

THE Dispatch

A PUBLICATION OF DISCOVERY LIVING, INC. 

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PLANTING THE SEEDS

of Hope
Keeping "Up" When Times Are Down

Inch by Inch, Row by Row...

The Discovery Living community has proven once again that adversity is just another challenge to rise above. While the nation hunkered down to flatten the COVID-19 curve, our friends adapted, as they always do, and found many ways to keep their minds, bodies, and hearts active at home. One of the most popular pursuits for passing the time has been tending to the raised gardens, so generously gifted these last couple of years by our faithful friends, the Knights of Columbus. For some, it's been an opportunity to experiment, get their hands dirty, and plant new seeds. For others, it was time outdoors, nurturing the budding sprouts, and making memories or overseeing the handiwork of their housemates. Each new flower's bloom or vegetable harvested represents the promise of new beginnings and a hope for a swift return to normalcy and natural, social balance.



The past several months were unlike anything most of us have experienced in our lifetime. Thousands of Americans fell ill from COVID-19, schools, day programs and businesses closed, while anxiety grew with each daily news cycle. Iowans, Americans, and citizens of the world worked together to do what was needed to contain the COVID-19 virus.

To say that things here at Discovery Living were hectic is a major understatement. We worked to keep up to date with COVID-19 related developments, while securing and dispersing cleaning and personal protective equipment supplies to our employees and members. Through it all, the overwhelming majority of our employees stepped up to help when and where they could. Our employees focused on member care, while coping with an often extreme level of anxiety. There were some rough patches to be sure - but services to the people we support were uninterrupted. We cannot thank our employees enough for their dedicated service during this challenging time.

We also want to thank and acknowledge the people we support and their loved ones, who were incredibly supportive and understanding as we worked to navigate through very tumultuous times. We know how difficult having limited access to the people you care about was. Your understanding made a difference.

Thank you to the hundreds of people and businesses who stepped up to help us through the pandemic. The people



WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

BOB HEBL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



we serve, their families, our employees, area businesses, volunteers, and governmental agencies donated essential supplies, medical equipment - and made or donated hundreds of masks. We cannot possibly thank everyone who helped as we would like, but know that you are appreciated.

As we look to the future, it is important to not forget lessons learned during the recent pandemic. Enhanced cleaning schedules, minimizing time spent in close quarters with large groups and limiting - to the greatest extent possible - the number of people in and out of the homes will continue to be areas of focus in the months ahead.

It is a humbling experience to reflect on how many of you deeply care about our work. Thank you for your support and sacrifice.

"There are always periodic opportunities to give up, while every single moment is an opportunity to persevere." -- Dean F. Wilson

Thanks to everyone who has supported Discovery Living during the 2020 Birdies for Charity campaign. While John Deere decided to cancel the 2020 tournament due to COVID-19 related issues, the charitable giving campaign is alive and well. As of June 20, we have received \$7,120 in pledges and direct contributions. There is still time to show your support. Donations and pledges are being accepted until July 10. We appreciate every gift and, as in past

years, John Deere has pledged to provide at least a 5% matching gift. Every donated dollar and all matching funds go directly to support the people we serve.

You can learn more about how John Deere is helping organization like Discovery Living by reviewing the attached [brochure](#) or at: birdiesforcharity.com. If you have any questions, please call Monica Ravn or Bob Hebl at (319) 378 7470.



ANNUAL 20 APPEAL 20

This November we will be asking you to support our 2020 annual appeal campaign. We are blessed to have many supporters, like you, who believe in our work. The 2019 annual appeal was our strongest ever, as we received \$41,617 from 133 donors. We cannot thank our supporters enough for their generosity. In the past twelve months, we purchased seven vehicles at a combined cost of over \$175,000 - and purchased/modified two homes at a combined cost of over \$500,000. Our primary source of funding, Medicaid, does not reimburse us for these purchases. Your generosity made these critical purchases possible. Our 2020 campaign will focus on pandemic related supply, equipment and personnel related expenses that we have incurred, and expect to continue to incur, well into the future. Thank You! We could not do what we do without you.



