

# IN MEMORY OF GEORGE A. MOUDRY, 1928-2018

George A. Moudry, who served as the top executive at Lifeworks for 17 years beginning in 1976, passed away on June 8, 2018 at age 90.

Moudry was a fierce advocate for Lifeworks and people with disabilities, and his leadership allowed the Lifeworks early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities to become the largest in the state of Minnesota by the mid-1980s.

“George was a tremendous leader who set the standard for innovation at Lifeworks,” said President and CEO Jeff Brown. “He was also an uncommonly kind and caring person. He will be greatly missed.”

Moudry guided Lifeworks through substantial change and growth, as the organization began serving individuals with disabilities year-round and developing expertise in supported employment, the start of business relationships that have become one of the organization’s greatest strengths.

Moudry’s legacy lives on at Lifeworks and we express our sincerest condolences to his wife Sharon (Berner) Moudry; sons, James Paul (Sarah Rose Wikenhauser) Houston, TX, and Benedict George (Michelle Beinner) Redlands, CA; six grandchildren: Edison, Margaret, Oliver, Sawyer, Sylvie, Lucinda; brothers, Fr. Richard Moudry, James (Carole Kastigar) Moudry, and sister, Anne Kemp.



**Lifeworks** | *A nonprofit serving people with disabilities*

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Lifeworks is a nonprofit organization founded in 1965 by parents of children with disabilities. Through Fiscal Support, Employment, and Day Services - as well as through partnerships with 300 businesses - Lifeworks provides support more than 2,700 individuals with disabilities and their families throughout the Twin Cities and greater Mankato area.

## Lifeworks LIFEPURSUIITS

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### INSIDE

- Lifeworks Annual Celebration •
- Financial Management Services •
- Remembering George A. Moudry •
- Bridget Campbell •
- Midwest Rubber •
- Annual Report •
- GuideStar •
- Partnership with Best Buy •
- Olmstead Workgroup •

Pictured: Lifeworks Personal Achievement Award Winner Ajani Lewis-McGhee with his parents Frances and Bill Woodson and Lifeworks President and CEO Jeffrey Brown



# LIFEWORKS ASSOCIATES IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY, POSITIVITY AT MIDWEST RUBBER

Since Lifeworks began its partnership with Midwest Rubber Service & Supply Company in May 2017, productivity and employee morale have been on an upswing. A family-owned business based in Plymouth, Midwest Rubber has facilities spanning North America, Asia, and Europe where it manufactures, fabricates, and distributes high-quality rubber products. Enter the Midwest Rubber Plymouth facility, where four Lifeworks associates are employed, and you'll see their positive influence manifest itself in ways both obvious and intangible.

"The biggest win that we get from Lifeworks – outside of the productivity – is that no matter where you're at in your day or your life, if you walk by there, they're happy to be at work, they're positive, they're working," said Supervisor Jason Palmer.

## REAL WORK

The Lifeworks associates don't get a break when it comes to productivity standards, either. When the group first started, Midwest Rubber tracked their performance levels, as they do with all of their employees, and worked closely with them to improve by utilizing Lean principles and other methods.

"Those numbers got to where I said I think they could get to, and they even exceeded," said Director of Plant Operations Bruce Roles. "That's just made the whole thing work even better than was anticipated going into it."

Because they took on tasks previously performed by other Midwest Rubber staff members, the Lifeworks associates helped the company further increase productivity.

"It took me by surprise how much they fit," said Midwest Rubber President Brent Anderson. "In just a broad sense, a fit for the culture, enhancing the company, and being a positive influence at the same time."

Whether it's plucking and stamping, labeling, boxing, or preparing rubber products for shipping, the Lifeworks team stays busy each day.

"They're doing multiple tasks to take a product that needs multiple things done to it and boxing it per what the paperwork says, for a start to finish process," Palmer said. "From a cut part all the way to getting it to shipping, and that gives them a heck of a lot more of a sense of accomplishment than being on an assembly line."



## GROWTH AND TEAMWORK

For Nicole Laufers, one of the four Lifeworks associates at Midwest Rubber, this position has allowed her to make tremendous strides, both personally and professionally. Prior to joining the Midwest Rubber crew, Laufers had never stayed in one role or organization for very long. When she initially was hired, Laufers had a difficult time transitioning from a recreation-based program to working every day.

