



ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

January - February 2024

2023

2023 is officially ‘in the books.’ Whether your goodbye to 2023 was a ‘good riddance’, ‘so sad to see you go’, or ‘what a great year—can’t wait to see what’s next’, we inevitably have the opportunity to embrace a new year and all that is to come.

In my first six months as Executive Director at the Open Door Center, we’ve had three Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) state surveys, a three-year inspection of the Prairie Inn (HUD), and a three-year Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) state survey. Within the first three months of 2024, we will have our final ICF state survey and round it out with our 4-year accreditation visit from the national accrediting institution, CQL. In a nutshell, if it only occurs every three to four years, it’s due!

In addition to accreditation and our final state survey, 2024 also brings opportunity to implement some changes that have been in the works: use of email communication to keep all staff informed of necessary information, implementation of a full-time employee salary schedule, and expanding online documentation for progress notes (to replace hand-written notes). Additionally, we will be exploring online/app scheduling and varied delivery options for required trainings in the upcoming year. Writing these items down not only gives me an opportunity to share the information, but also provides me a checklist for accountability. I look forward to June 2024 when I can read the list and say, “Yes, we did that!” or “We are making progress towards this!”

As I begin preparation for our CQL accreditation and additional challenges of 2024, I am reminded that it is amidst challenge when most growth occurs. We do not grow personally or professionally when things are easy; we grow when we are challenged. Here’s to a great 2024---may you have a wonderful year full of relaxation AND growth!

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



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?





SPECIAL OLYMPICS BOWLING
 This group of Special Olympic Athletes participated in the State Bowling Games that were held in Fargo. Lori also participated and sent this picture of her after a great throw in her game!!
CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETES.



*Donations to HI Soaring
 Eagle Ranch:
 Cynthia Bruce*

*In Honor of Codee Berube:
 Good Shepherd WELCA*

*In Memory of Scott Rusten:
 Bonnie & Michael Johnson*

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

The Next Chapter Book Club ladies, Marah, Jenna and Tasha decorated cookies at their meeting in December that was held at the Valley City/Barnes County Public Library. They said it was a fun way to celebrate the season ~ and the cookies were delicious too!!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Alex Lanenga
Faith Hanson
Madison Kiefert
Cullen Engstrom
Kaylie Nguyen
Madison Kemnitz
Mel Lindgren
Bev Howe
Kari Shape
Amber Webb
Margaret Bosco
Ciara Berg
Karissa Yturralde
Russell Marker
Maggie Oakland
Russell Willard
Dustin Nguyen



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

36 Years
Cindy Schopper-WAC Supervisor

29 Years
Michelle Grebel-ISLA

24 Years
Jessica Peterson-ISLA

20 Years
Randy Reiser-Prairie Inn

19 Years
Eric Hoffert-YAP

17 Years
Sherri Horsager-Human Resources

11 Years
Mychal Vaughan-Lisbon

9 Years
Billie Jo Toso-Lisbon

8 Years
Samantha Storhoff-Nursing

6 Years
Layne Nannenga-Prairie Inn
Jo Snyder-Ranch

5 Years
Brenda Bjork-ISLA

4 Years
Jessica Feist-Lisbon

3 Years
Heather Muscha-ISLA Program Director
Hadley Mathias-GH 4

2 Year
Theresa Miller-GH 2 & WAC

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tracey Zaun
Dan Pullen
Veronica Miller
Kathy Volk
Bonnie Kramer
Carol McIlvaine
Willy Korinta
Elizabeth Watts
Codee Berube
Larry Duffy
Jocelyn Dumlao
Todd Clark
Linda Johnson
Madison Bjone
John Haas
Theresa Miller
Dinah Heinze
Lee Hoff
Josh Plecity



