



ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

January-February 2023

THE DILEMMA FACING THE FIELD OF DISABILITY SERVICES

The last three years have impacted all of us including our families, co-worker's employer and especially people with disabilities. Since the pandemic, the turnover rate of jobs in the health care area has significantly climbed and has impacted Open Door Center, basic care such as HI Soaring Eagle Ranch and many, many, other supportive facilities as well as main street businesses.

The staff of the Open Door Center work nontraditional hours, shifts that span 24 hours a day, seven days a week and with staff shortages, the hours of overtime keep climbing, often creating undetected personal problems. The staff is mandated to participate in work related training. Yes, it can be used to meet undergraduate credits, but it can time out after 24 months. Most of the training modules are competency based requiring a passing test score. Just one more requirement to say nothing of the background checks, drug testing and required CMS regulations regarding Covid vaccination, boosters, and masks. The disability field is one of the most regulated areas of service.

The mission of disability service facilities is to enhance, improve and advocate for positive change for all people but especially for those with disabilities that are often the forgotten. Many people served by Open Door Center and the more than thirty one similar organizations found in 195 North Dakota communities is to provide essential care and long-term support for over 7,000 people. However, there are still those who fall through the cracks or for some technicalities do not meet eligibility for services. These individuals are often isolated, have a higher rate of poor health and are more prone to abuse, neglect, exploitation, or mistreatment.

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

Board of Directors

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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

Michelle Anderson, Staff Trainer
Ashley Tostenson

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

We want to support more individuals and have the facility areas to do so, but throughout North Dakota we are experiencing a critical labor shortage. Service facilities are not alone but some agencies have closed facilities displacing people who have lived there for decades. However, since the beginning of the pandemic, turnover has significantly increased with some areas experiencing an average turnover rate greater than 45%. There are over 700 vacancies throughout the state and the average rate for workers is comparable to frying burgers in a fast food facility. We can't just fry burgers but are required to provide supports that offer a more meaningful and productive life and critical support for some of North Dakota's most vulnerable children and adults.

This information is provided to create awareness and education to citizens, legislators, and stakeholders with the hopes that the billions of dollars and Covid dollars will be used to better the employment situation in service facilities and throughout North Dakota.

*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
Nancy Andersen*

*In Memory Of Curtis Bring,
Marilyn Rustad & Mollie Moan:
Mike & Bonnie Johnson*

*In Memory Of Linus Kensok:
Margaret Kensok*

*In Memory of Alvin Grueble:
Jim & Josie Prescott*

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





Jacqueline "Jackie" Devillers

09-24-1954 ~ 11-21-2022

(Parts of Jackie's Beautifully Written Obituary following)

Jackie spent most of her life in Valley City, ND with her family. She attended the Open Door Day Activity Center starting in 1959. In 2009 Jackie moved with her parents to Wahpeton, ND and attended the Red River Human Services Day Activity Center.

Jackie never won any awards or received any accolades during her lifetime, these items were not important to her. Her family was her greatest reward and the most precious thing in her life. Everyone she met was a friend for life. Articulating sur names was difficult so you were given a "nickname" and it was yours for life. She would invite you to "come play", bring your "jammies" and "stay". She loved everyone without hesitation, especially children. She loved her family and always wanted them to "come home"!

Jackie's favorite day of the week was Sunday. She never missed her beloved "church-church" and was up early each Sunday to pick out her favorite outfit and jewelry to wear. If God ever made the perfect church "greeter", it was our Jackie. No congregation was too large for her to shake every hand and give them a hug if Mom didn't see.

Christmas was Jackie's favorite time of the year. She helped decorate to the best of her abilities, ridicule her siblings' inability to wrap packages and sit for hours admiring the lights, the decorations and of course the packages beneath the tree. Perhaps it was the anticipation of her "family" once again, all in her home, together sharing happiness even for just one day. She made sure everyone had a package to open, that she opened her packages last and that each Christmas day would last forever.

