



# ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

January-February 2022

## REVIEW OF THE SIXTY-SECOND YEAR

October 2021 brought the annual meeting of the Open Door Center and the start of the Center's 63 year of service. Fortunately, there are some very dedicated long-term board members, officers and staff who have agreed to remain involved with the Center.

Bill Cook was re-elected chairperson of the Board of Directors. It would take more than two hands to count the number of times he has been coerced into remaining a board member and an officer. As President he sits on every committee in a minimum capacity of an ex-officio member if not a voting member and has the highest office. He makes the effort to call each week to inquire about the Center and if there are new needs to consider. His passion for providing a quality life for adults and children with disabilities is evident in the time and effort he expends for the Center. There is no doubt that the Center is very indebted to him for his commitment to its mission.

Steve Myers has served as Vice-president for at least two years and has been a board member for more than a handful of years. He represents the people who receive services. He interacts with other board members, expresses his opinions as needed and advocates for the treats that are provided to keep the members well nourished.

The Secretary-Treasurer of the Open Door Center Board is Carol Nelson. How fortunate for the Open Door Center that she is willing to give of her time as well as her knowledge from her many years of legal work. Granted, she is retired now, but still directs the Center toward the correct avenues for solving the problems that arise.

All the board members have freely provided hours and hours of service if it is attending board or committee meetings, stopping at the Center for more clarification, calling with questions or attending the annual picnic or board Christmas supper. They are always ready to assist in any way possible and thankfully they offer input with their knowledge, concern, and commitment to doing the right thing for those who receive services. The Center is financially sound and is a respected service oriented agency for sixty-one years due to the commitment of these board members and all those who have so generously supported the Center over these many years and hopefully for many more.

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**Open Door Center is a  
non-profit corporation  
serving  
people with disabilities.**

**Board of Directors**

Bill Cook, President

Al Adams

James Buhr

Mark Diede

Grant Goven

Deb Kohler

Steve Myers - Vice President

Carol Nelson, Sec./Treas.

Jackie Owen

Gail Pederson

Leo Schmidt



**REDUCE ~ REUSE ~ RECYCLE**



**WE WANT YOUR CANS**

Open Door Center is looking for donations of *pop cans* for our individuals to crush. Once crushed they are turned in to be recycled.

Our folks get paid to crush cans and look forward to the paychecks they receive.

Cans can be dropped off at the Day Activity Center (north of Pizza Corner).

**OR**

If you live in the Fargo area, you can take your cans to the MinnKota Recycling center and tell them you want to donate them to Open Door Center in Valley City. They send us a check quarterly.

Please help us,  
won't you?



**Excellence in serving people with disabilities by:**

**\*Respecting dignity and rights**

**\*Providing opportunities for growth**

**\*Fostering independence**

*Open Door Center is an equal opportunity  
provider, and employer.*

Mary Simonson, Executive Director

Josh Plecity, Director of Finance

Sherri Horsager, Human Resource

**ICF/MR**

Tana Plecity

Erin Halland, Staff Trainer

**ISLA**

Elaine Almberg

Heather Muscha

Ben Simonson

**Program Directors**

Matt Jensen, Children's Program

Marshall Hopp, Prairie Inn & MSLA

Cindy Schopper, Work Activity

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The past two years have been difficult as the Center has been inundated with Covid. It began in March 2020 upon the completion of our CQL survey for which we received a 4-year accreditation. However, Covid-19 and its many variants were not impressed with this accomplishment and continued to pursue all of us. Consequently, in November of 2021 the Center was forced to make a decision that was not accepted by all. Due to OSHA and CMS the Center was informed that vaccination was not a choice but a requirement. Open Door Center after much research, agonized discussion and decision making chose to follow the declarations by these two federal agencies that control much of the funding for the Center. This resulted in staff resigning, not completing shifts, or refusing to meet the requirements of the mandate. These problems coupled with the labor shortage has created empty shifts. Many of the staff who left were good staff and their abilities are missed. However, the Center has been fortunate to have many excellent staff remain. Most staff, including DSPs and management, have volunteered to work overtime, and their commitment is truly appreciated as is the continued assistance of the Board of Directors.

The State is moving forward with monetary enhancements for recruitment of new employees and retention of current staff for the next year. This should assist with some of today's problems, but the State must commit to the long term employment needs of those in community services to people with disabilities. It is essential to invest more on a continual basis to meet the needs of children and adults who have an intellectual disability, a behavior health problem, or a brain injury. The paltry sum of .25% proposed as a raise for those who work in the field of disabilities will not meet the persistent need for recruitment and retention. However, whatever the future brings as the Open Door Center moves forward, our wish for all is a healthy, safe, and blessed 2022.

