

THE BEACON

Beacon Technologies Quarterly Newsletter

Employee Success Story

Jamie Chavez, Project & Program Manager

"I have recently compared myself to a sailboat, letting the wind take me where I am intended to go. I believe we all have interesting paths and there is a reason for everything that will be brought together full circle."

In high school, Jamie earned her CNA certificate and when she graduated early, she set out to be a nurse. That educational path didn't click, and she then gave a semester at the university to teaching. Back to nursing she went, and as part of the program, she took an IT course as an elective. Technology courses came easy to her and with that she finished an associate degree in Computer Science. Her first gig was as an Access Programmer. From there she had a variety of jobs in tech with almost a decade in Networking as an Administrator and Engineer. She spent a stint as a Data Developer at a .Com that got her thinking she should return to education. After 10 years in IT, she earned her bachelor's degree in Information Communications & Technology from UW-Stout. This journey led her right into a path as an educator. For the next six years, she taught and led development of new and existing programs in Software & Data Development, Business Analysis and Database Administration. During this time in education, she couldn't help but continue her personal pursuits as well, earning a master's degree in Data Science, Certification in Business Analysis, Certified Project Management Professional and becoming a Certified Scrum Master. A fun fact about her pursuits is she had no direct goals to achieve besides learning more and gain new perspectives that she could apply to challenges and opportunities in her work and personal life. Throughout her career and now solely as her primary focus in the most recent years, she has been a Program & Project Manager. Bringing organization to chaos is something that she truly enjoys. Moreover, she wants to help people. In the last year, she has even obtained a Certification in Life Coaching and in Integrative Health and Medicine from the U of M. This led to standing up the foundation of her own business, Holistic Living Consulting, that provides support to those seeking balance and establishing healthy boundaries. Every time she thinks she is done learning; she gets yet another crazy idea.

Jamie Chavez, Project &
Program Manager



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Trivia



In our last newsletter we asked "what year was Beacon founded?" and no one responded correctly with 1998. That marks two quarters in a row where no one responded to the trivia question, so it's probably time to retire this part of the newsletter. If you've got an idea for something new in it's place, please let Keegan O'Brien know at kobrien@beacontechinc.com!

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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL - JUST CLICK





McGMO Charity Golf Event

Beacon was proud to sponsor the 23rd Annual McGMO Charity Golf Event on Friday, July 30 at Delbrook Golf Course in Delavan, WI. \$40,000 was raised to support the patients at Burlington Aurora Cancer Care Clinic. Check out all the photos from the event at our Facebook page [here](#).



Some shots from our team that took part in the McGMO. See more photos on Facebook!

Madison College - Virtual IT Career Fair

Beacon will have a virtual booth at the Madison College IT Career Fair on October 13th. We are excited to meet students studying infrastructure and software development that day!



Referrals

We've got several openings and welcome your referrals. Remember, if you refer a candidate to Beacon, they are hired and stay with us for at least 90 days, Beacon will pay you \$1000 for the referral! We also offer referral bonuses for new business leads.

Blog Topics

We are always looking for blog topic ideas for our website. We publish a blog at least once a month. If you have ideas that you think would resonate with our consultants or clients, or if you would like be a guest author, please let Tenzin Tsephel, our Office/Social Media Assistant know at ttsephel@beacontechinc.com.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for Health, Dental, and Vision will be in February 2022 for a March 1 start. Look for more information at the start of the new year.

Jamie Chavez, continued from Page 1

Jamie mentioned in the beginning how everything comes together full circle. She says "there is an energetic pull that we encounter throughout life and our careers. If we are so bold to follow our passions it will take us where we are meant to go. I can now say I have been and am a teacher, a caretaker, a coach, a mentor, a project manager, and a support system, among so many other things, that provide individuals and organizations the guidance and insights to do great things. At the end of the day, all that matters are the people. And I have been lucky enough to be part of their journey and perhaps I made a positive impact on them and made their lives a little better."

Favorite Project

Her most rememberable project was a proposal by the college she worked for that was accepted and sponsored for the National Science Foundation. The purpose of the project was to bring STEM + Computational Thinking concepts and applications to rural Wisconsin communities and the goal was to create a sustainable Maker + Mentor cultural environment within these communities. She says "there were so many amazing facets to this project. The first is that to launch we needed to recruit and train high school aged individuals on how to be a Maker. A Maker is learning through doing. Think Legos without the instructions. With this mentality, then mix in all the components of STEM, such as robotics, 3D printing, information technology, physics, and even sewing! It was messy, it was fun, and I got to facilitate youth really enjoying the learning and making process. Without the guardrails, they had a blast. These youth Makers then took what they learned, gained facilitation and mentoring skills and brought their created activities into the community. Their passion was so contagious out in the community sharing their knowledge with the young and old alike. Over the term of 3 years, I got to see these Maker Mentor youth grow in their confidence, knowledge of STEM, and the vital skill of decomposition to highly complex problems. A bonus to this experience is that my daughter, Navea, was one of those Maker Mentors."

