

bawac

Impact

2011 Annual Report

"Life is good right now."

Personal Achievement Recognized at BAWAC Dinner

BAWAC, Inc., awarded Steve Wilson the 2011 Personal Achievement Award during its annual dinner on November 17, 2011. The award recognizes individuals with triumphant stories involved with BAWAC's community-based employment program.

Steve Wilson, a 57-year-old Covington resident, was a healthy middle-class family man ten years ago. It was a chilly November day when his life changed forever. He was focused on guiding a truck as it backed up—just another workday—when a van suddenly struck him.

The van was traveling at a speed more than 50 mph when it collided with Steve, pinning him between the vehicle and a wall.

He then endured a long and challenging stint in the hospital where he was treated for a fractured knee, broken ribs and a life-changing traumatic brain injury.

"You never know what life has in store for you," says Steve. "Sometimes it gives you good surprises. Sometimes it gives you bad surprises."

Over the course of the last decade, Steve endured an intensive physical therapy regimen that tested both his and his family's resolve. He ultimately lost his job. His wife divorced him, and he was even homeless for a short time.

Enter BAWAC. Steve came to BAWAC in hopes it could assist him in finding adequate employment. BAWAC specializes in teaming local businesses with deserving community members seeking to make a difference in the Northern Kentucky job scene.

Brian and Jerri Raffler, two local Little Caesar Pizza owners, heard Wilson's story and knew they had a place for him.

"Steve is a great employee and we're very proud of him," says Brian Raffler.

Thanks to BAWAC and the Rafflers, Steve now has steady employment, his own apartment and most importantly job security. Emergency Cold Shelter of Northern Kentucky, NorthKey Community Care, Fairhaven Rescue Mission and HUD/Section 8 housing, as well

as other community partners, also contributed to Steve's ability to put his life back on track.

"I feel more secure about what life has in store for me again," he says. "It's been almost ten years since I could honestly say that. Without BAWAC's [employment program] and [the Rafflers'] help I may not have been able to survive this life much longer."

The Rafflers own a Little Caesars located at 4224 Dixie Highway, Erlanger, where Steve works, as well as another Little Caesars in Florence.



Personal Achievement Award winner Steve Wilson with BAWAC's supervisor Shelly Borg, Supported Employment, and president Ken Schmidt.

continued



Brian and Jerri Raffler with the 2011 Business Award. Also shown are BAWAC'S employment specialist Emily Simpson (right) and president Ken Schmidt (rear).

The Rafflers have a history of helping people like Steve. They recently won a statewide Employer Recognition Award from the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as the 2011 Business Award from BAWAC.

When Steve is asked how he feels about winning the award, he has a simple response.

"Life is good right now," says Steve. "What else can I say . . . It feels great!"

BAWAC By the Numbers 2010-11

Maximizing the vocational potential and enhancing the quality of life for adults with disabilities or other barriers to employment . . .

Number of people whom BAWAC served through:

- Case Management Services: 14
- Community-Based Adjustment/Supported Employment Program: 206
- Community Support Services: 25
- Employment Maintenance Program: 72
(with 90% maintaining employment)
- Employment Options Services: 110
- Facility Based Adjustment
(transitional services to prepare participants for employment): 6
- PLANKS Program (employment services to the homeless population): 71
(with 13 gaining employment)
- Transportation Program: 100
- Vocational Evaluation Program: 66
- Work Services Program: 66

Total served: 442

Contractors utilizing BAWAC clients to add value to, assemble goods for and provide services for their products: 29

Consumer survey ratings of program effectiveness: 90% or higher

From the President

We are pleased to introduce *Impact BAWAC*, a publication designed to highlight the people and programs of BAWAC, Inc. This first issue is made possible by the generous support of Ron Turner. His brother, Eddie, was BAWAC's "official ambassador" until his death in 2006. His greeting to visitors—"Hi! I'm Eddie"—was delivered in a gruff voice belied by a warm smile. Eddie was a client of BAWAC for 34 years. We still talk about him and miss him.

