



ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

March-April 2024

The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL)

Open Door Center will be hosting The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) for our four-year accreditation March 19-22, 2024. CQL Accreditation is a formal process that recognizes the agency for its dedication to service standards; Open Door Center will be pursuing Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation as the people we support drive our services. As part of the accreditation process, we will highlight our rich history of services, challenges and resiliency over the past four years, and prioritize goals for the future. Management staff, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), individuals we support, families, guardians, board members, and community partners will actively participate in Open Door Center's accreditation process.

The citizens of Valley City and Barnes County were some of the forerunners of providing services to individuals with disabilities. In April 1959 the Open Door was organized and financially supported by the Barnes County Association for Retarded Children and Adults as there were no programs available for children or adults with developmental disabilities. A day program was held in the basement of the City Auditorium with eight people and one instructor. In the late 1970s new federal laws were passed mandating services for school age children and provided federal money for other programs. Using some of these funds, Open Door Center established a sheltered workshop to pursue work training opportunities. In 1982 the first group home was built, providing a home for eight individuals from this area. The last group home was built in 1986. In 1982, Mary Simonson was hired as the Executive Director of the Open Door Center and the former Omwick Theatre was purchased for day programming. The Omwick Theatre was remodeled to house day programming and the ARC Thrift-E-Store. In the 1990s, Open Door assumed management of the HI-Soaring Eagle Ranch (3 miles south of Valley City) and opened the Eagles Nest Bookstore. In 2007 we expanded our services to Lisbon, ND. Open Door Center has engaged in multiple business ventures over the years, from operating the Prairie Inn Café, managing The Viking Room, contracting with the Department of Defense to make poly bags for the Navy, operating a popcorn factory, opening the Lisbon Thrift Store, to manufacturing Pride of Dakota food products. All business ventures have been started to provide paid employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities. We have overcome displacement from several floods and persevered through a global pandemic.

Open Door Center began serving only a handful of individuals in 1957 to over 85 amazing individuals today. Additionally, we employ nearly 200 incredible people. In April 2024, we will be celebrating our 65th anniversary. Our rich history exemplifies our growth and resiliency! I look forward to our continued growth and improvement in our services in the years to come.

Tracey Zaun, Executive Director

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

Board of Directors

Bill Cook, President
Al Adams-Vice President
James Buhr
Mark Diede
Grant Goven
Deb Kohler
Carol McIlvaine
Carol Nelson, Sec./Treas.
Jackie Owen
Gail Pederson
Mary Lee Robinson

MARCH



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.*

Tracey Zaun, Executive Director
Josh Plecity, Director of Finance
Sherri Horsager, Human Resource

ICF

Michelle Anderson, Staff Trainer
Jamie Stanton Ring

ISLA

Heather Muscha
Ben Simonson

Program Directors

Matt Jensen, Children's Program
Tiffannie Justesen, ISLA & MSLA
Maggie Oakland, Prairie Inn
Cindy Schopper, Work Activity
Markie Toso, Lisbon

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?





MONDAY – FUNDAY

On Martin Luther King Day, when everyone stayed home as the Center was closed, Julie and Diane hosted a Bingo Party at their apartment. There were prizes to be won and I heard there was even some dancing going on!



***In Memory of : Mary Burgaard
Bonnie & Michael Johnson***

***Donation to Eagles Nest Bookstore
Carmen Svenningsen***

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



Visit with Lynn

Diane and Julie spent some time with Lynn one afternoon. All the ladies really enjoyed the time visiting and catching up!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Justin Horsager
Mackenna Sherman
Crystal Tompt
John Andrus
Michelle Anderson
Gary Prochnow
Ryan Mathias
Stephanie Schafer
Silvon Lee
Matt Jensen
Colleen Hehr
Mitch Bessette
Kaelan Dick
Teri Ronning