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

41 Years
Diane Wagner-ISLA
Pennie Walch-ISLA

39 Years
Janna Bitz-GH 3

25 Years
Dana Leick-Maintenance

24 Years
York Grebel-ISLA

23 Years
Cory Duven-GH 2

20 Years
Jacki Colville

19 Years
Sharissa Hochstetler-ISLA

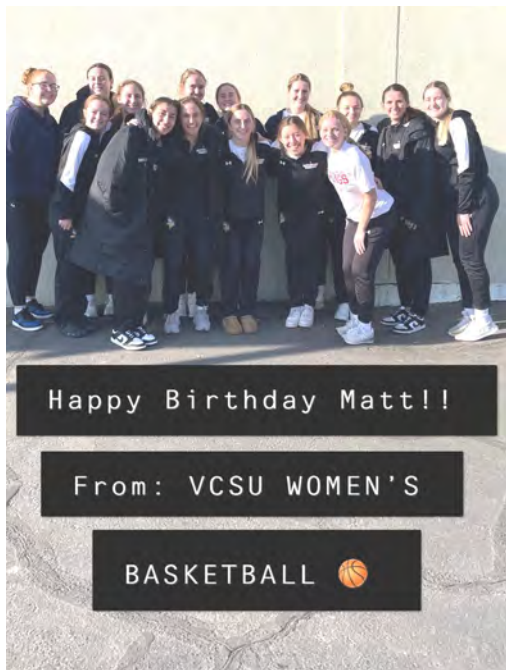
5 Years
Kristin Petersen-GH 3

4 Years
Tara Anderson-WAC Supervisor

3 Years
Kris Kopp-Prairie Inn

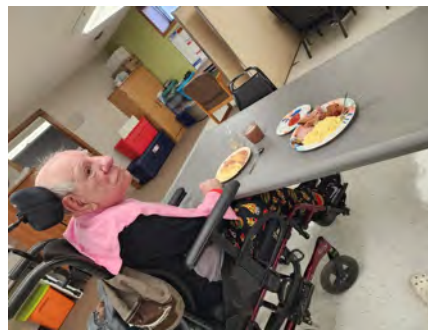
2 Years
Robin Huffstutler-GH 3 & WAC

1 Year
Brandon Moen-GH 2
Robert Lewis-GH 1

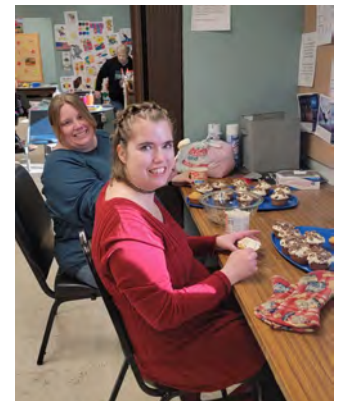


The VCSU Women's Basketball Team had a BIG Shoutout for Matt Thorson's Birthday.
Happy Birthday Matt!

Adam celebrated another trip around the sun and brought cake to share with everyone in his group.
Happy Birthday Adam!



DAC HOLIDAY PARTY
DAC held a Holiday Party before everyone went home for Christmas. They had a full meal of Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, appetizers and some delicious looking deserts! Everyone enjoyed the great food and the great company!



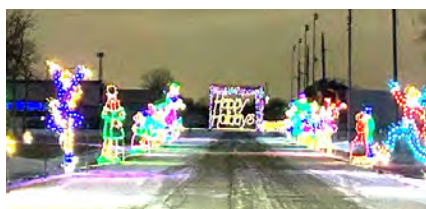
AFTERNOON OF BAKING
Carol, Scyra and Sarah spend an afternoon baking and decorating some cupcakes for the holiday festivities being held at WAC.
The ladies did a great job!!
THANK YOU!

MERRY & BRIGHT STARS CHOIR



The Merry & Bright Stars Choir, under the direction of Nancy Knutson, along with the accompaniment from the Misfit Toys once again were able to get back into practice and perform out in the public again! Everyone was SOOOOO excited to get back into the Choir! This year they had NEW outfits to wear. They all had so much fun with that. There were more soloists this year with a vocal solo from Nicholas Levers and a trumpet solo from Nick LeMier. Faith Hanson took her turn at directing some of the songs! Another great addition was the Bell Choir. They were AWESOME! They performed many places and when they performed in Fargo, they got a visit from their friend Amanda and also Colleen's sister. It was great to see Amanda again! She is missed, but enjoying living in Fargo.

