



# ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

March-April 2022

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE COVID ARENA

Many companies are back to normal, whatever normal is. However, that is not the situation at Open Door Center. Like many long-term care facilities and designated health care providers, Open Door Center continues to fall under the auspices of CMS or the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a federal agency that provides funding for four of the group homes that the Center operates but impacts all the Centers employees. This oversight is costly to the Center because it creates a burden for the ability to attract or obtain new staff and to retain staff already employed by the Center.

Unlike other companies, the Center is still forced to follow many operational restrictions due to the existence of Covid-19, its variants, and the CMS restrictions. CMS, because its purpose is to assure a safe and healthy environment for people with disabilities mandates that the Center must develop and implement policies and procedures assuring that all staff are fully vaccinated. This means that they must have completed the required doses of their vaccine at least two weeks prior to employment. Additionally, this requirement includes all staff who provide any care, treatment or other services for the Center must also provide a record of full vaccination.

The Center is required to assure any professional whom the agency or surveyors consider a frequent provider of services must be vaccinated. The Center must have a process for assuring the documentation verifies this fact.

If a staff person, due to a medical reason or religious belief, does not participate in vaccinations, they can request an accommodation, but that too, has many strings attached. One such obligation is to wear a N95 mask, a face shield and participate in weekly covid testing until the pandemic ends or CMS dissolves its requirements. The accommodation or exception from vaccination must be documented by the agency. All documentation and vaccination records and accommodations will be tested by CMS surveyors.

*.....continued on page 3*

**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

**MARCH**

**April**

**REDUCE ~ REUSE ~ RECYCLE**



**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**

Heather Muscha

Ben Simonson

**Program Directors**

Matt Jensen, Children's Program

Tiffannie Justesen, ISLA & MSLA

Cindy Schopper, Work Activity

**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?



.....continued from page 1

Masks are an important part of protecting those receiving services. Consequently, all staff and individuals wear masks when they may encounter close contact with those residing in the four group homes. This includes any facility owned or operated by Open Door Center.

Compliance will be provided by CMS through a survey process. It will consist of observation, interview, and record review as part of the survey or compliance requirement. Agencies that are in less than 100 % compliance for staff vaccination will be considered in non-compliance and required to provide a plan of correction to reach 100% compliance. Failure to do so may result in monetary fines or ineligibility for funding. Thus, the Center continues to encourage masking, social distancing, and vaccination. This has resulted in staff resignation and serves as a barrier to attracting new staff. However, federal mandates by a large funding source affect the Centers actions. Adding more problems is the result of the actions of the ND State Legislature that has only provided a .25% increase in funding for providers of services to people with disabilities in the upcoming fiscal year. With inflation at an all-time high for the last decade, a 2cent raise is even worse than compliance testing. It is the greatest impediment to recruiting new staff and retaining experienced employees.

*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  
Don Fiebiger:  
Terri and Curt Stevens*

*In Memory of Jeff Workin:  
Mike & Bonnie Johnson*

*In Memory of Donna Fraase:  
Jenni Beadle  
Adam & Tara Svenningsen  
Mary Simonson  
Randi Buttke  
Gordon & Karen Rosby  
Flint & Dee Kasowski  
Tim & Anna Woodrich  
Rodney & Jamie Steffes  
Gary & Diane Sommerfeld  
Eugene Jordheim & Marsha Kent*

*In Memory of Dale Chilson and  
Honor of Karen Pullen:  
Dean & Judith Hammer*

***DONATIONS:  
Pat Nielson***

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

## March Birthdays

- 2 - Justin Horsager
- 5 - Steve Myers
- 6 - Marshall Hopp
- 8 - Ashley Tostenson
- 9 - John Andrus
- 11 - Kenneth Stopczynski
- 16 - Shane Kay
- 17 - Renee Larocque
- 18 - Gary Prochnow
- 20 - Isabell Grajeda
- 20 - Ryan Mathias
- 23 - Rita Grant
- 25 - Matt Jensen
- 26 - Colleen Hehr
- 26 - Alex Robinson
- 27 - Mitchell Bessette
- 29 - Kaelan Dick
- 30 - Teri Ronning