"She's night and day from the day that she started here and where she is today," said Lifeworks Job Coach Kristina Skiles. "I am so proud of that girl. She's pretty excited to say that she's been here a year. It's huge for her and her family."

In fact, Roles received a letter from Nicole's mother describing just how much of a difference Midwest Rubber has made.

"You get that letter and it just sort of sits you down for a minute, because you lose focus on the magnitude of the impact that some people are experiencing because of the opportunity they got," Roles said.

During a stretch recently where many members of the Midwest Rubber team were working long hours, Mike Johnson, another one of the Lifeworks associates, made it a point to let them know he had their backs.

"People are working really long days, and [the Lifeworks associates] are here for a set amount of time," Palmer said. "He went up to Kristina and said he felt bad, and she says 'well why do you feel bad?' Because they have to work the weekend and I want to help them. I shared that with the guys and they're all like, 'well, that's really cool!'"

## A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Roles said the partnership with Lifeworks initially came about after he was talking to people at other companies, and Lifeworks was repeatedly mentioned. After Midwest Rubber reached out to Lifeworks and began discussions about the nature of the work, schedules, and other logistics, the mutually beneficial partnership began. With the current success of Lifeworks associates at Midwest Rubber, Roles says he envisions other ways in which a diverse workforce can make the company stronger.

For Anderson, it's the little things that make a big difference.

"I can't say enough about how big of an impact this has had, how positive it's been for the company," Anderson said. "As a business, you're always looking to enhance your culture, and do better for employees. Lifeworks has contributed to both."



Lifeworks Personal Achievement Award Winner Corey Baker

# FROM FISCAL SUPPORT ENTITY TO FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROVIDER: PREPARING FOR THE TRANSITION

The Minnesota Department of Human Services said it will soon announce changes to fiscal services for the Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) and Consumer Support Grant (CSG) programs.

As a current fiscal support entity (FSE), we applied for and were awarded a contract with DHS to serve as a financial management services (FMS) provider in the future, so we can continue to serve existing and new families!

*Get the latest information and stay up to date at [lifeworks.org/fiscal-support/fms-transition](http://lifeworks.org/fiscal-support/fms-transition)*

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING AN INFORMATION SESSION?

Lifeworks has been hosting information sessions designed to provide attendees with a better understanding of adult services, funding options, and other services available for people with disabilities. These sessions are especially useful if your loved one is currently attending a transition program!

*If you're interested in attending an information session, please contact Mary Lenertz at [mlenertz@lifeworks.org](mailto:mlenertz@lifeworks.org) or 651-365-3749.*

## OVER \$475,000 RAISED AT 2018 ANNUAL CELEBRATION!

The Lifeworks Annual Celebration, our yearly event honoring inclusiveness, was held on Thursday, April 26 at The Depot in Minneapolis.

With nearly 900 guests in attendance, we honored four individuals and one business through the Lifeworks Annual Awards:

- Corey Baker – Personal Achievement
- Ajani Lewis-McGhee – Personal Achievement
- Lori Noland – Staff Excellence
- Josi Wert – Volunteer of the Year
- Ameriprise – Employer of the Year

Presented by Atomic Data, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, and Horton Holding, the event also raised a total of \$475,000 for Lifeworks and the people we serve!

The total amount raised includes:

- \$251,000 from our generous sponsors
- \$174,000 from the transportation fund-a-need
- \$50,000 from the live and silent auctions

The support we received from our community was overwhelming, and we are so grateful to everyone who made a contribution!

We are especially grateful to:

- Atomic Data and its CEO, Jim Wolford, who donated four live auction items that raised a total of \$18,500, in addition to being a Presenting Sponsor
- Longtime Lifeworks supporter Gail Willox, whose \$10,000 matching challenge allowed donors to double the impact of their gift

Along with celebrating our five award winners, we expressed our appreciation for Barb Baumann, who stepped down from the Lifeworks Board of Directors after 15 years.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2018 Lifeworks Annual Celebration. We'll see you next April!

*See photos and videos and learn how you can diversify your workforce at [lifeworks.org/blog](http://lifeworks.org/blog)*

## SAVE THE DATE FOR 2019 ANNUAL CELEBRATION SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

**Save the date for the 2019 Lifeworks Annual Celebration, which will take place on Thursday, April 25 at The Depot in Minneapolis.**

***Sponsorships are available now! Learn more at [LifeworksCelebration.org](http://LifeworksCelebration.org)***



Ameriprise celebrates their Lifeworks Employer of the Year award.