MARCH
BIRTHDAYS

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

32 Years
Chris Dvorak - GH 4

27 Years
Carol Grotberg - GH 4

26 Years
Mel Lindgren - Administrative Assistant
Bekah Cook - ISLA

24 Years
Chris Merkes - GH 3

18 Years
Denise Stanley - ISLA

16 Years
Kim Esch - GH 2

14 Years
Missy Leroux - ISLA Supervisor
RoxAnne DeKrey - ISLA

11 Years
Jackie Grant - ISLA

9 Years
Karla Lyon - Lisbon

7 Years
Sheryl Solberg - Thunderbird

4 Years
Ronnie Mulder - GH 3 & WAC

3 Years
Josh Plecity - Finance Director

2 Years
Haylie Mullins - GH 1
Rebekah Hilgemann - YAP

1 Year
Jake Rindahl - GH 1

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Scyra Agard
Jo Ann Snyder
Rachel Kilmon
Tammy Devitt
Matt Harrington
Nancy Knutson
Lynn Priebe
Shane Buerkle
Nicholas Levers
Lindsey Jacobson
Raymond Nelson
Yasniel Roque
Mianna Fountain
Cory Duven
Tiffannie Justesen
Alaina Hanson
Bradley Kumlin
Taylor Sherman
Sarah Parkman
Kelsey Schulz
Jennifer Kriewald
Chloee Wieser
Sherry Anderson
Chris Dvorak
Mike Venhuizen
Holly Sabinash
Elaine Walls
Brenda Dick
Phillip Hill
Denise Stanley
Travis Donnelly
Jodee Ukestad

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

39 Years
Lori Reimers - ISLA

36 Years
Darnelle Bakke - ISLA

32 Years
Wanda Schwab - ISLA

28 Years
Jeremy Williams - GH 5

26 Years
Barb Anderson - GH 2

23 Years
Josh Kracht - ISLA

22 Years
Garrett Greenwood - GH 4

14 Years
Sam Ihry-YAP, Todd Clark-Community

12 Years
Kaitlin Anderson - GH 5

11 Years
Heather Cunningham-Lisbon, Michael Johnson-ISLA

8 Years
Holly Sabinash - Prairie Inn

7 Years
Aidyn McCombs - GH 1

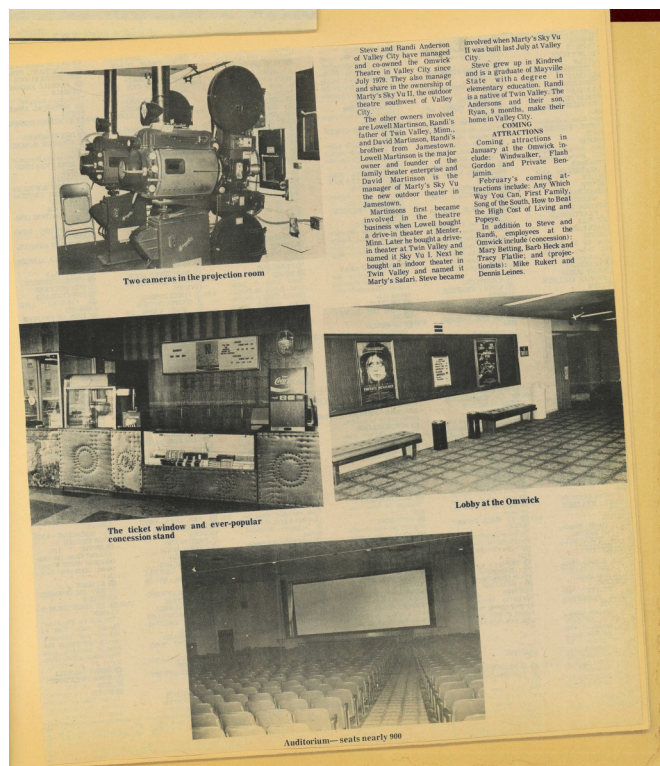
6 Years
Ruth Dorlus-GH 2, Anthony Anderson-GH 1
Marah Pickell-GH 3, Shane Hoffman-GH 4