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

### 30 Years

**Chris Dvorak-Ranch**

### 25 Years

**Carol Grotberg-ISLA**

### 24 Years

**Mel Lindgren-Administration**  
**Bekah Cook-ISLA**

### 22 Years

**Chris Merkes-GH 3**

### 16 Years

**Denise Stanley-ISLA**

### 14 Years

**Kim Esch-GH 2**

### 12 Years

**Missy Leroux-ISLA Supervisor**  
**RoxAnne DeKrey-ISLA**

### 9 Years

**Jacki Grant-ISLA**

### 8 Years

**Patty Altringer-ISLA**

### 7 Years

**Karla Lyon-Lisbon**

### 6 Years

**Megan Perdue-Resident Coordinator GH 1**

### 5 Years

**Sheryl Solberg-Thunderbird/Amberland**

### 3 Years

**Amanda Erickson-GH 1**  
**Amy Elstrom-Nursing**

### 2 Years

**Tricia Mikkelsen-ISLA**  
**Ronnie Mulder-Prairie Inn**

### 1 Year

**Josh Plecity-Finance Director**



## ***APRIL BIRTHDAYS***

***1 - Nancy Bjerke***  
***2 - Scyra Agard***  
***4 - Jo Ann Snyder***  
***5 - Rachel Kilmon***  
***6 - Tammy Devitt***  
***7 - Matt Harrington***  
***7 - Nancy Knutson***  
***8 - Lynn Priebe***  
***11 - Lindsey Jacobson***  
***14 - Tim Cluchie Jr.***  
***15 - Raymond Nelson***  
***19 - Cory Duven***  
***19 - Tiffannie Justesen***  
***19 - Brad Kumlin***  
***21 - Sarah Parkman***  
***21 - Kelsey Schulz***  
***22 - Jennifer Kriewald***  
***26 - Sherry Anderson***  
***27 - Chris Dvorak***  
***27 - Michael Venhuizen***  
***27 - Holly Sabinash***  
***27 - Elaine Walls***  
***27 - Brenda Dick***  
***27 - Kyley Lauf***  
***29 - Phillip Hill***  
***29 - Denise Stanley***  
***29 - Travis Donnelly***  
***30 - Jodee Ukestad***



## **APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

**37 Years**  
**Lori Reimers-ISLA**

**34 Years**  
**Darnelle Bakke-ISLA**

**30 Years**  
**Wanda Schwab-ISLA**

**26 Years**  
**Jeremy Williams-ISLA**

**24 Years**  
**Barb Anderson-GH 2**

**21 Years**  
**Josh Kracht-ISLA**

**20 Years**  
**Garrett Greenwood-GH 4**

**12 Years**  
**Sam Ihry-YAP**  
**Todd Clark-WAC**

**11 Years**  
**John Dryness**

**10 Years**  
**Kaitlin Anderson-GH 5**

**9 Years**  
**Michael Johnson-ISLA**

**6 Years**  
**Holly Sabinash-ISLA**

**5 Years**  
**Teana Rohde-Prairie Inn**  
**Aidyn McCombs-GH 1**

**4 Years**  
**Mya Anderson-GH 4, Ruth Dorlus-GH 2**  
**Anthony Anderson-GH 1, Marah Pickell-GH 3**  
**Shane Hoffman-GH 4**

**2 Years**  
**Izabella Grenz-ISLA**

**1 Year**  
**Emma Fiedler-GH 2**



# Giving Hearts Day

**OPEN DOOR CENTER participated in  
GHD on February 10, 2022**

**We want to acknowledge some of those who donated to  
our various programs on Giving Hearts Day:**

Bruce & Catherine Piatt, Nicole Klefstad Johnson, Kelsey Peterson, Robert & Laurie Banderet, Andre & Marla DeLorme, Rachel Holzwarth, Scott Winkler, Kim O'Neil, Chase Austvold, Daniel Johnson, Joel and Karen Erickson, Marvin & JoAnn Thorson, Dan Hilkerbaumer, Don and Jean Hardy, Janna Kohler, Bernard & Vicki Duen, Melissa Erickson, Margie Lundell, Keith DeVillers, Mark & Neva Walsh, Lori Koenig, Debbie Kohler, Jan Hanson, Carol Nelson, Dennis Nelson, Sharon Weisenburger, Julie Cole, Jason & Kim Esch, Carol Stutzman, Elaine Walls, Nancy Hermanson, Gloria Evenson, Chris Schonhoff, Randi Buttke, Nancy Frid, Robert Sinner, Denise Gunderson, Marcy Svenningsen, Karen Pullen, Carol Grant, Curtis & Sue Paulson, Mary Simonson, Dee & Robert Nelson, Robert & Carrie Maresh, and Brothers III Sports.

