

Promoting independent living for people with disabilities for more than 40 years. Serving Nebraska and Southwest Iowa

## New Law Reauthorizes WIA, Rehabilitation Act

President Signs Long-Awaited Legislation  
Passed Both Houses Overwhelmingly

Independent Living and disability rights advocates are celebrating.

President Obama on July 22 signed into law the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The legislation passed in the Senate June 24 on a 95-3 vote, and passed the House of Representatives 415-6 July 9.

Most supporters praise the legislation as a jobs training bill designed to bring the country into the 21st century — which it is. The legislation is a way-past-due reauthorization and amending of the Clinton-era Workforce Investment Act.

But the WIOA also includes a long-sought reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act. And for that it has received the strong support of disability groups. The legislation impacts the federal Independent Living Program as well as local Centers for Independent Living.

Among other things, the bill would move the Independent Living

Program from the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Education to the new Administration for Community Living (ACL) under the Department of Health and Human Services

The bill also would add a fifth service to the four core services mandated for CILs: Transition. CILs would help people with disabilities transition from nursing homes and other institutions to the community and help people with disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions to remain in the community. CILs also would help youths with disabilities transition from school to adult life, including employment.

Provisions affecting states' Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC) include resource development; CIL directors would be included among those who sign off on Statewide Plans for Independent Living (SPIL) and each state would choose its "Designated State Entity" formerly known as DSU.

The National Council on Independent Living describes the development of the WIOA and successes in moving it through Congress as a "big win for Independent Living in this country."

## Riders Enjoy Norfolk CIL Bike Run Despite Threat of Stormy Weather

It turned out to be a beautiful day for riding motorcycles July 12, despite a little rain in the morning. And 20 riders agreed, taking part in the first Norfolk Center for Independent Living Bike Run. The ride was a success, said CIL Director Jean Kloppenborg, and plans already are under way to make it an even bigger event next year. Shown are riders during a stop in Petersburg. For more, see story and photos on page 3.



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

The League of Human Dignity is a consumer-based, non-profit 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: [www.leagueofhumandignity.com](http://www.leagueofhumandignity.com)

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## CEO'S NOTE

Please indulge me as I begin and end on a personal note. Over five years ago I wrote in this column about the arrival of our new granddaughter Kira. My only reason for mentioning Kira again is that on August 12, this independent minded little girl will begin her first day of kindergarten. As I think about this milestone for Kira, and our family, I am reminded how quickly time flies, and that one certainty in life is that; like it or not, we will experience change throughout our lives..

Such is the case for the League, and independent living services for people with disability in Iowa and Nebraska. As you will note in the article about the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the federal administration for funding and oversight of Centers for Independent Living (CIL) will transition from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. This transition will occur over the next two years.

The original federal enabling legislation for the Centers for Independent Living Programs was passed in 1978, and the program has been housed in RSA since that time. This is obviously a significant change, and we believe the change will be positive

In addition to the transfer of administrative oversight of the independent living program, we welcome the official addition of transition services to the list of what was formerly four core services that are required to be provided by CILs. Though the League has long provided transition services to assist Iowans and Nebraskans with disability to transition from nursing home to community-based living, we are happy this service will now be mandatory in order to be considered a CIL.

There are also a number of significant changes on the horizon for Nebraskans who receive Long Term Services and Supports from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Home and Community Based Service System. We will provide our readers with updates on these changes, as plans become more concrete.

While significant changes are sure to occur over the next few years, we will meet them with an openness to the opportunities they provide.

It is my hope for my granddaughter that she too will eagerly embrace the changes she is about to experience, and that she will make the most of the opportunities that she will be offered. Good luck Kira Jean!

  
Mike Schafer, League CEO

# Norfolk Bike Run a Success

Riders started at the Norfolk Center for Independent Living and finished at Barnstormers Bar and Grill in Norfolk, with stops in between at Heroes in Tilden, Knotty Pine in Petersburg, Eastside Bar in Monroe and Kudron's Keg in Humphrey. Each riders picked up a playing card at each stop and at the end of the day, the best and worst hands won.

Mark Malmberg won the best hand prize for three aces, an eight and a five. Jerry Kloppenborg won the worst hand prize.

Riders had the chance to win a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, underwritten by Harley-Davidson Sales of Columbus. But none matched the predetermined card hand.

