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Member News!

Welcome to the Dispatch!

We make it our goal to offer up something above and beyond your typical newsletter. Something more interactive. Something more engaging. Our newsletter features big, beautiful pictures of our members and employees doing what they do best, as well as reflections and stories written by the people who were there. We want 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!



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.

THE Dispatch

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Discovery Living Legacy Society

On August 19, the [Marriott Convention Center](#) played host to the first ever reception for the Discovery Living Legacy Society. This event recognized people who have steadfastly supported Discovery Living's endowment at the [Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation](#). Each of these kind individuals has made a significant contribution to our long-term future by supporting our endowment fund. The night was filled with fellowship and the unveiling of the revamped Discovery Living website (coming soon!). Thanks to these key supporters for investing in our future.

Charter Members of the Discovery Living Legacy Society

Dick & Fran Whitters ♦ Larry & Claire Sharp ♦ Mark & Sheryl Morgan ♦ Melvin & Wanda Campbell ♦ Anne & John Cunningham ♦ Karen Volz ♦ Mike & Dorothy Stallman ♦ Ralph & Yvonne Savoy ♦ John & Donna Negro ♦ Tom & Joan Auterman ♦ Kelly & Rachelle Baier ♦ James Nelson ♦ Craig & Pam Clark ♦ Gerald & Althea Anderson - *on behalf of the Marguerite Wagner Estate* ♦ Larry & Claire Sharp - *in memory of Alice Haynes* ♦ Bob & Elaine Mowry - *in memory of Betty Mowry* ♦ Elmer Haverly - *in memory of Doris Haverly*

A DESPICABLY Good Time

On August 23rd, JR Streff and the gentlemen from 16th Street had a "Despicable Me" Movie Party. The guys and staff worked hard on preparing Despicable Me-themed snacks and invited other homes to join them in the viewing. A great time was had by all and JR is planning a "Sound Of Music" Party for October.



Steve Esker, Mike Reilly, Chris Bradley, and Jen Uthoff ventured to Des Moines, on Tuesday, August 19th, to see the **Iowa Cubs** take on the Salt Lake Bee's. We very much enjoyed the day at the ball park. We didn't see the Cubbies win as we would have liked, but we did get to see Manny Ramirez hit a long home run, and Steve got a game-used ball given to him by one of the Salt Lake Bee's players. To quote Steve, "It was a day to have fun in the sun!"



**MALL OF AMERICA
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GALLERY**





Softball Picnic 2014

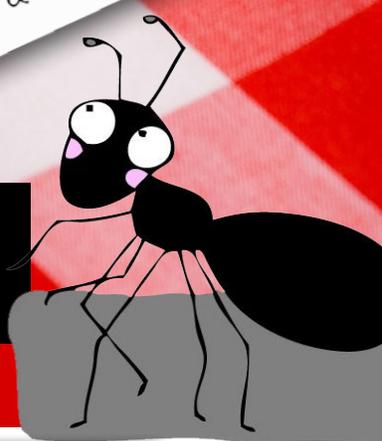


Valleyview Picnic

It was a beautiful August day at Hannah Park in Marion, and the Valleyview ladies hosted a picnic for several other Discovery Living houses. While perhaps a fairly hot day, all of the folks in attendance seemed to have a great time! Big kudos to staff Patty Thoren who organized and was responsible for such a successful event!!



PICNICS



"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." ~ Colin Powell

...worth 1,000 words



HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY, ROBIN!!

Rachel Simon

We at Discovery Living were fortunate to have contact with best-selling author [Rachel Simon](#). Rachel graciously agreed to sign several items on our behalf, and we want to make our readers aware of her outstanding work.

About the Author

Rachel Simon is the award-winning author of six books and a nationally-recognized public speaker on issues related to diversity and disability. Her titles include the bestsellers [The Story of Beautiful Girl](#)



and [Riding The Bus With My Sister](#). Both books are frequent selections of book clubs and school reading programs around the country. Rachel's work has been adapted for theater, NPR, the Lifetime Channel, and Hallmark Hall of Fame, whose adaptation of [Riding The Bus With My Sister](#) starred Rosie O' Donnell and Andie McDowell, and was directed by Anjelica Huston.

You can find out more about Rachel at: www.rachelsimon.com.



TRAVEL & ADVENTURE FILM SERIES

2014

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*

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 just stop by during regular business hours. 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 ticket and snack sales go to support the work we do here at Discovery Living.

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

A Big Discovery Living Thank You to Our 2014 Travel & Adventure Movie Sponsors!

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Special thanks to: Tom & Nancy King and Five Seasons Tire

THE FUTURE ^{of} VOCATIONAL SERVICES

A bill that would significantly limit young people with disabilities from entering sheltered workshop programs was signed into law by President Barack Obama, on July 22, 2014.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 415 to 6 to approve the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#). Included in the bill are major changes to the path from school to work, for those with disabilities.

Specifically, the measure would prohibit individuals age 24 and younger from working jobs that pay less than the federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour, unless they first try vocational rehabilitation services, among other requirements.

What's more, the legislation would require state vocational rehabilitation agencies to work with schools to provide "pre-employment transition services" to all students with disabilities. And, such agencies must allocate a minimum of 15 percent of their federal funding to help individuals with disabilities in transition under the measure.

While the bill mandates that most young people try competitive employment before they could work for less than minimum wage, there are exceptions for those deemed ineligible for vocational rehabilitation - and to allow individuals already earning

so-called subminimum wage to continue to do so.