**Thank you for your support!**

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

# Special Olympics Snowshoe-A-Thon



**Hidy Ho Snowshoe-a-thon Fans:**

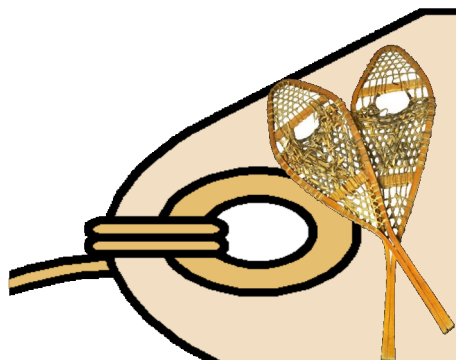
Well, here we are, ready to venture out for our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Special Olympics snowshoe fundraiser. Much like 2020, 2021 tasked us with making "snowballs out of "pandemic powder". (you know lemonade out of lemons). We were able to have a virtual snowshoe event back in January of 2021, an area track meet in May and local bowling tournaments this fall. The athletes were thrilled with the opportunity to compete against each other and win some recognition and ribbons. As we mentioned in last year's letter, we continue to be inspired by the positive attitudes and resilient efforts of our great Valley City athletes!

Our organization is a non-profit. Our income is generated from sponsorships and fund-raising events. The monies we receive from our Snowshoe-a-thon helps us to provide the best in facilities, transportation and equipment for our athletes.

We are proud to say that this coming summer we will have 3 athletes, 1 community partner, 1 head coach and 1 leadership mentor representing SOVC on the Team North Dakota delegation that will attend the Special Olympics National Games in Orlando, Florida. The money raised from this 2022 campaign will be used to help defray the costs for this great adventure for our local celebrities!!!

So, on February 19<sup>th</sup> we "trekked up and down our humongous snow hills, piles and drifts" snowshoeing for the athletes who make us so very proud!!!

Thank you so very much!!!!



## Area 8 Special Olympics-Valley City Snowshoe-A-Thon Tag

I have enclosed my sponsorship of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to the 22nd Annual Snowshoe-A-Thon (*please make  
checks payable to Special Olympics*).

## Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from  
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

*Hello Everyone*

*Now that February is over we get to look forward to March and April! Which means St. Patrick's Day and April Fools Day are right around the corner! (See what I did there?) I prefer St. Patrick's Day myself as I love rainbows. Have yet to find that pot of gold though! A couple of other things to look forward to are the North Dakota Winter Show and SPRING!! I am most definitely looking forward to Spring. I miss seeing the flowers in bloom and going on walks.*

*Until next time. . . . .KATIE*



### CONGRATULATIONS

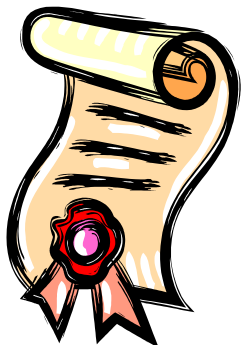
Direct Support Professionals for  
completing their modules!

*Full Time:*

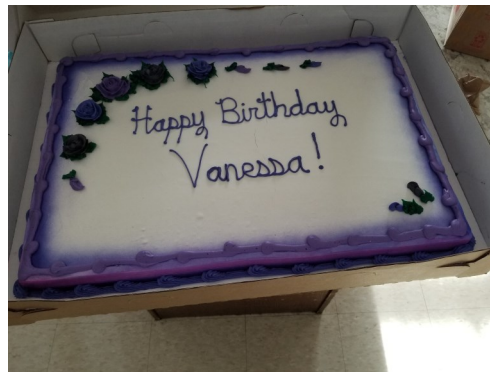
*Tina Nilsen, Mel Lindgren  
Colin Zawaira*

*Part Time:*

*Ken Stopczynski, Jocelyn Kriewald  
Matthew Mills, Said Deplazes*

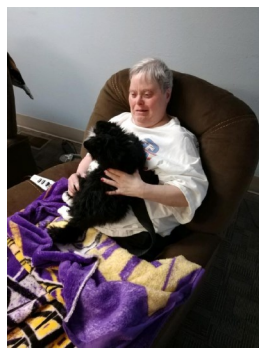
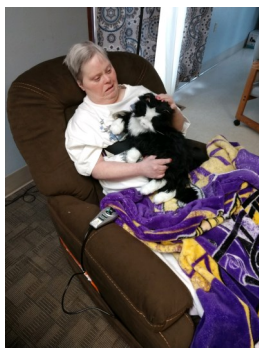






**Happy Birthday  
Vanessa!**

*Vanessa celebrated her Birthday in style this past January. It may have been a stormy day spent at home but she was still able to enjoy the day and share her Birthday Cake!*



Rita was very excited to have a furry visitor on her day off at home. The kitty sure snuggled in and got comfortable sitting with Rita! Not sure who enjoyed it more!

