



# ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

July-August 2022

## The Mission of the Open Door Center

The Mission Statement of the Open Door Center is Excellence in serving people with disabilities by: Respecting dignity and rights, providing opportunity for growth and fostering independence. Two main themes that outline the practicing of the mission statement are Universal Enhancement and Positive Behavior Supports.

Marc Gould, an earlier practitioner and author of Universal Enhancement, implores us to focus on the importance and impact of the effects of our behavior on improving the quality of the lives of the people we support. For most of us, quality of life is defined in meaningful relationships with family, friends, co-workers and others in our life circle. Employment, education, spirituality, “giving to others” are other important aspects of life. Possessing things of meaning and value further enhances our quality of life. The vision of Universal Enhancement is to support people with disabilities to realize their quality of life outcomes, the same quality of life outcomes that we value. It challenges us to realize that everyone has desires and dreams. They may differ greatly from our own (or may not) but nevertheless, they are important to the person we support. Perhaps the needed change in philosophy, that philosophy advocated by Universal Enhancement is best described in this poem written by Dr. Gould:

### OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING

If you could only know me for who I am  
Instead of for whom I am not,  
There would be so much more to see  
“Cause there’s so much more that I’ve got.

So long as you see me as Handicapped  
Which supposedly means something, I guess  
There is nothing that you or I could ever do  
To make me a Human success.

Someday you’ll know that tests aren’t built  
To let me stand next to you.  
By the way you test me, all they can do  
Is make me look bad through and through.

And someday soon I’ll get my chance  
When some of you finally adapt  
You’ll be delighted to know that though  
I’m disabled, I’m not at all handicapped.

*.....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



**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**

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

A second theme related to the Center's mission is through the training of Positive Behavior Supports. It reveals the need to change our interactions with others; co-workers, family members, friends, especially with those we support. It is all in the approach. Is our approach one of encouragement or discouragement? Most of us do not relish the idea of being the recipient of correction, the implication that we are doing wrong. Positive Behavior Supports encourages us to take time to reflect on our actions. Have we forgotten to question our own actions before reflecting on those of others? Are criticism and judgement our approach for patience and the opportunity to be supportive to others? Is reflecting criticism patience, and the opportunity to follow the more positive road? To quote Haim Ginott in his poem 'I Am the Decisive Element: "It's my personal approach that creates the climate; it's my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess a tremendous power to make an individual's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration; I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations it is my response that decides the outcome." What are you doing to be a person of joy rather than misery? Next time reflect on your words before you act. Choose the positive avenue.

*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)*



***Donations to HI Soaring  
Eagle Ranch:***

**Cynthia Bruce**

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



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1-Betty Hansen  
 1-Roslyn Johnson  
 2-Grace Pilkawo  
 3-Victoria Omdahl  
 5-Chloe Anderson  
 11-Megan Banderet  
 11-Sharissa Hochstetler  
 13-Ben Simonson  
 13-Linda Schaffer  
 13-Davida Gonzales  
 14-Julie LeMier  
 14-Thea Jensen  
 14-Helen Sherlock  
 14-Becky Borud  
 15-Louie Jungling  
 15-Ruth Dorlus  
 15-Sandra Chapin  
 17-Jane Diemert  
 20-Michael Johnson  
 21-Carol Grotberg  
 22-Aubrie Hanson  
 23-Laurie Elston  
 23-Sarah Howe  
 24-Caylyn Makoff  
 24-Melissa Meyer  
 25-Kevin Esch  
 26-Rachelle Lindeman  
 28-Stephanie Hornbacher  
 28-Jon Diede  
 28-Jesse Schuldt  
 30-Kaitlin Anderson



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

41 Years  
Betty Hansen-GH 2

35 Years  
James Kramer-GH 2

34 Years  
Kay Metcalf-Thunderbird/Amberland

29 Years  
Teri Ronning-WAC

23 Years  
Kellie Schulz-YAP Supervisor  
Justin Horsager-GH 3

19 Years  
Richard Roorda-ISLA

16 Years  
Steve Myers-Ranch

15 Years  
Michelle Weber-YAP

11 Years  
Rachelle Lindeman-ISLA Supervisor

9 Years  
Sandra Ley-GH 2 & DAC

8 Years  
Dale Wangrud-ISLA

7 Years  
Carmen Phelps-GH 5 & DAC  
Scyra Agard-YAP

6 Years  
Mason Nicholson-Lisbon

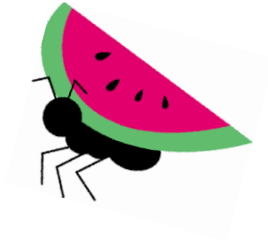
4 Years  
Starlene Abbott-WAC  
Jocelyn Dumlao-GH 4