Jackie gave and taught more to her siblings than she will ever know. If you did great, she showered you with accolades and make you feel like you conquered the world. However, if you screwed up, she admonished you with a "no-no", a quick report to our parents, only to return with a loving hug and always forgiveness. Whenever you were sad or sick, she was there with a hug, a kiss and a reminder that your family loves you no matter what and life will get better soon. Jackie was not handicapped in our eyes, she was our sister. We fought for her, and we protected her. We fought with her. Just like we did with and for each other. She picked on us and we picked on her. Hey, what are sisters for anyway? She gave us a perspective on life that few will ever understand. No matter how bad we have it on our worst day, it is never anything that could compare to what Jackie was handed in life. So, we thank God every day for giving us Jackie, our loving big sister, who was always on and at our side. Even in her final moments she fought for every breath to stay here, with the family she so loved. Now she is with us in spirit, watching over us and protecting us.

MEMORIALS GIVEN IN HONOR OF JACKIE

Brad & Paula Bakken, Leo & JoAnn Schmidt, Doug & Judy Peterson, Bette & Bill Jongbloed, Evelyn Krug, Shawn & Leah O'Leary, Bierdemon Family, Connie Sivertson, Kim & Court Holman, George & Shelly Piatz, Pat Pladson, Jim & Cathy Ohnstad, Tammy Matejcek, Stu Gripentrog, Nadine Fink, Beth Anderson, Mike & Brenda Schell, Tammy Miller, Jeff & Diane Aschnewitz, Brad & Ashley Aschnewitz, Joel DeVillers, Kari Frost, Eileen & Lee Kelm, Rylee Danielson, Mathew Worken, Brandon & Kayla Cook, Swanson Family, Friends of Bell Bank, Matt & Marie Miller, Phyllis & Daryl Knutson, Jeanelle & Larry Miller, Ali & Tony Steffens, Duane & Kay Sandness, Robert & Dorothy Messmer, Gaylord & Diane Hibl, Mary Beauclair, Stephanie & Mark Fugate, Jacqueline Hegg, Bill & Sharon Hoverson and Julie Briss

The Open Door Center would like to sincerely Thank you for these donations!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Alex Lanenga
- 3 - Faith Hanson
- 4 - Terry Lee
- 6 - Cullen Engstrom
- 8 - Kaylie Nguyen
- 9 - Mel Lindgren
- 10 - Bev Howe
- 12 - Kari Shape
- 13 - Amber Webb
- 17 - Lynn Wilson
- 18 - Tim Cluchie
- 19 - Vanessa Wilson
- 20 - Karissa Yturalde
- 22 - Joseph Ruge
- 25 - Russell Marker
- 27 - Brittney Torbenson
- 27 - Mya Anderson



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

35 Years
Cindy Schopper-Program Director

34 Years
Janie Johnson-ISLA

28 Years
Michelle Grebel-ISLA

23 Years
Jessica Peterson-ISLA

19 Years
Randy Reiser-Prairie Inn

18 Years
Eric Hoffert-Young Adult Program

16 Years
Sherri Horsager-Human Resources

10 Years
Mychal Vaughan-Lisbon

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

7 Years
Samantha Storhoff-Nursing

5 Years
Layne Nannenga-Prairie Inn
Jo Snyder-Ranch

4 Years
Brenda Bjork-ISLA
Ashley Tostenson-Program Director

3 Years
Jessica Feist-Lisbon

2 Years
Heather Muscha-Program Director
Hadley Mathias-GH 4

1 Year
Theresa Miller-Prairie Inn
Charity Dosch-ISLA

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 - Dan Pullen
8 - Veronica Miller
9 - Bonnie Kapaun
10 - Carol McIlvaine
12 - Demi Peltier
13 - Charity Dosch
14 - Willy Korinta
15 - Codee Berube
16 - Larry Duffy
16 - Jocelyn Dumlao
17 - Todd Clark
18 - Linda Johnson
19 - John Haas
20 - Theresa Miller
21 - Dinah Heinze
27 - Lee Hoff
27 - Molly Haugen
28 - Josh Plecity



