

THE Dispatch

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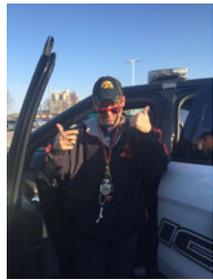
Dianna Young

Happy Birthday, America!





The Things to Do With the Venture Crew



There's always fun to be had with the Venture Crew. This season included a visit to [Linn County Emergency Management](#), a tour of the police department, and the always popular, music night. Click above for more pictures and some video of Jesse putting his heart into a group favorite, "Lean on Me."

SPRING/SUMMER GAME HIGHLIGHTS



NANCY RYAN... COME ON DOWN!!

On a recent trip downtown to see "The Price is Right LIVE", Nancy was thrilled to have an opportunity to spin the wheel! Check out that score! Way to go, Nancy!

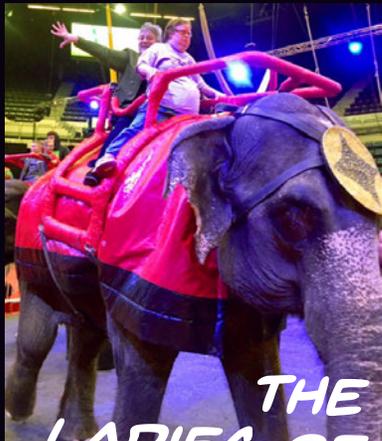


TUESDAY IN THE PARK WITH RENNIE

A little magic was made, late on the afternoon of June 6th, at Ellis Park. That night, for Rennie Hahn, Shakespeare Garden became New York's iconic Central Park. Rennie originally had plans to visit the real Central Park, in New York City this coming September, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the trip had to be canceled. Knowing how much Rennie had been looking forward to it, some of his Discovery Living friends set to work to bring Central Park to Rennie - complete with hot dogs, a view of the Statue of Liberty, and a horse-drawn carriage. As a further bonus, MANY of Rennie's friends were able to come and enjoy the experience with him.



Maggie and Sarah meet a favorite webhead, and Lorie picks a pachyderm,



THE LADIES OF CAMELOT ENJOY A NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS!



Every season brings birthdays! This quarter, we celebrated with Charlie and Maggie. And John Raaz celebrated his 50th, with a very special party!



ND,
YOU
THREE





A J STREET Family Christmas

J Street's 2016 family

Christmas party finally happened... on MARCH 28th! Due to repeated conflicts – including J Street's move to Marion, in November – the party was slightly delayed. It was by sheer determination that Nancy, Joed, Sally, Frankie, and Elbie kept the tradition alive and ensured that, after 21 straight years of Christmas parties, THIS year would not pass without one.

The J Street Five made sure staff did not forget the party and assisted the CLAs and coordinators in making all of the necessary arrangements.

It was a lovely time. Though over the years we've said goodbye to dear friends, we've also had the pleasure and privilege of making new friends and welcoming new housemates into the J Street family. This tradition means so very much to all of us. Every year, we have the most wonderful time, and even though the Christmas music and spirits flowed while Spring had already sprung, this year was no exception.



"A quiet conscience makes one strong!"
- Anne Frank



Options Awards Night

Chris Imslund and Beth Burks received awards at Options of Linn County for their long-term commitment to the program. Chris was recognized for 35 years with Options, Beth, for forty. Congratulations, ladies!

Spring it On!!



Saturday, April 20 was full of fun, food, good tunes, and unbridled dance. Discovery employee and event producer, Jason Feight, orchestrated another engaging and entertaining fundraiser for Discovery Living and two other local non-profits - Spring Fling - 2017! Clearly, the good word has been making the rounds, as attendance this year was WAY up. Everyone seemed to have a rock-rollin' time.

Thank you to Jason and those that volunteered their time and talent. Discovery Living is grateful for your energy and support!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT



TAKE A BURRITO BREAK FOR DISCOVERY'S SAKE

Chipotle Mexican Grill's support of Discovery Living through fundraisers at their Lindale Mall location has been amazing! Thank you to all friends of Discovery Living for joining us on March 21 and June 22 for excellent food, drink and company. Because of Chipotle and you, over \$1,500 has been donated to Discovery Living!! These donations assist with home and vehicle modifications that our members need to be independent and safe within their home and community. We look forward to eating with you again in the fall!



A Life-Changing Legacy

A gift to Discovery Living, through your estate or trust, truly changes lives and leaves a legacy.

A strong endowment is critical to our future, as it helps ensure that we will always be here, helping to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more information about how you can help leave a lasting legacy, please view our updated Legacy Society brochure, and/or contact Bob Hebl at 319-378-7470 or bhebl@discoveryliving.org.



"Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do." - Potter Stewart



2016-17 Annual Appeal

A big Discovery Living Thank You goes to each of our friends who supported our 2016-17 Annual Appeal. As you know, the annual appeal is critical, if we are to cover unfunded costs related to home and vehicle purchases and modifications. To date, our '16-17 campaign has generated \$31,086 in donations, making this our most successful appeal ever!

Thank you - your generosity is changing lives.



This year's Day of Caring was another resounding success. The United Way of East Central Iowa (uweci.org) sponsors the Day of Caring, one of the



largest organized volunteer events in Cedar Rapids. Each year in May, local businesses encourage their employees to volunteer at nonprofit agencies

throughout the community. This year, twelve volunteers from the RSM US LLP (rsmus.com), a Day of Caring sponsor,



helped wash the exterior of twenty-one Discovery Living homes. Once they had finished, everyone enjoyed lunch donated by Jimmy John's on 1st Avenue in Cedar Rapids. A huge thank you to all the RSM volunteers that continue to carry on the Day of Caring tradition.



