission exists "support, educate and empower individuals with disabilities to reach their highest level of independence."