

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

Nebraska Governor Signs ADA 25th Anniversary Proclamation

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts signed a proclamation July 8 honoring the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The signing ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda was attended by representatives of several of the state’s disability advocacy groups, including the League of Human Dignity. The proclamation affirms the value of the ADA to Nebraska in “expanding opportunities by reducing barriers, changing perceptions, leveling equality and increasing full participation in community life.”

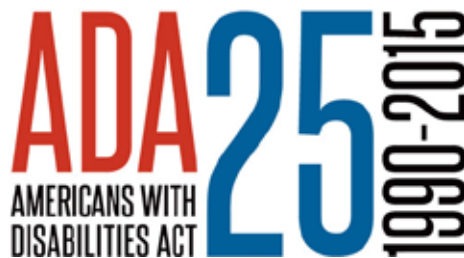
The ADA turned 25 years old on July 26. A celebration program was July 24, at the Lincoln Community Foundation Garden at 14th and N Streets. The celebration featured music and art, a disability rights panel and presentations by Lincoln Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Steve Joel and Nebraska Lt. Governor

Mike Foley.

Also on July 24, in Omaha, the ADA was celebrated at Seymour Smith Park, 6802 Harrison Street. Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert spoke and refreshments were provided.

In Des Moines, a rally and march started on July 24 with a program outside the Hoover State Office Building at E. 13th and Walnut Streets. Celebrants then marched to the “Shattering the Silence” monument on the grounds of the Iowa State Capitol to continue the program.

President George H. Bush signed the ADA into law on July 26, 1990. The bipartisan legislation passed the Senate 76-8 and the House of Representatives 377-28. The entire Nebraska Congressional Delegation had voted for its passage. All but one member of the Iowa delegation voted for passage.



Final Giving Day Totals Announced

The final report is in for Give to Lincoln Day, the 24-hour giving event for Lincoln nonprofits May 28, The event raised \$3.26 million for 327 nonprofits. About half the total was in offline donations, delivered to the Lincoln Community Foundation during the day of the event.

The League of Human Dignity raised \$2,776, including \$475 in online donations and \$2,010 offline. The money will be used for programs at the League’s Lincoln CIL.

A similar event in Omaha, Omaha Gives 24 on May 20, raised \$8.8 million, entirely online. A total of 704 Omaha Metro Area nonprofits participated. The total included \$1,010 for the League of Human Dignity’s Omaha and Southwest Iowa CILs.

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September is Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month

CEO'S NOTE

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

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We in the disability community just celebrated the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is a landmark piece of federal legislation that affords comprehensive civil rights protection for Americans who experience disability.

I recently read a report published by the American Institutes for Research that states the unemployment rate for people with disability is 33.5%, and more than 420,000 workers with disability are still being paid sub-minimum wage. The report also cites statistics that disabled workers who have masters degrees or a PhD, on average make \$21,000 less per year than their non-disabled counterparts. Though I am not surprised by these statistics, I still find them to be shocking, and disappointing.

There is little doubt that the ADA has in fact created more independence for Americans with disability. At the same time, much work remains to be done to move the needle further along the continuum of independence and non-discrimination for people with disability, and to actively enforce the provisions of the ADA.

The League of Human Dignity will continue its efforts to improve and create opportunities for people with disability to enjoy the same quality of life as their non-disabled counterparts experience. We hope that you will continue to support these efforts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Schafer".

Mike Schafer, League CEO

Warm, Beautiful Weather for Norfolk Bike Run



Norfolk CIL Independent Living Advisor Brenda Johnson, left, sits with Laurel Johnson (center) and Julie Joyce, right, facilitating the card draw at at Pinky's in Wausa. Seated behind them is Tami Horn.

It was a great day for Norfolk's second annual Benefit Bike Run.

Thirty-four riders took part in the event, a motorcycle poker run through NE Nebraska, Saturday, July 11. They turned in 48 tally sheets. Temperatures rose into the upper 90s.

"But the riders appeared to enjoy themselves, and we appreciate their support," Norfolk Center for Independent Living Director Jean Kloppenborg Ruge said.

Winner with a full house was Troy Loughrey of Norfolk. Worst hand honors went to Ron Hoferer of Norfolk.



Above: Participants gather at the end of the run at the White House in Pierce. In the foreground, from left, Todd Miller, Joyce Miller, Jesse Peterson, Jerald Kloppenborg, Chris Davis (back to camera) and Dan Hoferer.



Left: Run organizers, Independent Living Coordinator Jane Fink, left, and Norfolk CIL Director Jean Kloppenborg Ruge

Riders were from Gillette, WY, Emmet, O'Neill, Norfolk, Creighton, Pierce, Neligh, Bloomfield, and Battle Creek, NE. American Legion Riders were from the Norfolk, O'Neill and Creighton groups.

