



Spotlight on Staff

BILL NEAGUS

Bill was hired in 2015 as Favarh's business developer (aka job developer) after meeting Stephen Morris, Favarh's Executive Director, at a Farmington Rotary meeting. Though his primary responsibility has been identifying and securing jobs for Favarh work crews, his talents for writing and public relations stretched his accomplishments with Favarh far beyond job development.

"I was also heavily involved in the "Change the Sign" campaign that successfully led to the state legislature's approval of a change of the traditional handicapped accessible signs -- to one that more resembles a wheelchair racer."

In fact, his efforts gained national attention for Favarh through the Associated Press.

He also directed the production of Favarh's 60th Anniversary video featuring a day in the life of Kyle Wadlinger which was debuted at the 2018 gala.

"Most of my career was in communications, first as a newspaper reporter for more than a decade and then for close to three decades in public relations. However, recognizing I was nearing the end of my work life I wanted to do something more fulfilling, something that would help people, especially the most vulnerable."

The biggest challenge he faced in his career? Convincing businesspeople that people with IDD can help their companies thrive. He overcame this challenge with persistence, business community connections, and the collateral material he helped to develop.

"There are actually several job placements for which I am incredibly proud -- the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, where we have two crews of people with IDD working since 2015; Plymouth Spring in Bristol, which has embraced a crew of six and moved them from doing assembly tasks by hand to using machines, dramatically increasing their productivity and quality control; and Economy Spring in Southington, which I targeted for several years before finally -- securing the jobsite."

The best feeling, he says, is seeing the smiling faces of the individuals he helped to secure new jobs.

With a retirement date set for December 31, 2019, Bill and his wife, Karen, plan to travel around the U.S. and perhaps to England to trace Neagus family genealogy. He also hopes to write his next book and spend time with his grandchildren, Camden and Caylyn Jones.

Congratulations to Bill for all these accomplishments and more from your friends and colleagues at Favarh!

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