For 38 years, BAWAC has developed programs and services that maximize the vocational potential and quality of life of adults with disabilities or other barriers to employment. We think that the stories presented here demonstrate how well we are pursuing and achieving our objectives.

I invite you to help us continue to offer opportunities to individuals whose dreams are to simply be productive members of our society. Your donation to BAWAC, Inc., can help us make repairs to our parking lot and refurbish our restrooms. Your dollars could translate into more energy efficient lighting or help add a new van to our fleet, thereby shortening our waiting list of names of those needing transportation. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible contribution today.

I am also pleased to announce that beginning early in 2012, we will be producing an electronic newsletter to keep you, our BAWAC family and friends, informed of our upcoming events and current activities. The e-news will include features about some of our clients, as well as changes or additions to our staff. It is being designed to keep you better informed of the good things happening at BAWAC. To be added to our mailing list, please contact our in-house editor Trudy Oldendick, a new member of our BAWAC staff, at 859.371.4410 or trudy.oldendick@bawac.org. We will not use your email address for anything other than sending BAWAC news.

I thank you for your support.

Ken Schmidt
President



Eddie Turner, one of BAWAC's first participants in the work services program, worked his way up to "official ambassador."



Star Lentz

Case Management: **Growing Stronger**

Although only one year old, BAWAC's Case Management program has already made a positive difference in the lives of more than a dozen community members. The program essentially improves the quality of life for those with disabilities living within the area served by BAWAC.

"The goal of Case Management is to provide people with severe disabilities access to the appropriate support and services to enable them to participate fully in the community and improve their personal levels of functioning," said Rick Pratt, BAWAC's director of services. The services are provided under the Michelle P. Waiver (MPW), a home-and community-based waiver program within the Kentucky Medicaid program. It was developed as an alternative to institutional care for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. MPW provides for the support and services needed for these individuals to remain in their homes.

The BAWAC program currently serves 14 people with services such as adult day or day training programs, community living provisions and behavioral supports, among others.

Star Lentz is one person benefitting from Case Management. The 21-year-old has Down Syndrome. Members of BAWAC's Case Management team met with her and her mother this year, giving them tours of the agencies in the area that provide the services that could benefit Star. They then discussed potential strategies. Currently, Star attends an adult day training program five days a week. She is meeting new friends and improving her independent living skills.

BAWAC's Case Management program is only growing stronger. Eight to ten more people just like Star are expected to profit from the program within the next three months.



Vans Fill *Transportation Needs*



Driver Hank Brinkman assists Linda Bloemer out of BAWAC's van.

The agencies in Northern Kentucky, serving individuals with various disabilities and needs, had a problem. Many of their clients were arriving late, leaving early or were forced to wait up to two hours after work because of the limitations of those providing them with rides. The agencies' directors collectively began looking for a solution.

In January, 2006, L.K.L.P. Community Action Council, a non-profit corporation serving as a transportation broker for the Northern Kentucky region, challenged the agencies to help create a solution to the problem. BAWAC, Inc., took up the challenge and hired Dan Kraemer to manage its new transportation services program.

By June of that same year, BAWAC had acquired three vans and was meeting the transportation needs of 24 riders. Today, BAWAC operates 14 vans, serving 100 people via 26 routes. The vans travel 1,400 miles a day, providing over 45,000 rides to individuals in need. The cost of the program is covered by Medicaid-eligible individuals.

As Dan explains, "Our service is based on a courteous, safety conscious effort to get the riders to their destinations in a timely manner. Hopefully, we have been doing just that."

As the growth in the program indicates, BAWAC is meeting that objective.





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**Indicates a member whose six-year tenure ended this summer.*



BAWAC, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and service provider, offering advancement to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origin, or disability.

Contact us at 859.371.4410 or visit www.bawac.org

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