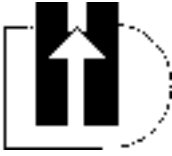


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Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 371-4475

Omaha

Center for Independent Living
5513 Center Street
Omaha, NE 68106
(402) 595-1256

Panhandle

Medicaid Waiver Office
17 East 21 Street - Suite 2
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TO: All Southwest Iowa Media
FROM: Michelle Martin, Public Information Office
DATE: January 31, 2008
TOPIC: League of Human Dignity Receives Iowa West Foundation Grant

The League of Human Dignity's Southwest Iowa Center for Independent Living (CIL) was recently awarded a grant to co-fund accessible modifications in the homes of lower-income Council Bluffs residents who experience a disability. The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, Iowa, bestowed more than \$5.8 million in grants to various non-profit agencies this past quarter, including a \$20,000 grant to the League of Human Dignity.

The League's grant will be used to expand accessible housing in Council Bluffs through its Barrier Removal Program. There is currently a two-to-three year waiting list for funding through the League's Barrier Removal Program for residents of Council Bluffs who need to make home modifications. The League's program works in conjunction with Council Bluffs Community Development Block Grant program to provide \$5000 per person/project. Most of the time, the projects exceed that amount, leaving a gap in the funding.

The grant from the Iowa West Foundation will make it possible for these projects to be completed, thus increasing the number of homes in Council Bluffs that are accessible. This is quite important because as the population ages, and as more people become disabled, people with physical disabilities will have more choices for accessible and affordable housing in Council Bluffs.

The League of Human Dignity is a consumer-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to actively promote the full integration of persons with disabilities into society. One of its key services is its Barrier Removal Program.

The League has Barrier Removal centers in Lincoln, Omaha and Council Bluffs. These centers offer a variety of services to assist in making homes and buildings more accessible. Renters or homeowners who experience a mobility limitation AND who are low to moderate income may apply to the League for a grant to remove or modify barriers in their home. Some eligible modification examples include outside ramps or lifts, grab bars in bathrooms, handrails, wider doorways, accessible tubs and showers, and reachable sinks and counters.

Those individuals interested in information about Barrier Removal Grants please contact the Southwest Iowa Center for Independent Living at (712) 323-6863. Or you can visit the League on the web at www.leagueofhumandignity.com.