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Member News!

Welcome to the Dispatch!

In 2013, we made it our goal to offer up something above and beyond your typical newsletter. Something more interactive. Something more engaging. We wanted big, beautiful pictures of our members and employees doing what they do best. We wanted reflections and stories written by the people who were there. We wanted to bring the reader closer to experiencing the wonderful things we're lucky enough to experience first-hand, around here, every day. For those of you who receive the newsletter online or via email, go crazy - click and touch away. Many of the pictures and highlighted words are linked to additional information, for those of you who want to learn more about anything we've written here. We hope you enjoy the Dispatch. See you next quarter!

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



Whenever you see the "Play" arrow, touch or click for video!



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THE Dispatch

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Larry Sharp

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SUMMERTIME ADVENTURES



There are few thrill-seekers as dedicated to adventuring as our own Jim Van Cleve. That dedication was on full display this past June at [Sky Tours YMCA Union Park Camp](#) in Dubuque. Jim scheduled a two-hour tour of the park, including nine different flights over the beautiful wooded, historical park. He enjoyed the event a great deal, and stated that he would surely do it again. Check the links for additional pictures and video.



High-Flyer



[Discover the Dinosaurs](#) is a unique, hands-on exhibit that consists of over 40 moving and replica, museum-quality dinosaurs that gives you the opportunity to actually get close and touch the dinosaurs! Beyond the exhibit, additional fun activities were available for people of all ages, which made spending the day with the dinosaurs a great experience. The event was hosted at Hawkeye Downs on May 11th, 2014. -- Submitted by Jesse Goetz

Abbbbbb!!: Brandon Fourage (left), Chris Muters (right)



A number of our bravest explorers descended into deepest, darkest Altoona for a day of sun and swim and quality time cuddling baby kangaroos. [Adventureland](#) is a popular summer destination for this group who often leaves already looking forward to their next visit.



ADVENTURELAND

SPECIAL OLYMPIANS



On Saturday, March 15th, 2014, Discovery Living saw a number of members participate in the state finals of the [Iowa Special Olympics](#). Participants included Rennie Hahn, Gary Marconi and Kevin Baldwin, who all competed in basketball skills at the University of Iowa Field-house.

Athletes arrived from cities and towns throughout the state. They were divided into age groups and were evaluated on shooting, dribbling, and passing skills.

In the end, Kevin Baldwin earned a fourth place ribbon, Gary Marconi earned a silver medal, and Rennie Hahn took home gold.

Congratulations to our Discovery Living Special Olympians!

Submitted by Bill Kolf



"I think the Special Olympics and the Olympics are actually pretty similar. We all have dreams, and we all have goals. And you have to work hard to accomplish your dreams and goals." ~ Michael Phelps

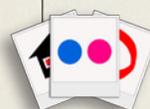


Discovery Living performers entertain the masses in an auditorium at the new public library downtown. The theme of the evening was "Fairy Tales - Our Way" and parodied many of the classics, including Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella.

Coordinated through the "Come Make a Play" program at [Theatre Cedar Rapids](#), this popular curriculum has attendees frequently returning for more!!



Now the Cinderella hands down the spell that wishes come true, and she led her kneeling "Cinderella" to her feet and her apron.



Norman asked if he could volunteer his time to go pick up trash. Aryn Driscoll happened to see a request on Facebook for volunteers to pick up trash in the Wellington Heights neighborhood, and helped Norman and Aaron get involved. The guys put on their work gloves and joined the Wellington Heights Association with a neighborhood clean-up project.



GOOD NEIGHBORS

DAYS OF CARING



We had a number of wonderful teams of volunteers working hard and sprucing up some of our homes for the United Way Days of Caring event. Miami Drive, Clark Road, Camelot, and Douglas Court each got some much-needed TLC, both indoors and out. Teams included a group of local business owners, calling themselves Breakfast of Champions, a group of employees from [Health Enterprises](#), and a group from [SecurityCoverage](#). The quality of work was outstanding and we are very grateful. Thanks so much to the dedicated teams and United Way for allowing us to participate. (More pictures of teams at the link!)

“Compassion is not religious business, it is human business, it is not luxury, it is essential for our own peace and mental stability, it is essential for human survival.” ~ Dalai Lama



Congratulations to Shelly Strait for 20 years of service at [Options](#). Remember when you were told you wouldn't walk, talk, feed yourself, or do anything at all? Well, guess you showed them didn't you?! You are one amazing woman and a hero to those who know and love you!

THRIVENT NIGHT

AWARD NIGHT

The Wesley men got out and enjoyed some ball at the [Thrivent](#)-sponsored [Kernel's](#) game against the Burlington Bees. Not too hot, not too cold. A perfect night for a game and refreshments. Go Kernels!!!





