

ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

September-October 2023

The Only Constant in Life is Change

Despite the above average temperatures outside, fall is approaching. Temperatures will cool, leaves will turn colors, football season approaches, schools resume...change is in the air.

The concept of 'change' has been on my mind as of late. The Greek Philosopher, Heraclitus, has been credited with the saying 'the only constant in life is change.' In my opinion, there really isn't a truer statement.

Sometimes change is sought. Sometimes change is feared. Depending on the circumstances, change can also be welcomed, exciting, unexpected, or devastating.

In the past two months, we have had our share of exciting <u>and</u> heartbreaking changes at the Open Door Center. We've celebrated Mary Simonson's retirement, welcomed new staff joining our team, and welcomed new individuals into supported living arrangements. Celebratory changes to say the least!

We've also had our share of devastating, unwelcome change. Mary Simonson's untimely passing rocked our world at the Open Door Center. Our individuals served and veteran staff not only had to adjust to the idea of her retirement but also to her permanent absence. 'Devastating' is an understatement.

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

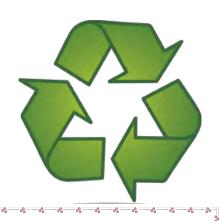
Board of Directors

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

Program Directors

Matt Jensen, Children's Program Maggie Oakland, Prairie Inn Cindy Schopper, Work Activity

ISLA

Heather Muscha Ben Simonson

Tiffannie Justesen, ISLA & MSLA 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?



I officially began as Executive Director of the Open Door Center on July 1, 2023. I left behind 22-years in the field of special education behind to embrace an exciting, unexpected, and challenging new career change. I have learned something new EVERY DAY since July 1 and am beyond grateful for the support and guidance from the ODC Board of Directors, families, individuals, and staff thus far.

Change is constant. Change is inevitable. Change...whether welcome or unwelcome...is always easier with great support.

Tracey Zaun, Executive Director

WELCOME TRACEY!

Open Door Center is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Donations to HI Soaring
Eagle Ranch:
Cynthia Bruce
Dakota State Aerie Fraternal
Order of Eagles

In Memory of Kent Tarno LaDona Tarno

In Memory of Jackie DeVillers
Jay Lorenz

In Memory of Walter Rindy Duane & Sherry Rindy

In Memory of Gisle Hilde Michael & Bonnie Johnson

In Honor of Mary Simonson Retirement Duane & Sherry Rindy Patricia Yoghourtjian

In Memory of Betty Hansen Betty Jane Hansen's Family

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Roxanne Dekrey

1-Laura Peterson

2-Mychal Vaughan

3-Felicia Langer

4-Paulette St. Louis

8-Grace Scherr

8-Marah Pickell

10-Jacki Colville

13-Misty Knight

14-Bekki Torkelson

14-Brenda Degenstein

20-Tara Janke

20-Daniel Carvalho

21-Melissa Huffstutler

23-Eric Hoffert

24-Shea Gresham

27-Miranda Erickson

28-Darby Koller

28-Nicole Jones

30-Deb Borg

30-Mason Nicholson



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

44 Years Robin Borchert-Production

36 Years Leonard Krokum-ISLA

32 <u>Years</u>
Helen <u>Sherlock-ISLA</u>
30 <u>Years</u>
Rachel Kilmon-W*AC*

29 <u>Years</u> Gary Prochnow-GH 4 24 <u>Years</u> Kari Shape-Ranch

<u>22 Years</u> Bekki Torkelson-W*AC/ISLA, C*hris Feigert-ISLA

> 21 <u>Years</u> Shane Kay-ISLA <u>17 Years</u> Annette Reece-WAC & GH 3

15 Years
Tara Janke-Prairie Inn
11 Years
Nancy Tougas-Administrative Assistant

9 Years Nicole Wieser-WAC/GH 3 8 Years Colleen Hehr-GH 3

7 <u>Years</u> Victoria Omdahl-DAC & GH 5 Sherry Anderson-WAC & ISLA

6 Years
Jeremy Heinze-Lisbon
5 Years
Dawn Larson Schock-Lisbon,
Lindsey Jacobson-GH 4/WAC
Kassandra Wenzel-GH 4/WAC

4 <u>Years</u>
Shea Gresham-GH 5
Jade Vaudrin-GH 2 & WAC
2 <u>Years</u>
Aubrie Hanson-GH 4 & DAC, Zach Peter-WAC