Special thanks go to the event sponsors: Harley-Davidson Sales of Columbus, Barnstormers Bar and Grill, Jeff Treu, US Bank, H&R Block, Boss Hogs Bikes, Quiznos, Trade N' Post, Curry Brothers Motor Sports, Lou's Thrifty Way, Maximus, The J Sports Bar and Grill, Gottberg Brew Pub, Dusters Restaurant, Dairy Queen, Burger King, Papa Murphy's, McDonald's, Wendy's, Caretech Inc., Frontier Bank, Good Life Pharmacy, Casey's General Store, Henry Repeating Arms, Great Western Bank, County Line Insurance, Home Instead, Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, Little Caesars', Advanced Auto Parts, Ernst Toyota, Ace Hardware, The Offroad Company, Glurs Tavern, Arby's, Wimmer's Meat Products Inc., Pierce Locker, and Tilden Thriftyway Market.

**League staffer Sonya Kraft helps rider Duane Ottis draw his card during the second stop at Knotty Pine in Petersburg.**



Photos by  
Sandy Duncan



**Riders south of Petersburg, on their way to Monroe.**



**Riders Jerry Kloppenborg and Joyce Miller pick up their cards during the first stop, at Heroes in Tilden.**

# 2014 Omaha/SW Iowa Benefit Golf Event

Teams line up in their golf carts for final instructions before heading out onto the course to take part in the four-player scramble June 6, during the League's annual Omaha/Southwest Iowa Benefit Golf Event. The event was held at Bent Tree Golf Club in Council Bluffs, Iowa.



Photos by  
Carrie England &  
Jenifer Gutierrez

## Beautiful Day Draws 40 Golfers to League Outing at Bent Tree

The League's Omaha and Southwest Iowa Centers for Independent Living held their annual benefit golf event on Friday, June 6, at Bent Tree Golf Club in Council Bluffs.

The event included an 18-hole four-player scramble, silent auction, dinner and awards presentation. Proceeds benefit the Omaha CIL and the Southwest Iowa CIL in Council Bluffs. It is the main fund-raising event of the year for the CILs.

In all, 10 teams took part in the event. The team from Bent Tree won the scramble. Of the members of the team, Mike Ninneman also won the ninth hole prize, Jason Madsen won the 14th hole flag prize, Josh Madsen won the 16th hole prize and Joe Madsen won

the 18th hole prize.

Representing Lifeline by Immanuel, the team of Brad Buschow, David Storm, Chad Seim and Tom Pascale took second place. Caring for People of Omaha, Team 1, made up of John Hjelle, Mike Greene-Walsh, Eddie Panton and Tim Walker took third.

This year's event would not have been a success without our sponsors:

Donating \$500 — Black Hills Energy.

Donating \$250 to \$500 — R.E. Stephens Construction Co., Caretech, Inc., Lifeline By Immanuel

Donating Under \$250 — SW Iowa Labor Council, Honda Cars of Bellevue

Special thanks go to Bent Tree Golf Club, Hy-Vee, Olive Garden and McMullen Ford.

The League thanks all who participated in this year's event.



**Above left: Teammates, from left, Eddie Panton, Tim Walker, Mike Greene-Walsh and John Hjelle size up their putts. They made up Caring for People of Omaha Team 1 and finished in third place.**

**Above: The first-place team, from left, Jason Madsen, Josh Madsen, Joe Madsen and Mike Ninneman, representing Bent Tree Golf Club.**

**Left: Event participants relax at the end of the day with a meal and awards presentation.**

***Thanks to Sponsors, Donors, Participants at 2014 Golf Event***

# Save the Date: League of Human Dignity Lincoln Benefit Golf Event

The League's 6th Annual Lincoln Benefit Golf Event is set for Thursday, Sept. 18, once again at the beautiful Highlands Golf Course, 5501 NW 12th St., Lincoln.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m., following check-in and lunch. It is organized as an 18-hole, four-player golf scramble. Included are a silent auction in the clubhouse throughout the event, various games and contests and the day concludes with a buffet dinner and awards presentation. See the information at right for more details.

The 2014 benefit marks the sixth annual League golf event. The benefit is the primary fund-raiser for the League's Lincoln Center for Independent Living. Proceeds will help the CIL fulfill its mission, providing services that help people with disabilities in southeast Nebraska live independently.

It is one of three League golf events held during the year by League Centers for Independent Living. Read about the Omaha/Southwest Iowa event, held early in June, elsewhere in this newsletter.

To register, or for more information about the event, including how you can help, contact the League of Human Dignity, 1701 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508; call 401-441-7871, toll free at 888-508-4758, fax 402-441-7650 or email [crigoni@leagueofhumandignity.com](mailto:crigoni@leagueofhumandignity.com).

