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## *We have a new look and format!!*

*Discovery Living is pleased to introduce a new Dispatch experience to ring in the new year. We're always on the look out for new ways to keep you more informed and connected with Discovery Living and the issues happening all around us that influence our members and the services they receive. To this end, we hope you find many of the enhancements we've made both interesting and useful. Most notably, for those of you who receive the newsletter online or via email, we encourage you to try out some of the more interactive elements: Touch or click on a picture to link to a partner's website or learn more about an article's subject. Touching or clicking blue words can put you in contact with a resource staff or an event's coordinator, or link you to more detailed information on a given topic. Touching an address links you to a map to help you find important places. In the future we hope to add even more to the experience - links to additional photos of an event or video - just keep clicking on whatever interests you most. We hope you enjoy the new Dispatch, and, from all of us here at Discovery Living, best wishes for a safe and happy new year!*

The Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Discovery Living, Inc., © 2013. If you are interested in receiving a copy of our newsletter by email or traditional post, please contact **Leon Bohn** at [leon.bohn@discoveryliving.org](mailto:leon.bohn@discoveryliving.org).

# THE Dispatch

A PUBLICATION OF DISCOVERY LIVING, INC. 

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## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish - Hiawatha, Iowa

As many of you know, the kind people at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish have had plenty on their plate the last few years. In 1989, the Archdiocese of Dubuque purchased ten acres in Hiawatha to establish a new Catholic parish to serve the needs of a growing population. Over the next 20 years, ongoing planning and construction resulted in the 2010 opening of a beautiful facility that houses a 1,150 seat church, has meeting and classroom space, a social hall, multi-purpose classrooms, nursery, Eucharistic Reservation Chapel, Reconciliation Chapel, kitchen, and youth ministry areas.

Despite the considerable time and energy spent on this worthwhile project, our friends at Saint Elizabeth's also found time to faithfully support the work we do at Discovery Living. As many of you know, Father Neil Manternach devoted his time and energy to the Discovery Living board of directors for over 10 years. Father Manternach recently moved to another Parish and St. Elizabeth's is now blessed to work with Father Mark Ressler. St. Elizabeth's has also supported our Capitol Campaign, and the Parish Social Justice Committee continues to support our efforts to this day.

We deeply appreciate the continued support from our friends at St. Elizabeth's. Their efforts have touched many lives in our local communities, as well as right here at Discovery Living.

"Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

(Hebrews 13:1-2)

# The Flavors of the Season

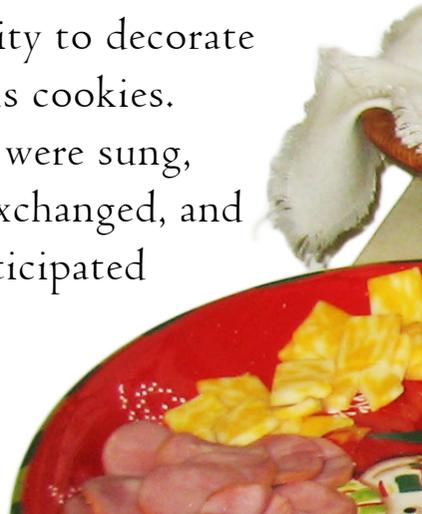


*Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols...*

*Whenever you see this icon, touch or click for additional pictures!*



On December 18th, dozens of the folks we support got together for a cookie-making party at the Discovery Living office. Members had the opportunity to decorate and sample various cookies. Christmas Carols were sung, many hugs were exchanged, and everyone who participated seemed to enjoy ringing in the holiday season!



# Gleefully Close...

Anyone attending the December 8th [SoundReach](#) concert knows that we have many talented members in our midst, here at Discovery Living. One of those stars is Bobby Close, who lives at Broderick Drive. Bobby has a quick smile, quicker wit, and wins the heart of everyone he meets. He loves to sing and has lent his voice to many SoundReach Concerts. This winter, Bobby wore a red top hat and scarf and wowed the audience with a rousing rendition of "Frosty the Snowman." He can't wait until the spring concert, where he will sing a song from "Glee." We all love and enjoy Bobby and hope he remembers us when he becomes famous!

Submitted by Mary Cay Payette, CLA



Missed Bobby's Performance?  
Touch/click the picture above for  
video!

# No Place Like Home for the Holidays...



On December 14th, Michelle Pettitt and Andrea Peterson held a house-warming party at their Miami Drive home. The ladies moved into this home a few months ago and seemed to really enjoy showing several dozen guests how they have made this home their own. Guests enjoyed delicious refreshments and were provided a tour of the home by Michelle and Andrea – proving there really is no place like home.