2 Years  
Tina Nilsen-WAC & ISLA  
Taylene Mendiola-Prairie Inn  
Tim Cluchie-Maintenance

1 Year  
Jenna Roe-WAC  
Chloe Anderson-Lisbon  
Kaelan Dick-Lisbon

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

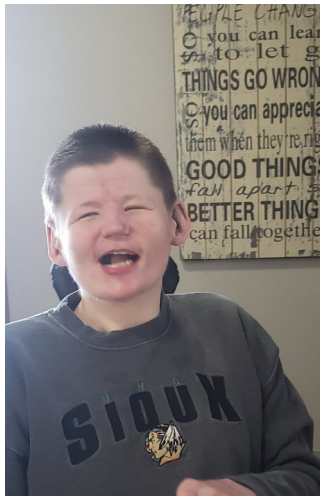
**1-Jeremy Williams**  
**4-Kiana Bakalar**  
**6-Kelly Klein**  
**6-Adam Liesener**  
**9-Emma Mielke**  
**10-Wyatt Doll**  
**10-Michelle Weber**  
**12-Taylene Mendiola**  
**13-Barb Anderson**  
**13-Carmen Phelps**  
**13-Jade Vaudrin**  
**14-Leonard Krokum**  
**15-Jessica Peterson**  
**15-Jenna Roe**  
**16-Randy Prescott**  
**16-Katie Sand**  
**21-Marshall Pederson**  
**22-Heather Muscha**  
**23-Patsy Hanson**  
**27-Cassie Colwell**  
**29-Kay Metcalf**  
**31-Dana Leick**  
**31-Brandi Anderson-Johnson**



## **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

**34 Years**  
**Jody Smedshammer-Prairie Inn**  
**33 Years**  
**Kathy McGough-Administrative Supervisor**  
**32 Years**  
**Michael Venhuizen-ISLA**  
**29 Years**  
**Jodee Ukestad-Nursing Supervisor**  
**27 Years**  
**Jon Diede-ISLA**  
**26 Years**  
**Becky Borud-WAC & ISLA**  
**24 Years**  
**Stephanie Hornbacher-GH 2 Resident Coordinator**  
**22 Years**  
**Dennis Myers-Prairie Inn**  
**21 Years**  
**Stephanie Sauter-GH 2**  
**18 Years**  
**Erin Halland-Program Director & Staff Trainer**  
**Russell Conway-Prairie Inn**  
**16 Years**  
**Roslyn Johnson-DAC & GH 5, Renee Larocque-ISLA**  
**15 Years**  
**Thea Jensen-YAP**  
**14 Years**  
**Kelly Braton-WAC & ISLA, Demi Peltier-GH 2 & WAC**  
**13 Years**  
**Jason Blasczyk-Lisbon**  
**12 Years**  
**Julie Opdahl-WAC & GH 3**  
**10 Years**  
**Marie DeLorme-ISLA, Natasha Esch-YAP**  
**8 Years**  
**Dinah Heinze-ISLA, Matt Thorson-ISLA**  
**5 Years**  
**Faith Hanson-YAP, Collin Jensen-Lisbon**  
**4 Years**  
**Tammy Devitt-GH 1, Grace Pilkawo-GH 2**  
**3 Years**  
**Brenda Degenstein-GH 5 Resident Coordinator**  
**Nancy Bjerke- Thunderbird/Amberland**  
**Nicholas LeMier-GH 1**  
**2 Years**  
**Colin Zawaira-ISLA, Melissa Meyer-ISLA**  
**1 Year**  
**Laura Peterson-YAP, Mitchell Bessette-GH 2 & DAC**





Derek Murach, age 37, passed away May 2, 2022. Derek moved from the Anne Carlson Center in Jamestown to Open Door Center in 2006. Derek lived at Group Home 2 and attended the Day Activity Center. Derek quickly made many friends and chose his favorite staff.