1 <u>Year</u>
Shelly Anderson-Staff Trainer & GH 5 Program Director
Kaylie Nguyen-ISLA, Paulette St Louis-GH 4
Lynette Gustafson-Ranch





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

7-Medora Brandner 8-Zachary Peter 8-Billie Jo Toso 8-Kassandra Wenzel 9-Faith King 10-Liam Pierce 10-Carolyn Zaun 12-Sara Blaschke 15-Cliff Peterson 15-Garrett Hoff 17-Aidyn McCombs 22-Sheryl Solberg 23-Randy Eggermont 23-Kristin Petersen 23-Erica Kaberline 24-Pennie Walch 24-Bekah Cook 24-Tara Anderson 25-Sarah Hanson 26-Chris Feigert 27-Matthew Johnson 28-Annette Reece 28-Kim Esch 29-Jake Rindahl









40 Years
Louie Jungling-ISLA

39 Years Lee Webster-ISLA

36 Years
Dan Pullen-Ranch

<u>16 Years</u> Cassandra McBenge-Lisbon

13 Years
Garrett Hoff-IT
Cynthia McFadgen-GH 4

11 Years Theresa Rose-ISLA

8 Years Adam Liesener-GH 1

5 Years Raymond Nelson-Ranch

3 Years Brenda Dick-Lisbon

<u>2 Years</u> Jesse Schuldt-WAC & ISLA





MARY ELIZABETH SIMONSON

November 18, 1946 - August 3, 2023



Questions Answered: A Note to our Open Door Center Family By Nick Simonson

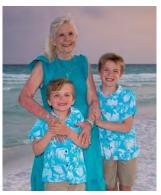
I was asked by an acquaintance: "did you know how well-liked your mother was?" Honestly, having just stood before her co-workers, like-minded community volunteers, and friends for the second time in five weeks to recap all that she meant to me, and to what I presumed similarly she represented to those outside our small family circle; it began to dawn on me how much bigger that bound was for her, and how many more people likely fell within it. As you may know, my mother, Mary Simonson, died unexpectedly on Aug. 3, 2023, after falling while out for a routine morning walk, something she loved to do before work, often in the early morning dark with her various dogs owned throughout her lifetime. Having tried to put the pieces of that event together with all the things that led up to and occurred after has been a challenge for our family, and I'm sure for many of you. As I referenced at her prayer service, we've asked way too many "what if" questions in an effort to make it make sense.

That, as I mentioned then, however, is the wrong question to be asking, simply because that is the question she answered for so many of us through her work, her volunteer efforts, and in her daily life. She figured out the solution to the troubling variables contained in those two words for the parents and guardians of clients, for state legislators, for community leaders and for others who wanted to make a difference in the lives of their families, friends, and neighbors. She met the uncertainty of fledgling programs such as the Open Door Center, which she joined in 1982, and the HI Soaring Eagle Ranch later on, with a confidence of Teddy Roosevelt, knowing that in any "what if" situation, the best thing you can do is the right thing (which she often had a knack for rooting out quickly and efficiently), the second best thing you can do is anything, and the worst thing you can do is nothing. She was never much for the latter.

.....continued on page 7











Her life was one of action, of personal contact, of working together with staff and decision-makers to provide the best possible experience for those with developmental disabilities in the schools and businesses of their communities and in their daily lives. She was always on the go, up well before dawn preparing for the day, exercising, getting us ready for school, and then out the door to the various "other duties as assigned" that she seemed to relish adding to her own job description; whether it was serving breakfast at the Prairie Inn, checking inventory at the Eagle's Nest bookstore, or the more traditional daily tasks and long-term planning that come with an Executive Director's role.

