



ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

July—August 2023

LUCKY ME

Hello everyone and thank you! Today, before my retirement, I want to take a moment to share with you all how much you've meant to me for the past four decades. When I was hired for this position, I wasn't sure what to expect and never thought it would be a predominate part of my life for forty-one years. I have worked for Open Door Center more than half my life. Lucky Me! You can't imagine the bonds formed over these years. I never could've imagined the wonderful people that have become a part of my life and how much I learned from all connected to Open Door Center.

We raised our two sons with the Open Door Center, and they helped entertain some of our guests who had no place to go on Christmas Eve. They, too, had the opportunity to learn from the residents who were a great addition to our Christmas - Lucky Them!

I began my career as the administrator of a fledgling agency that had made a commitment to serve people with disabilities due to a controversial lawsuit between the State of North Dakota and the Department of Justice. It wasn't always roses, but the people made everything better as they do every day.

The first weeks were involved in getting to know the seventeen staff and the twelve individuals served by Open Door Center. During the early months I wondered why I hadn't heeded the pressing conversation of the two plus hours of the initial interview with Perry Grotberg, Dr. Keith Devillers and Earl Pomeroy. However, Lucky Me that I was offered the position and agreed to work for the Center.

The first day was an eye-opener. One individual asked me to run away with him. The staff welcome wasn't as happy since they had preferred the other candidate. However, it wasn't too long before all involved with the Center began to work as a team.

It was obvious that the employees were striving to offer a variety of experiences for individuals and assist them in becoming part of the community. The enthusiasm of the individuals for their new experiences were the impetus for all of us to continue to strive for new and better methods to support individuals and begin to truly listen to them and their families. With a commitment of all, we are able to pass the surveys required by the State, just one of the many requirements.

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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

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/MR

Michelle Anderson, Staff Trainer

ISLA

Heather Muscha
Ben Simonson

Program Directors

Matt Jensen, Children's Program
Tiffannie Justesen, ISLA & MSLA
Maggie Oakland, Prairie Inn
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

Every day brings a new awaking regarding the insight and ability of those with Open Door Center. I continue to be awed and surprised by their abilities. I am thankful for the involvement of family, staff and friends. I have always been overwhelmed by the support of the Open Door Center Board of Directors. Many will Zoom when out of town or like President, Bill Cook, gives time while wintering in Arizona. Their interest, dedication and insight is verified by the many programs offered.

To everyone, thank you and Lucky Me to have been an integral part of Open Door Center.

*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*

MEMORIALS:

*In Memory Of "Swampy"
Robert Maresh
Elaine Walls
Joann Unruh
Ken & Linda Astrup
Kelly Holaday
Ray & Vicki Peterson
Carolyn Koch
Gary Krapu & Madeline Luke*

*In Memory of Mari Kay Wieser
Elaine Walls*

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



*Happy
Retirement*

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Roslyn Johnson
- 3 - Victoria Omdahl
- 5 - Robert Lewis
- 11 - Megan Banderet
- 11 - Sharissa Hochstetler
- 13 - Ben Simonson
- 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 - Sarah Howe
- 24 - Caylyn Makoff
- 24 - Melissa Meyer
- 25 - Kevin Esch
- 25 - Diane Flynn
- 26 - Rachelle Lindeman
- 26 - Miranda Justesen
- 28 - Stephanie Hornbacher
- 28 - Jon Diede
- 28 - Jesse Schuldt
- 30 - Kaitlin Anderson
- 30 - Lynette Gustafson