DONOR SPOTLIGHT KMRV Radio

The Discovery Living Travel and Adventure movie series (see details on page 6) has been entertaining area residents, while also generating donations to help support our work, for the past 18 years. During this time our movies have netted over \$115,000 in donations from sponsors and loyal movie patrons. Rick Sellers and his staff at KMRV 93.1 FM and 1450 AM have steadfastly supported this important fundraiser each and every year. In fact, the numerous free radio promotional ads provided by KMRV are one of the main reasons the movie series has remained financially viable, particularly as we are confronted with increased show production and hosting costs each year.

KMRV radio is locally owned and supports many local events and organizations. Every other Saturday this summer, KMRV will be on site at the Cedar Rapids Farmers Market. You can also look for Rick and the KMRV team as they broadcast live from Cedar Rapids Municipal Band concerts every Wednesday this summer. You can learn about the many contributions KMRV is making locally by going to www.kmrvradio.com.

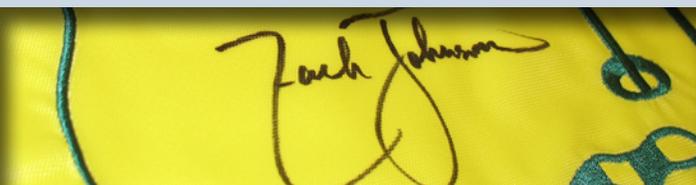
A big Discovery Living "Thank you!" goes to KMRV radio for their much appreciated, behind-the-scenes support of our organization and the many others in Eastern Iowa.



Pictured: Bob Hebl and Tracey Myers

UP FOR AUCTION!

The wonderful folks at the [Zach Johnson Foundation](#) donated a 16x13" 2007 Masters flag that Zach autographed (see picture). We will be accepting sealed bids for this great item until August 29th, 2014. The lucky winner will be supporting Discovery Living, as all of the proceeds to this auction will go directly to support the work we do. The winning bidder will also receive a Zach Johnson bobblehead.



Discovery Living would like to say thanks to the wonderful folks at the John Deere Classic, Discovery Living board member Terry Moran and each one of you who pledged your support to Discovery Living during the 2014 Birdies for Charity Campaign. For the last several years Terry Moran has worked with our friends at the John Deere Birdies for Charity Campaign to help them support our organization. As a result of their efforts, Discovery Living has received over \$5000 in donations from this event each of the last several years! The annual John Deere Classic was held July 7-13 at TPC Deere Run Course in Silvis, Illinois. We are thrilled that John Deere is again partnering with local non-profits, including Discovery Living, Inc. Thanks to everyone involved for helping make this event one of our most successful fundraisers.



A Discovery Living "Thank you!" goes out to Representative Art Staed and his wife, Susan. The Staeds recently invited Bob Hebl, Executive Director, to their home to discuss issues impacting folks with developmental disabilities. We appreciate your ongoing advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities.



2014 TRAVEL & ADVENTURE FILM SERIES

Sunday, September 21 – Lure & Lore of Deserts - [Sandy Mortimer](#)

Sunday, September 28 – Majestic Montana - [Steve Gonser](#)

Sunday, November 16 – Amazon - A Discovery Voyage Along the Great River Sea - [Marlin Darrah](#)

Sunday, December 7 – Pacific Coast - Top to Bottom - [Bob De Loss](#)

*All shows begin at 2:00 pm

Our shows will be held at the [Marriott Convention Center](#) at 1200 Collins Road NE in Cedar Rapids. The convention center is fully accessible, seats over 200, has plenty of parking, and is centrally located.

People interested in purchasing tickets may do so by calling our main office or can just stop by during regular business hours. Single and family season passes are \$24 and \$48, respectively. Single admission tickets on the day of the show are \$7.00. We will have snacks and beverages available for purchase during intermission. All proceeds from tickets and snack sales go to support the work we do here at Discovery Living.

You can find additional information at www.discoveryliving.org, or by calling our office at 319-378-7470.

We Need Your Help

Corporate and Individual Sponsors are the reason we are able to present these fine films. Our sponsors help Discovery Living cover some of the costs associated with the films. Corporate and individual sponsorship levels are \$300, \$500, \$750 & \$1000 and are tax deductible. Sponsors receive free show tickets, are recognized on our travel and adventure brochures, acknowledged in our newsletter and publically thanked during at least one live show.

If you are interested in learning more about sponsorships for the 2014 season - please contact Lynette Vozenilek, Susan Hollrah or Bob Hebl at (319) 378-7470. You can also access detailed information at: www.discoveryliving.org



PRIME TIME ////// for a Picnic

JAYNE BLOMME AND THE DOUGLAS GUYS ORGANIZED A PICNIC AND INVITED THEIR FRIENDS FROM 48TH, WESLEY, JOMAR, AND CAMELOT TO JOIN IN. EVERYONE ENJOYED SEEING AND VISITING WITH THEIR FRIENDS. SOME PLAYED HIDE AND SEEK, AND OTHERS PLAYED SOME YARD GAMES. ALL ENJOYED A WIDE VARIETY OF DELICIOUS PICNIC FOODS!