Employee Anniversaries

October

- William Sherman - 14 years
- Xueming Huang - 4 years
- Tim Fendt - 3 years
- Srimaye Shastri - 3 years
- Matt Schmidt - 2 years
- Jeff Charneski - 1 year
- Pamela Hall - 1 year

November

- Todd Meier - 23 years
- Jay Velugubantla - 4 years
- Scott Remich - 3 years
- Logan Carlson - 1 year
- Leslie Dobbratz - 1 year

December

- Tom Brey - 6 years
- Joshua Guldán - 3 years
- Tenzin Tsephel - 3 years
- Andre Vinson - 3 years

Family

Jamie and her family relocated to Madison two years ago from Central Wisconsin with her husband, Antonio, youngest daughter Navea, and small but mighty chihuahua, Tico. This past fall they were able to buy a piece of Madison's history, a 118-year-old bungalow, near the Henry Vilas Zoo. She also has another daughter, Olivia, who is her oldest and lives in Middleton.

Hobbies/Interests

Jamie and her family have a small start on traveling all over the world, traveling to 15 countries so far. Her personal favorite has been her solo trips to Costa Rica and she says, "the biodiversity there is breath taking." Late this spring, she was able to visit Monteverde, which is in the mountains of the country. She says, "it was both inspirational and energizing." When they're not traveling, something Jamie and her family enjoys is how walkable their neighborhood is. Almost daily they are out walking the neighborhoods with Tico or on the lookout for a hidden eatery gem in the Madison area.

Interesting Fact

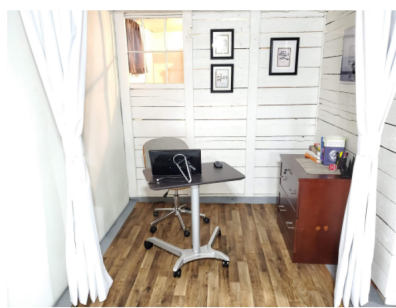
Jamie is a sucker for a good before and after photo, for about almost anything with home renovations being at the top of the list. She grew up in a do-it-yourself household and loves the challenge of figuring it out. Hole in the drywall? Need to replace a part on a dishwasher? Jamie says "not a problem. A quick Google (or a good guess) and I will rip it apart and try to figure it out. Full transparency, I have not always been successful, but I give it a go and jump right in."

Basement

Before

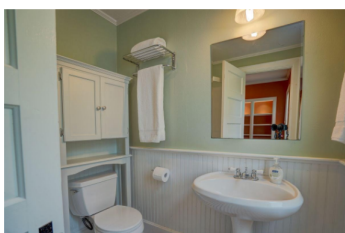


After



1st Floor Bath

Before



After



Some before and after photos from Jamie's home remodel projects

Holiday Shopping Tips

- Consider curbside pickup
- Shop online - remember Cyber Monday
- Factor in shipping and delivery times
- Make a list and a budget
- Map out shopping prior to leaving the house
- Review recipient social activity for gift ideas
- Online extensions to get money back - Honey and Retail MeNot Genie
- Support small businesses
- Price check with phone while at stores
- Use online coupons or discounts
- Buy multiples of gifts for several people
- Buy experiences too - not just stuff
- Avoid weekend shopping
- Shop alone
- Avoid excessive credit use
- Plan ahead
- Be patient/look for deals
- Get gift receipts
- Remember price matching
- Group purchases for larger presents
- Window shop/online browse ahead of time
- Start a separate holiday savings account
- Join bargain hunter groups on social media
- Make meals potluck style
- Follow retailers on social media
- Get crafty and make your own gifts
- Avoid the mall



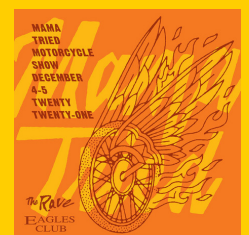
Upcoming Events - Things To Do

Click the images to be taken to more information on each.

MADISON



MILWAUKEE



mke tech week

FOX CITIES / GREEN BAY / OSHKOSH

