

ON THE LEVEL

From the League of Human Dignity

December, 2016

ON THE LEVEL is the bi-monthly newsletter of the League of Human Dignity, Inc.

The League of Human Dignity is a consumer-based, nonprofit organization, dedicated to promoting independent living for people with disabilities, in their own homes instead of nursing homes. To this end, we will advocate for the rights and needs of people with disabilities, while providing quality services to assist them in becoming and remaining independent citizens.

Established in 1971, the League now offers services in all 93 Nebraska counties and eight Southwest Iowa counties, through our Centers for Independent Living in Lincoln, Norfolk and Omaha, Nebraska, and Council Bluffs, Iowa; our Medicaid Waiver offices in Scottsbluff, Kearney and North Platte, Nebraska; and our Mobility Options shops in Lincoln and Omaha.

ON THE LEVEL is available online, by email subscription, Braille and on audio CD. To subscribe in any of these formats, contact the Public Information Office in Lincoln or your nearest League of Human Dignity office. The newsletter also is archived on our website [League website] leagueofhumandignity.com.

Season's Greetings from the League of Human Dignity!

League Staff Celebrate Work Milestones in 2016

This year, 11 League of Human Dignity employees celebrate work anniversaries, ranging from five to 20 years.

Topping the list is the League's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Jodi Mason. Jodi, who works in the Lincoln office, has held that position since joining the League in December 1996.

Services Coordinator Meagan Bateman reached her 15-year anniversary in July. She joined the League's Omaha office on July 20, 2001.

Marilyn Kreifels also is a services coordinator at the Omaha office, reaching her 10-year anniversary this year. She joined the League on Jan. 30, 2006.

Eight other employees each celebrated five years with the League in 2016.

Genette Albertsen joined the League's Lincoln office on Feb. 2, 2011, as an Education & Quality Assurance Specialist. Genette is now an Independent Living Advisor at the Lincoln CIL.

Bertana "Tana" Venturino also joined the League's Scottsbluff office Feb. 2, 2011, as a Services Coordinator.

Rachael Hansen joined the Omaha office staff on May 2, 2011, as a Services Coordinator.

Frann Mersnick Joined the Omaha office as a Services Coordinator June 13, 2011. She now is Outreach Coordinator/Office Manager at the Southwest Iowa CIL in Council Bluffs.

Jamie Holder joined the Lincoln CIL as a secretary June 27, 2011. Jamie currently is the Transportation/Barrier Removal Coordinator at the Lincoln CIL.

Charlie Manning joined the Omaha office staff on Sept. 13, 2011, as a Services Coordinator.

Pam Glen joined the Lincoln staff on Sept. 19, 2011, as a Services Coordinator.

Michaele Clark joined the Omaha office staff on Dec. 1, 2011, as a secretary.

Congratulations everyone!

Group Gathers for York Holiday Party

Photo shows a group of people seated in a dining room. About 17 York Group members, League officials and friends gathered Nov. 16 at York College's Mackey Center for their annual Holiday Party.

CEO's Note

Now that it is November, it is time to take stock of what we are thankful and to count our blessings. While it is always good to be appreciative of things like family, friends, a good job and a place to live, there are other important items to be included on the list.

At the League of Human dignity, we are thankful for our volunteers. Volunteers are such an integral part of our organization. Countless hours are generously given to our agency. Volunteers help with events, business operations and as peer mentors and supporters.

We depend on our volunteers and are so grateful for the help, resources and assistance they provide to the League. The compassion that our volunteers show to the people we serve is an inspiration for us all. I've noticed how our volunteers treat everyone with respect and kindness, no matter the situation. We all know how stressful it can sometimes be for the people who find themselves in need of the services we provide, and your words and actions go a long way toward helping them keep their dignity. All of us at the League want you to know that your work hasn't gone unnoticed.

So please join me in being thankful for the wonderful volunteers who support the League of Human Dignity and its Mission to serve people.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving as well as a safe and joyful Holiday Season.

Kathy Kay, League Associate CEO

Omaha CIL Says 'Thanks' to Volunteers

Jeneane Grimes has been honored as Volunteer of the Year by the League's Omaha Center for Independent Living.

Jeneane has been a volunteer since December, 2015, performing clerical duties in the CIL office two days a week.

"She is very dependable, very pleasant and in a good mood, committed to her volunteer work," said Independent Living Advisor Nancy Snyder.

The 2016 Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award winner was announced during the CIL's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Oct. 26.

Jeneane was unable to attend the luncheon. She was presented with the award, along with a gift of appreciation from the League, later in the week. Nancy accepted in her behalf during the luncheon.

Just over 20 staff and volunteers attended the luncheon, including new League Associate Executive Director, Kathy Kay.