That is the legacy Mary Simonson leaves, and as a sense of meaning is revealed in time through the parting of a fog of doubt, sadness and frustration that comes with her death, among the answers to all our questions will be that guideline for you as her teammates at Open Door Center, HI Soaring Eagle Ranch and the various programs under them – <u>take action</u>! We don't know the bounds of our days, but likewise we don't know the limits of our potential to make this world a better place with our time allotted in it; whether it's for one person under our care, thousands in our communities, or millions in our world.

Thank you to all the clients, staff, and champions of the Open Door Center who have provided comfort and well-wishes to our family during this time, I will always look back fondly on the organization and what it and all of you have meant to us and to my mom. Not only was she loved by so many of you as you have conveyed in your condolences and memories of time with her, but I realize more and more how much she loved you all, in her daily thoughts, conversations and actions. Carry that love in *your* actions going forward, and we will never be without her.















MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE OPEN DOOR CENTER IN MEMORY OF MARY SIMONSON:

Jason, Kim & Tasha Esch, Chad & Tracey Zaun, Margie Lundell Margaret Zubke, Darren & Robín Miedema, Jasen & Kathy McGough Tíffany Kearns, Maggie Oakland, Jim, Josie & Randy Prescott Vern & Marilyn Hedland, Dacotah Bank, Gene & Nancy Bjerke Jeanne Schneider, Brenda Olson, Julie Kowitz, Ana Tobiasz Jordan Olness, Clare McCaughey, Kelley Ezell, Lowell Hilde Carrie Broers, Marvin & JoAnn Thorson, Andrea Sutheimer James & LouVay White, Jon Machayya, Lynne & Lynn Hilde David & Susan Carlsrud, William & Marion Magee, Fraser Ltd. Chase & Kristen Cooper, Valley City Rotary Club, Tim & Darlene Shea Don & Diana James, Aaron & Charlotte Belser, Lee & Kristine Hilde Susan Snyder, Madeline Luke, Elaine Walls, Leslee Smart Josh & Samantha Holm, Sue Hetland, Ryon & Vicki Jackson Brenda Ihry, Angela Dinius, Nick Simonson & Angela Sersha John & Bonnie Paulson, Adam Sersha, Michael & Susan Morrissey David & Alma Noles, Greg & Marcy Svenningsen, Bill, Barb & Bekah Cook Michael & Janice Haugen, Dennis & Helen Friestad Tristan & Amanda Christ, Darrin & Julie Anderson Mark & Jess Anne Knutson, Paul & Julia Barth, Frederick & Sheila Snarr Patricia Yoghourtian, John Hill, Eric & Jill Bergstedt Mark & Ruth Diede, James & Sharon Buhr, Liz Marthaler Doug & Patty Altringer, Harry & Carol Umsted, Nathan & Melissa Cook Bill Corwin, Morris & Louise Davidson, Rick & Audrey Bredeson Barb Bosanco, Gerard & Loretta Hegstad, Phillip & Darlene Mueller Angie Horsager, James & Helen Sherlock, Jon, Katie & Kris Kopp Renee Kennedy, Dennis & Sharon Anundson, Richard & Brenda O'Brien James & Linda Svobodny

> MEMORIALS GIVEN TO HI SOARING EAGLE RANCH IN MEMORY OF MARY SIMONSON Robert Olson and Karen & Dan Pullen

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN MEMORY OF MARY SIMONSON Violetta Saiyants

The Open Door Center and HI Soaring Eagle Ranch would like to sincerely THANK YOU for your donations.

Are You Ready-Are You Ready?

These were the opening words of a song written especially for the Special Olympics 2023 World Summer Games. Following that question were the words "for the greatest moments of your life"

Indeed! The team representing the United States was! The Games held in Berlin, Germany were from June 12-25th. The United States was a delegation 196 members strong. Of the 26 sports offered at the Games SOUSA competed in 16 of them. Those sports were-basketball (5 player and 3 on 3), bocce, bowling, golf, tennis, swimming, volleyball, soccer, track and field, powerlifting, gymnastics (artistic and rhythmic), sailing, kayaking and cycling.