## Check Out Our Classifieds On Page 11

List your item with a 25-word ad for \$5 (25 centsd for each additional word). Tell other **On The Level** readers what you have for sale!

## 18-Hole, 4-Player Scramble & More! Thursday, September 18, 2014 Highlands Golf Course

5501 Northwest 12th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

11:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

Lunch & Dinner Provided by FireWorks Restaurant

Register a four-player team for \$300.

The following sponsorship options also are available:

**\$1,000 Donation** includes a team, hole sponsorship, and name recognition in event program, at hole, on poster in clubhouse, social media and in League's newsletter

**\$750 Donation** includes hole sponsorship and name recognition in event program, at hole, on poster in clubhouse, social media and in League's newsletter

**\$300 Donation** includes name recognition in event program, on poster in clubhouse, social media and in League's newsletter

**Underwriting Opportunities:** event beverage cart



Visit us online at [www.leagueofhumandignity.com](http://www.leagueofhumandignity.com)  
and follow us on Facebook & Twitter @LHD68508

## Olmstead at 15: Progress Made But More Work Needed

Americans celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Olmstead Decision June 22 and a comparison between then and now shows that progress has been made – although there is still a ways to go.

The Court found that confining people with disabilities to institutions when they don't want to be there and when other options are available constitutes unlawful discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Specifically, the ruling upheld the ADA regulation that a "public entity shall administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."

Nationally, Medicaid funding for community-based services rose from 18.7 percent of spending in 2000 to 38.8 percent in 2012, the latest year figures are available, according to a report prepared by disability advocate Steve Gold.

Fiscal year 2000, which started on July 1, 1999, saw \$9 billion of Medicaid funding going to community-based services and \$49 billion to keep people with disabilities in nursing homes. By 2012 38.8 percent or \$22 billion went to community-based services and 61.2 percent or \$74 billion went to institutional services.

In Nebraska, 16.9 percent of Medicaid spending went to community-based services and 83.1 to institutional care in 2000. By 2012, the state was spending 23 percent of the total on community-based care and 76.4 percent on institutional care.

Iowa showed a similar increase, with 11.1 percent going to community-based services and 88.9 percent to institutional care in 2000, then 23.6 percent to community-based services and 76.4 percent to institutional care by 2012.

States with the highest percentage of spending on community-based services for people with disabilities include Minnesota at 65.4 percent, Alaska at 62.4 percent, Washington at 61.7 percent, Oregon at 60.7 percent, and California at 57.1 percent.

States with the lowest percentage of community-based spending include North Dakota at 14 percent, Kentucky at 14.4 percent, Alabama at 15.2 percent, New Jersey at 15.7 percent and South Dakota at 16.3 percent.

## Barrier Removal Grants Available from League

Barrier Removal Grants are available to qualified renters or homeowners who have mobility limitation or who have someone in their family who does.

The League offers grants in Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Lincoln and Lancaster County. The program is for people with low to moderate income, based on U.S. Housing and Urban Development guidelines, who need funds to remove 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 offer 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:

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### **Omaha Center for Independent Living**

5513 Center St., Omaha, NE 68106

Phone 402-595-1256

### **Lincoln Center for Independent Living**

1701 P St., Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone 402-441-7871

### **SW Iowa Center for Independent Living**

1520 Avenue M, Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Phone 712-323-6863

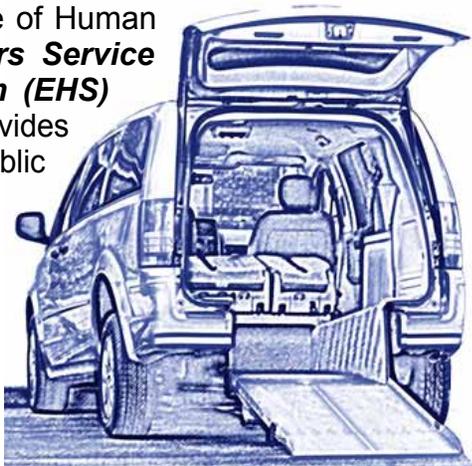
# Please Support EHS

People with disabilities in Lincoln face a real barrier if any of their common, everyday activities take place during hours that Lincoln's city buses and HandiVans don't run.

That's why the League of Human Dignity's **Extended Hours Service Transportation Program (EHS)** is so important. EHS provides affordable, accessible public transportation in Lincoln for people with disabilities who need it, when other options are not available.

Please donate what you can to help maintain this needed program. Every \$21 you give pays for one one-way ride for one of your neighbors who depends on affordable, accessible transportation.