A special thanks goes to the American Legion Riders and their support of this event. Also to the staff at the White House who donated their time to prepare the pulled pork donated by Tyson Foods, Inc., and donated their banquet room.

Thanks also to the individual stops on the run, the White House (Pierce), Rhonda's Bar & BBQ (Brunswick), Misty's Soakers (Verdigris), Bottoms Up (Bloomfield), and Pinky's (Wausa).

2015 League Of Human Dignity Omaha/SW Iowa Benefit Golf Event

The League played host to its annual Omaha/Southwest Iowa Benefit Golf Event June 12.

The event is the main fundraising event for the League's Omaha and Southwest Iowa Centers for Independent Living. A total of 15 teams enjoyed a beautiful day at Bent Tree Golf Club in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Following the four-player scramble, participants enjoyed a buffet dinner and awards presentation in the clubhouse. A silent auction was held throughout the event.

In the scramble, finishing in first place was the team of Jay Rhubottom, Steve Chamley, Justin Coleman and Mark Anderson, from Iowa Total Care. Taking second were John Hjelle, Tim Walker, Eric Hjelle and Corey Degner, making up the No. 2 team from Caring for People Services. In third place was the team of Chad Seim, Colleen Brabec, Mike Grim and Dave Storm from Lifeline by Immanuel.

The benefit would not have been a success without the help of its sponsors and donors. Sponsors who gave \$750 to \$1,000 were: Magellan Complete Care, Caring for People Services, Caretech, Inc., Amerigroup Iowa, Iowa Total Care

Giving \$500 to \$750: Jetter and Associates LLC

Giving \$250 to \$500: A Place at Home, Harwood Services, Inc., Hy-Vee, Home Instead Senior Care, Lifeline by Immanuel, Olive Garden, The Daily Nonpareil, Westgate Assisted Living

Giving up to \$250: American Gramophone, Ameristar Casino and Hotel, Arby's - Panda, Inc., Applebee's - J.S. Ventures, Inc., Ashley Lynn's Inc. DBA Palm Beach Tan, Borsheim's, Brock Watson, Doll Distributing Inc., Don & Peg Baxter, Family Fun Center, Film Streams at the Ruth Sokolof Theater, Papio Fun Park, Funny Bone Comedy Club, Golden Corral, Grease Monkey, Red Lobster, Henry Doorly Zoo, Ideal Pure Water, Jim Crum, Jody Bryant, The Rose, Kansas City Royals, Lauritzen Gardens, McMullen Ford, Scheels All Sports, No Frills Supermarkets, Lazlo's Brewery and Grill - Tele-sis, Inc., Randy Mastra, Minnesota Vikings Football Club, Oma-



Finishing in first place at the June 12 Omaha/Southwest Iowa Benefit Golf Event was the team of, from left, Jay Rhubottom, Steve Chamley, Justin Coleman and Mark Anderson, representing Iowa Total Care.

ha Children's Museum, Walmart, Omaha Community Playhouse, Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, QuikTrip Corporation, The Amazing Pizza Machine, The Durham Museum, Upstream Brewing Company, Denis Jones, Opera Omaha, Struyk Turf, Ltd, Creighton University Athletic Department, Honda Cars of Bellevue.

Omaha/SW Iowa Benefit Golf Event



From left, John Hjelle, Tim Walker, Eric Hjelle and Corey Deigner, from Caring for People Services, took second place at the June12 Omaha/SW Iowa Benefit Golf Event.



Tim Vanderloo putts as his teammates look on.



Southwest Iowa CIL Secretary Jennifer Gutierrez, seated, registers a team prior to the start of the event.



The team of, from left, Chad Seim, Colleen Brabec, Mike Grim and Dave Storm, representing Lifeline by Immanuel, took third place.

Works by Artists with Disabilities On Display at League

Art From Dean Settle's Metro Gallery Collection Priced to Sell

The League of Human Dignity's conference room at 17th and P Streets is currently home to an exhibit of works by Lincoln visual artists with disabilities.

The art was produced by members of Artists on the Edge, a Lincoln group, and are from the collection of Dean Settle, owner of Metro Gallery at 1316 N St., in Lincoln. All the works are marked for sale and new pieces will be put on display in December, Mr. Settle said.

Works from the collection also were on display at the 25th Anniversary celebration for the Americans with Disabilities Act July 24 at the Lincoln Community Foundation.

Many of the pieces are classified as outsider art, created by artists who are self-taught and not conventionally trained. Mr. Settle said about 15 percent of his collection at Metro Gallery is made up of outsider art.

"I don't segregate it," he said.

He emphasized that the art is not produced as therapy.

"It's art for art's sake. [The program is] a safe, creative haven for people who are creative."

