

# THE Dispatch

A PUBLICATION OF DISCOVERY LIVING, INC. 

Monday, October 5, 2009 The Gazette

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## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY DISCOVERY LIVING *Administrative Center!*

In the early 2000's, executive director John Morris and the Discovery Living board of directors started planning to address the continued growth of our organization. As our service waiting list grew, it became evident that we needed administrative space, which provided private offices and adequate meeting rooms.

John Morris; John Negro, Board of Directors Chair; John and Nicki Raaz, Member Family Representatives; and Consult Savoy - a strategic fundraising company led by Ralph Savoy - worked with our board fundraising committee to launch an ambitious capital campaign effort in 2008. Board members Karen Volz and Larry Sharp co-chaired the campaign, which started with a wonderful gift from the [Hall-Perrine Foundation](#). In the months that followed, we were honored to receive gifts from nearly 150 individuals, businesses and foundations. Discovery Living received over 1.8 million dollars in gifts, which was enough to cover the construction and equipment costs of our administrative service center.

(continued on pg. 3)



This rendering shows the new 10,000-square-foot structure being built at 1015 Old Marion Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, the new house Discovery Living. The building will replace offices at Northland Court NE for the non-profit, which operates group homes and other services for adults with developmental disabilities.

### Non-profit expands after flood setback

By Steve Gravelle  
The Gazette  
CEDAR RAPIDS  
Last summer's flooding delayed but didn't sink Discovery Living's new headquarters.  
"It took a little longer to finish this campaign than we anticipated, but we met our goal," said John Morris, CEO of the Cedar Rapids non-profit that operates group homes and other services for adults with developmental disabilities. Pressed space at



John Morris  
Discovery Living

and we're going to have tremendous needs. Their feeling is, we're too far along to pull the plug."  
"The places we were going to go make calls weren't there anymore," said Karen Volz, the campaign's co-chair. "They didn't know what they were going to do anymore, and here you're asking them to put other people first."  
Boosted with a \$600,000 grant from the Hall Perrine Foundation, the campaign met its goal earlier this year. Work has already started in the new 10,000-square-foot building, about triple the current space, at 1015 Old



# Happy "Pie"-Day!

Gary Eschen is a huge fan of *Special Olympics*. He participates in numerous sponsored activities and has competed in almost every sport offered. Gary also has a special relationship with all the coaches - especially Rob Wagner, Cedar Rapids Parks & Recreation Special Populations Program Supervisor. For a long time, Gary has dreamed and joked about playing good-natured "tricks" on Coach Rob. About pouring a bucket of cold water on Coach Rob at district tournaments. About wanting to throw a pie in Coach Rob's face. One day, Coach Rob challenged Gary to put his money where his mouth is and promised that if Gary could raise \$100 to donate to Special Olympics, Coach Rob would gladly take a pie to the face. Gary accepted the challenge with a hearty "Yeah!," and within two weeks he collected well more than \$100.

True to his word, when the summer games in Ames rolled around on May 25th, Gary and Coach Rob faced off in an epic "Pie Down." Gary not only got to fulfill his long-awaited dream of putting a pie in Coach Rob's face, He also learned a peer had offered to donate an additional \$100 if Coach Rob could put a pie in Gary's face. Always

the consummate good sport, Gary gladly "took one for the team," and when all was said and done and the last finger was licked, everyone shared a good laugh and \$220 was donated to Special Olympics. Way to go, Gary - you make people smile and you make a difference!



## DISTRICT AND STATE TRACK AND FIELD GAME ON!

There is nothing like the spirit of sportsmanship and friendly competition to unite friends and fill a day with goodwill and a sense of real accomplishment!



We thank our good friend Jim Messina for so deftly capturing many of our victories on film. Click the photo links to see more of his work!



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*"What is the difference between an obstacle and an opportunity? Our attitude toward it. Every opportunity has a difficulty, and every difficulty has an opportunity." -- J. Sidlow Baxter*

# Dance Fever!

Between the Parks and Rec-sponsored dance and the annual Spring Fling, this season brought many opportunities for members to shimmy some shoulders and twist some twinkling toes!



