

## Ascend Services Inc Summary Report

### **Information about the Applicant**

In 1957 our founder Bj Halvorsen established the organization under the name Holiday House. He intended to create a welcoming place where people with disabilities could gather, socialize, and work together to create holiday wreathes to sell. He aspired to pursue a purpose filled life despite the challenges of living with a diagnosis of cerebral palsy himself. He recognized that when people have opportunities to contribute their unique talents and skills toward meaningful activities that benefit the community it empowers them to feel their worth. This mission was so resonant within the community that the organization has served to support and advocate for individuals with disabilities for the past 65 years. The spirit of advocacy he infused into the place continues to prevail.

Although the essential purpose of the organization has remained, the types of work that the organization has pursued shifted over the years to meet the changing needs of the community and the clients. Despite the various changes over the years, the integrity-based mission of elevating the lives of the 240+ individuals with disabilities we serve has remained intact.

- Ascend started offering clients the chance to join mobile work crews. Clients who engage in these services get the chance to go out into the community as a group to gain work experience. While on site clients earn minimum wage or above.
- In 2020 Ascend began youth services, which represented a big steppingstone. This has allowed Ascend to broaden their offerings and provide support to clients through more of their developmental phases.

### **Statement of Need**

Our main building, which we call Plant 1, is located at 2818 Meadow Lane in Manitowoc WI which is in significant need of an interior paint job. The paint is beginning to chip, peel and lose its protective and aesthetic qualities. Plant 1 has served many purposes since 1966 when it was first constructed and the majority of our 240+ clients have received exceptionally well-tailored and individualized Community and Employment Services at this site. Yet, it is difficult to get around the aesthetic challenges, especially in our production area of Plant 1. The interior painting in this section of the building has been neglected and has gone unpainted for 20 years.

### **Project Goals and Expected Benefits**

We feel that it is important for us to complete this work for several reasons. First, from a practicality standpoint a new layer of paint provides a protective barrier guarding the walls from further wear and tear. Second, we want our clients and the local businesses who hire them to feel confident that we are invested in caring for the space and intend to use it for years to come. Third, we want our clients to have good morale and to feel proud about the place they spend much of their time while receiving empowering educational offerings, supportive employment, and enriching recreational services.

### **Project Implementation Plan**

We will look to our Operations Director, Dale Cayemberg to oversee selecting a contractor and overseeing the work. He has been with Ascend Services, Inc. since 2015 and has over 30 years of hands-on maintenance, supervisory and leadership expertise.

**Evaluation Plan**

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**Budget**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Contracted Painter for work	\$12,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>

**Staff Recommendation**

The grant application cannot be recommended for approval. The grant constitutes a request for an operational expense and cannot be provided by Wispact Foundation at this time.