WELCOME BACK MERRY & BRIGHT STARS! WE MISSED YOU!!



HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

Lori and Veronica headed to the West Fargo Fairgrounds to witness the beautiful light show powered by Cass County Electric Coop. This event was held this year from Thanksgiving thru New Years Eve!

They enjoyed the 1.5 mile drive through all the dazzling light displays!

ICE STORM 2023

As everyone knows, the eastern part of North Dakota was hit with rain, snow, wind and ice right after Christmas. Valley City was hit especially bad and we had an inch of ice all over town, on all the trees, power lines, cable lines, cars, sidewalks, roofs, etc. It was a mess all over town. Here are a few pictures of the trees /branches that fell on some of our property. The pictures don't even do justice to the damage around town. When the sun came out and shined on all the ice filled trees, it was eerily beautiful to see the shining ice weighing heavy on all the branches.



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING VOLUNTEERS
DAC and WAC both volunteered for many of the shifts at Leever's to ring the Bell for the Salvation Army. The weather really cooperated this year so we were able to get a lot of volunteers out to Ring the Bell! Fun was had by all!!



GOING AWAY PARTY
Lynn will be moving out of the Open Door Center so everyone at WAC had a going away party for her. Lynn will be very missed, but imagine she will get a lot of visitors at her new home.

Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I can't wait to see what 2024 has in store for all of us. I already know what's in store for me. I will soon be driving around in a new colorful power chair. It has been many months without my wheels.

I'm so excited!

We have not had much snow, but that ice storm was something else. Hopefully we continue not getting too much snow and that this rain/ice was just a hiccup in the weather.

I hope you enjoyed your time with family and friends over Christmas like I did. Don't forget Giving Hearts Day is February 8th. If you have the means and are feeling generous there are many great organizations, including Open Door Center that you can donate to. Valentine's Day is February 14th which will be here before we know it so if you don't already, it's never too late to find a Valentine!

Until next time.KATIE

A BIG



Margaret Bosco, Shane Buerkle, Debra Cooper
Lonnie English, Emma Fiedler, Adrian Grafing
Madison Kiefert, Silvon Lee, Traci Lee
Joanne Nguyen, Grace Pilkawo, Chloe Wieser
Talan Williams, and Karissa Yturalde



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

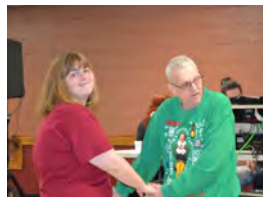
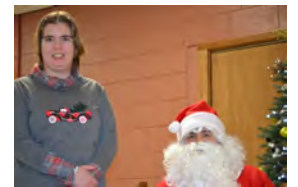
The Open Door Center now has a public Facebook page so please come take a look at all the activities we have been doing.



2023 ARC CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 2023 ARC Christmas Party was once again held in early December at the Eagles Club. Everyone was very excited to be able to go to the Holiday Party again. It had been a few years since they were able to attend. Everyone enjoyed all the dancing, food, popcorn, visiting and of course the yearly visit from Santa and his Elf! Merry and Bright Choir also performed during the party! Thank you to the ARC for hosting this party. We all very much appreciate it!!





THANK YOU ARC!



Giving Hearts Day

**OPEN DOOR CENTER will be participating
in GHD on February 08, 2024**

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 **2/08/2024** 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**

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

1 - New Year's Day - Center Closed
15 - Martin Luther King Day - Center Closed

FEBRUARY

2 - Groundhogs Day
14 - Valentines Day
19 - President's Day - Center Closed

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



SUPER BOWL LVIII

Even though the teams have not yet been determined, the Super Bowl will be held on **Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 5:30 pm central time.** It will be played at the Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas Nevada. Halftime performer is Usher. You have plenty of time to get your snacks and get ready to settle in for a great day of entertainment, whether you like the football game or the commercials!
Enjoy the Day!!

CONGRATULATIONS



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

Full Time:

***Starlene Abbott, Megan Bauer
Mandi Justesen and Paulette St. Louis***

Part Time:

Lynn Gustafson and Kaylie Nguyen



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

Address Label Here

Celebrating 63 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.