North Dakota was represented admirably by Jennifer Bennett. Jennifer competed in track and field. She ran the 800m, 1500m and was a member of the 4x400m women's relay team. Jennifer came home with personal best times in all three of her races and with a silver medal in the 800 a 6th place finish in the 1500 and her relay team finished first but were disqualified for a lane infraction by one of her teammates. Well done Jennifer....well done!!!

The Games brought together 170 countries. The Opening Ceremonies were held in the historic Olympic Stadium. The one in which Jesse Owens won his Gold medals back in 1936. There on June 17th 20,000 spectators watch the parade of athletes. Chills and tears of joy were felt as the crowd spontaneously gave a standing ovation to the small but mighty team from Ukraine as they marched in!!!

The team from the United States did an outstanding job both on and off the fields of play. What an absolutely awesome once in a lifetime experience for all those who proudly wore the RED WHITE and BLUE......



















Celebrating 70
Carol Grotberg turned 70
this July and celebrated with
her peers at AVT and
brought a cake to share.
Happy Birthday Carol!

STOR YBOOK LAND ABERDEEN, SD

On a gorgeous Summer day Randy, Katie, Jeremy and Travis headed south to Storybook Land in SD. They loved seeing all the characters from their favorite books, people watching and going on a train ride!













VISITING FRIENDS
Julie and Missy went to
visit Linda S. for her Birthday
and also ran into Laurie E.
It was great visiting with
old friends!
Happy Birthday
Linda





COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT
The Community Band was part of the
Summer Music in the Park series that
was held on Wednesdays this summer.
Both Dan Johnson and his son,
Matthew Johnson participate in
this Band.
It was fun to watch them both.
GREAT JOB!

RED RIVER VALLEY FAIR

Early July brought Roxanne,
Holly, Matt and Marshall along
with their staff to the Red River
Valley Fair in Fargo. They were
brave enough to go flying
through the air, spinning round in
circles, bumping into other cars
(on purpose), take a ride through
a Haunted House along with a
casual ride on the horses. What
brave souls!

Looks like everyone had a BLAST!!

















DAC DAY TRIP

A day in Bismarck brought the DAC folks to the Bismarck Zoo and Disney Pixar movie "Elemental." I think the movie was a huge hit for everyone!!

WEEKEND VISIT TO THE CHAHINKAPA ZOO

On a beautiful weekend in August, Kelly, Bekah and staff headed down to Wahpeton to the Chahinkapa Zoo. Of course, Kelly had to get a picture with her favorite – "The Bison". (Horns up)! Bekah enjoyed watching the monkeys jump all around their home environment.

What a great day!!!





Corner



As I see it from
where I sit!
By Katie Sand

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Hello Everyone!

It is almost September. I hope all the kids are getting back into their school routines as they have been back to school for a few weeks. We like to think of September as the month of apples, as apple picking becomes a common weekend pastime. The seasons are changing and Fall is upon us. The days become cooler and shorter and the leaves are changing colors and falling off the trees. The gardens may be winding down. Harvest will be coming to an end soon, but there will be pumpkin

patches or arts and craft shows. A few days that stick out to me are Labor Day and Patriotic Day. Don't forget Halloween and to be safe all you Trick or Treaters!

Get out and enjoy the changing colors, the festivals and Fall activities.

Until next time. KATIE

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ABIG



Carly Daniels, Josh Ensz, Miranda Erickson Sarah Hanson, Brett Hejtmanek, Erica Kaberline Nicole Klefstad Johnson, Reis Kriewald Felicia Langer, Mackenna Sherman, Chelsey Tank Kathy Volk, Elizabeth Watts, Ava Wille And Tracey Zaun









PINK BOUND







PINK SUMMER CARNIVAL 2023

Cassie and Missy headed to the spectacular PINK concert held in Fargo. Pink is an International Pop Icon and put on a great show for all in attendance at the FargoDome.