2 Years
Tarryn Justesen - Prairie Inn
Codee Berube-Lisbon

1 Year
Madison Kemnitz - ISLA
Margaret Deah-GH 4, Stephanie Schafer-GH 1

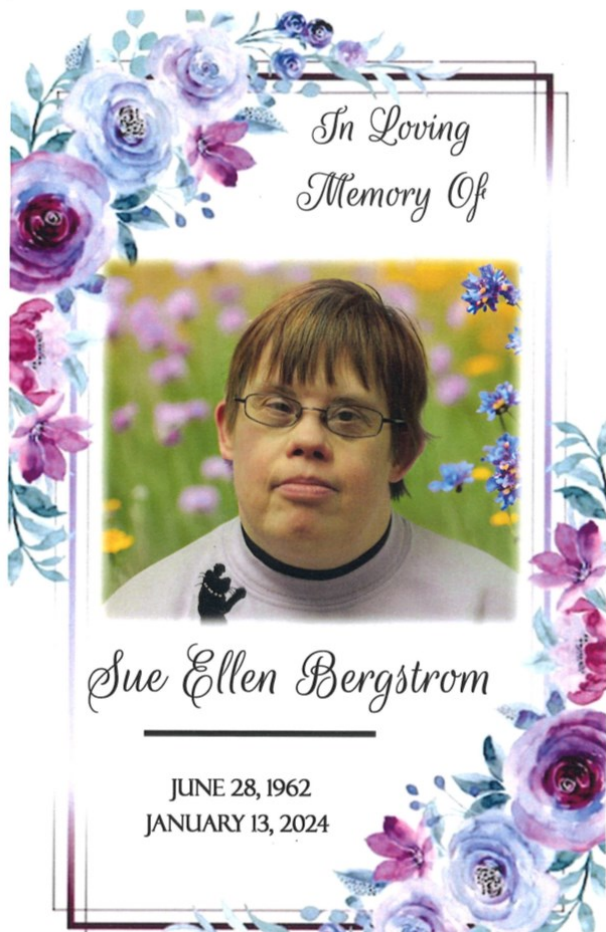


OMWICK THEATER TO THRIFT-E-SHOP TO WAC



History of Work Activity Center (WAC)

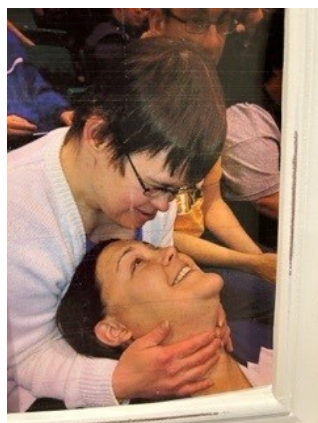
Individuals and staff were talking one day about the history of their building (WAC) so Tara contacted Wes at the Barnes County Museum. He sent over several pictures and an article about some of the history. The Omwick Theater was built in 1950 and named after local construction contractor, Olaf M. Wick. In 1982 Open Door Center bought the property. It was used for day facilities in the back of the building and the front of the building housed the Thrift-E-Store established by the ARC. In September of 1988 the Thrift-E-Store moved to their own building and we had more room in the building to serve more individuals and provide more office space for employees. I'm sure if you are interested in more details you could contact Wes at the Barnes County Museum.



Sue Ellen Bergstrom, Age 61 passed away on Saturday, January 13th at SMP Health - St. Raphael in Valley City.

Sue Ellen graduated from High School in Devils Lake in 1983 and found her forever home at the Open Door Center in Valley City where she had her own apartment with a caretaker and a roommate, who also worked at the work center. It was here that she found much happiness and friendships in the many activities that she took part in. Some of Sue's most fond memories were participating in Special Olympics. Her favorite activities were bowling and running track. As we all know, there were many things that Sue Ellen couldn't do. She wasn't able to do the things that we take for granted each day. When some people, who didn't know her personality looked at her, that's what they saw - the things that she couldn't do. Sue Ellen was persistent in showing the things that she could do. She had a love for others that she could show with her warm smile. She had a wit that she showed with a firm stomp or serious face. To know Sue was to love Sue as she had such a kind heart that will forever touch those who cared for her. She moved to St. Raphael in 2021 where she made more new friends and tried many new activities.

Sue Ellen will be missed by many!



SOVC Hosts State Volleyball Tournament

On Sunday February 25th, the Valley City Special Olympics program hosted 29 unified teams from 8 communities around the state in the first ever combined State Winter Games. What was supposed to be a two-day event, with winter outdoor sports (snowshoeing and cross country skiing) being contested on Saturday February 24th and the winter indoor sports (volleyball) being played on Sunday. It became a single day volleyball tournament when no snow forced the cancellation of the outdoor portion of the Games.

Volleyball has traditionally been a sport played in the spring/summer season. Late last summer Special Olympics North Dakota changed several of the competition seasons around. For years there has been a need for an indoor sport for the winter months. Volleyball was the sport that best "fit the bill" to change.

