

Troy Marquardt

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 1-18-07
HB 2

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Troy Marquardt and I live in Helena.

I'm 34 years old and I've lived half my life in and out of institutions. I came to work in the wood shop at Helena Industries in 1995. For 12 years, I stayed at Helena Industries because I was ashamed of who I am.

I have Moebius Syndrome. It's like my face is paralyzed. I can't blink. I can't make facial expressions. I don't look happy even though I am. I feel like I'm wearing a mask. I get looks and people can't understand me.

In August, I got a job at the Waterford as a line server in the kitchen. I am now being trained as a prep cook. I've had my ups and downs but with the help of my job coach and the staff at Helena Industries and the staff at the Waterford, I stuck with it. Working in the community has given me a lot of confidence. It changed how I feel about myself. I am proud of who I am.

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, I am honored to speak to you today. I want to thank you for supporting programs like Helena Industries that allow people to grow and work in the community and make a difference in their lives. I could not have done this on my own.