NO FLOUR/NO FOOLIN' GLUTEN FREE RECIPE FROM THUNDERBIRD RANCH/DAKOTA SEASONINGS GOURMET COOKBOOK

Caramel Apple Cowboy Cookies - Gluten Free

Ingredients:

- 1 box Thunderbird Ranch Gourmet Foods No Flour/No Foolin' Cowboy Cookie Mix
- 8 oz Butter grated
- 2 Eggs
- 2 Tbsp. Whole Milk
- 1 1/2 tsp Vanilla Extract
- 12 oz. Kraft Caramel Bits
- 2 Cups Tart Apple Shredded

Directions:

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- 2. Mix butter, eggs, milk and vanilla together in a mixing bowl. Slowly incorporate the Cowboy Cookie Mix until thoroughly combined.
- 3. Fold in the Kraft Caramel Bits and shredded apple until well combined.
- 4. Shape dough into golf ball size and place on parchment lined baking sheets, 6 cookies per sheet.
- 5. Bake for 12 minutes (rotate pan as needed) and cool on pan for two minutes and then remove to wire rack to cool completely.
- 6. Store in an airtight container or freeze.
- 7. ENJOY!

SUMMER MEDORA TRIPS

WEEKEND IN MEDORA

Natasha and Scyra spent a weekend out west in Medora. Scyra said her favorite part was the Musical and the Buffalo. Tasha loved exploring the town.























EXPLORING MEDORA

Holly and Faith enjoyed a weekend in Medora. Holly enjoyed the horses (of course) the most, along with the other animals she found around town and Faith enjoyed EVERYTHING about this trip. They ran into a former staff, Larissa and her husband and had fun catching up with her.



DONATED TO THE OPEN DOOR CENTER IN MEMORY OF "SWAMPY" ROBERT MARESH

Mary Simonson, Nathan & Melissa Cook, Mary Svenningsen, John Wagner Brenda & DM Cornell, James & Sharon Buhr Michael & Kathleen Schneider, Brian & Peggy Ward, John Froelich Ralph & JoAnn Hooper, Dennis & Helen Friestad, Gigi Goven Arlys Netland, Bernard & Edna Elsner, Sharon Clauson Dennis & Sharon Anundson, Jim & Bev McAllister Bonnie Franke, Dehlon & Lori Schrank

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

2023 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - October 8th - 14th



- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.





2023 ODC ANNUAL PICNIC

This year was a gorgeous night for the Annual Picnic at the Dacotah Pavilion in Chautauqua Park. It was a hazy evening, not too hot nor too cold. Everyone enjoyed Roast Beef sandwiches with choice of sauce or not, couple salad choices, pickles and everyone's favorite—WATERMELON!

Thank you to Lori Jury and crew for the fabulous food and service!

Everyone was excited to spend time with their family that came to eat with them. Hope to see everyone again next year!





































COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

4 - Labor Day - Center Closed

23 - Autumn Begins

OCTOBER

9 - Columbus Day

16 - National Boss's Day

31 - Halloween

NOVEMBER

5 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

11 - Veteran's Day

23 - Thanksgiving Day - CENTER CLOSED 24 - CENTER CLOSED

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







CONGRATULATIONS

Direct Support Professionals for completing their modules!

> Full Time: Jake Rindahl



OPEN DOOR CENTER

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

Address Label Here

Celebrating 63 Years

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WE'RE ON THE WEB! ODCVC.COM

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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.

TE

I would like my contri \$ 50	\$250	DON
\$100		
\$150	\$Other	
In memory of:		
In honor of:		
Other: May we publish your name Your thoughtful gift will be	e? Yes No	ad:
May we publish your name Your thoughtful gift will b	e?YesNo e acknowledged to the family indicat	ed:
May we publish your name	e?YesNo e acknowledged to the family indicat	ed:

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.