

VA Program Honors Local Company for Work with Vets

In honor of National CWT Vocational Rehabilitation Recognition week October 22-26, the Minneapolis VA's Therapeutic and Supported Employment Services (TSES) team honored the first recipient of the "VA Employer of the Year" award to a well deserving company—

Mains'1. Mains'1, based in Brooklyn Park, MN, provides direct support services to individuals with disabilities in their homes. They also partner with other agencies to provide direct support and financial management services, to include services such as, timesheet collection, payroll, filing, accounts payable, and billing. Mains'1 also provides Career Navigators to employees within the company to ensure their staff is successful. Since 2017, TSES staff have assisted three Veterans with obtaining permanent employment with Mains'1. Angela Sherburne, TSES Program Manager, said: "Mains'1 has an extremely accommodating, family-like atmosphere that is welcoming of their employees and our Veterans; they have been willing to work closely with TSES staff to make sure the Veterans are successful. This is all evidenced in a statement from one of the Veterans, who writes 'I love it here. Everyone is very helpful and welcoming. I really couldn't ask for a better job opportunity.'"



Pictured L-R: Tracy Hinkemeyer, Mains'1; Angela Sherburne, VA; Brianna Johnson, VA; Michael Kroeger, veteran; Jack Pitney, veteran; Jim Youn, Mains'1; Stacy Roe, Mains'1; Derek Haug, VA; and Dawn Valerius, Mains'1



Volunteer Spotlight – Philip Steber

Phil has been volunteering at the VA for seven years. He provides patient transports for the escort department every Friday.

Phil greets the patients with a smile which immediately puts them at ease. He connects with them on any level. He provides comfort by having friendly conversations on the way to their destination but also recognizes when they prefer not to talk. He always ensures that the patients are delivered to the correct location.

Phil is described as friendly, caring and compassionate. He is always willing to help and if he doesn't know the answer, he will find it. His smile is contagious and he greets everyone he encounters throughout the facility. He treats everyone with respect and honors each Veteran he transports with "thank you for your service". Although he is not a Veteran himself, he wants the Veterans to know how much he appreciates them for their service to our country. He was inspired to volunteer by his daughter, who is nurse here.

Phil is a retired freight train conductor of 42 years from Milwaukee/Soo/CP Roads Railway. He currently has a part-time delivery job with a dental lab. He has been married for 42 years. He and his wife have seven children. When he is not working or volunteering, he enjoys spending time with his family, doing things around the house, and car repairs.