



You are in good company

In an effort to off-set the decreased state funding, the Ability Bash successfully raised \$106,000 to support the trainers and job coaches at MDI.



- 7 Companies Sponsored
- 76 Businesses Donated Products or Services
- 22 Committee Members and Volunteers
- 156 Guests Attended

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→→→ Together we raised **\$106,000!**

The Beauty of Art at Work

MDI's Cohasset facility has a very personal art gallery.

The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council funded a partnership with Grand Rapids' MacRostie Art Center and MDI. "In talking with Katie Marshall, executive director at MacRostie, we envisioned what we could do with art to make MDI feel more like the supportive, committed, and motivating workplace it is, while providing a therapeutic experience for employees", stated Kyle Erickson, MDI plant manager.

MacRostie artists taught MDI employees drawing and painting, cyanotypes and digital photography, and together they created a large, collaborative mural. The pieces are framed and installed in the hallways, conference rooms, and offices.

An art-filled facility can inspire employees and enhance the sense of community that we work to build," said Erickson. "For customers and visitors to the site, we hope showcasing the creativity of our employees will impress upon them our commitment to our mission and the value we place on the individuals with whom we work."



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FEELING NEGLECT?

Funding down 77%. Are MN disabled NOT a priority?

The State of Minnesota designated \$450,000 to MDI to fund employment training and support for people with disabilities for many years. 2019 is different: MDI will receive \$100,000 – a 77% decrease. An explanation was not given why the current Legislature redistributed state funding for people with disabilities.

The effects were felt immediately at MDI. Jeanne Eglinton, director of employment services, has eliminated four positions. There is still a shortfall of \$200,000.

MDI's development department raises annual support from individual donors and corporations and foundations. This crisis is above and beyond the annual goal. Peg McQuillan Porter, director of development, along with Peter McDermott, President & CEO, is calling on grantors and donors to share this need.

Eglinton, McQuillan Porter, and McDermott are meeting with state officials and committee members to restore this funding in the next session.



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Focus on MDI Supporters

One of my mentors said, “My objective is to put everyone in a position to succeed.” That is exactly what MDI does for its employees. Through training and coaching, MDI employees develop in-work values and skills. MDI is clearly putting each employee in a position to succeed. We strongly support MDI’s mission/strategy as an Affirmative Social Enterprise.

- Jack and Nancy Grace

White Room Gains Speed to Provide Jobs

It was two years ago MDI (with the support of numerous committee members, funders and donors) opened its doors on a new 11,000 SF White Room inside the Minneapolis facility. Fast forward to today, the room is picking up speed as new projects roll-in varying from surgery drape cutting, folding and kitting to medical device assembly. MDI’s medical business now provides 10 full time jobs for people with and without disabilities. These employees entered the medical space with years of transferable assembly skills and are now taking home new talents such as sewing and quality control monitoring.

As an ISO 13485:2016, ISO 9001:2015 and FDA Registered facility, MDI is held to the highest quality standards. Recently, three of four facilities were audited for reassessment relating to the ISO 9001 certification. All plants passed with zero findings. This allows MDI to retain the certification for another three years.

For more information or to view additional medical projects, visit mdi.org/medical



Graco Foundation

The Graco Foundation provided funding to the tune of \$55,000 for MDI to purchase a new pallet wrapping system and five pallet lifts for the Minneapolis facility. This machinery has made MDI more efficient and competitive while providing new training opportunities for our employees.