### **Valentine's Day Lunch Date**

**Louie and Tara decided they wanted to go out for a Valentines Day Lunch date and headed out to Pizza Corner.**



### **Coffee and Cocoa**



This past Saturday there was a Cocoa and Coffee event in town and Diane, Julie and staff headed downtown Valley City and stopped at Ally Beans for some Cocoa and Cheesecake. By the looks on their faces, the treats were delicious!!

## Special Olympics Valley City "SCORES" big at District Games

After a 2 year pandemic-induced hiatus, SOVC basketball is back!!! The teams have been practicing since the first week of January. Their performances at the District III basketball tournament prove they have been working hard on their skills. Three teams traveled to Jamestown on Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>. The Bridgesters faced with the prospect of playing with only 6 players and coming up against an extremely tough foe in their first game. They played against a true Division 1 team (Cass County Wolves) the local hoopsters lost 34-8. In their second game against the Cass Country Tigers the team found the hoop a little more often but still ended up on the short end of a 24-14 score. They returned to VC with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish. Coached by John Schonert and Mike Venhuizen the team members are: RoxAnne DeKrey, Cheila Ihry, Megan Banderet, Kandice Novak, Marie DeLorme and Matthew Johnson.

The Lightening Boltz started out their tournament with a low scoring victory over the Cass County Hawks 10-6. In game 2 fans had a chance to see probably one of the better games the Boltz have EVER played! Unfortunately, when the final buzzer blew the Boltz lost 30-18 to the Jamestown Wildcats. The team was coached by Steve Hammel and managed by Sam Ihry. Team Members are: Jennifer Bennett, Faith Hanson, Lee Hoff, Matt Thorson, Marshall Pederson, Cassie Colwell, Kelly Klein, Shane Kay, Natasha Esch and

The Youth team the VC Hi Liners put on quite a show. Stepping onto the court for the first time in their official VCHS Hi Liner uniforms the mighty mites cleaned up on the Cass County Bears 28-9. The theme of the game was getting everyone out on the court involved in the game. Great shooting and tremendous passing paid off for the team. In game 2 the Hi Liners continued where they had left off in game 1. Great passing, rebounding and shooting lead to a 38-35 win over the Jamestown Jaguars. That meant they collected the first place blue ribbons. The team was coached by Sue Lloyd and Jamie Smith. Their manager is Nick LeMier. Team members include: Anthony Anderson, Aidyn McCombs, Seth Breske, Jaxon Horsager, Paityn Elston, Keytyn Lemer, Ben Sorby, Tarissa Severson, Jenna Roe and Adam Compson.

Great Job everyone....way to make us PROUD!!!!



## **COMING EVENTS**

### **MARCH:**

13 - Daylight Savings Time  
17 - St. Patrick's Day  
20 - Spring Begins

### **APRIL:**

1 - April Fool's Day  
10 - Palm Sunday  
15 - Good Friday  
17 - Easter  
22 - Earth Day

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

All Staff  
Door Prize Winners:

JANUARY:  
Becky Torkelson &  
Demi Olstad

CONGRATULATIONS!!

### ***In Memory of Linus Kensok:***

Curt & Terri Stevens  
Lori Koenig  
Carol Stutzman  
Robert Sinner  
Denise Gunderson  
Sandra Nystrom  
Nadine Van Alstine  
M. Fournier  
Barb Holtgard  
Gerard Sinner  
Ray Hernandez  
Mark & Barb Wieland  
William & Mary Johnson  
David & Jean Lux  
Grommesh's  
Mary Kempel  
Dane & Kristine Larsen  
Audrey Roach  
Richard & Karen Faught

***Thank you for your  
memorials***



**A BIG**



**Alyea Casavant, Timothy Cluchie Jr.**  
**Jaden Compson, Charity Dosch**  
**Robin Huffstutler, Savana Ley**  
**Theresa Miller, Vinnan Muralikrishnan**  
**Shelby Noyes and Gabriel Porter**

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.