



ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

May-June 2022

THE RANCH AND AERIE 2192

On April 23, 2022, at their Annual Awards Recognition Banquet, the Eagles Club of Valley City, officially known as Fraternal Order of Eagles Valley City Erie 2192, presented the HI Soaring Eagle Ranch with the Hometown Builders Award. The Ranch is extremely pleased and excited to receive this award.

The Ranch and the Eagles have a long history collaboration. The Ranch was the brainchild of Karen Chilson Pullen, Dale Chilson, Diane Kohn, and Fritz Kohn, an active member of the Valley City Eagles and the national organization. They had family members who had sustained a serious brain injury and the services throughout the entire country was unable to meet the needs of their family members. Consequently, these parents went to the State of North Dakota to request assistance in establishing the needed services. The state did provide some support, but it was the Eagles that rallied around this concept. Their financial pledge provided the impetus for establishing HI Soaring Eagle Ranch, a residential facility of survivors of a brain injury.

In 1987, under the auspices of the Head Injury Association of North Dakota with resources from many Eagle's clubs, a beautiful, large rambler house sitting on ten acres of land located three mile south of Valley City on the Kathryn Road was purchased and remodeled becoming what is now known as the HI Soaring Eagle Ranch. Eventually, the program was licensed as a basic care facility by the State. In 1992 the Ranch was transferred to the Open Door Center. With this financial commitment, the services continue to meet the needs of people with a brain injury.

However, the funds from the State are never sufficient to meet all the needs of the residents. Thankfully, the Aeries and their auxiliaries continue to support the Ranch. Churches, private donators, and Sunday Schools also assist with the financial expenses of the Ranch. Without these resources the Ranch could not and would not exist.

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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



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

There are various causes of brain injuries. Some residents received their injury from car accidents with motor vehicles being the leading cause of brain injuries. Falls account for a substantial number for individuals under three and over sixty. Some are medically induced because of surgery to remove brain tumors.

The mission of the Ranch is to help residents become as independent as possible through the development of compensatory strategies for the physical, social, psychological, behavioral, and cognitive deficits of each individual.

Socially the residents are encouraged to work through volunteer opportunities or paid jobs. This is accomplished through training at the Eagle Nest Book Store location in downtown Valley City. Residents have volunteered at the hospital, nursing home, church, National Guard, and sand bagging.

In 2009 and 2011 the flooding of the Sheyenne River resulted in the residents having to leave the facility because the egress from the Ranch was due to the river inundating the bridges. It is again true in 2022. However, the Ranch, with the financial help of the Eagles and many other donors, continues to survive. The Ranch has provided services for thirty-five years and we plan to provide services for another thirty-five years.

*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
Pastor Aage Carlson:
Mike & Bonnie Johnson*

*In Memory of Hilma Hovde:
Mike & Bonnie Johnson*

*In Memory of Karen Gallagher:
Mike & Bonnie Johnson*

*In Memory of Don Eberhardt:
Mike & Bonnie Johnson*

*In Memory of Mike Krug:
Keith, Joyce & Jackie Devillers*

*In Memory of Paul Stahlhut:
James & Josie Prescott*

***DONATIONS TO THE
HI-SOARING EAGLE RANCH:
Mark Turner***

***Community Religious Events
Fraternal Order of Eagles #2192***

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

May Birthdays

2 - Kellie Schulz
 2 - Brandi Putnam
 3 - Cynthia McFadgen
 4 - Nick LeMier
 8 - Chris Merkes
 10 - Garrett Greenwood
 11 - Tricia Mikkelsen
 12 - Cindy Schopper
 12 - Theresa Rose
 13 - Jess Stack
 16 - Lori Reimers
 16 - Amy Elstrom
 17 - Cindy Zahn
 17 - Haylie Mullins
 22 - Layne Nannenga
 23 - Amanda Hanlon
 24 - Maureen Rueckert
 28 - Kandice Novak
 29 - Dennis Myers
 29 - Nicole Wieser
 30 - Lee Webster
 31 - Colin Zawaira
 31 - Vinnan Muralikrishnan



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

40 Years

Mary Simonson-Executive Director

27 Years

Jenny Kriewald-ISLA

21 Years

Vanessa Wilson-GH 5

19 Years

Jess Stack-GH 3, Staci King-YAP

18 Years

Diana Gehlhoff-Prairie Inn
Colette Jenson-ISLA

16 Years

Derek Murach-GH 2

14 Years

Adam Maresh-ISLA

9 Years

Tiffannie Justesen-Program Director

8 Years

Brenda Olson-YAP

7 Years

Travis Donnelly-GH 5, Jesse Juelfs-Lisbon

5 Years

Larry Duffy-Maintenance

3 Years

Cullen Engstrom-Prairie Inn
Karissa Yturralde-ISLA
Ryan Mathias-Thunderbird/Amberland

