

THE BUZZ!

FOR ALL THINGS NEWSWORTHY AT WACOSA

FALL/WINTER 2025



OUTREACH



ARRGH!! A PIRATES VS. WITCHES GRANITE CITY SING-ALONG

A heartfelt bravo to WACOSA's Empowered Stars for their outstanding performance of *ARRGH!! A Pirates Vs. Witches Granite City Sing-Along* on June 26th, 2025! The cast of over 40 actors delivered a hilarious, high-spirited original production at Paramount Center for the Arts, delighting the audience with a madcap showdown celebrating the power of teamwork. This collaboration between WACOSA and Paramount Center for the Arts continues to highlight the incredible talents of adults with disabilities, fostering skill development and community connection.

A huge thank you to Paramount Center for the Arts for providing not only a spectacular stage, but

for the time, talents and leadership of your staff, and to all the dedicated volunteers whose support make the show a success. We also extend our sincere gratitude to our special guest performers who lent their time and enthusiasm: WACOSA Board Member and Stearns County Commissioner Joe Perske, MN State Senator Aric Putnam, St. Cloud Mayor Jake Anderson, and St. Cloud City Council Member Tami Calhoun.

The Stars performed for over 500 audience members in what was the first event of the 2025 St. Cloud Granite City Days!



GARY TAKES CENTER STAGE



AUTUMN & DAVID



CIERA'S SOLO



PIRATES BEING PIRATES



NATE MAKES IT SNOW

WACOSA'S 2025 BASH A MASSIVE SUCCESS

RAISING \$50,000 FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

WACOSA is thrilled to announce its biggest fundraiser of the year, the 2025 Bash, was an overwhelming success, raising an incredible \$50,000!

WACOSA extends its deepest gratitude to all our generous sponsors who provided essential financial support, our thoughtful silent auction donors whose contributions generated excitement and bidding, our tireless volunteers whose efforts ensured the event ran smoothly, Second Rate Radio for keeping the party going, the Moose Lodge for the excellent service, and our guests who make it so much fun!



The \$50,000 raised will have a significant and lasting impact on the lives of the individuals WACOSA serves, enabling them to develop skills, pursue employment, and foster meaningful community connections. WACOSA looks forward to continuing to build on this success and further its commitment to creating possibilities for people of all abilities.

2025 BASH SPONSORS

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A 14 YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH WACOSA

MEANINGFUL PRODUCTION & STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Over the past 14 years, Stang Precision and WACOSA have maintained a meaningful, productive, and strong partnership in creating significant opportunities for adults with disabilities in central Minnesota. The numbers are a tribute to Stang Precision's dedication to creating work opportunities for all abilities. Stang Precision has provided jobs and job tryouts for 277 individuals, allowing them to gain valuable work experience. In this time, WACOSA

workers at Stang Precision have collectively worked over 287,000 hours, contributing to the production of more than 29 million pieces. This collaboration highlights Stang Precision's vision and a successful model for inclusive employment, demonstrating how businesses can create meaningful, long-term employment for individuals with disabilities.

JULIE AND JEREMY



"Stang Precision has been an incredible partner for the past 14 years. Their commitment to creating opportunities for all abilities has provided meaningful employment and valuable experience for 277 adults with disabilities. The sheer volume of hours worked and pieces produced speaks volumes about their vision for inclusive employment."

– Nancy Betts, Executive Director

SAM



JEN



MARK



SARAH



"Our partnership with WACOSA has been incredibly rewarding. It's a true collaboration that has not only helped us meet our production goals but, more importantly, has allowed us to create a workplace where everyone has the opportunity to succeed and contribute. We are proud to have provided valuable work experience and jobs for hundreds of adults with disabilities."

– Chad Stang, President, Stang Precision

POLICY REVISION NOTICE

For updated 245D Policies, please visit wacosa.org/client-services or contact us at 320-251-0087 to request a written copy.

WACOSA IS AN EEO/AA EMPLOYER

WACOSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.



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If you shop at Target, you can **vote for WACOSA** to be the recipient of Target Circle™ Community Giving funds.

Every vote counts towards our chance to receive funding that helps create jobs and independence for adults with disabilities right here in central Minnesota.

Please go vote for WACOSA, now through December 31st!

We're a **@circle** participant and here's how you can vote for us.



1 Choose My Target



2 Tap Cast votes



3 Find us & vote

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING YOUR TARGET CIRCLE APP TO SUPPORT WACOSA:

- Open Target Circle App
- Select "My Target"
- Under Target Circle benefits, scroll and select, "Support nonprofits with your community votes" or tap "Explore" to get to your community support votes.
- Once you're in the Cast Votes page, find WACOSA and enter the number of votes you'd like to use to support WACOSA and click Cast Votes button!
- Celebrate your kind generosity!

Can't find where to vote for WACOSA in the Target app? We're happy to help!

Meghan Hines, Development Manager
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