Get OUT!

Sure, it's been crucial, these last several weeks, to stay in and stay safe. Sure, there was a lot to gain by staying indoors and learning a new skill, or circling back to some old, forgotten favorite hobbies, or organizing a long-neglected closet. Sure, some us developed some awesome new ways to keep in touch with our families online or nurture our minds and bodies with new exercise routines and meditation. But many of us also grew tired of being cooped up, day after day. Many of us learned the true meaning of "stir crazy".

Well, just because there weren't any public places we could go didn't mean we couldn't still get outdoors and soak up some sun and fresh air!





Night to Shine: The "Just Can't Get Enough" Edition

As we covered last issue, the Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine is a larger than life event. So large, in fact, that it was impossible for us to feature all of our kings and queens of the evening in one article. Here, for your viewing pleasure are a few more photos from the magical evening.

NIGHT to Shine

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"The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy." - Kalu Ndukwe Kalu



To two friends who really "take the cake"...

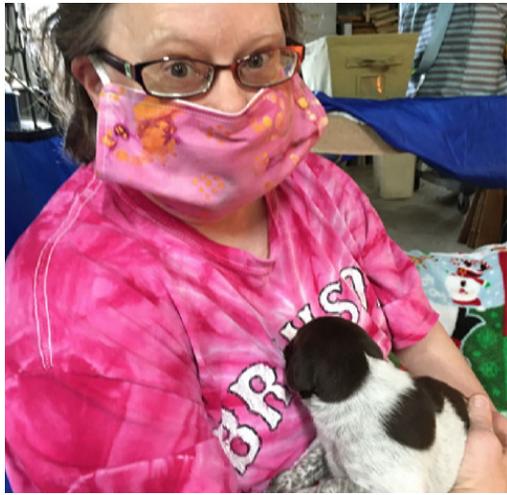
HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHARLIE & VICKI!



Crafting Under Quarantine!

16th and Aossey stop in to take their minds off of life under social isolation.





HOW HAVE WE BEEN WEATHERING THE PANDEMIC??



... have a couple of cardinals and a whole array of juncos visiting the feeders. The ladies are enjoying it so much and fill me in on any new birds that I missed on my days off. They are so appreciative, and so am I. 🙏🐦

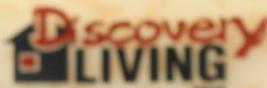


Let us Count the Ways...



Terry Moran joined the Discovery Living Board of Directors in 1992. At the time, Terry was Vice President of Instruction at Kirkwood Community College, but still found time in his busy schedule to serve on our board. Terry is leaving the board after having served with distinction for 28 years. Terry is a past Board President and was instrumental in the success of numerous fundraising campaigns, including Birdies for Charity and the Travel and Adventure movie series.

Terry and his wife Joyce have generously supported our organization, frequently donating their time, energy and resources. Terry and Joyce are members of our Legacy Society in recognition of their strong support of our endowment fund. Thank you, Terry, for almost three decades of support and advocacy. You will always be part of the Discovery Living family.



Thanks, from all of us!

Victory in the Face of Adversity

Although the public tournaments themselves were cancelled, the spirit of the games certainly lived on at 16th Street. The guys created their own mini district, performed all of their track and field events for staff at Kenwood school, and submitted their times/scores to Special Olympics Iowa. The results? a LOT of heavy metal! Well done, guys!!



COVID-19: No excuse to give up saving the world, one can at a time.

“There is no progress or accomplishment without sacrifice.”

- Idowu Koyenikan



The men at 16th Street also weren't about to let the pandemic stand in the way of exercising their civil liberties. Here are the guys making their voices heard from home, during the Iowa primaries.



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 volunteer or sit on our board. 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, 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.”

“Sacrifice is a part of life. It's supposed to be. It's not something to regret. It's something to aspire to.” - Mitch Albom





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*Helping adults with
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live successful,
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For details and information on how YOUR business or organization can sponsor The Dispatch, contact [Monica Ravn](#) at (319) 378-7470 and reserve your space now.