Legislative Update

Bob Hebl, Executive Director

The 2017 legislative session was action packed. Listed below is a brief summary of bills, signed into law, that affect people with disabilities:

HF 134: Pre-empts cities from enforcing (nuisance) ordinance on rental properties regarding family and non-family relationships of the occupants.

HF 215: Requires health insurance plans to cover applied behavioral analysis for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

HF 516: Requires voters to show an ID to vote.

HF: 544: Includes personal degradation as a form of dependent adult abuse in licensed facilities. This law does not yet include home and community-based settings, like those operated by Discovery Living, but we expect it will in the near future.

SF 516: Transferred \$131.1 million from the cash reserve fund to cover the FY17 Medicaid shortfall.

Go to www.infonetiowa.org/ for a complete list of legislative actions affecting people with disabilities.

There are many unknowns at this time. The managed care companies hired to administer Iowa's Medicaid program continue to report steep financial losses and we are in negotiations with our primary managed care funder, AmeriHealth Caritas, regarding our reimbursement rates. Please know that we are actively involved in the legislative advocacy process, and are in routine contact with our elected officials and AmeriHealth Caritas representatives regarding key issues.

Thanks to each of you who reached out to federal or state leaders during our recent legislative alerts.

We are assessing our current four-person homes to determine which homes may be appropriate to add a fifth member. Given the tight funding environment, Discovery Living - and other supported living providers - are working to expand home capacity as a tactic to help weather ongoing revenue shortfalls.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding any of these issues.

"Ethics are more important than laws." - Wynton Marsales

GALLERY OF GOINGS ON

Amber got out to enjoy the new fitness circuit at Noelridge Park. She and her staff, Amanda, had fun learning each exercise available in the circuit.



6



John and Emily having a ball at the Iowa-Indiana game.



JANE LOVES HER NEW CHAIR!



Adam had a blast at the Friday Night Concert Series, 'Rock The Block,' at New Bo, in May. He was the first person to begin using the chalk provided, and by the end of the concert, the entire area in front of the stage was filled with flowers and hearts.



Houby Days with Ashley, Felicia and Sonny.

FAMILIAR FACES NEW PLACES



Brooke Kriegel has been selected as our new director of human resources, assuming the position vacated by Deb Berg's retirement. Brooke has been with us since 2003, and has worked a variety of direct support and administrative positions. She has served as our associate director of planning and training since 2010, and has proven to be an excellent representative of Discovery Living. Her positive attitude, experience and attention to detail helped her hit the ground running as she assumed her new duties in April.

Melinda Collingwood

has been selected to replace Brooke Kriegel as the associate director of planning and training. Melinda has worked for Discovery Living since 2012, most recently serving as the associate coordinator for our Sunburst home. Melinda has consistently proven to be a dedicated employee and strong member advocate. She has a master's degree in psychology and brings many years of direct care, administrative and professional development experience to her new role, which she assumed in May.



Laura Crow has been hired as the community living coordinator for our hourly support program. Laura has worked for our organization for more than 10 years, in both direct care and leadership roles. She is very familiar with our hourly support program, having spent the past several years of her time here supporting hourly members. Laura has her BA and brings extensive prior human service experience to her new role. Her dedication, advocacy and positive attitude will make her an asset in her new role, which she assumed in April.

A Job Well Done

Deb Berg was hired as our director of human resources in 2002. For the last 15 years, Deb



consistently received excellent outcomes following external audits. Several months ago, Deb announced her retirement.

Since that time, Deb has spent considerable time training her replacement, Brooke Kriegel. Brooke has big shoes to fill, but Deb is ensuring that she is as prepared as possible before Deb's last day on June 30.

We thank Deb for her many years of dedicated service and wish her all the best as she enjoys her retirement.



Carol sings a very special song for Deb.

has processed payroll, managed employee benefits, and kept on top of many regulatory and operational

issues. Because of her efforts, our organization has remained in compliance with the numerous and ever-changing, expectations, pertaining to labor law and benefit administration. We have also



Click for pictures from Deb's farewell party.

HEALTHWELLNESS & YOU

Tick Prevention

- Repel from skin using DEET
- Wear light colored clothing
 - Cover legs, ankles and feet (tuck pants into socks)
- Walk in the center of the trails
 - Check for ticks within 2 hours of coming indoors



How to Remove a Tick

- Use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible to remove the entire tick
- Pull upward without twisting or jerking
- Clean the bite area with soap and water
- See your health care provider if you have symptoms of fever, rash, body aches or fatigue after a tick bite

For more info, visit www.medicinenet.com or click [here](#) to download the full pamphlet.



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Place
Stamp
Here

www.discoveryliving.org
(319) 378-7470

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

***A very special "Thank you!" to our sponsors for
making our mission of service possible!***



***The Arc of East Central Iowa - Bob Mickey Collision Center - Five Seasons Tire
Home Appliance Center - House of Carpets - Mike Stallman
Molyneaux Insurance - Options of Linn County - Toyota of Iowa City***

Care to join in? Newsletter sponsorships are now available. Sponsor once, be visible for a full year! An excellent way to both support Discovery Living AND promote your business or organization! For further details and information on how your organization can reserve your space now, contact Monica Ravn at (319) 378-7470.