*Mary Simonson, Executive Director  
Open Door Center is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer  
(Mary's columns are written monthly for the  
VC Times Record)*



***MEMORIALS DONATED:***

***In Memory of  
Doreen & Marge Saylor  
Ron Truax, David & Jerry***

***DONATIONS:***

***Nazareth Lutheran Church  
In Cogswell  
Megan Banderet's Home Church***

***Linus & Margaret Kensok***

***Donation to HI Soaring  
Eagle Ranch:  
Standing Rock WELCA  
Nancy Andersen***

***The Open Door Center would  
like to sincerely THANK YOU  
for your donations.***



## January Birthdays

- 1 - Alex Lanenga
- 3 - Faith Hanson
- 4 - Terry Lee
- 6 - Cullen Engstrom
- 6 - Jordan Knox
- 7 - Mara Heinze
- 9 - Mel Lindgren
- 10 - Bev Howe
- 12 - Kari Shape
- 13 - Amber Webb
- 13 - Sadi Deplazes
- 16 - Taylyn Storbeck
- 18 - Tim Cluchie
- 19 - Vanessa Wilson
- 19 - Derek Murach
- 20 - Karissa Yturralde
- 22 - Joseph Ruge
- 23 - Jayne Udem
- 27 - Brittney Torbenson
- 27 - Mya Anderson
- 29 - Helen Olson



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

34 Years  
Cindy Schopper - WAC Supervisor

33 Years  
Janie Johnson - ISLA

27 Years  
Michelle Grebel - ISLA

22 Years  
Jessica Peterson - ISLA

18 Years  
Randy Reiser - Prairie Inn

17 Years  
Eric Hoffert - YAP

15 Years  
Sherri Horsager - Human Resources

14 Years  
Cara Sorensen - ISLA

10 Years  
Marshall Hopp - Program Director

9 Years  
Mychal Vaughan - Lisbon

7 Years  
Lindsay Simms-Jones - GH 1  
Billie Jo Toso - Lisbon

6 Years  
Samantha Storhoff - Nursing

4 Years  
Layne Nannenga - Prairie Inn  
Jo Snyder - Ranch

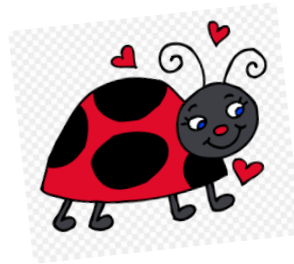
3 Years  
Brenda Bjork - ISLA  
Jacee Lunde - GH 2  
Ashley Tostenson - DAC Supervisor

2 Years  
Catherine Keppeh - YAP  
Jessica Feist - Lisbon

1 Year  
Heather Muscha - Program Director  
Hadlee Mathias - GH 4

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**2 - Dan Pullen**  
**8 - Veronica Miller**  
**9 - Bonnie Kapaun**  
**10 - Carol McIlvaine**  
**12 - Demi Peltier**  
**12 - Paige Benson**  
**14 - Willy Korinta**  
**15 - Arlene Andrus**  
**16 - Larry Duffy**  
**16 - Jocelyn Dumlao**  
**17 - Todd Clark**  
**18 - Linda Johnson**  
**19 - John Haas**  
**21 - Dinah Heinze**  
**27 - Lee Hoff**  
**27 - Molly Haugen**  
**28 - Trenton Laducer**  
**28 - Josh Plecity**



## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

**40 Years**  
**Linda Schaffer - ISLA**

**39 Years**  
**Diane Wagner - ISLA**  
**Lynn Kensok - ISLA**  
**Pennie Walch - ISLA**

**37 Years**  
**Janna Bitz - GH 3**

**23 Years**  
**Dana Leick - Prairie Inn**

**22 Years**  
**York Grebel - ISLA**

**21 Years**  
**Cory Duven - GH 2**

**18 Years**  
**Jackie Colville - Ranch**

**17 Years**  
**Sharissa Hochstetler - ISLA**

**15 Years**  
**Jayne Undem - ISLA**

**4 Years**  
**Rylee Cihak - GH 4**

**3 Years**  
**Kristin Petersen - GH 3**

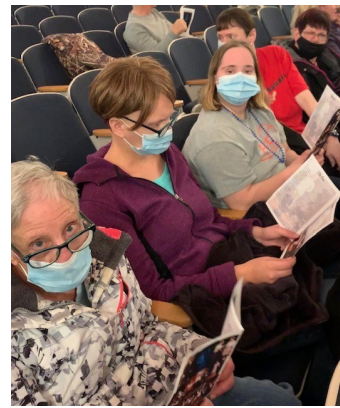
**2 Years**  
**Sarah Olson - ISLA**  
**Amanda Bjork - YAP**  
**Tara Anderson - WAC Program Coordinator**  
**Richard Clark - ISLA**  
**Kyley Lauf - ISLA**

**1 Year**  
**Kris Kopp - Prairie Inn**



## Another Round of Bingo Anyone?

Randy is searching really hard for his magical number to come up and Tara is super happy 2 Bingo's in 1 night! How exciting!!



