

***Work Skills - Changing lives since 1973, thanks to people like YOU!***

French artist, Edgar Degas once said “*Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.*”

Meet Randy, who reminded us of that...every single day.



Randy came to Artisan Corner in 2016, shortly before his 33rd birthday. Blind, with two prosthetic eyes, autism and several other challenges, Randy made beautiful bracelets and necklaces. Beading and jewelry-making helped him relax and stay focused. A professional artist, he earned money every time one of his pieces sold.

See that smile? Randy wore it daily. He always had a kind word - and usually a song - for everyone he encountered. Such an inspiration!

Although Randy couldn't see, he certainly *opened our eyes* and encouraged us in ways that are difficult to put into words.

Randy was adopted by Bob and Mary when he was very young. What wonderful people they are! Mary wrote a poem for Randy several years ago. We'd like to share it with you.

*Beautiful blue eyes  
Man made  
So sorry  
Blind since birth  
So the story goes  
Don't pity me  
For you see,  
I see better than you.  
You see color, size, etc.  
You judge by what you see.  
Everyone is beautiful to me.  
I see what's on the inside.  
A person's true beauty.  
How a person treats you.  
A good personality.  
A kind and gentle voice will last a lifetime.  
Looks change as we age.  
Color is just that. Color!  
It means nothing to me.  
I may not be able to see a sunset,  
Sunrise, the changing leaves.  
You can describe them to me.  
Bet you can't describe a person for me.  
We don't see the same way.  
I see inner beauty, the pages of the book.  
While you look at the cover.  
I may be blind but I see better than most!*

For three years, Randy brightened our world with his sunny disposition and positive outlook. This spring, he passed away unexpectedly.

His parents said, “*We feel that Randy was an angel loaned to us to share with the world for just a little while. He showed us all how to find joy in the small things every day. We thank God for the time we had together.*”

We couldn't agree more. As 2019 comes to a close, we want to share Randy's story with you, and honor him for encouraging us to see as *he did*.



**Please help us change lives by partnering with the Work Skills Foundation to empower people like Randy.**

Individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, mental illness, physical limitations and other barriers rely on WSC for essential supports which enable them to **acquire and enhance skills, gain confidence, earn an income, and live full, meaningful lives.**

Join us as we celebrate Randy and create similar experiences for so many more like him in our community. Work Skills is changing the lives of our participants. At the same time, they are changing *our lives*, as they exemplify our corporate culture to focus on abilities rather than disabilities.

You can support our participants' path to independence by making a gift through the Work Skills Foundation. Your investment in these individuals, allowing them to rise above barriers and lead a fulfilling life, is also an investment in our community.



On behalf of WSC participants, our Board of Directors and staff, **THANK YOU ♥♥♥** for creating a brighter future for our friends, family members and neighbors with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Warmly,

Travis Porta  
Foundation Board Chair  
810.227.7540

Julie Smith  
Development Director  
810.534.6152

P.S. Contact Julie at the number above with any questions you may have, to schedule a visit and to find out you can get more involved.

P.P.S. Not a check-writer? You can make a secure online donation at [wskillsfoundation.org](http://wskillsfoundation.org).

With very special thanks to

**Platinum Partners** Steve & Rene LaFave

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Thank you for sharing our vision of a community that offers opportunity for everyone with the desire to succeed.



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Work Skills Foundation • 224 W. Sibley Street • Howell, MI 48843