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

36 Years
James Kramer-ICF

35 Years
Kay Metcalf-Thunderbird/Dakota Seasonings

30 Years
Teri Ronning-WAC

24 Years
Kellie Schulz-YAP
Justin Horsager-MSLA

20 Years
Richard Roorda-ISLA

17 Years
Steve Myers-Ranch

16 Years
Michelle Weber-YAP

12 Years
Rachelle Lindeman-ISLA

10 Years
Sandra Ley-DAC & ICF

8 Years
Scyra Agard-YAP
Carmen Phelps-DAC & ICF

7 Years
Mason Nicholson-Lisbon
Dale Wangrud-ISLA

5 Years
Starlene Abbott-ISLA
Jocelyn Dumlao-ICF

3 Years
Tina Nilsen-WAC
Taylene Mendiola-Prairie Inn

2 Years
Jenna Roe-WAC
Kaelan Dick-Lisbon

1 Year
Sandra Tiede-Lisbon, Nicole Wright-YAP
Daniel Carvalho-Eagles Nest Bookstore

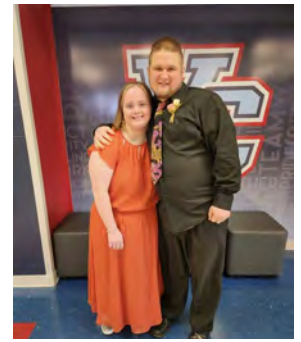
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1-Jeremy Williams
6-Kelly Klein
6-Adam Liesener
10-Michelle Weber
12-Taylene Mendiola
13-Barb Anderson
13-Carmen Phelps
13-Jade Vaudrin
14-Leonard Krokum
15-Jenna Roe
15-Jessica Peterson
16-Randy Prescott
16-Katie Sand
21-Marshall Pederson
21-Ashley Oberlander
22-Heather Muscha
23-Patsy Hanson
26-Bonnie Olson
27-Cassie Colwell
29-Kay Metcalf
31-Dana Leick
31-Brandi Anderson-Johnson



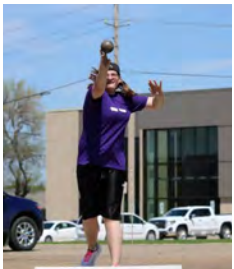
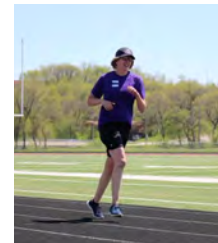
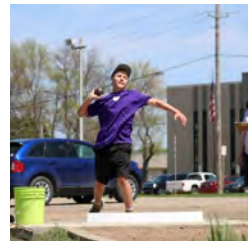
AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

35 Years
Jody Smedshammer-Prairie Inn
34 Years
Kathy McGough-Admin
33 Years
Mike Venhuizen-ISLA
30 Years
Jodee Ukestad-Nursing
28 Years
Jon Diede-ICF
27 Years
Becky Borud-WAC
25 Years
Stephanie Hornbacher-ICF
23 Years
Dennis Myers-Prairie Inn
22 Years
Stephanie Sauter-ICF
19 Years
Erin Halland-ISLA, Russell Conway-Prairie Inn
17 Years
Roslyn Johnson-DAC & ICF
16 Years
Thea Jensen-YAP & WAC
15 Years
Kelly Braton-WAC, Demi Peltier-ICF
14 Years
Jason Blasczyk-Lisbon
13 Years
Julie Opdahl-WAC & MSLA
11 Years
Marie DeLorme-ICF, Natasha Esch-YAP
9 Years
Dinah Heinze-ISLA, Matt Thorson-ISLA
5 Years
Tammy Devitt-ICF
4 Years
Brenda Degenstein-ICF, Nancy Bjerke-Thunderbird
Nick LeMier-ICF
3 Years
Tiffany Johnson-MSLA, Colin Zawaira-ISLA
Melissa Meyer-ISLA
2 Years
Laura Peterson-YAP, Mitchell Bessette-DAC & ICF
1 Year
Zachary Baumgartner-MSLA
Diane Flynn-ICF



SPRING FORMAL AT THE HAC

Shine Bright Under the Lights of Prom was held on Sunday April 30th. Included was the Grand March, DJ/Dancing and a Photo Booth. Everyone has a great time getting all dressed up for an afternoon of fun!!



SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPRING GAMES

The Spring Games for Special Olympics were held at the College Track and Field. Jennifer and Roxanne led in the teams to a big crowd in the stands. They participated in a Shotput event and some running/walking events. They also had a great bunch of volunteers to assist throughout the day. Everyone loved participating and receiving their ribbons, whether they were red, white or blue!!



You're Invited to the OPEN DOOR CENTER PICNIC

Date: Monday, August 21, 2023

Time: 6:00 - (See Schedule Below)

Place: Dacotah Pavillion at Chautauqua Park

PLEASE RSVP BY AUGUST 7th

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 and everything is provided.

Please RSVP by August 7th. We DO need a head count to assure that we have plenty of food for everyone.

Please call 701-845-1124

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !!!

5:00 - Group Homes 2 & 4

5:15 - Group Homes 3 & 5

5:30 - Ranch

5:45 - Group Home 1

6:00 - EVERYONE ELSE



Flight #1 Winners:
Jan Beauchman, Zac
Johnson, Dick Gulmon
and Ben Jacobson

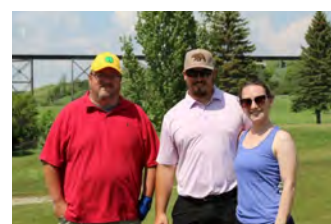


June 2nd Valley City Special
Olympics held their 34th
annual Golf Tournament.
It was a record year in that
they had 24 teams register
to participate with 95
golfers. It was also a very
hot and humid day.
Special Olympics would also
like to thank their many,
many sponsors they had this
year too!
Great time had by all!!

