

Mike Pharo Realty/Stark Realty
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Background Information

Mike Pharo is a self-employed real estate broker and owns his own company. He also works under the Stark Realty name. Founded in the early 1900's by Albert C. and Paul E. Stark, The Stark Company is one of the oldest real estate companies in Dane County. Over time the company has managed to remain in the family. Today the company has seven offices throughout Dane and Sauk counties, and is led by their 4th generation President, David Stark.

Mike Pharo Realty/Stark Realty
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employs one student with autism from Verona High School• This is his second student; he employed a different student last year.• The student employee works with the For Sale By Owner (FSBO) website and looks for recently added or removed homes to the site. The student then updates a database that Mike later uses for direct mailings.• Mike hopes this experience is helping the students' gain some valuable work experience, as well as build a comfort level within a social setting.

Story

Mike Pharo's involvement with autism happened by chance. His wife's business was contacted by the Verona School District, looking for an opportunity to place a student with autism. Her organization did not have any opportunities, so she directed them to Mike.

Last year, Mike's student worked alone and interacted with Mike when she had questions. This year's student has a work coach. Mike wants people to know that just because these students have autism does not mean that they are not hard working. In fact, they are very hardworking and very helpful.

Reported by Dustin Wilfling, Edgewood College, March 2007, for Professor Denis Collins (dcollins@edgewood.edu) and the 2007 Good Samaritan Award, co-sponsored by the Samaritan Counseling Center and Edgewood College.