



ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

May—June 2024

Dignity of Risk

Community Providers, such as Open Door Center, provide services to individuals with disabilities to foster their independence and growth. Supporting independence does not mean, however, protecting from all consequences, making all decisions or controlling the individual. We are posed with protecting health and safety while being mindful of *dignity of risk*. Have you heard of ‘dignity of risk?’ What exactly is it?

Every day humans make choices that pose potential risks. Shop online and you’re at risk of compromising your credit card. Jog outside and you’re at risk of getting caught in the rain or tripping and spraining your ankle. Date or fall in love and you’re at risk of getting your heart broken. Skip work and you’re at risk of losing your job. Eat lots of junk food and you’re at risk of weight gain/poor health. Smoke/vape and you’re susceptible to health risks. All choices—positive or negative—come with some sort of risk.

Dignity of risk is the *right of every person*, including those with a disability, to make informed choices and take reasonable risks to learn, grow, and have a better quality of life. Dignity of risk means being able to make a choice even if it could have negative consequences for you. Experiencing negative consequences helps all of us to learn. It is natural to want to protect someone that we care about, but overprotection can be quite dangerous.

"Overprotection may appear on the surface to be kind, but it can be really evil. An oversupply can smother people emotionally, squeeze the life out of their hopes and expectations, and strip them of their dignity.

Overprotection can keep people from becoming all they could become. Many of our best achievements came the hard way: We took risks, fell flat, suffered, picked ourselves up, and tried again"

-Author of Dignity of Risk, Robert Perske, 1972

We cannot (and should not) make decisions for the people we care about simply to protect them from all risk; overprotection limits growth and independence. Every person, including those with disabilities, needs to be afforded reasonable dignity of risk for quality of life.

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



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?



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

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

CQL STAKEHOLDER EVENT

The end of March, Open Door Center was visited by CQL and held the Stakeholders Event at the Eagles. Fantastic discussion and planning was completed by top-notch staff, individuals supported, Board members, family members and community partners. It also happened to be World Down Syndrome Day so a lot of the group rocked some crazy socks in honor of this day. **We also received our 4-year Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation**



Here is a poem one of the groups presented at the Stakeholders meeting:

Ode to Quality and Accountability

**Data is useful; documentation is fun. We strive to be accountable to everyone.
We save every iota in written books. When we want to assess progress, we take a
good hard look.**

**This guides our decisions as we forge ahead, updating goals with a clear, informed head.
When questions arise, our transparency is clear. If you have a complaint, we'll lend
a listening ear.**

All this we do to be data-driven in supporting individuals to find their best life worth living!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Kellie Schulz
Tiffany Johnson
Nick LeMier
Chris Merkes
Cassandra McBenge
Garrett Greenwood
Cindy Schopper
Theresa Rose
Jessica Stack
Lori Reimers
Cindy Zahn
Haylie Mullins
Jessica Feist
Layne Nannenga
Maureen Rueckert
Kandice Novak
Carly Daniels
Dennis Myers
Nicole Wieser
Lee Webster
Colin Zawaira

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

29 Years
Jennifer Kriewald-ISLA

21 Years
Staci King-YAP
Jess Stack-ISLA

20 Years
Colette Jenson-ISLA
Diana Gehlhoff-Prairie Inn

16 Years
Adam Maresh-ISLA

11 Years
Tiffannie Justesen-MSLA/ISLA

10 Years
Brenda Olson-YAP

9 Years
Jesse Juelfs-Lisbon
Travis Donnelly-GH 5

5 Years
Ryan Mathias-Thunderbird
Cullen Engstrom-Prairie Inn

4 Years
Bonnie Kramer-Ranch

3 Years
Dana Cihak-GH 5, Cindy Zahn-ISLA
Jai Goulet-GH 4

1 Year
Kennedy Gjovik-Ranch
Mianna Fountain-GH 5
Nicholas Levers-Community
Adam Compson-Community

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

**Marie DeLorme
Micah Lint
Joanne Nguyen
Robin Borchert
Jocey Kriewald
Sherri Horsager
Karla Lyon
Zach Baumgartner
Alexis Wilson
Janna Bitz
Diane Wagner
Emma Fiedler
Brenda Liebenow
Jackie Grant
Ronnie Mulder
Aaron Cluchie
Pam Walsh
Dawn Larson Schock
Russell Conway
Sandra Tiede
Dan Johnson
Brenda Bjork
Missy Leroux
Kelly Braton
Kathy McGough**