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## 2012 Discovery Living Employee Recognition Banquet

On December 14, 2012, Discovery Living celebrated our dedicated workforce at the annual Employee Recognition Banquet. The banquet was held at the Longbranch Convention Center in Cedar Rapids, and more than 80 employees attended the event, which included a catered meal and recognition of staff for years of service. Our workers are the lifeblood of the organization and we are proud to have recognized the following dedicated employees:

**25 years** - Carol Saddoris & Tim Swartz

**20 years** - Enri Ostrenga

**15 years** - Jetti Babcock, Vivian Covington & Stacie Klein

**10 years** - Deb Berg, Trish Dominguez, Randy Schultz & Patty Thoren

**5 years** - Laura Crow, Joanie Hedlund, Khalil Laghrifi, Judy Reese, Emily Sibley & Kellie Thoren

**3 years** - Lauri Becker, Laura Derby, Kelsi Gericke, Bob Hebl, Vicky LeClere, Nick O'Toole, Darcy Stensland, Lisa Thorpe, Lynette Vozenilek & Rod Wise



*"The greatest accomplishment began as a decision once made and often a difficult one." - Michael Rawls*

“ “ Less is More. ” ”

Cindy Palmer, who resides at our home on Copper Drive in Marion, recently decided that she needed to eat healthier and lose some weight. Over the past few months, Cindy has watched her diet and taken 45 minute walks on almost a daily basis. As a result of Cindy's hard work, she has lost well over 30 pounds! Cindy says that she likes feeling and looking better, and we are very proud of her for making such positive life changes.

Submitted by Julie Magorian, Associate Coordinator





# GO! HAWKS

**T**win Pine and Towne House guys Ryan Sharp, Chris Bradley, Steve Esker, Mike Reilly, and staff Rhonda Jackson and Raul Salazar (far left), joined together to cheer on the [Iowa Hawkeye Women](#) as they played the Iowa State Cyclones in basketball on December 6, 2012. The Hawkeyes prevailed in this contest, and a good time was had by all... except maybe Raul, as he is a die-hard Cyclones fan! Better luck next time, Raul (or not!) 😊

Submitted by Jen Uthoff, Coordinator

## *Did You Know...?*

*...There are many accomplished athletes who have disabilities?*

Here are just a few:

**[Tom Dempsey](#)** - How do you become a kicker if you don't have a foot? Ask Tom Dempsey. Not only did this famous athlete with a disability have a successful career, he set the record for the longest field goal in NFL history.

**[Glenn Cunningham](#)** - This track and field runner was caught in a school house fire at the age of eight and had all of his toes burnt off. Doctors feared he would never walk again but he became a long distance running legend. He won a silver medal in the 1500 meter race in the 1936 Olympics and set the mile world record in 1934, 800 meter world record in 1936 and indoor mile record in 1938.