2 Years

Bonnie Kapaun-Ranch

1 Year

Cheryl Jacobson-Lisbon, Dana Cihak-GH 5
Cindy Zahn-ISLA, Sadi Deplazes-ISLA
Isabel Grueneich-ISLA, Molly Haugen-ISLA
Jocelyn Goulet-GH 2 & 4

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1-Marie DeLorme
3-Joanne Nguyen
3-Teana Rohde
4-Robin Borchert
4-Jocey Kriewald
5-Sherri Horsager
6-Roosevelt Capehart
8-Karla Lyon
11-Isabel Grueneich
12-Erin Halland
12-Alexis Wilson
13-Janna Bitz
13-Diane Wagner
15-Emma Fiedler
17-Brenda Liebenow
18-Jackie Grant
18-Amanda Erickson
18-Izabella Grenz
19-Lindsay Simms-Jones
19-Ronnie Mulder
21-Aaron Cluchie
22-Pamela Walsh
22-Dawn Larson Schock
24-Russell Conway
26-Dan Johnson
27-Brenda Bjork
28-Missy Leroux
28-Kelly Braton
30-Kathy McGough
30-Cheryl Jacobson



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

27 Years
Nicole Jones-YAP, Matt Harrington-ISLA
Alex Lanenga-ISLA

25 Years
Deb Borg-Community
23 Years
Kelly Klein-ISLA

21 Years
Matt Jensen-Program Director
20 Years
Tana Plecty-Program Director

16 Years
Katie Sand-GH 4
15 Years
Lee Hoff-ISLA

14 Years
Phillip Hill-GH 3, Brenda Liebenow-GH 5

12 Years
Clifford Peterson-GH 3
10 Years
Marshall Pederson-ISLA, Kassandra Yokom-ISLA

9 Years
Kandice Novak-ISLA
8 Years
Nancy Knutson-WAC

7 Years
Felicia Esch-ISLA, Alexis Wilson-GH 1
Wyatt Doll-GH 1

5 Years
Randy Prescott-GH 5
4 Years
John Haas-Ranch

3 Years
Sarah Howe-WAC, Bev Howe-Bookstore
Liam Pierce-Lisbon

2 Years
Roosevelt Capehart-Prairie Inn
Carol McIlvaine-Ranch

1 Year
Christina Beardsley-ISLA, Jocey Kriewald-ISLA
Brandi Anderson-Johnson-ISLA



Rita Mae Grant

Rita passed away on March 26th just after celebrating her 61st Birthday. She resided at the Open Door Center for many, many years. She loved spending time with family and friends and socialization was always a must do. She loved to travel and had the opportunity to travel to Hawaii, Branson and Florida.

Her participation with Special Olympics brought many opportunities and enjoyment for her over the years. Rita was one of the original athletes in 1972, competing in different events over the years and bringing home some gold.

She traveled to Alaska, New York and Louisiana for Olympics. She was also inducted into the ND Hall of Fame in 2011.

She had recently moved to SMP Health-St. Raphael in Valley City. She really enjoyed the party her friends threw for her before she moved.

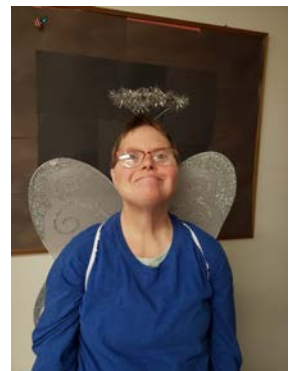
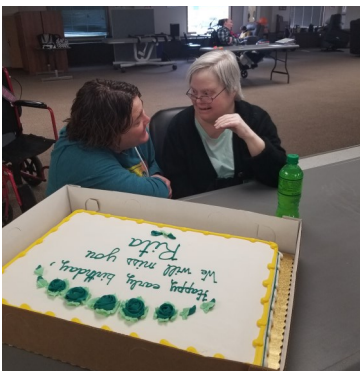
Everyone here at Open Door has a lot of great memories of Rita and she will truly be missed by us all!

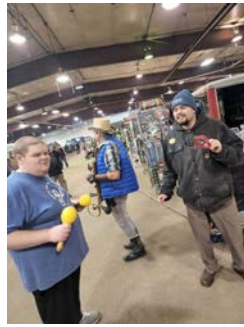
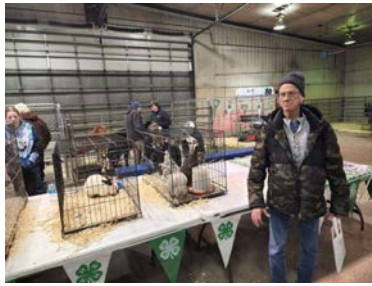
Memorials given to the Open Door Center in Honor of Rita:

*Betty Grant
Jim & Josie Prescott*

Many people also donated to Special Olympics in honor of Rita.

We thank you very much for these donations in memory of Rita!