### *Mary Poppins Musical*

*Linda, Kandice, Marie, Diana and Julie headed out to the Mary Poppins Musical show. There was a lot of toe tapping and humming along to the music. GREAT DAY FOR THESE LADIES!!*



### November/December Birthdays

Richard and Josh both shared their Vikings Birthday Cakes with everyone at WAC, while Matt had a different idea for his birthday treats and got donuts! Adam also had a later December Birthday and shared. Either way, everyone sure enjoys celebrating birthdays at WAC. Thanks Gentlemen! !

Happy Birthday





## DONATING AND VOLUNTEERING

November and December brought several opportunities for our folks to donate their time and create some treasures to be donated.

First the Young Adult Group created tie blankets to donate to Project Linus. They got in groups of two and made several blankets to donate. Also, several times in December they went out to different locations to "Ring the Bell" for the Salvation Army. They were lucky and had pretty good weather on the days they were out ringing!

Everyone had a blast creating and ringing!!



## Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from  
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

*Hello Everyone*

*It is a New Year, 2022. Happy New Year! Hope this year is better than last year! We have been making it through with being vaccinated and staying healthy.*

*Did you all enjoy your Christmas and gifts from your family and friends? I know I did! Can you think of something you really liked?*

*The weather sure has been very nice to us.*

*Only a few days of very cold and snow, which hasn't stuck around long. It has not been too cold. February is right around the corner. We have a special holiday coming up. Happy Valentines Day to you all!*

*Until next time. . . . .KATIE*

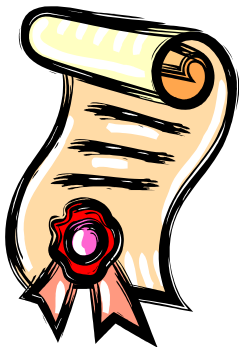


### CONGRATULATIONS

Direct Support Professionals for  
completing their modules!

*Full Time:*

*Bonnie Kapaun  
Roosevelt Capehart  
Ronnie Mulder*







# Giving Hearts Day

**OPEN DOOR CENTER will be participating in  
GHD on February 10, 2022**

**Please Support the Open Door Center**

- 1. Visit <https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/999>**
- 2. Select donation amount or**
- 3. Type in amount and click add to cart**
- 4. Follow payment steps**
- 5. If you prefer not to do an online credit card payment you can also write a check payable to the Open Door Center that we can upload to receive matching funds. Checks need to be dated 2/10/2022 for funds to be matched.**

**Thank you for your support!**

**All of our various programs are included :  
Open Door Center  
HI-Soaring Eagle Ranch  
Lisbon Open Door Center**

## Water Color Painting Class

**Thank you Kristin Petersen for sharing your talents with this group. They had a great time getting together and painting and learning about water colors!**



### WAC/DAC Holiday Activities

This is one of the Christmas Trees at WAC. There is a sampling of all the crafts everyone made during the month of December.

Everyone had a great time participating in all the fun activities they held in December. There was a Santa Beard contest, with Phillip H. winning the title. Eric H and Louie J. were the runners up. They put together Christmas puzzles and the back group won that contest. They also had a potluck Holiday party and did a whole lot of Karaoke singing.

Great time had by all in December!!



## **COMING EVENTS**

### **DECEMBER**

31 - New Year's Eve - **CENTER CLOSED**

### **JANUARY**

1 - New Year's Day

17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - **CENTER CLOSED**

### **FEBRUARY**

2 - Groundhog's Day

14 - Valentine's Day

21 - President's Day - **CENTER CLOSED**

**Have news???**  
**Let Nancy know.**  
**Your news is our**  
**news!**

All Staff  
Door Prize Winners:

DECEMBER:  
Sandi Ley  
Veronica Miller

CONGRATULATIONS!!



**A BIG**



**Paige Benson, Katie Christmann**  
**Aaron Cluchie, Shaun Hogan**  
**Alex Robinson and Elaine Walls**





OPEN DOOR CENTER  
129 3rd Ave. NE  
Valley City, ND 58072  
701-845-1124

Address Label Here

*Celebrating 62 Years*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
ODCVC.COM

## Charitable Donation

*Please consider us when making your charitable donation.* Open Door Center is a non-profit organization which receives support from the North Dakota Department of Human Services. Although it is our main funding source, it is not enough to cover all the costs of our corporation. The money received will help provide continued support and assistance to those supported by Open Door Center. We are very appreciative for the support we do already receive. If you would please consider a financial contribution to help meet the extra needs of our children and adults with disabilities, please fill out this form and return it to Open Door Center, 129 3rd Ave. NE, Valley City, ND 58072.

**ENCLOSED IS MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION:**  
**I would like my contribution:**

☐ \$ 50                      ☐ \$250  
☐ \$100                     ☐ \$500  
☐ \$150                     ☐ \$Other

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish your name? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Your thoughtful gift will be acknowledged to the family indicated:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATE**

You may also donate on our  
webpage: [www.odcvc.com](http://www.odcvc.com)  
Hit the red **DONATE** button  
on the home page and choose  
the amount you wish to  
donate, hit the **NEXT** button  
and follow instructions. The  
Open Door Center would  
really appreciate this donation.