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

**43 Years
Julie LeMier-GH 3**

**29 Years
Nicole Jones-YAP
27 Years
Deb Borg-Community**

**25 Years
Kelly Klein-ISLA**

**23 Years
Matt Jensen-PD GH 1
18 Years
Katie Sand-GH 4**

**17 Years
Lee Hoff-ISLA
16 Years
Brenda Liebenow-GH 5, Phillip Hill-GH 3**

**14 Years
Cliff Peterson-GH 3
12 Years
Marshall Pederson-ISLA**

**11 Years
Kandice Novak-ISLA
10 Years
Nancy Knutson-WAC & GH 3**

**9 Years
Alexis Wilson-RC GH 1
7 Years
Randy Prescott-GH 5
6 Years
John Haas-Ranch
5 Years
Sarah Howe-WAC/ISLA, Bev Howe-Bookstore
Liam Pierce-Lisbon, Carol McIlvaine-Ranch**

**3 Years
Jocey Kriewald-ISLA**

**2 Years
Russell Marker-GH 5, Sara Blaschke-Lisbon**

**1 Year
Felicia Langer-ISLA, Shelby Berg-ISLA
Faith King-GH 3, Markie Toso-PD Lisbon
Maggie Oakland-PD Prairie Inn
Matt Johnson-Community**

NORTH DAKOTA WINTERSHOW
 March is always a very busy time for everyone here at ODC. Everyone loves to participate in all the activities that are held as part of the NDWS. Starting the event was the Kickoff concert; Easton Corbin. Richard wanted to get up to the arena really early so he could get a front row spot to watch and listen!



Next was the Chili Cookoff. We held our own contest to see who made the best Chili. DAC and GH 2 worked together and were voted the ODC best Chili Makers so they made their Chili and brought up for the NDWS contest. They also decided to all dress up and brought up their Crazy Cantina Chili Booth. Everyone was dressed up like their favorite Star Wars character. ODC was voted Best Booth Design! Hats off to the Chili makers - Steph, Roz, Carmen, Adrian, Miranda and everyone else at DAC.

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE !!!

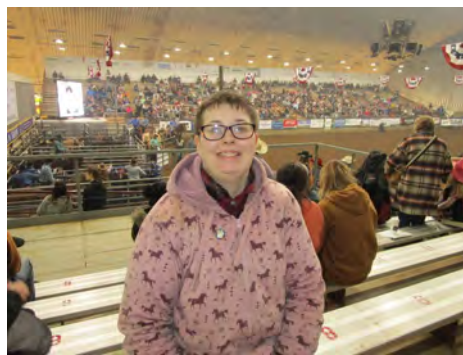


NDWS Ladies Luncheon at the Eagles

Several groups of ladies headed to the Eagles and enjoyed the entertainment, food, great company and Bingo. This has been an annual event that the ladies look forward to.



The ladies enjoyed the luncheon while the men enjoyed the NDWS Senior Dance that was held at the Eagles. Gary and Randy enjoyed the food, music and watching everyone in attendance at the dance.



Some random NDWS pictures. Bekah enjoyed the rodeo and all the free stuff the many booths had to offer.

Holly also enjoyed the Rodeo and also trying out some of vendors in the food court.

Pennie and Dinah enjoyed walking around and trying something new in the food court.

Hi-Liner Basketball Month

March was a very busy month for the Girls and Boys Basketball teams as they both made it to the State Tournament. Everyone at the Open Door Center wanted to help cheer them on so for each Tournament our individuals and Staff made over 1,000 bags of popcorn so ALL the students in the Valley City School system could have a bag of popcorn while they were able to watch the opening game on TV during school. That was WAY over 2,000 bags of popcorn! The popper was very busy, and got over-heated a couple times.