North Dakota Winter Show

This past month brought these gentlemen up to the NDWS Barns to enjoy all that they had to offer. They loved seeing all the different animals up there, the horses, cows, bunnies, and chickens. They also got to help the entertainer up there and each had an instrument to help perform. Before they left they also enjoyed some of the treats that are always a great part of the NDWS experience.

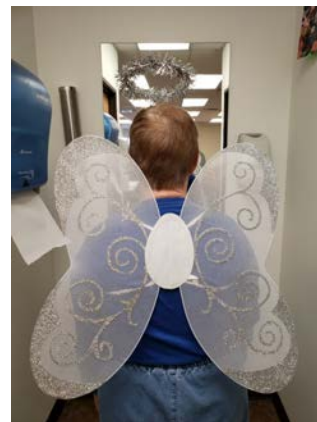


April Winter Storm Day at Home

Who would have thought everyone would have to stay home in April because of a Blizzard? Well Bekah made the most of the day by coloring her Easter Eggs.

In Memory of Rita Mae "Broken Chain" By Ron Tranmer

We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly. In death we do the same. It broke out hearts to lose you, you did not go alone, for part of us went with you the day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide; and though we cannot see you, You are always at our side. Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.



Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

Hello Everyone

As we get into the month of May, hopefully we can start getting some nicer weather. Also looking forward to some holidays coming up. Such as May Day on the 1st and Mother's Day on the 8th. I also found out that there are 62 other national observances on May 1st besides May Day. That's crazy! On May 20th it's National Pizza Party Day! I hope we can celebrate that one. It happens to be on a Friday (wink, wink).

Let's not forget about June. We should have some awesome summer weather by this time. This month also has many interesting national observances as well. Besides Flag Day (June 14th) and Father's Day (June 19th), a couple of the other ones are National Donut Day (June 3rd) and Chocolate Ice Cream Day (June 7th). It would be fun to celebrate those too! Rally in the Valley is also in June - Can't wait for that one!!

Until next time.KATIE

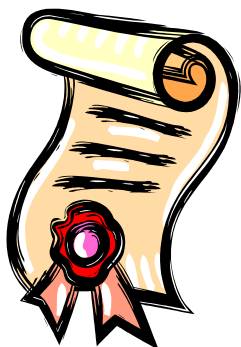


CONGRATULATIONS

Direct Support Professionals for
completing their modules!

Full Time:
Taylene Mendiola

Part Time:
Brandi Anderson-Johnson



**33rd Annual Valley City Special Olympics
& Dacotah Bank Golf Benefit**

**4 Person - 18 Hole Scramble
Friday, June 3rd, 2022
Country Club Golf Course**

**Sponsor A Hole & 4 Person Golf—\$400
Sponsor A Hole & 2 Person Golf—\$225
Single Golfer—\$85**

**Check-in: 9:00—9:45 am
Shotgun Start: 10:00 am
Supper following the tournament**

Please register by May 25, 2022

**For more information contact:
Mary Tangen at 701-840-3376
Or Sheryl Solberg at 701-840-0902**

**Special Olympics Athlete Motto:
"Let me win, but if I can not win let me be
brave in the attempt."**





Dear Athlete Parent/Fan:

We know you are **your athlete's** biggest fan. With that in mind, how would you like to let the rest of the world know how you feel? You can do this by sponsoring **your star** at the 33rd Annual Special Olympics Golf Benefit.

For \$50 your favorite athlete's picture will be out there for all the golfing public to see! If you are a golfer and want to see your pride and joy in person come and golf with us on June 3rd. The cost per golfer is \$85 and includes 18 holes of golf, supper and hole prizes. Just let Mary Tangen know if you would like to gold or if you have a team. She can be reached by dialing 840-3376.

Please consider supporting our local Special Olympics program through sponsoring an athlete or playing in our tourney.

Please return to Kay Metcalf by May 25, 2022.

Open Door Center
Attention: Kay Metcalf
129 3rd Ave NE
Valley City, ND, 58072

Thank you so very much!

Special Olympics Area 8 Management Team



Sample Sign

Sponsor An Athlete x _____ @\$50 = \$ _____

Name of Athlete(s): SPONSORED BY: _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Contact Phone # _____

COMING EVENTS

MAY:

8 - Mother's Day
30 - Memorial Day - *Center Closed*

JUNE:

14 - Flag Day
18 - Rally in the Valley - Downtown Valley City
19 - Fathers Day
21 - First Day of Summer

JULY:

4 - Independence Day - *Center Closed*

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

All Staff
Door Prize Winners:

APRIL:
Nicole Wieser
Savana Ley

CONGRATULATIONS!!



ODC PICNIC SAVE THE DATE

*Our annual picnic will be
held on August 22nd this year
at Dacotah Pavillion.
More info to follow at a
later date.*

SAVE THE DATE!

A BIG



**Davida Gonzales, Alaina Hanson
Rebekah Hilgemann
Dabby Huggins, Tarryn Justesen
Ian Keyes, Haylie Mullins
and Jenna Steffes**

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
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.