# Cover STORY (Continued)



After many months of construction and hundreds of hours of oversight from our board of directors facility committee, we moved into our administrative center at **1015 Old Marion Road NE** in late 2009. The many people we support, employ, and collaborate with to deliver services have benefited from this wonderful space for ten years. The Capital Campaign donor plaque prominently displayed in our office lobby honors supporters who, through their generosity and hard work, made our wonderful administrative building a reality.



## C A P I T A L C A M P A I G N 2 0 0 8



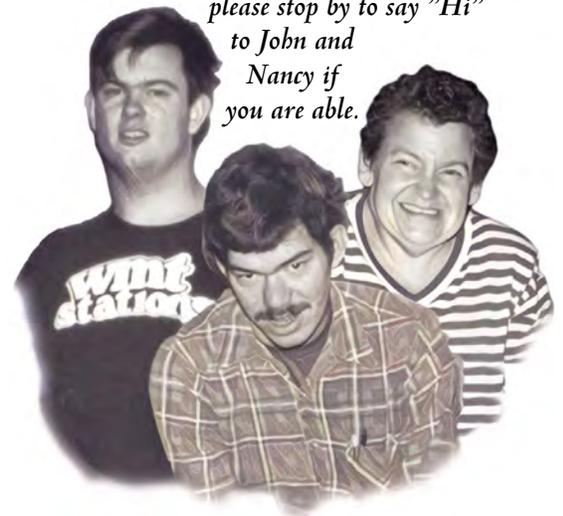
Volunteering at Olivet Mission

## You are invited...

- What:** Open House and Member Recognition Event
- Where:** Discovery Living Recreation Center - 754 North Center Point Road NE, Hiawatha
- When:** Tuesday, August 27 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Please join us in congratulating our original three members, Charlie Cummins, Al Ropa and Nancy Ryan as we recognize them for allowing us to share their lives for the last 38 years.

Our former executive director John Morris and his wife, Nancy, will be joining us at this event, so please stop by to say "Hi" to John and Nancy if you are able.



HyVee Tour



### Open House



"Sometimes it takes a wrong turn to get you to the right place." - Mandy Hale



JAMES NELSON, PRESIDENT



CRAIG CLARK, VICE PRESIDENT



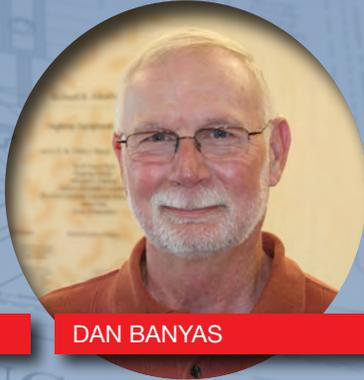
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SCOTT OLSON



RALPH SAVOY



MIKE STALLMAN



FRANK VARVARIS



KAREN VOLZ

# Everyone, This is Our Board...

Discovery Living is honored to receive the support of a very special group of people. Our board of directors plays a vital role in the ongoing development of the organization. They selflessly and repeatedly lend their time, expertise, unique talents, and collective compassion in ways that strengthen and enhance the services our members receive. We are grateful to have such devoted allies.

# ...And Thank You from all of us!

**J**ohn Negro joined the Discovery Living board of directors in 1996. During his tenure, he served in numerous board capacities, including Board Chair and Chair of the Board Facility Committee. John made numerous contributions to our organization during his over two decades of service. He and his wife Donna were key contributors to the Capital Campaign that raised funds to construct our administrative office building, and John spent many hours directly overseeing the construction of the administrative building that we have enjoyed for 10 years now. John and Donna's ongoing support of our endowment distinguishes them as members of our Legacy Society. Perhaps most importantly, John consistently demonstrated that he believed in our mission. We thank John for his dedicated service.



**S**tephanie Neff joined our board of directors in 2016. Stephanie's extensive career in human services and nursing background made her a valuable resource. Stephanie served on our Fundraising, Endowment and Community Relations Committee and demonstrated a positive and supportive attitude towards our work and the people we serve. We thank her for her time, energy and service.



