

THE Dispatch

A PUBLICATION OF DISCOVERY LIVING, INC.



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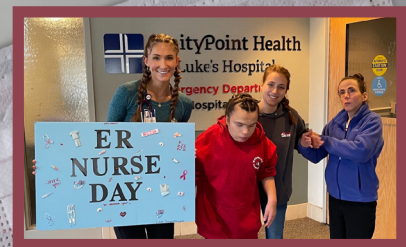
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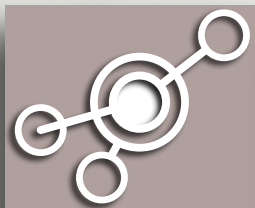
'TIS the SEASON



A few of the individuals surprised nurses at St. Luke's and Mercy Hospital with specially-crafted signs on National Emergency Nurses Week. Nurses on duty were grateful to be recognized on this noteworthy, celebratory occasion.



National Emergency Nurses Week



Center Shenanigans

See what we've been up to these last few months!!

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."
— Ralph Braun

National Pasta Day!

We wanted to include pictures of us enjoying pasta, but we were too busy enjoying pasta to take them... ;o)

Our "toppings" table!



Halloween Dance!





Season's Blessings!

Every year, our organization eagerly anticipates a festive celebration of a year filled with exceptional accomplishments. The tradition unfolds at the Hilton Garden Inn, where camaraderie and appreciation take center stage. It's not only a chance to take a breath, enjoy a good meal together, and share some laughter and stories but also a heartfelt tribute to our long-term employees. An opportunity to recognize their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to our shared mission of care and compassion. It's a cherished moment that reverberates with gratitude and sets the tone for continued collaboration in the year ahead.



Neither Carolyn Rundle nor Mary Hand were able to attend the event, but as two of our longest-term employees (30 and 35 years respectively), we very much wanted to track them down and make sure they know how much we value their dedication and hard work!



ALL ABOARD!



The guys at A Ave headed to **Boone** for a trip on the train.



"I don't need easy.
I just need possible."
-- Bethany Hamilton

IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN
PATCH, FRANKIE KROTZ!



Megan Irish helped Frankie plant Young pumpkin seeds and Frankie had a great crop this year! They will be perfect to carve for Halloween. And, of course, they are orange ...the best color ever!

SPOOKY



JOHN DEERE
CLASSIC

Launched in 1971, the **John Deere Birdies for Charity** campaign has donated millions of dollars to thousands of charities. Discovery Living has been blessed to be a Birdies partner with **John Deere** for over 20 years. Our 2023 Birdies for Charity campaign received over \$13,000 in donations, with a \$985 matching gift from John Deere. Thanks to our friends at John Deere, and to each of you who helped make our 2023 Birdies for Charity campaign a success! We appreciate your support and are already planning our 2024 campaign!



You Still Have Time!



The 2023/24 Discovery Living **Annual Appeal** is underway, and we are humbled by your kind and generous response. To those of you who have already made a gift, thank you for the support that allows us to adapt our homes and vehicles, and obtain specialized adaptive equipment to meet the needs of everyone we serve, regardless of their physical challenges.

There is still time to support our annual appeal by making electronic contributions at www.discoveryliving.org or mail your check to Discovery Living, Inc. 1015 Old Marion Road NE. Cedar Rapids, IA. Every dollar contributed goes directly to support the people with disabilities we are privileged to serve.

Making a Lasting Impact

Want to help ensure that Discovery Living is able to change lives for many years to come?

A bequest is a gift made to a nonprofit organization as part of a donor's will. This gift, which may include monetary assets, real estate properties, or other valuable items, symbolizes the donor's commitment to the organization's cause. It is usually a donor's way of leaving a legacy and ensuring that the organization receives continued support.

The nonprofit can only receive this gift after the donors have passed. In their will, the donor must leave explicit instructions on how the bequest will be handed over to the nonprofits. In many cases, the asset



bequeathed may be sold, and the proceeds from the sale will be given to the stated nonprofit organization.

