



Meet the Workforce Development, Inc. Wabasha County Staff

Cradled between the Mississippi River and the majestic bluffs of scenic Southeast Minnesota is the WDI Wabasha County Office. Open Monday through Thursday, the WDI office is located in historic downtown Wabasha. The office is staffed by experienced professionals who care deeply about the people and communities in which they live and serve.

Shelly Meyer, MIS Intake Specialist, has been with WDI for 20 years. Recently completing the WDI Data Specialist Apprenticeship, she now adds the Data Specialist Journey Worker title to her list of accomplishments. Career



Planner, **Ramona Redig**, has been with WDI since January of 1994.

David LeGarde, Youth Career Planner and the newest member

of the team, joined the Wabasha County staff three months ago. He has been with WDI for one year. David currently spends Wednesdays at the Wabasha office, working with youth. He spends a good portion of his time at River Valley Academy in Kellogg, where he works with a group of students on a wide variety of employment-related skills. **Jinny Rietmann** serves as the Area Manager for the Wabasha County office. She has been with WDI since 2001.



WDI Wabasha County Best Practices: Shelly maintains a compliance list worksheet that tracks who is enrolled, compliant, notice sent, or sanctioned. It is a helpful tool to manage the cash assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) caseload. Ramona uses it at the monthly meeting at Wabasha County Social Services (WCSS) with financial workers, child support workers, and social workers. They work from computers, check for accuracy, look for errors and find tasks that need to be completed.

The WDI Wabasha County office is a member of the Wabasha Chamber of Commerce. This provides opportunities to network with the community and businesses and is a resource for local job postings. WDI has also been a resource for the Salvation Army. Shelly keeps track of

the vouchers written and then puts them into a spreadsheet, in addition to attending Salvation Army meetings. Shelly has been involved with the Wabasha County Resource Connection/ Homeless Response and has planned many Project Community Connect events that happen in Wabasha every September.

Ramona has been a member of the local Wabasha Friends of the Library (FOL) since its inception in 2010. FOL has a variety of fundraisers in the community including semi -annual book sales, which have been a source for the free children's book shelf in Ramona's office. She is also involved with the Greater Minnesota's Futures Pilot Project; Wabasha was one of the communities with a population under 5,000 that was selected this year.

The National Eagle Center, a block and a half from the WDI office, draws a lot of visitors to Wabasha and has hired some of our job seekers. Ramona served on the Eagle Center Board for three years and continues as a volunteer. Wabasha dresses up every year for "SeptOctoberFest," which celebrated its 10th year this year. WDI participates by dressing up the front of the office.

Ramona is a volunteer at the Common Closet, a store that sells gently used clothing and household goods and donates the profits back to the community. The Common Closet is a resource for WDI customers who need clothing and household goods. The Common Closet also keeps a resource list of furniture that is available. There is a referral system to assist people, moving to the area with very little or nothing, who need help getting clothing and household goods.