*"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." - Mother Teresa*



*The gals really got around this quarter! Pictured above and below you can see the housemates attending performances of The Hunchback of Notre Dame at TCR, Cirque du Soleil at the US Cellular Center, and celebrating a couple of birtbdays at Texas Roadhouse.*



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



*We'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Knights for their support. Pictured above: Paul Lee, Grand Knight, UNI Knights of Columbus; State Secretary, Iowa Knights of Columbus. To the right: Scott Mohwinkle, District Deputy of the State KCs.*





On a chilly Thursday, May 9th, 25 volunteers from **Mercy Hospital** gathered early at Discovery Living's office to learn about the agency and do a variety of tasks to spruce up the office and 18 homes. Melissa Cullum and Stephanie Becker recruited fellow Mercy employees to rake, sweep, dig, vacuum, and organize garages, vans and yards as part of **United Way's Day of Caring**.



Not to be outdone, members Eric Nemmers, Aaron Steinke, Scott Edgerly and Jacob Steele joined the volunteers to help clean. A huge Thank You to all who assisted to make the morning a pleasant and very productive experience!

## MANAGED CARE UPDATE



As part of our commitment to the people we support and their families, we continue to monitor developments in the world of managed care. Following the exit of UnitedHealthcare (UHC) from the Iowa managed care system on July 1, 2019, Discovery Living now collaborates with two managed care organizations (MCO's). They are:

### **Amerigroup (AG) & Iowa Total Care (ITC)**

All of the people we support were auto-assigned to one of the MCOs but were given the option to change their MCO assignment before coverage started on July 1. Members and their representatives can still change MCO assignments, for any reason, within the next 90 days. After September 30, 2019, change will only be allowed for 'good cause.'

Discovery Living is under contract with both AG and ITC, and we look forward to collaborating with these entities to ensure quality services for the people we support. AG and ITC are also contracted with Unity Point/St. Luke's Hospital, Mercy Hospital and Physicians, University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, and Physician's Clinic of Iowa (PCI). In the next several weeks, members will receive their new MCO insurance card as well as their case manager assignment. Remember that we are here to help. Please contact **Monica Ravn, Carol Saddoris** or **Bob Hebl** with questions.



## FAMILY Caregivers CENTER<sup>®</sup> of MERCY



### **Aging with an Intellectual Disability**

People with intellectual disabilities are living longer lives and experiencing issues related to the aging process. Please join us for a discussion:

- sharing unmet needs your family may have regarding your loved one's aging.
- learning about supports available from the Family Caregivers Center of Mercy and other local resources.

**Thursday, August 15, 2019**

**5:30—7:30 p.m.**

Hall Perrine Community Rooms A & B

701 10th Street SE, Cedar Rapids

(Park in the lot outside the Hall Perrine Cancer Center and enter through the north 10th street doors.)

By **August 2nd**, please RSVP by calling the Family Caregivers Center (319) 221-8866 or emailing [fcgc@mercy.org](mailto:fcgc@mercy.org). If caregiving assistance is needed to attend this event, please let us know as you RSVP.

Light refreshments will be served.



## 2019 Legislative Session Wrap Up

The 2019 Iowa Legislative session ended on April 27th. Below are a few session highlights:



- The total FY20 state budget is 7.644 billion, 197.2 million larger than the FY19 budget.
- HF766 Health and Human Services Budget: Medicaid received a 150.3 million dollar supplemental increase. 1.2 million was allocated to eliminate the children's mental health waiver waiting list, and 1 million was earmarked for increases to community living provider tiered rates (distributed equally among all tiers). This amount will increase to approximately 2.6 million once federal match monies are leveraged.
- HF570 eliminated the monthly budget cap for persons receiving Home and Community Based Services under the Brain Injury Waiver.
- HF690 establishes core children's behavioral health services.
- HF691 allows state MH/DD regions to maintain a budget reserve of up to 40% of their total annual mental health and disability services budget.