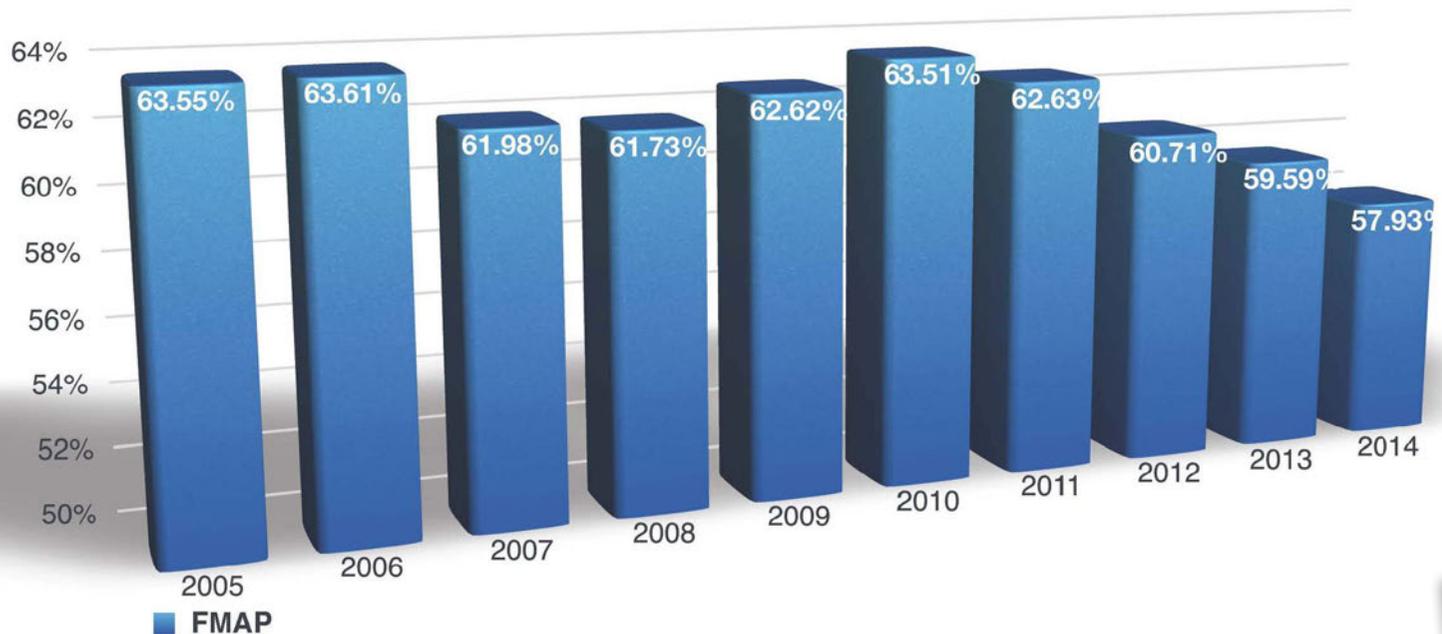
**[Natalie Du Toit](#)** - Natalie is a swimmer with only one leg. Despite this, she won four gold medals at the 2004 Olympics and qualified for the 2008 Olympics.

**[Rocky Bleier](#)** - After being drafted by the NFL, he enlisted to serve in Vietnam, came back with 40 percent of his foot missing, and rehabbed until he was able to return to the National Football League. He then contributed to the Steelers winning four Super Bowls.

**[Jim Abbot](#)** - was born missing his right hand. He won a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics on the US baseball team before starting his ten year professional pitching career.



As most of you know, Medicaid is the single largest source of funding for the services provided by Discovery Living. The chart below illustrates how the percentage of federal dollars used to fund services in Iowa has been decreasing in recent years, placing a greater burden on state resources. Given this, it's more important than ever for us to keep in touch with our state legislators to ensure they understand the importance of Iowa fully funding Medicaid services. For contact information, visit [USA.gov](http://USA.gov) and click on the "Contact Government" tab.



Iowa Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage - FFY2005-FFY2014

## *Making a Difference...*

### *Monetary Donations*

Any amount of support will enhance the lives of those we serve.

You can mail your gift to: Discovery Living, Inc.,  
1015 Old Marion Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

You can make electronic donations via PayPal by going to [www.discoveryliving.org](http://www.discoveryliving.org) and clicking on the [Donate Now](#) tab on the right side of the home page.

### *In-Kind Donations*

Please contact our office.

### *Planned Giving*

Remembering Discovery Living in your estate planning is another way you can help. For more information you may contact our office at (319) 378-7470



Discovery Living's  
*2013 Travel and Adventure  
Film Series*  
...is **TRAVELING** to a brand new location!

We are pleased to announce the return of our popular film and speaker series and will be presenting four new shows this fall. We are especially excited to be hosting the events at a more centralized and accessible location, the [Marriott Convention Center](#), in Northeast Cedar Rapids. We will be using one of their 200-seat presentation areas, the name of which we will release when we announce our show schedule this spring. Please watch for specific dates, ticket purchasing info, and more details in upcoming Dispatch newsletters. You can also call our office at (319) 378-7470 or check for updated show info at [www.discoveryliving.org](http://www.discoveryliving.org).



**Marriott Convention Center**  
1200 Collins Road NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

## CHRISTMAS IN PURGATORY

Discovery Living has obtained a few copies of the landmark book, [Christmas in Purgatory](#). This book, originally published in the 1960's, provides an eye - opening look into the then hidden world of institutional care for people with disabilities in the United States. Out of

print for over 30 years, [Christmas in Purgatory](#) features dozens of photographs and paints a chilling picture regarding how we as a nation cared for people with disabilities a mere 50 years ago. This book is credited with drawing attention to this crisis and helping spur the move to offer community-based settings, where people could receive individualized training. Bob Hebl has a limited number of copies of this book and the corresponding DVD that you may check out if you are interested in learning more.