If you may be considering an estate gift to Discovery Living - or are interested in learning more about how you can help support our organization - please contact Monica Ravn monicaravn@discoveryliving.org or Bob Hebl bhebl@discoveryliving.org. Monica and Bob can also be contacted at (319) 378 7470.



We are honored time and again by the steadfast, generous hearts of our founding fathers, the Knights of Columbus.

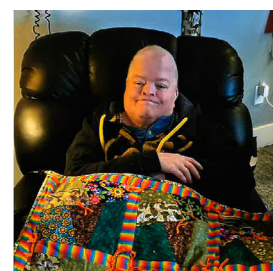
Pictured are just a few of the councils who have blessed us with proceeds from their annual People with Intellectual Disabilities [PID] campaign (the tootsie roll drive). A heartfelt "Thank you" to the Knights!

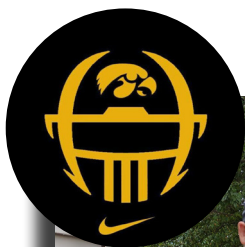


Quilty Pleasures



Nimble Fingers, an exceptionally talented group of seamstresses from **St. Stephen's Lutheran Church** in Atkins, donated several handmade quilts to the individuals we support. These beautiful quilts were made with love and, in turn, are sure to be loved by the individuals to whom they were gifted.





Al and Mary P. attended the **Rough Rider's** game in September and, as you can see, had a great time!



“Because I knew you, I have been changed for good.”

Submitted by: Uriel Moorer

Nathan doesn't use words to communicate as most of us do. Because of this, people tend to shy away from him out of confusion, misunderstanding, and sometimes, fear. Though he's not verbally speaking in the traditional sense, Nathan is ALWAYS communicating



I can tell when Nathan is happy or content. I can also tell when Nathan is afraid, frustrated, or playing a joke on me. Because I've had the opportunity to spend time with him, I can decipher his nonverbal communication through various vocalizations he'll make and understand how he's feeling and what he's telling me.

I'd like to encourage you, the next time you cross paths with someone different than you, to try and engage and learn about that person. And don't listen to reply but listen to understand. I ardently believe that more interactions like this will have such a memorable effect on you, that you'll carry it with you forever and ever. And, because of experiences like these, you will have been changed for good.



Vicki Wolfe, Ashley Dolan, and Aaron Swanson with the new AED donated by UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Hospital.

A Gift of Life

Submitted by: Kim Larimer, BSN, RN, DON

A huge THANK YOU to **UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Hospital** for donating a new AED to Discovery Living. The use of CPR along with an AED increases an individual's chances of survival in the event of cardiac arrest and could help save lives when and if needed.

The new AED is located at the Community Center, and as you can see, our individuals think it's pretty cool!

“I AM DIFFERENT, NOT LESS.” — DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN



Surveys are on the way!

Be on the lookout! On February 1st, many of you will be receiving a request from us for feedback in the form of our annual satisfaction surveys.

Your opinion isn't just data on a page; it's a direct line to understanding your needs and expectations. It fuels our innovations, ignites our improvements, and guides us in crafting the highest quality, most fulfilling support possible. Every answer, every point of feedback, builds a brighter future for the individuals we're privileged to serve. So, when February 1st arrives, please, open that email, share your thoughts, and help us build a future where every supported individual finds their champion. Your voice matters. Let it be heard.



Farewell Friend!

Submitted by: Ellen Healey

Steve Dennis, a person who receives our support services, exercised his rights, and opted to move from his home in Marion to a different Discovery Living-supervised location in Cedar Rapids. While Steve will miss his pals and caregivers at his prior home, he is excited to move



to a location that will allow him greater access to preferred community resources. Steve looks forward to making many memories in his new home. Pictured (L to R) is Steve with his former housemates: Bihari Richards, Steve Dennis, Justin Harford, David Wittenburg, and Tom Pike

Donate Today

The Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Discovery Living, Inc., © 2024. If you are interested in receiving a copy of our newsletter by email or traditional post, please contact **Leon Bohn** at leonbohn@discoveryliving.org.



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Providing
individualized,
life-long **support** to
adults with developmental
disabilities in the setting
of their choice by
promoting personal
growth, success, and
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