There were boxes and boxes of popcorn ALL over our Board Room.

Hopefully all the students around Valley City enjoyed the popcorn.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH THE GIRLS AND BOYS TEAMS FOR MAKING IT TO STATE!!



Aidyn, Anthony and Nick went to the Basketball Game to Support some of their classmates. Here is Aidyn with a few of the VCHS Boys Basketball Team. Congratulations on a great season!!

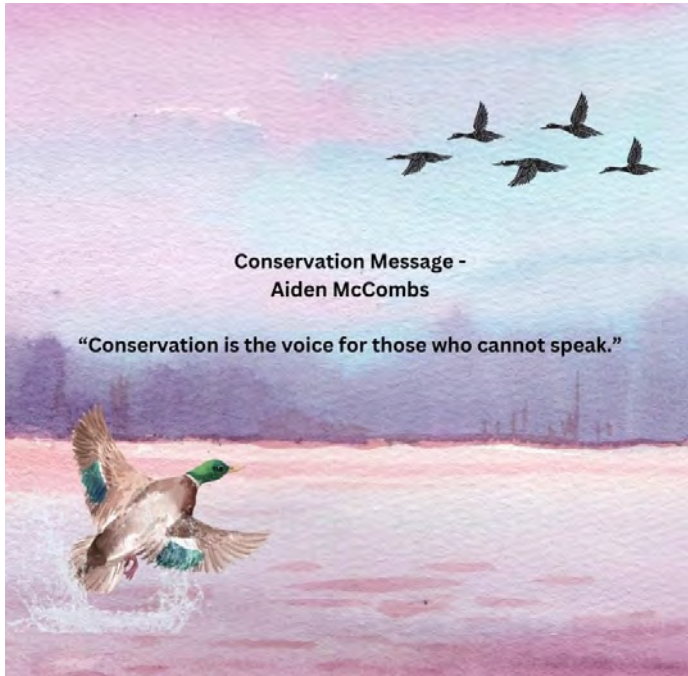
EASTER FESTIVITIES AT DAC

VCSU Preprofessional Club hosted an Easter Bingo & Trivia Event at Day Activity for everyone from DAC & WAC. They enjoyed popcorn and punch and gave candy prizes for the winners of the games! Everyone had a BLAST!!



They also spent some of the days dying Easter Eggs and making some cookies. Found time for some rest, relaxation and enjoying the sunshine by the windows as well.





CONGRATULATIONS

Valley City Public Schools announced that Aidyn won an award for his Winning Conservation message!

Great Job Aidyn

EAGLES NEST BOOKSTORE

Bev wants to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who is supporting the Eagles Nest Bookstore by redeeming your Christmas and Birthday Gift Certificates. We appreciate your support. Just want to remind everyone that you can only use one certificate per purchase (this includes Wheeler Dealer Certificates). We as staff, still receive our 10% off each purchase as well! Your certificates do not expire and they welcome you to stop by another time to redeem another certificate. They are always adding new merchandise to their inventory.

Thanks - BEV

DONATION

Here Tracey accepts a donation from Tommy Bergan on behalf of the Wiffleball World Series event his family hosts every year.
THANK YOU !!



GREETINGS!

Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

Well everyone, as I am writing this today, it is raining and the sun is trying to come out. I think it is finally SPRING! Looks like we will maybe get a Spring this year. I bet everyone has seen a Robin already?! My peers are already starting Track. We are also having a Prom soon.

Hope everyone had a great Easter! I did! I bet summer vacation plans are in the works for many. Can't wait to go to Rally in the Valley in June and go to the parade and all the activities and to be outside!

Hope you all have a great summer!

Until next time.KATIE

A BIG



Jasmine Boos, McCall Flatt
Brenda Gehlhoff, Lindsey Lines
Samantha Moderow, Samantha Samuelson
Taylyn Storbeck, Justin Varney
and Georgia Zaun



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.