The measure was approved by the U.S. Senate last month.

"This bipartisan compromise will help workers, including workers with disabilities, access employment, education, job-driven training and support services that give them the chance to advance their careers and secure the good jobs of the future," Obama said in a statement.

The workforce bill is the product of years of negotiation on Capitol Hill and was approved with broad bipartisan support.

U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, who spearheaded the components of the legislation specific to people with disabilities, called the changes "groundbreaking" and said they will "raise prospects and expectations for Americans with disabilities so that they receive the skills and training necessary to succeed in competitive, integrated employment."

Nonetheless, the issue of subminimum wage remains highly contentious within the disability community, with some advocates arguing the legislation does not go far enough while others say moving away from sheltered workshops may simply leave people with disabilities fewer options for meaningful daytime activity.



"Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work." ~ Stephen King

Discovery Living would like to thank Representatives [Kirsten Running-Marquardt](#), [Daniel Lundby](#), and Senator [Liz Mathis](#) for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet with Bob Hebl to discuss issues impacting people with disabilities. Your interest and advocacy are commendable.



...worth 1,000 words

Andrew Loggins and Brandon Fourage take a break from their softball game for some time in the spotlight with Community Living Assistant, Tommi Karma.



Options: UPDATING . . .

By Bob Hebl, Executive Director

Several months ago the Linn County Board of Supervisors established a task force to evaluate rapidly changing federal and state expectations regarding sheltered workshops, like [Options of Linn County](#). I serve on this task force and want to update our readers regarding this important issue.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has interpreted the [Olmstead Decree](#) (see inset) to assert that individuals with disabilities have the right to pursue employment opportunities in integrated, community-based settings. By asserting that sheltered workshops are “segregated institutions,” the DOJ contends that people who are served in such settings must be afforded every opportunity to pursue community-based vocational supports. Until the last few years, the Olmstead Decree had primarily been used as a method to enable people who were required to live in institutional settings the opportunity to access community based residential services.



The task force has met several times and made progress in identifying community-based alternatives to sheltered workshop services. The task force has also been assessing numerous federal and state rules and proposed legislation pertaining to this issue. Here are a few key points:

Effective July 1, 2014, Options signed a one-year contract with the [Mental Health and Disability Services of the East Central Region](#), which is the 9-county region in which Linn County operates.

Options will experience close to a \$200,000 funding shortfall in FY 15 (June 14-July 15), which is much less than the \$750,000 shortfall they would experience if their reimbursement rate had been capped at the state maximum.

Options will continue to operate and work with area employment agencies to ensure that people who are interested in community-based work or volunteer opportunities are given the choice to pursue them. The number of people being served by Options will likely decline in the months ahead, as more people transition into community-based vocational supports.

There continues to be some confusion and misinformation regarding this issue. Please know that I am happy to visit with any of our readers to answer questions.

Washington, DC, June 22, 1999 -- In rejecting the state of Georgia's appeal to enforce institutionalization of individuals with disabilities, the Supreme Court today affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities to live in their community.

SHOW 'EM HOW YOU ROLL...

This fall, several area [Knights of Columbus](#) councils will embark on their annual Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (PID) fund drive. As most of our readers know, the Knights of Columbus founded Discovery Living in 1977, and these faithful friends continue to support our organization each and every year. Knights of Columbus members volunteer hundreds of hours annually in support of Discovery Living. Last year the KC's donated over \$45,000 to our organization - again making them our single largest source of donations. The Knights of



Columbus are guided by several core principles, one of which is charity. The KC's charity principle reads in part: **There is no better way to experience love and compassion than by helping those in need, a call we answer every day.** Many of us have observed these kind folks out and about selling tootsie rolls at various community locations. I encourage you to give them a pat on the back and thank them for being living proof that the Knights of Columbus is an organization whose members live in accordance with their guiding principles.



Kevin Hughes passed away at his home on Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Kevin was 57 years old and had battled a series of health issues in recent years. He passed away peacefully - surrounded by his sister, niece and Discovery Living family. Kevin was one of the first people served by Discovery Living, and he made many lifelong friends in his 33 years with us. He loved fishing, camping, motorcycles, pizza, hamburgers, milkshakes, music, and the Iowa Hawkeyes. Kevin worked for Options of Linn County for 30 years and recently attended Milestones in Marion. Kevin enjoyed a wonderful quality of life to the very end and we will miss him a great deal.

We will never forget...

Kimberly "Kim" Jean Edler, 53, passed away Monday, Sept. 8, 2014, at the Dennis and Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy, Hiawatha.

Kim was born May 30, 1961, in Cedar Rapids, the daughter of Lloyd and Mildred Forgie Edler. She was employed at the Ox Yoke Inn for many years. Kim was a country music fan and enjoyed creating latch-hook art, spending time reading and especially being a mother hen and helping others at her Discovery Living home.

Kim would recall the two most enjoyable moments in her life were her trip this spring to Disney World and celebrating her 52nd birthday at her very first birthday party, which was hosted by her Discovery Living family. We will miss Kim and are glad she is now at peace.



Compassion in Action

As we prepare to celebrate this Christmas season with our loved ones, Please take a few moments to reflect on the blessings and generosity we, at Discovery Living, receive each and every day. The Knights of Columbus, our employees, board of directors, people served and their families, as well as numerous businesses and community friends, support our organization with their time, energy, and resources. These behind the scenes heroes change lives and are the reason we are here today.

"Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all."

~Sam Ewing





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Here

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