Flight #2 Winners:
Dru Benson, Ruth
Nathan, Bobbie Miller
& Dustin Miller



MORE GOLF
PICTURES ON
PAGE 8





Todd Clark planned a trip to Fargo on May 26th. Jess, Marie, Colleen and staff went to visit a former staff, Tracy. They met at Ruby Tuesdays to celebrate Amanda Hanlon's birthday and catch up. Everyone enjoyed good food, had many laughs and shared lots of memories. Time went by too quickly, but it was so nice to have everyone get out to enjoy the nice weather and company after a long winter. We hope to do it again!!



Lori celebrated her birthday by making some cupcakes to share with her group at WAC. Everyone got to enjoy the delicious taste of these pretty pink cupcakes. Thank Lori!



FARGO MARATHON

Anthony and Matt decided this was a great year to participate in the Fargo Marathon. May brought them both to the Fargo Dome to run the 5K Marathon. It was a first for Anthony but they both had a great time!!



Diane shared a HUGE birthday cake with her friends at WAC. She was very excited about that and also to wear her new outfit for her Birthday! Everyone also sang to her. She says it was a great day!!



SUMMER TIME FUN GRILLING RECIPE FROM THUNDERBIRD RANCH/DAKOTA SEASONINGS GOURMET COOKBOOK

Grilled Sriracha Blackened Turkey Breast

Ingredients:

- ♦ 1 Tbsp *Thunderbird Ranch Sriracha Blackened Rub* or to taste (use any TBird rub)
- ♦ 1 Tbsp Olive Oil
- ♦ Turkey Breast 6-9 lbs
- ♦ 12 oz can of beer

Directions:

- ♦ Mix oil and rub together.
- ♦ Line a 9x13 inch baking pan with tinfoil. Place a rack inside the pan to raise turkey off the bottom of the pan.
- ♦ Place turkey in the pan, lift the skin away from the turkey breast and rub the mixture. Also rub the outside of the turkey skin with mixture.
- ♦ Pour beer in the bottom of the pan (NOT OVER THE TOP OF BREAST).
- ♦ Tent with tinfoil.
- ♦ Grill at 300 degrees until internal temp reaches 175 degrees (approximately 2-3 hours depending on size of breast).

♦ ENJOY - Meat will be moist and flavorful



Betty Jane Hansen, age 62 passed away on July 13, 2023. She graduated in 1981 and lived in several apartments and Group Homes within the Open Door Center. She was very active in Special Olympics and had the opportunity to participate nationally and internationally, including the World Games. She was also named the ND Female Athlete of the Year for Special Olympics in 1995. Betty had many different jobs in the community and was know to be a very hard worker. She was also a jokester and was very outgoing. She made a lot of great friends during her time at the ODC and we will all miss Betty very much!



Farewell to Brittney

The ODC had a farewell party for Brittney as she got her college degree and took another job. Some of the last guests wanted their picture taken with her. Shane worked with Brittney for a long time and Faith was excited for the photo opportunity! Good Luck Brittney!

Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

Hello Everyone!

*A couple weeks ago was Father's Day. I wished
my dad a heavenly Father's Day.*

*We sadly said good-bye to our friend Betty.
She could be really fun at times!*

*This past weekend we went to Fargo to go to
the Zoo but it was raining so we got to visit the
Air Plane Museum instead. We went shopping
and I got to buy a new headband and everyone
complimented me. We have been busy*

*practicing our songs in choir. We get to perform at Mary's
retirement. Mary helped make so many things possible for us,
like work. We will all miss her, and though we are sad to see her
go, we are happy for her new adventure. We are also excited to
welcome our new friend, Tracey Zaun.*

Until next time.KATIE

A BIG



Shelby Berg, Medora Brandner
Mia Fountain, Kennedy Gjovik
Faith King, Darby Koller
Maggie Oakland, Mya Olsen
Scarlett Raschke & Markie Toso



COMING EVENTS

JULY:

- 4 - Independence Day - Center Closed**
- 5 - Music in the Park - Micaiah Studio of Ballet-7:15pm**
- 8 - Summer Fun Run 5K - Wellness Center - 8:30 am**
- 12 - Music in the Park—Oakland Grove - 7:15 pm**
- 13 - Summer Nights on Central - 4:30-9pm**
- 19 - Music in the Park - Myron Sommerfeld & His Music**
- 20 - Summer Nights on Central - 4:30-9p**
- 26 - Crazy Daze - Downtown VC - 9:00am—6:00pm**
- 27 - Safety in the Park - Chautauqua Park - 4:30-7:00pm**

AUGUST:

- 21 - ODC Picnic - Dacotah Pavillion in Chautauqua Park**

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



CONGRATULATIONS

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

Full Time:

***Stephanie Schafer, Diane Flynn
David Brown***

Part Time:

Madison Maley, Sandra Tiede



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.