The luncheon, along with similar events at the League's three other Centers for Independent Living, are one of the ways we say "thank you," for the work volunteers do during the year for the League. This year, volunteers received fleece vests embroidered with the League logo.

This story is accompanied by four photos. In the upper left, a smiling woman holds an award plaque. Jeneane Grimes received the 2016 Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award for the Omaha CIL.

In the upper right, a man and two women stand. Omaha CIL Director Bob Gomez, with Medicaid Waiver Supervisor Krista Rosentreader, right, introduces the League's new Associate Executive Director, Kathy Kay, center, to luncheon-goers.

In the lower right, a group of people, some standing and some seated, chat among themselves. CIL staff and past and present League volunteers gathered on Oct. 31.

A fourth small photo shows a cake, decorated with the words, "Thank You Volunteers."

Norfolk CIL Honors 2016 Volunteers

Band Loco Named Volunteer of the Year

The band Loco, which reunited earlier this year in support of the Norfolk Center for Independent Living, was honored during the center's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Oct. 31.

The Northeast Nebraska band was awarded the 2016 Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award. Loco held a benefit concert as part of the CIL's summer fund-raising event, the 2016 Norfolk Bike Run, and donated proceeds from the concert and related merchandise sales to the League.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is named in honor of the late Ken Lindhorst, who best exemplified the volunteer spirit and commitment to the League. The League's centers in Norfolk, Omaha, Council Bluffs and Lincoln each honor a volunteer of the year.

The annual luncheon recognized 20 people who volunteered over the past year. The event was held in conjunction with the center's Halloween party.

Four photos accompany this story. In the upper right, three men stand, smiling. Members of the band Loco who attended the Norfolk Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon are, from left, Orv Morrow, Adam Manoucheri, and Pat Robertson. Band members not pictured are Tom Bosn, Bob Carlson, Mark Elsbury, Rande Falter, Tim Herchenroether, Dave Lee, Lynn Spelts, Meredith McConnel, and Amy Manoucheri.

In the lower right, a band performs on a stage. Loco performs in O'Neill at the conclusion the the 2016 Norfolk Benefit Bike Run.

In the lower center, a man and a woman wearing a tall witch's hat sit at a table. Volunteer Rita Bade, dressed for Halloween, enjoys the Oct. 31 luncheon with Duane Dufek.

In the lower left, five women in Halloween costumes smile at the camera. The Oct. 31 luncheon was held at the Norfolk CIL, in conjunction with the center's annual Halloween party. Party-goers at left are, from left, League staffers Sarah Thoene, Jennifer Smidt, Deb Anderson, Brenda Johnson and Aimee Uecker.

York Luncheon Honors Chapter's Volunteers

Volunteers for the League's York Chapter held their annual luncheon Friday, Nov. 4, at the Chances R Restaurant in York.

Chapter President Stan Dinkelman recognized a total of 18 volunteers, who helped out at various chapter functions and events during the past year. About 15 people attended the event, including League CEO Mike Schafer and Public Information Specialist Jim Anderson.

Three volunteers were honored for their years of service: Yvonne Stuhr received a 25-year pin. Yvonne was unable to attend the luncheon, but her husband Allen, also a longtime volunteer, accepted for her. Jean Gibb and Marcia Jacobson received their 15-year pins.

Those recognized were Dawn Althouse, Michelle Appleton, Sue Curran, Alvin Fox, Virginia Fox, Dan Gibb, Jean Gibb, Marcia Jacobson, Virginia Kleinholz, Mary Kohtz, Ken Mayberry, Sue Mayberry, Randy Nun, Leigh Qubty, Karren Radcliff, Allen Stuhr, Yvonne Stuhr, and Stan Dinkelman.

Each volunteer was presented with a fleece vest, embroidered with the League Logo, as a gift of appreciation.

Three photos accompany this story. In the bottom left, a group of about 15 people sit around a large table. Volunteers met for their annual luncheon on Friday, Nov. 4, in the Shir-Ray Room at the Chances R Restaurant in York.

Above center, a standing man gives gifts to three seated people. League CEO Mike Schafer presents volunteer appreciation gifts to Alvin and Virginia Fox. Also shown is volunteer Allen Stuhr.

Above right, two men in wheelchairs chat while two seated women chat in the background. Stan Dinkelman, right, chats with volunteer Dan Gibb. Also shown are Marcia Jacobson, far left, and Jean Gibb.

League Employees

Saying Hello:

Kaci Viter, Acting Office Director (formerly Services Coordinator), North Platte.

Saying Good-Bye:

Rebecca Horn Office Director, North Platte.