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

40 Years

Diane Wagner-ISLA
Lynn Kensok-ISLA
Pennie Walch-ISLA

38 Years

Janna Bitz-GH 3

24 Years

Dana Leick-Prairie Inn

23 Years

York Grebel-ISLA

22 Years

Cory Duven-GH 2

19 Years

Jacki Colville-Ranch

18 Years

Sharissa Hochstetler-ISLA

4 Years

Kristin Petersen

3 Years

Tara Anderson-WAC
Amanda Bjork-YAP
Richard Clark-ISLA
Joseph Ruge-GH 4

2 Years

Kris Kopp-Prairie Inn

1 Year

Brandi Putnam-GH 2 & WAC
Robin Huffstutler-GH 3 & WAC





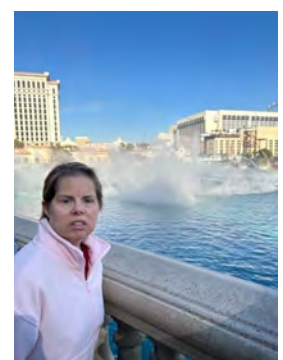
CARRIE UNDERWOOD CONCERT

This past October, Kelly and Megan headed up to the Alerus Center in Grand Forks to see Carrie Underwood perform. They were among the 13,000 people who attended this great musical venue. Both ladies stated they had a wonderful time!

SNOW, SNOW EVERYWHERE

As most of you probably experienced, in mid-December Valley City received over 20 inches of snow in just a couple days. Staff used a WAC truck and assisted other staff to get to work. We had to make sure to get staff to everyone's home so they would not have to venture out in this mess!

WELCOME WINTER!

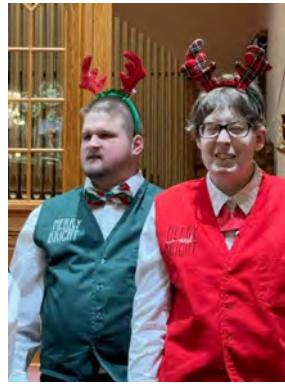


Janna's Dream Vacation

When we were experiencing -20 degree weather, Janna's dream came true and she flew down to Las Vegas!! Janna, along with her sister Jody, Brother in Law Oktay and her Niece, Melike went to many shows, including America's Got Talent and the Bellagio Christmas Show. They ate at many different restaurants and even spent some time on some penny machines! Janna truly enjoyed this trip with her family!

MERRY AND BRIGHT CHRISTMAS CHOIR

The Merry and Bright Christmas Choir was back this year! Everyone was very excited to get back practicing and performing. They visited many places; VCSU, St. Catherine's Church, Legacy Place, Bridgeview, and ended at Faith Lutheran Church. There were guest appearances by many Reindeer, Scrooge, Grandma and Elves. In the pictures below they performed at St. Catherine's Church for all the school age kids. Everyone had a BLAST. We hope you all enjoyed your holidays and hope you have a Happy New Year!





Giving Hearts Day

**OPEN DOOR CENTER will be participating
in GHD on February 09, 2023**

Please Support the Open Door Center

- 1. Visit www.odcvc.com & click on DONATE NOW or
Visit <https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/999>**
- 2. Select donation amount or Custom Donation Amount**
- 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 **2/09/2023** 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**



Bell Ringing

Diane and Julie spent some time at Leever's ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. They enjoyed visiting with people and greeting them as they came in to get their holiday groceries!