For more information on the above bills or other legislation you may be interested in, click on the link below:

<http://www.infonetiowa.org/news/bill-tracker/>

You can also contact Bob Hebl at [bhebl@discoveryliving.org](mailto:bhebl@discoveryliving.org) with any questions you may have.

Welcome Home,  
Cookie!



Vicki has talked about wanting a cat for some time now. In December, she started the process of finding a forever friend. First, she sent e-mails to her housemates' family members asking if they would be in support of her bringing a pet into their home. Vicki was pleased to receive everyone's blessing and immediately began researching ways to care for a pet as well as all of the benefits a cat gives to their companions. Vicki went to several pet stores and two foster



homes to meet multiple cats over the span of two months, and one day, she met a long-haired, black cat that came right up to her side and lay next to her.

When asked which cat she liked best and wanted to bring home, Vicki didn't hesitate. "This one," she said and pointed to 'Cookie'. Vicki was able to bring her new friend home that day.

In no time, Cookie made herself at home, hanging out in the common areas often, and sleeping in Vicki's bedroom at night!

Measles



HEALTH & WELLNESS  
& YOU

Measles is a contagious disease caused by a virus. It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Measles starts with a fever and causes a cough, runny nose, and red eyes. Then a rash of tiny, red spots breaks out and starts at the head and eventually spreads to the rest of the body.

Measles can be prevented with the MMR vaccine. The vaccine protects against three diseases: measles, mumps, and rubella. Most people have already been vaccinated twice, by the time they reach adulthood but should ensure they are up to date, for their own sake and for the sake of those around them.

The MMR vaccine is safe and effective. Before the measles vaccination program started in 1963, an estimated 3 to 4 million people contracted measles each year in the United States. Use of the measles vaccine has led to a greater than 99% reduction in measles cases compared with the pre-vaccine era.

# We will always remember... MIKE CRAVER

## In our Hearts

Discovery Living lost a member of the family when our dear friend Mike Craver passed away on April 18, 2019. Mike began working for Discovery Living in 2004 and worked in several direct care and administrative capacities during his long tenure. Mike was a relentless advocate for the people we serve and loved accompanying members on community outings. He was willing to pitch in and help when and where needed, and always did so with a smile. Mike's easygoing style and person-centered philosophy allowed him to positively impact many lives. Rest in peace, Mike.



DONATE

You. That's right, YOU. As we wrap up another issue of the Dispatch, we want to take a moment and thank you, our steadfast friends and supporters, without whom there really could be no Discovery Living. Some of you are parents. Some are case managers. Some run a business that strengthens and sustains our local economy. Some of you are Discovery Living employees. Almost all of you are connected to our members in some meaningful way. But there is another way you can connect with our members in a meaningful way. Did you know that while Medicaid accounts for much of Discovery Living's operational funding, we depend on regular donations to assist with the high costs of home and vehicle purchases and modifications – which add up to several hundred thousand dollars annually? Please check out the "Giving" tab at [www.discoveryliving.org](http://www.discoveryliving.org), or contact our office at (319) 378-7470 and consider some of the ways you could be a hero to one or many of the people served - and probably for a lot less than you imagine. Oh, and thank you ...for being "you."

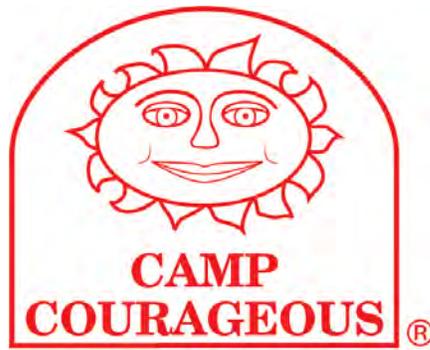




1 0 1 5 Old Marion Road, NE  
Cedar Rapids, I o w a 52402

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

www.discoveryliving.org  
(319) 378-7470



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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](mailto:Monica.Ravn@discoveryliving.org) at (319) 378-7470.