Associations & Support Groups

The League maintains a list of associations and support groups in Nebraska, Southwest Iowa, the region and the nation for people with disabilities and their loved ones.

To see the complete list, in pdf format, please visit our website: www.leagueofhumandignity.com/getinvolved and find "Support Groups" near the bottom of the page.

Please Keep Sidewalks Clear and Passable This Winter

Winter is on the way and with it chances for snow and ice, making it harder for everyone to get around.

If you find it difficult walking through snow or on ice, imagine the difficulty for someone using a wheelchair, walker or other mobility device. The League reminds everyone to keep that in mind this winter and please keep your sidewalks and curb cuts clear and passable.

Sidewalks are a lifeline for people with disabilities and seniors. When snow or ice makes them impassable, that may prevent people from getting to work, to the store, or to the doctor. If someone using a wheelchair is forced into the street because of a blocked sidewalk, that puts them at the mercy of traffic and could become a matter of life or death.

This is more than an issue of good citizenship and neighborliness – it's also the law. Lincoln, Omaha, Council Bluffs, Norfolk, and most other cities and communities have ordinances that require snow removal on public sidewalks within a specified period of time. Fines may result for not abiding by the ordinances. Contact your local city government for more information on snow removal ordinances.

Winter Is Coming: Snow Closing Information

We have designated KFOR radio as our weather station.

In times of severe weather, please turn to KFOR 1240 AM, or go online to www.kfor1240.com for the latest word on cancellations.

Amazon Smile Ad

Support the League of Human Dignity When You Shop at Amazon By Buying Through AmazonSmile!

Just go online to AmazonSmile, sign in and shop away!

Lincoln CIL Holds Luncheon for 2016 Volunteers

Jack and Kathy Johnston have been awarded the 2016 Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award from the Lincoln Center for Independent Living.

The award was presented by CIL Director Shawna Keller during the 2016 Volunteer appreciation Luncheon on Friday, Nov. 18. The center welcomed 15 volunteers, staff and friends to the annual event. Kathy also received a pin for her 30-years as a volunteer. Jack received a 10-year pin.

Jack and Kathy each serve on the League's Board of Directors, and are dedicated and dependable in fulfilling their responsibilities. They also are members of the League Membership Group, where they have taken leadership roles in the Group's annual football game-day parking fundraiser and are consistently there in any weather.

Congratulations Jack and Kathy!

Four photos accompany this story. Far Right top: Two women and a man stand smiling. The woman in the middle holds an award plaque. Lincoln CIL Director Shawna Keller,

left, presented the 2016 Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award to Kathy and Jack Johnston during the center's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Far right bottom: Several people are seated at a table eating. A few of the 2016 volunteers, along with the League's Metro Housing Supervisor Paula Shufeldt, center, enjoy their meal.

Below right: A standing woman gives gifts to two seated people. Shawna Keller presents a 10-year volunteer pin to Jack Johnston during the luncheon's program.

Above right: A man and a woman stand, speaking to a group. League CEO Mike Schafer speaks during the luncheon program and introduces Shawna Keller.

Barrier Removal Grants

Barrier Removal Grants are available to qualifying renters or homeowners and their family members who have mobility limitations.

Grants are available to:

- People in Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Lincoln & Lancaster County.
- People with low to moderate income, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- People who need help removing barriers in their homes.

Examples of eligible modifications include outside ramps and lifts, grab bars, handrails, widened doorways, accessible tubs and showers, and reachable sinks and counters.

League staff offers a variety of services to assist in making homes more accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or for an application for a Barrier Removal Grant, contact:

Lincoln CIL, 1701 P St., Lincoln, NE 68508; Ph.402-441-7871

Omaha CIL, 5513 Center St., Omaha, NE 68106; Ph. 402-595-1256

SW Iowa CIL, 1520 Avenue M, Council Bluffs, IA 51501; Ph. 712-323-6863

A service of the League of Human Dignity.

League Donors

July 11 through September 28

BUILDER (\$500 and more): Omaha Community foundation, Caring for People of Omaha, NuCor Corp., Cattle National Bank, Lincoln Federal Savings Bank, U.S. Bank, Baylor Evnen Curtis, Gritit & Witt, Lincoln Community Foundation, Charitable Gift Fund, SEI, Susan Wiederspan, Unknown/Anonymous.

SUPPORTER (\$250 to \$499): GIPH Restaurants, Gerald Kloppenborg, John Fink Realty, Davis Plumbing, Foundation Building Materials, K. Beasley, Bouwens Plumbing, Highlands Golf Course, Sovereign Electric, V & K Construction, Mobile Computer Repair, James and Julie Nygren.