Sound Reach CHOIR

SEVERAL FRIENDS GOT TOGETHER TO SHARE SOME SENSATIONAL CHORAL MUSIC, THROUGH WEST MUSIC'S SOUNDREACH PROGRAM, THIS PAST MAY. THERE WERE COUNTRY GREATS AND TOE-TAPPING STANDARDS - A REAL TREAT FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE MEMBERS ALIKE!

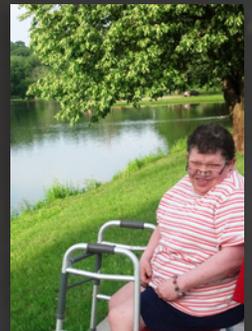


"COMPASSION WILL CURE MORE SINS THAN CONDEMNATION."
- HENRY WARD BEECHER

...worth 1,000 words



Lynette checks the mail, in her mail-checking best.



Mary Jo enjoys a quiet evening in the park.

Balancing Mission and Money

By Bob Hebl, Executive Director

One of the challenges in any industry is balancing operational and financial considerations. Discovery Living has built a reputation for providing service and support that goes above and beyond what is expected of us, because doing so is the right thing to do. We are blessed to have employees who genuinely love and care about the people we support, which are characteristics that cannot be taught.

I have frequently communicated with our employees, people served, families, our board of directors, and political leaders regarding the increasing financial pressures faced by Discovery Living, Inc., and other human services businesses. We have all heard recent stories about organizations like ours who have closed their doors - or are in the process of doing so - because of funding shortfalls.

Talking about money is not generally an exciting topic and is often one that people just do not want to hear about. In some circles you may be viewed as lacking compassion or not a people person if you spend any considerable amount of time and energy discussing business-related matters.

Each of the aforementioned concerns has merit but does not justify ignoring our obligation to manage our business. Here is a sobering statistic for you to consider:

Discovery Living, Inc. has received a total of 3% in annual Medicaid reimbursement rate increases over the past five



years. This equates to an average of 0.6% in annual rate increases over this time period. Needless to say, the cost of doing business has far outpaced the minimal rate increases we have received. Over 90% of Discovery Living's revenue comes from [Medicaid](#).



I share this statistic because Medicaid funded services, like those we offer here at Discovery Living, are under greater pressure than ever. As we strive to help more people and maintain a competitive wage and benefit package we are in a constant struggle to manage the rising cost of labor, insurance, food, gas, medical supplies, utilities, vehicles and numerous other expenses. We will do our best to remain true to our mission, while

also keeping you informed of the business realities we struggle with each and every day. Remember – if there is no money, there is no mission, and non-profit organizations like ours must manage our expenses just like any other business. If anyone has any questions or concerns about these topics, I am more than happy to visit with you. In the end, effectively managing our business is absolutely necessary, if we want to fulfill our commitment to support people in the long term.

Angels Among Us

Here at Discovery Living we receive over 90% of our operational revenue from the [Medicaid](#) program. Over the past five years we have experienced reimbursement rate freezes and reductions that have prevented us from keeping pace with the ever-increasing cost of doing business. When you consider our stagnant reimbursement rates, coupled with the fact that Medicaid does not reimburse us for home or vehicles purchases and modification – or certain types of adaptive member equipment, it is easy to see how critically important our community friends are.

We have been blessed by the support of many community supporters, both individuals and businesses, over the last 33 years. We want each of you to know that we appreciate each and every gift received. Rest assured your gifts are used right here in Linn County to support the nearly 160 people we currently serve, and no donated funds are used for administrative purposes.

There are many ways to [support our work](#) and here are a few of the most common:

Outright Gift: Such gifts are made directly to Discovery Living and are used to support our day to day work. Gifts of this nature can be unrestricted or restricted for use on a certain project or in a specific home.

In Kind Gift: Donations of equipment, furnishings or services. Such gifts are very critical as they allow us to provide specialized services, home furnishings or supports for members who often cannot afford to purchase these items on their own.

Estate Gift: Donors may name Discovery Living in their will and give a gift that will help support our work once they have passed on.

Endowment Gifts: Gifts directed to Discovery Living funds at the [Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation](#) are eligible for Endow Iowa tax credits, federal tax deductions and provide a perpetual gift that continues to benefit our organization for many years.

Gifts of insurance policy benefits, real estate, and IRA's are other ways to give. You are strongly encouraged to speak with a financial advisor prior to making gifts of this nature.

All of the above gifts are tax deductible, given Discovery Living's status as a 501 C (3) non-profit.

Please feel free to call the Discovery Living office at (319) 378-7470 and speak with [Bob Hebl](#) if you have any questions regarding how you can help.



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Cedar Rapids, I o w a 52402

Place
Stamp
Here

www.discoveryliving.org
(319) 378-7470

*Helping adults with
intellectual disabilities
live successful,
satisfying lives in the
mainstream of the
community.*