Over 350 athletes competed in 6 different divisions of volleyball. Contests took place at VCHS and at the Rec Center. Valley City had an adult team, the Aces, that competed in Division 4 and 2 youth teams, the Hi Liner Blue and Hi Liner White, that competed in the 5 team youth division. The adult team after an opening round loss came back with two victories to win the Bronze medal. The team was coached by Jason Metcalf. Team members included Cheila Ihry, Kandice Novak, Lee Hoff, Kelly Klein, Marshall Pederson, Mike Venhuizen, Casse Colwell, Tarissa Severson, RoxAnne DeKrey, Natasha Esch, Jocey Kriewald, Ashley Farkas and Grace Sche3r. Mike Venhuizen was named to the All Tournament team. The Hi Liner Blue team won their first game and then lost in the championship game to a very good Grand Forks team. They received the silver medal! The Blue team was coached by Katie Sather and Alyssa Yorek. Team members are: Alyssa Wilmes, Brenna Storley, Keytyn Lemer, Cadence Fetsch, Nick LeMier, Anthony Anderson, Aidyn McCombs, and Hannah Mueller.

Nick LeMier was named to the All-Tournament team.

The Hi Liner White team also played in the Youth Division. After two hard fought close matches the team finished 5th. The Hi Liner White team was coached by Sheila Larson and Adam Liesener. Team members included: Ben Sorby, Mikayla Deal, Mya Sundstrom, Ryder Yanish, Reese Anderson, Trinity Hersha, Katelyn Wangerud, Avery Marthaler, Sullivan Peterson, Addy Fetsch and Jett Horsager.

Additional highlights included Nick LeMier running the torch into the Opening Ceremonies with VC Police Chief Nick Horner, Mikayla Deal and Aidyn McCombs carrying in the Special Olympics banner and Ben Sorby, Sullivan Peterson and Jett Horsager leading the athletes in the Special Olympics Oath.

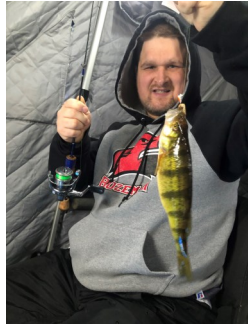
A very HUGE thank you to Valley City High School for letting SOVC use their school AND to the 170+ volunteers who made this event happen. With the success and support of this year's tournament it looks like Valley City will be the permanent home of the State Winter Games!!!!

*****ATTENTION...COMING UP TRACK AND FIELD*****

SEE PICTURES ON PAGE 9

PICTURES FROM SPECIAL OLYMPICS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT





LAST DAYS FOR ICE FISHING

In February the guys headed out a few more times for the last of the ice-fishing. Perch was the fish of the day for both days out. Lee, Matt and Ben headed out one day and then Marshall and Ben headed out on another day. Great time was had by all!



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Lee wanted to head up to Bridges for his Birthday Celebration and it was a great night out for the guys to help Lee celebrate another trip around the sun!

NATIONAL MUFFIN DAY

February 20th was National Muffin Day so WAC got into the spirit and Diane, Cullen and Julie made a bunch of muffins for everyone to enjoy a muffin on this national day of celebration!



Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I can't believe we had 60 degree weather on Monday then a Blizzard starting at 1:00 am Tuesday morning leaving us with cold weather and 6 inches of snow!

The Special Olympics volleyball was hosted on Sunday, February 25th in Valley City. Did anyone attend?

The ND Winter Show is starting this Saturday with the Easton Corbin Concert. I'm excited to go to that. I will also be attending the Ladies Luncheon. I always enjoy the food and entertainment. Is anyone attending any events this year?

We spring forward on March 10th. Do you like Daylight Savings time? St. Patricks Day is a week later. Are you going to wear green or get pinched? Haha!

April brings April Fools Day. Do you have any tricks or pranks up your sleeve? Are you a prankster or are you the one getting pranked?

I really hope the weather gets warm soon. I'm itching for Spring and Summer to arrive! That also means Easter is right around the corner. What are your Easter plans?

OH! One last thing! I got my new wheels! Finally! It's been so much fun learning how to work my chair.

Also - Good Luck to the Valley City Hi-liners Girls Basketball Team!!

Until next time.KATIE

A BIG



**Celeste Breske, Cynthia Carmean,
Samantha Hatcher, Micah Lint, Yasniel Roque
Kelsey Schulz, Malachi Torres
Dylan Tucker and Karla Wind**



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

**The Open Door Center now
has a public Facebook page
so please come take a look
at all the activities we have
been doing.**



MONSTER JAM 2024

Jeremy, Randy, Katie and Travis headed to the Fargo Dome on February 3rd to take in the sights and sounds of the 2024 Monster Jam truck show.