CENTURY (\$100 to \$249): Julie Kloppenborg, Amanda Altwine, Rokahr Construction, Jeff Maloun, M. H. Freudenburg, Frontier Bank, Home Solutions of Nebraska, Radcliffe & Associates, Lincoln Foundation, Union Bank & Trust, Jeff Geier, Scott Minchow, Lonnie Mueller, Jean Kloppenborg.

BELIEVER (\$50 to \$99): Gerrie Peterson, Bierman Contracting, Douglas Knight, Schulenberg Construction.

FRIEND (\$25 to \$49): Douglas Wright, Marlin Metschke, Jennifer Smidt, Jerry Rachwalik.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Get *ON THE LEVEL* in your email box! Send your email address to:

janderson@leagueofhumandignity.com

After Hours Transportation for Lincolmites with Disabilities

The League of Human Dignity Extended Hours Service (EHS) Transportation Program offers 70 rides each week, up from the 35 weekly rides it has offered for the past three years.

EHS provides affordable, accessible public transportation in Lincoln for people with disabilities who need it, when other options are not available.

So, if you have a disability and don't drive — and it's late or it's the weekend or a holiday, and the city buses and HandiVans aren't running, EHS is there for you.

EHS is for people who are eligible for Lincoln's StarTran HandiVan service and who use Lincoln's fixed-route buses or other assisted transportation, or who experience permanent disability and do not have a vehicle of their own and valid driver's license.

A HandiVan or EHS identification is required — eligible residents can get both at the League of Human Dignity, 1701, P Street, in Lincoln. Stop in or call 402-441-7871 for details about eligibility and registration.

EHS offers rides weekdays from 5 to 11 p.m.; Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sundays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each one-way ride is \$4.

Reservations for rides are accepted Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Reservations may be made from one to seven day prior to a requested ride. Same-day requests are subject to space availability.

Contact the League's Transportation Coordinator for more information about this great program!

Where to Find Us

LINCOLN Center for Independent Living & Mobility Options
1701 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone 402-441-7871

OMAHA Center for Independent Living & Mobility Options
5513 Center Street, Omaha, NE 68106
Phone 402-595-1256

NORFOLK Center for Independent Living
400 Elm Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone 402-371-4475

SW IOWA Center for Independent Living
1520 Avenue M, Council Bluffs, IA 51501
Phone 712-323-6863

PANHANDLE Medicaid Waiver Office
17 E 21 St., Scottsbluff, NE 69361
Phone 308-632-0470

KEARNEY Medicaid Waiver Office

3811 W. 29th Avenue, Ste 2, Kearney NE 68845
Phone 308-224-3665

NORTH PLATTE Medicaid Waiver Office
2509 Halligan Dr., North Platte, NE 69101
Phone 308-532-4911

www.leagueofhumandignity.com
& Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Classifieds

Classified ads cost \$5 for the first 25 words and 25 cents for each additional word. To place an ad, write to: On The Level, League of Human Dignity, 1701 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508; call Jim at 402-441-7871 v/tdd; call toll free at 888-508-4758; or fax: 402-441-7650. Equipment, supplies and other items for sale must be accessible to, or for the use of, people with disabilities.

FOR SALE: Five-year-old Jazzy power chair, great condition, never used outside, non-smoking home. Asking \$500. Please call Sherry at 402-438-4916 if interested (Lincoln).

FOR SALE: Six adjacent cemetery plots in Westlawn-Hillcrest Cemetery in Omaha. Section 8, Lot 24R spaces 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. \$1,000 each or \$5,000 for all six. Call the League of Human Dignity, 402-441-7871.

The League of Human Dignity Building Corporation

Is taking applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments with roll-in showers in Lincoln, Omaha, York, Columbus, Norfolk and Hastings.

These units come with Section 8 certificates and rent is based upon income. Eligible applicants must qualify under income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Applicants must experience disability to qualify.

To apply or for more info, call Paula Shufeldt

at 1-888-508-4758 V/TDD

or email pshufeldt@leagueofhumandignity.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.

What Is ‘Youth Transition’?

Youth Transition . . .

It is about putting the pieces in place that a young adult may need to accomplish their dreams and lifelong happiness.

The Purpose of Youth Transition — to ensure that young adults will gain the skills, knowledge and interagency relationships to establish long-range goals for independence after high school.

The League of Human Dignity’s transition component serves students age 14 to 26.

The League assists youth and young adults with disabilities to transition from high school and life with parents to post-secondary education, employment and, for some, independent living.

Bruno Lifts Ad

- In Stock, visit us at 1720 O Street in Lincoln
- Helps you maintain your independence
- Safe, economical, efficient way to overcome architectural barriers

Call us at 402-441-7871 for more information about this great product!

Mobility Options

Knowledge. Independence. Innovation.