

## **ANNUAL APPEAL –VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Dear Friend,

*Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are words our founding fathers authored over 200 years ago in hopes of paving the way for all people to have a fulfilling and purpose-driven life. Work is one means through which we can fully embrace and achieve these ideals.....*

Since 1966, Opportunities, Inc. continues to uphold the grassroots efforts of its founding community members, to employ and empower individuals with disabilities and barriers to employment. This year Opportunities, Inc. celebrated 40 years of “*success through service*” and received a citation from the State of Wisconsin in recognition of the agency’s commitment to its mission and community. Over 2000 individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment will receive services from Opportunities, Inc. in 2007 for assistance in achieving their full vocational potential.

The specialized services that employees with disabilities require to maintain independence are significant to their long term success. For those working through Opportunities, Inc., job coaching, employee relations, mentoring and other extended services are imperative for each consumer to experience job satisfaction and community independence. However, funding options for training, employment, and long term support for persons with disabilities and other barriers to employment continue to decline. Currently, 35% of the consumers that participate in Opportunities, Inc. community programs do not have financial support.

Therefore, Opportunities Inc. has taken a proactive approach to serve those who are not eligible for traditional funding options by establishing a Vocational Scholarship Program. This initiative will ensure the doors of opportunity remain open to all who desire to work. It will advance the specialized services available to consumers, supporting them in the workplace and in the community.

We invite the community to partner in this endeavor that promotes personal empowerment and community independence. Through your generous donations, individuals with disabilities and barriers to employment will have the essential services to achieve vocational success long into the future.

Your investment in Opportunities, Inc. will ensure that all people regardless of ability can *experience life, celebrate liberty and pursue happiness.*

*“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing”.*

*Theodore Roosevelt*