
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: BILLY AND JERED

WSA 03 – NORTHEAST MINNESOTA OFFICE OF JOB TRAINING

BILLY AND JERED

BARNUM –Billy (17) and Jered (17) started their jobs in June at the Carlton County Fairgrounds in Barnum. In its 122nd year, the Carlton County Fair is truly a local tradition. This was their first job through the NE MN Office of Job Training. Both participants enthusiastically began working and were grateful for the opportunity. Barnum is a very small town and jobs are hard to come by, especially for teenagers with little or no job history.



Then, on June 20th, it began to rain. And rain. And rain some more. The historic flood created a lake across the fairgrounds. Allysha Sample, the Fair Manager, said, “I have never seen a lake on the fairgrounds before, but looking out my office window was like being at the cabin on the lake. It was beautiful, but just not right.” All of that water damaged some of the buildings and left behind a big mess.

Fortunately, Allysha had two extra helping hands to help with the cleanup. Billy and Jered really stepped up and worked hard to help clean up and repair the buildings and grounds so the Fair could go on. Both boys were working 8 hours per day, 4 days a week, which really helped during this time of crisis. Then, after they were done working for the day, they volunteered their own time helping members of the community clean up their homes, which also were terribly flooded. Jered stated, “The water was up to the ceilings of the first floor, and everything was destroyed. We had to get everything out of there.” Billy said “It was terrible. So many people lost so much. We helped as much as we could.”



Jered is cleaning one of the buildings located on the fairgrounds.

The boys’ work ethic was greatly appreciated by the Fair Manager and the Fair Board. Allysha stated that the Board told her that Billy and Jered were the best workers they’d ever had. This is a huge compliment, since the Fair has been a reliable supporter of the Youth Summer Work Program for many years, and there have been many great youth employees! The NE MN Office of Job Training thanks the Carlton County Fair for giving our youth the opportunity to gain work

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experience and skills that can only be obtained on the job. Allysha Sample, in particular, deserves many thanks, as she firmly believes in giving all kids a chance to work, learn, and grow. Allysha has really nurtured the youths' potential and has been very encouraging to them. She has had a very positive impact on the kids. Thank you, Allysha, and the rest of the staff and Fair Board, for giving our youth a chance to learn valuable skills and be an important part of the team.

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