SOUP RECIPES

Since January is National Soup Month, we thought we would share a soup recipe from Thunderbird Ranch-Dakota Seasonings Gourmet Cookbook. Below is Tina's Cheeseburger Soup Recipe:

Ingredients:

- 1 # Browned Ground Beef
- 1/2 Cup Chopped Dill Pickles
- 1 Recipe *Thunderbird Ranch Dakota Cheese Soup*

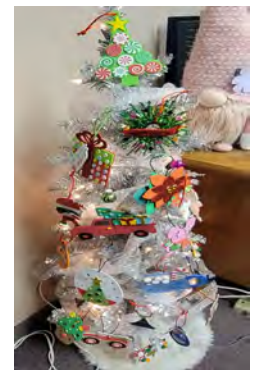
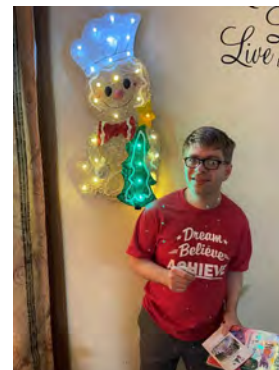
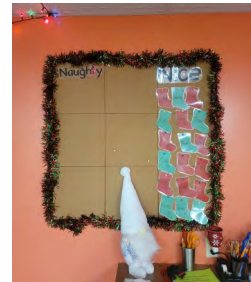
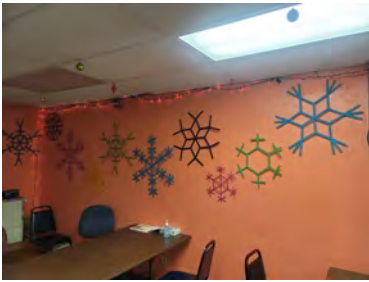
Directions:

- Prepare Dakota Cheese Soup according to Directions
- Add browned beef
- Just before serving, add chopped dill pickles
- ENJOY!

This recipe takes less than 20 minutes. (May also add chopped tomato, onions and diced potatoes).
Yields: 6-7 servings

WAC/DAC Busy During the Holidays

WAC and DAC had a very busy December. There was a Holiday Decorating Contest with each room in charge of how they wanted to decorate. There were some very creative people for this contest. Many Snowflakes, presents, Naughty or Nice lists and scrooges were seen around the halls of both buildings. Each room was also given a Holiday Gnome to watch over them during the season. Several Christmas trees were also seen around. And of course the upper windows at WAC were painted with different holiday characters. Cliff won a light up Gingerbread man in a drawing they had at WAC. All in all everyone had a great December!!



Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

Hello Everyone!

Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There's so much going on I don't even know where to start. Martin Luther King Day is right around the corner. I am so excited for that. We also have Groundhogs Day along with Valentine's Day coming up in February. Do you think the ground hog will see his shadow or not? Everybody remember your sweethearts in February! We also have football that I am excited about. The Superbowl is coming up. Are you one that gets together with a lot of people to watch it? Go Bison and Go Vikings! The Christmas Choir, Merry and Bright is as busy as ever. We had to cancel a few concerts because of the weather and illness. We have had to

reschedule them. I am very much enjoying singing with the choir. As I am writing this letter today we have a concert at the Legacy Place.

We also have Basketball and Snowshoeing starting up for my friends.

I personally think we have had about enough snow for the year. I hope the next snow storms miss us. I just keep thinking - It's getting closer and closer to Spring!!

Until next time.KATIE

A BIG



Audrey Banks, Megan Bauer
Tim Cluchie Jr., Nicholas Ericksen-Hughes
Miranda Justesen and
Giles Yazzie

SUPER BOWL LVII
February 12, 2023

Is there still a chance your team could go to the Super Bowl? Either way, get ready to watch some Football action on Sunday, February 12, 2023. Rihanna is scheduled to take Center Stage for the Halftime Show. The game is being played in Glendale Arizona. Make sure to get your yummy snacks to eat throughout the day!

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY:

1 - New Years Day
2 - *Center Closed* in Observance of New Years Day
16 - Martin Luther King Day - *Center Closed*

FEBRUARY:

2 - Groundhog Day
14 - Valentine's Day
20 - President's Day - *Center Closed*

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

Happy
New Year
2023



CONGRATULATIONS

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

*Full Time: Aaron Cluchie
Part Time: Hadley Mathias*



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.