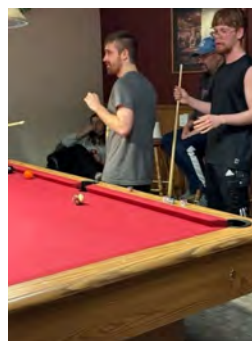
WAC discovered that the Maintenance man, Larry has a unique hobby! He restored this dinosaur head. It is a type of Raptor that is estimated to be 65 million years old. He brought it to share with everyone at WAC. Leonard enjoyed taking this photo with it!



Pennie went to visit Lynn and it appears that they had a lot to catch up on! I'm sure Pennie was telling her all about the new apartment that her and Diane will be moving into soon!



VCSU SO College
VCSU SO College hosted Game night and it was a BLAST! We played many different games which included, Ping Pong, Table Bowling, Pool, Foosball and a marble game. It is always a great time when we get together with this College Crew!



**35th Annual Valley City Special Olympics
& Dacotah Bank Golf Benefit**

**4 Person - 18 Hole Scramble
Friday, June 7th, 2024
Country Club Golf Course**

**Sponsor A Hole & 4 Person Golf—\$400
Sponsor A Hole & 2 Person Golf—\$225
Single Golfer—\$85**

**Check-in: 9:00—9:45 am
Shotgun Start: 10:00 am
Supper following the tournament**

Please register by May 25, 2024

**For more information contact:
Mary Tangen at 701-840-3376
Or Sheryl Solberg at 701-840-0902**

**Special Olympics Athlete Motto:
"Let me win, but if I can not win let me be
brave in the attempt."**



Valley City Chamber Awards



The Valley City Area Chamber held its Awards night in April and awarded the Business of the Year Award to our very own Thunderbird Ranch Gourmet Foods! The Chamber stated that Thunderbird operates as a support system for the Open Door Center. The production site and store were initially created to provide a way for clients of the ODC to develop their skills and grow their independence through gainful employment.

Here pictured is Randy, Kay, Ryan, Megan, Lynn, Robin and Tracey.

CONGRATULATIONS!



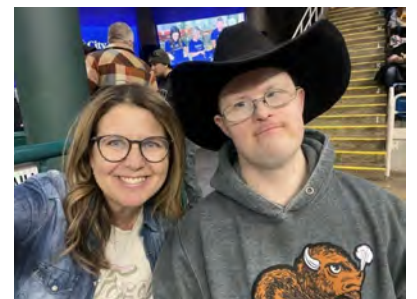
UND Hockey Fun

In March, Marie, Jenna and Collette headed up to Grand Forks to watch the UND Fighting Hawks take on the Miami Redhawks and win the game 7 to 1. It was a great night of Hockey!



Fargo Red River Rodeo

One of Richard's favorite things ever is going to Rodeos. He and Missy headed to Fargo for a Rodeo at the Dome. Looks like they had great seats!!



COMING EVENTS

MAY

12 - Mother's Day
18 & 19 - ND Special Olympics State Summer Games-Fargo
27 - Memorial Day

JUNE

14, 15, 16 - Valley City Community Days Weekend
16 - Father's Day
20 - First Day of Summer

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

*Donation in Honor of
Natasha Esch
Kim and Jason Esch*

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

PICNIC



CONGRATULATIONS

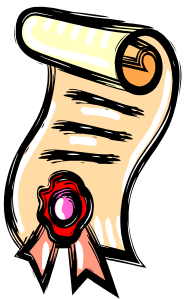
Direct Support Professionals
for completing their modules!

Full Time:

*Shane Buerkle , Kennedy Gjovik
Taylor Sherman, Cynthia Carmean*

Part Time:

Dustin Nguyen



ODC PICNIC SAVE THE DATE

Due to everyone's busy,
busy Summer/Start of
School schedules, our annual
picnic will be held this year
on Monday, September 23rd
at the Dacotah Pavillion.
More info to follow at a
later date.

SAVE THE DATE

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: _____

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.