Derek enjoyed watching TV, especially the older shows like MASH and any action movie. He also enjoyed watching football. Derek enjoyed going for walks, listening to music, and taking long naps (several of them throughout the day if he could). Derek had an infectious laugh and smile. He will be greatly missed by his family, many friends and staff.



### Soap Box Derby 2022

The first weekend in June the Soap Box Derby was held in Valley City. Racers took to the top of Central Avenue to get their cars ready to race down the hill. Here we have Anthony Anderson and Aidyn McCombs racing down Central Avenue.

I'm not sure who the winner was, but I bet these two had a blast on Derby Day!





**SPRING FORMAL  
AT THE HAC**  
*Shine Bright Under the Lights of Prom*

*May 1st held the 1st Annual Spring Formal sponsored by Parents of Juniors at VCHS. Everyone got to enjoy the lights and decorations that were used at Prom, get all fancied up and dance the afternoon away!!*

*All who attended looked AMAZING and had a blast going thru Grand March, doing the Twist and Cupid Shuffle and dancing with their favorite person!*

**THANK YOU PARENTS OF JUNIOR  
FOR THIS EVENT!**







## SPECIAL OLYMPICS – ORLANDO!!

By Nick LeMier

My Orlando trip started with me packing my bags and heading up to Fargo for two days of training at NDSU, the training included Track practicing at the NDSU Track, Basketball at Fargo North High school and Youth Leadership going around and interviewing the athletes and taking pictures.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> some people flew on the commercial flight and some people flew on private jets. The athletes that flew on the private jet left from the Fargo Jet Center and got to Orlando about lunch time and drove to the Disney All – Star Resort and talked to the other states that were there.

June 5<sup>th</sup> we went to the opening ceremonies. It was streamed on ESPN and people were able to watch it. Then the Youth Leadership group went to their own opening ceremonies after the original opening ceremonies. June 6<sup>th</sup> the Youth Leadership group went to Disney World for the day,

June 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> the Youth Leadership was at the fan zone which was an area that had music and different booths. The Youth Leadership people were at a booth that helped teach people how to play different sports. On June 8<sup>th</sup> The Youth Leadership people helped little kids, ages 2-7 learn how to play different sports.

June 9<sup>th</sup>, Youth Leadership was working with a guy named Riche Howe and he helped us learn how to take really great pictures and how to make them look really good on with software. Also we went to animal kingdom with all the other athletes from all the different states.

June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Leadership went to their closing ceremonies and then went back to the resort and swam in the pool for a couple hours then celebrated with our delegation about how well the basketball team did and also the track team did really well.

June 11<sup>th</sup> the North Dakota delegation flew back to Fargo and said their final goodbyes as a team. In closing the next USA games are in 2024 in Minnesota.







Nancy Knutson wanted to acknowledge all the hard work the Cleaning Crew does here at the Admin Building on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Kandice, Julie, Lee and Bekah are always found hard at work keeping the Admin building looking AMAZING!! Thank you!!



### Furry Visitor

**Tracy Selders who used to work at WAC brought her grand-dog to town one day and went to see everybody at WAC. Here Kandice is visiting with Allie. Everyone loved visiting with Allie - and of course - Tracy too!**

The gals from Thunderbird/Amberland were busy making Chokecherry jelly. They were done for the day so thought they would do a little Quality control.

Boy did it taste good!  
Kay mentions that if you order on-line you will get \$6.00 off a case!!!



## Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from  
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

## *Hello Everyone*

*We finally got summer! It is nice and warm. Isn't everybody happy? As we start the month of July we have a major holiday coming up—July 4th! I love watching the pretty sky with all the fireworks, just not too crazy about all the loud noise. Oh, and don't forget all the lake fun, camping, swimming and grilling.*

*Throughout these summer months we have some events going on. Music in the Park on Wednesdays, Summer Nights on Central on Thursdays in July.*

*Also don't forget Crazy Dayz on July 27th. These are some of the events that really stick out to me that I enjoy. Don't forget to stop and get some Shaved Ice this summer too!*

*August has very few events going on. This is the month all the kiddos begin school again. We can't forget Sheyenne Riverfest on the 6th, Open Door Picnic on the 22nd and the Camp at Wesley Acres!*

*Until next time. . . . .KATIE*



### CONGRATULATIONS

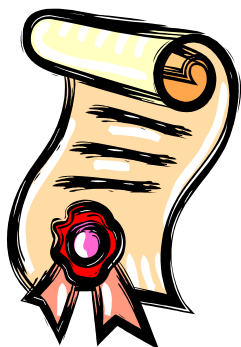
Direct Support Professionals for  
completing their modules!