The Lifeworks Rock of Ages band closes out the night of the Annual Celebration with signature energy and flair.

## LIFEWORKS ANNUAL AWARDS: GET YOUR NOMINATIONS READY

Nominations for the Lifeworks Annual Awards open in October!

Celebrate the success of the people, advocates, staff, and employers in your life by nominating them for an Annual Award.

Each of the five winners will be featured in a professionally produced video and honored on stage on April 25, 2019 at the Lifeworks Annual Celebration in front of a crowd of 1,000 people!

*Learn more about the award categories at [LifeworksCelebration.org](http://LifeworksCelebration.org)*



## LIFEWORKS ASSOCIATE BRIDGET CAMPBELL TAKES PROMOTION OPPORTUNITY, JOINS FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES

After several years working as a housekeeper, Bridget Campbell accepted the role of assistant executive housekeeper at Fairfield Inn & Suites, where she oversees a team of three to six housekeepers in any given shift.

“She’s in charge of over half my employees,” said General Manager Adam Hutzenbuhler. “The longer she’s here, the more professional she’s gotten.”

Though Campbell is typically focused on her housekeeping duties, including cleaning and inspecting rooms, she’s earned a reputation as a team player who is always willing to take on additional responsibilities.

“She’ll come in whenever we need her and her work ethic is fantastic,” Hutzenbuhler said. “She’s never missed a shift, which is amazing in this day and age.”

Because of her new role as assistant executive housekeeper and the increased wages that come with it, Campbell made the decision to transition off social security, allowing her to work full-time and not worry about the implications to her benefits.

“She wanted full time and she’s my assistant exec, so I gave her full time,” Hutzenbuhler said.

With Hutzenbuhler’s leadership and the occasional check-in from a Lifeworks job coach, Campbell has the support system she needs to continue to be successful - and maybe even earn another promotion.

“If I had an exec housekeeper opening, she’s the heir to the throne at the moment,” Hutzenbuhler said.

**“THE LONGER SHE’S HERE, THE MORE PROFESSIONAL SHE’S GOTTEN.”**

## LIFEWORKS ANNUAL REPORT: CELEBRATING 2017

To showcase our 2017 achievements, we’ve created a new Annual Report website - [LifeworksAnnualReport.org](http://LifeworksAnnualReport.org) - and we invite you to take a look.

In 2017, Lifeworks was awarded a Financial Management Services contract, exited sub-minimum wage work, and supported dozens of self-advocates, musicians, and artists - all while raising nearly \$1 million!

As a member of the Lifeworks family, we thank you for your support in 2017. Thanks to you, the people we serve were able to do more than they ever thought possible!

## LIFEWORKS AWARDED GUIDESTAR’S 2018 PLATINUM SEAL OF TRANSPARENCY!



We’re proud to share that Lifeworks has been awarded GuideStar’s 2018 Platinum Seal of Transparency!

GuideStar is the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, and achieving its highest rating demonstrates our commitment to integrity and achieving results.

Check out and share our GuideStar profile today at [bit.ly/LWGuideStar](http://bit.ly/LWGuideStar)

## LIFEWORKS PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BEST BUY

Lifeworks had the unique opportunity to participate in a national conference hosted in Minneapolis from May 14-16.

With the sponsorship of Best Buy, 16 people, including four students from partnering transition program ISD 196, were able to gain paid work experience in the community at the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council Summit.

Conference workers filled the roles of registration support, time keeping, breakout session management, and most importantly, worked right alongside conference coordinators.

We’re proud to partner with Best Buy to create a diverse workforce and a valuable learning experience for the people we serve.

Read more on Best Buy’s blog at [bit.ly/BestBuySPLC](http://bit.ly/BestBuySPLC)

## 2018 OLMSTEAD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

Minnesota’s Olmstead Plan envisions people with disabilities living, learning, working, and enjoying life in the most integrated setting of their choice.

Lifeworks Service Innovation Architect Leah Simmons has been selected to serve on the Olmstead Community Engagement Workgroup, which creates strategies and activities to implement the Olmstead Community Engagement Plan, making sure that engagement practices are person-centered, accessible, inclusive, transparent, and equitable for diverse communities.

We’re proud to have Leah representing Lifeworks and advocating for inclusion for all!