Send a check or money order — noting that your donation is for the EHS Program — drop by our office at 1701 P Street with a cash or credit card donation, or donate online on our website, [www.leagueofhumandignity.com](http://www.leagueofhumandignity.com) or on our Facebook page. For more information about EHS, call the League at 402-441-7871 or stop by our office.



**“We must remind the policymakers that we’re not a group needing services—we’re a constituency demanding rights.”**

**— Gina McDonald**

## LEAGUE DONORS

**May 29, 2014, through July 17, 2014**

**Builder (\$500 and above):** LHD Lincoln Membership Group, Black Hills Utility Holdings, Immanuel Lifeline, Caring for People Services

**Supporter (\$250 to \$499):** Matt Jetter and Associates, R.E. Stephens Construction, Bent Tree Golf Club, Mobility Motoring LLC

**Century (\$100 to \$249):** Honda Cars of Bellevue, Rohn Loyd, Kathleen Johnson, Hanna Keelan & Associates, Fourteen Foods (Frauenshuh Hospitality), Lincoln 21st Century Lions Club, Jim Carrier, Marvin Rhodes, Rees & Rees (H&R Block)

**Believer (\$50 to \$99):** Lucas Poppe, Sharon M. Thorson

**Other:** Alan Shaw, Suzanne G. Schreiber, Curry Brothers Motor Sports, Janis Heim, Lonnie Mueller

**Thank You  
For Your Generosity!**

## Lions 2014 Peach/Pear Fundraiser

The Lincoln 21st Century Lions Club has begun its annual fundraising drive to raise money for eyeglasses and hearing aids in Nebraska and the Lions Eye Bank of Nebraska.

The organization is taking orders for freestone peaches and Bartlett pears. Delivery is dependent on harvest dates on the Western Slopes in Colorado. Purchasers will receive delivery details a few days before delivery.

The cost is \$34 per lug for either peaches or pears. To order or for more information, call Mitch at 402-890-8235.



# New Legislation Mandates Fifth Core Service for CILs

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which President Obama recently signed after it was passed overwhelmingly by Congress, adds a fifth core service to those already required for Centers for Independent Living: Transition.

Many CILs already provide the service, but under the terms of the new law, CILs now will be required to do so. Transition refers to helping people with disabilities transition from nursing homes and other institutions into the community — as well as helping people with disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions to remain in the community for as long as possible.

CILs also will help youths with disabilities transition from school to adult life, including employment.

At present, CILs are mandated to provide these four core services:

- Individual and systems advocacy
- Information and referral
- Independent living skills training
- Peer counseling and support

The League of Human Dignity provides these services, which people with disabilities need to achieve and maintain their independent lives. In addition, League CILs in Nebraska and Southwest Iowa provide services including, but not limited to:

- Training in personal assistant hiring and management
- Barrier removal grants
- Equipment loan and rental

Call the League at 402-441-7871 to find out more. Or drop by our offices at 1701 P Street in Lincoln, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact any of our other Centers for Independent Living.

Through our CILs and Medicaid Waiver offices, the League serves all 93 Nebraska counties and Southwest Iowa.



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We put  
the **FUN**  
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**Support the  
League of Human Dignity**

On the third Wednesday of each month, Dairy Queen at 540 S. 32nd Avenue in Council Bluffs gives part of its proceeds from 5 to 8 p.m. to benefit the SW Iowa Center for Independent Living, to help the center fulfill its mission: promoting independent living and the full integration of people with disabilities into their communities.

*Come on out and enjoy a delicious treat - and support the League of Human Dignity!*

## 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.html](http://www.leagueofhumandignity.com/getinvolved.html) and click on "Support Groups."

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please don't forget to leave a comment - even if it's just to say hello.

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[janderson@leagueofhumandignity.com](mailto:janderson@leagueofhumandignity.com)

# 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 56508; 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:** Electric hospital bed with Serta Comfort Genius Memory Foam Mattress, \$1,500 OBO; Shower chair and Hemi walker, \$25 apiece. All items in excellent condition. Call Meg, 402-499-5922 (Lincoln).

**FOR SALE:** Invacare hospital bed. Great condition. New mattress, new gel overlay, very reasonable price. Call Vicky 402-488-4875 or 402-440-6730 (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, 403, 441-7871.

## **LONG-SLEEVED T-SHIRTS** from the LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY



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(Price includes sales tax)

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## **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](mailto:pshufeldt@leagueofhumandignity.com)





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## 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](http://www.leagueofhumandignity.com)

[www.mobility-options.com](http://www.mobility-options.com)

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