

The Ramsey County Historical Society  
323 Landmark Center, 75 West Fifth Street,  
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## ***Ramsey County History Magazine Celebrates 50 Years of ALLY People Solutions' Service to the Community***

The Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) is pleased to be able to support the work of ALLY People Solutions with a special story in the just-released issue of *Ramsey County History* magazine. Researched and written by historian and author Eileen R. McCormack, the story highlights the work of ALLY with adults with intellectual, physical and mental health challenges, training them in employment and life skills. ALLY recently held "Groovy Gala," their 50 Year Anniversary event, where the magazine was featured.

Now serving over 270 people at three locations, ALLY People Solutions was one of the first service organizations of its type in Minnesota. Prior to the work of ALLY's founders, people with these types of disabilities were often institutionalized or confined in state hospitals. Founded by a group of mothers of children with intellectual disabilities, ALLY was begun as a day activity center, but quickly grew. McCormack's story highlights the activism and dedication of these parents and others who joined them in establishing ALLY as a community and national leader in developing educational and employment training programs for adults with intellectual disabilities, and provides an overview of the organization's 50 year history.

Erika Schwichtenberg, Director of Development & Communications at ALLY People Solutions, says "ALLY People Solutions is excited to share its 50 year history in collaboration with Ramsey County Historical Society and researcher/author Eileen McCormack. The Society's and McCormack's efforts to articulate this complex and dynamic story of how local parents changed the landscape of disabilities services for a city, a state and the nation in terms of public policy, legislation and public opinion is astonishing. Special thanks to funding support from Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, Colleen Wieck at the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Eileen and the team at Ramsey County Historical Society for making this project possible."

The magazine is available at RCHS, 651-222-0701 or [info@rchs.com](mailto:info@rchs.com).

For media information and images: please call Robyn Priestley, Ramsey County Historical Society at 651-222-0701, or email [robyn@rchs.com](mailto:robyn@rchs.com).

The Ramsey County Historical Society provides unique, hands-on, multi-cultural experiences to students and adults at the **Gibbs Farm – Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life: Experience. Understand. Grow.** Exhibits and programs of historical significance are presented at the Landmark Center and other venues; documents and artifacts are preserved for current and future generations in the RCHS

Research Center; and RCHS publishes the award-winning *Ramsey County History* magazine featuring the history, people and stories of Ramsey County.