They were able to watch the well known and amazing trucks and drivers. Of course Grave Digger was there, along with Monster Mutt Rottweiler, Megalodon and Jurassic Attack which you can see pretty good in the picture they got. It was a good thing that Jeremy and Randy were wearing their earmuffs as it gets pretty loud in the Dome with all those trucks racing around!!

EARLY NORTH DAKOTA WINTER SHOW FUN

The Open Door Center held a Chili Cook-off one day and we tasted 4 different kinds of Chili and gave away 2 sets of VIP tickets to the Easton Corbin Concert that was held for the NDWS Kick-Off Party. Winners of the Chili was Group Home 2 along with DAC and winners of the Concert tickets were Richard Roorda and Victoria Omdahl. I'm sure they had a great time.

GH 2 and DAC will make their Chili and have a booth at the NDWS for the Chili Cook Off and Ice Cream Social. Stay tuned next month for many pictures and fun that will be held at the NDWS!





BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND

Kelly and Missy headed downtown Fargo to the Fargo Theater to take in the Beatles Tribute Band. It was a great night listening to some great music! The downtown Fargo Theater is amazing!



Everybody has been really busy at Thunderbird/Dakota Seasoning since Christmas. They are working on getting more product made, boxing things up and getting it all labeled for sale!
THANK YOU!

THUNDERBIRD/DAKOTA SEASONING RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Tex-Mex Hash Browns

Ingredients:

- 2 large baking potatoes, washed and cut into 1-2 inch cubes
- 3-4 Red potatoes, washed and cut into 1-2 inch cubes
- 1 large red or green bell pepper, seeded and cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1/2 medium yellow onion, peeled and cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1/2 tsp sea salt
- 2 tsps. Thunderbird Ranch Chipotle or Sriracha Blackened Meat Rub/Seasoning
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil

Directions

- Preheat oven to 400
- In a large bowl, combine pepper, cayenne salt, Thunderbird Rub and oil
- Add potatoes, peppers and onions and toss to coat
- Place all ingredients in a single layer on a lightly oiled cookie sheet and bake for 30 minutes until browned
- ENJOY!



Giving Hearts Day

On behalf of the Open Door Center, we would like to thank all those who donated to us on Giving Hearts Day. We truly do appreciate your donations!

Dawn Ihry, Kristin Petersen, Mark & Neva Walsh, Diane Krumm, Tallie Colville, Carol Grant, Gordy's Grill & Fill, John Hill, Fraternal Order of Eagles #153, Dr. Keith DeVillers, Helen Sherlock, LaVerne Seefeld, Nancy Hermanson, Marvin Thorson, Bonnie & Michael Johnson, Elaine Walls, Colette Jenson, Greg Nelson, Sharayah Robinson, Kyle Symanski, Felicia Sargeant, Dennis & Janice Nelson, Karen & Joel Erickson, Ardell Olson, Karen Pullen, Larry & Mary Lee Robinson, Brandi Hedin, Lynette Kriedeman, Carol S. Nelson, Chad & Tracey Zaun, Debbie Kohler, Robert & Dee Nelson, Tyler Marthaler, Andre & Marla DeLorme, Nancy Kelley, Nicole Klefstad Johnson, Nicholas Finnesgard, Kim O'Neil, Scott Winkler, Vicky Huschka, Colleen Keithley, Peggy Koch, Nadley Buehler, Robert Banderet, Ralph Dyrness, Robert Olson, Daniel Johnson, Jan Hanson, Melissa Erickson, Saidee Oberlander, Faye Rockswold, Emily Johnson, Lee Webster, Vicki Duvén, Lance Gulleeson, Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary #2192, LaBrash-Altringer Post 236, Alfred Prochnow, Elaine Hetland and several anonymous donors

THANK YOU

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

10 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
19 - First Day of Spring
24 - Palm Sunday
31 - Easter

APRIL

1 - April Fools Day
22 - Earth Day

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



**HAPPY
EASTER**



CONGRATULATIONS

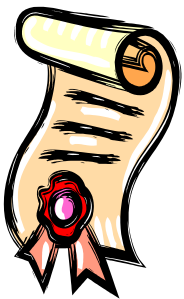
**Direct Support Professionals
for completing their modules!**

Full Time:

Robert Lewis, Bonnie Olson

Part Time:

Madison Kemnitz



April 
SHOWERS 
BRING 
May
FLOWERS 

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

Address Label Here

Celebrating 65 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.