*Full Time:*

*Savana Ley, Brad Kumlin  
Aubrie Hanson, Alaina Hanson*

*Part Time:*

*Molly Haugen, Isabel Grueneich*



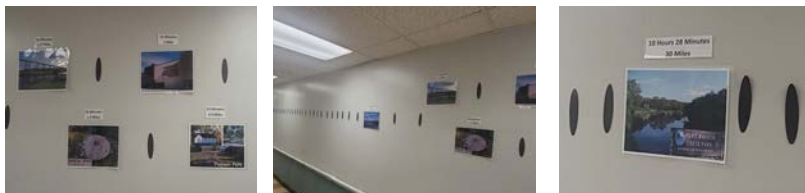
## Safety Sam! Summer Safety Tips

- Practice Summer Heat Safety. Never leave anyone alone in a closed car in the summer. ...
- Stay Safe Around Water. My advice here is short and sweet: Never let a child near water unattended. ...
- Protect Your Skin Against Sunburn. Wear Sunscreen even when it is cloudy, you can still get burned!
- Keep the Bugs at Bay. Use bug spray or avoid being outdoors when bugs are active.
- When having picnics and BBQs outdoors, be sure all the food is cooked to the correct temperature. Also be sure salads and other foods are kept cold.



### Work Activity Walking Challenge

We have created a walking challenge down our hallway. Each person has a shoe print with their name on it and we have mapped out different distances around Valley City, along with Ft. Ransom, Ashtabula, Jamestown, and the farthest being the Fargo Zoo! We are tracking the walking by the amount of time walked in 15 min increments. So throughout the summer if you walked 30 min a day, you could walk to Fargo! The feet will move down the hallway as you move toward your goal. We encourage everyone to walk multiple times a day! Good Luck everyone!!



Diane celebrated her birthday at WAC and she brought a big cake to share with everyone! Happy Birthday Diane!





# You're Invited to the OPEN DOOR CENTER



**Date: Monday, August 22, 2022**

**Time: 6:00 - (See Schedule Below)**

**Place: Dacotah Pavillion at Chautauqua Park**

**PLEASE RSVP BY AUGUST 8TH**

**The Open Door Center will hold it's annual picnic at the Dacotah Pavillion in Chautauqua Park. All family, friends and staff of those who receive services through Open Door Center are invited to attend. Supper will be catered.**

**Everything is provided.**

**Please RSVP by August 8th. We DO need a head count to assure we have plenty for everyone.**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**5:00 PM - Group Homes 2 & 4**

**5:15 pm - Group Homes 3 & 5**

**5:30 pm - Ranch**

**5:45 pm - Group Home 1**

**6:00 pm - Everyone Else**



## **COMING EVENTS**

### **JULY:**

- 4 - Independence Day - *Center Closed*
- 6 - Music in the Park or VCSU Music Building-7:15 pm
- 10 - Pioneer Park Concert Series—5:30 pm
- 13 - Music in the Park or VCSU Music Building-7:15 pm
- 14 - Summer Nights on Central-6:00 pm
- 18 - Let's Walk Valley City - 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- 20 - Music in the Park or VCSU Music Building-7:15 pm
- 21 - Summer Nights on Central-6:00 pm
- 24 - Pioneer Park Concert Series - 5:30 pm
- 27 - Crazy Daze - Downtown Valley City

### **AUGUST:**

- 3 - Music in the Park or VCSU Music Building - 7:15 pm
- 10 - Music in the Park or VCSU Music Building - 7:15 pm
- 14 - Pioneer Park Concert Series - 5:30 pm
- 17 - Music in the Park or VCSU Music Building - 7:15 pm
- 28 - Pioneer Park Concert Series - 5:30 pm

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

All Staff  
 Door Prize Winners:

MAY:  
 Randy Eggermont  
 Amy Elstrom

JUNE:  
 Kylie Lauf  
 Isabel Grueneich

CONGRATULATIONS!!



**A BIG**



**Sara Blaschke, David Brown**  
**Adrian Grafing, Noah Haglund**  
**Madison Maley, Russell Marker**  
**Emma Mielke, Anthony Nelson**  
**Jake Rindahl, Grace Scherr**  
**Aarika Thornton, Lynn Wilson, Barb Young**

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.