Several pieces also were on display during the recent 25th Anniversary Celebration for the Americans with Disabilities Act July 24 at the Lincoln Community Foundation.

Mr. Settle worked for 51 years as an administrator of programs and organizations that serve people with disabilities. He retired in 2012 after 14 years as director of Community Mental Health Center. Artists on the Edge began there in 1999.

Since he was at least sophomore in college, Mr. Settle said, he has been a lover of visual arts. Though not an artist himself, he said he's bought and sold art, surrounded himself with it and made friends in the arts community.

"About 1998 or '99, there began to be a trickle of people we



Dean Settle hangs a painting from his collection in the League's Lincoln headquarters conference room.

worked with who would bring in their art. They knew I loved art and I was a safe haven – to receive soft criticism and hard encouragement."

The artists then organized. They began meeting for open studio time in the basement of Community Mental Health Center. They

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ART

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named themselves Artists on the Edge and soon were joined by a group of writers. CenterPointe opened its basement at 13th and E Streets to the Writer's Wordshop.

In these settings, Lincoln artists and writers with disabilities or recovering from addictions were able to work with professional visual and written artists who mentored, encouraged, and advised them.

The project began with 10 artists, six writers and early grant support from the Woods Charitable Fund. It has since grown to include about 450 people. Early on, the project began showcasing its best art at two annual local shows – since growing to as many as six shows and traveling exhibits -- and in an annual published anthology of poetry and stories.

“It’s art for art’s sake . . . a safe, creative haven for people who are creative.”

— *Dean Settle*

In 2003, the groups were offered meeting space by the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Foundation and moved from their respective treatment facilities into the F Street Community Center.

Community Mental Health, which was operated by Lancaster County, closed in 2012, when the county decided to get out of the mental health business, and its work was privatized.

The arts and writing programs now are sponsored through a partnership between Lincoln's Park and Recreation Foundation and CenterPointe with help from private grants.

About 75 percent of the proceeds from sale of the art and writing anthologies goes to the artists, Mr. Settle said. The remainder goes back into the Artists on the Edge and Writer's Wordshop programs to pay for supplies, visiting artists and grant matches.

For more information about Artists on the Edge, visit their Facebook page or <http://artistsontheedge.blogspot.com/>.

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



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 and click on “Support Groups.”

7th Annual Lincoln Benefit Golf Event

18-Hole, 4-Player Golf Scramble & More!

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Highlands Golf Course

5501 Northwest 12th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

11:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

Lunch & Dinner Provided

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



To register or for more information, contact the League of Human Dignity, 1701 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, phone 402-441-7871 (V/TDD); Fax 402-441-7650; or email crigoni@leagueofhumandignity.com Visit us online at www.leagueofhumandignity.com and follow us on Facebook & Twitter @LHD68508

Membership Has Annual Picnic



The League of Human Dignity Membership Group Held its annual picnic June 20, at Antelope Park in Lincoln. Members enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings. The weather was warm but the group was comfortable in the park's air conditioned enclosed shelter house.

LEAGUE EMPLOYEES

Saying Hello:

Raymond Janiak, Housing and Design Specialist (Omaha).

Jeananne Gross, Panhandle Medicaid Waiver Office Director, (Scottsbluff)

Brenda Johnson, Independent Living Advisor (Norfolk)

Rebecca Horn, North Platte Medicaid Waiver Office Director

Saying Good-Bye:

Jenelle Orcutt, North Platte Medicaid Waiver Office

Kevin Cline, Services Coordinator (Lincoln)

Norfolk CIL Hosts Cooking Class



The Madison County Extension Office recently partnered with the League's Norfolk Center for Independent Living to offer fun and educational cooking classes to youths with disabilities who are transitioning from high school to post-school life. The three classes had 13 students, with oversight from the Extension staff, paraprofessionals and CIL staff. Thanks to everyone who participated, as well as ConAgra Foods for the grant to Madison County Extension that made the classes possible.

LEAGUE DONORS

May 28, 2015 to July 17, 2015

Builder (\$500 and above): Matt Jetter and Associates, Bob Stratton, Iowa Total Care, Amerigroup Iowa, Nucor Corporation, Anonymous.

Supporter (\$250-\$499): Lincoln Community Foundation, Home Instead Senior Care, Moody Motors Inc., Anonymous.

Century (\$100 to \$249): Becky Hanna, Stephanie Bess, Bruce Froendt, Insurance Associates Inc., Cornhusker Auto Center, 3-D Auto Body, Clausen Financial LLC, Marvin Rhodes, Johnson's Inc., Dorla Jacob, Jesse Petersen, Jerald Kloppenborg.

Believer (\$50 to \$99): Suzanne G. Schreiber, Edward Schulenberg, Ryne Seaman (Cattle National Bank, in honor of Ed Schulenberg), Sherry Rush, Mike Schafer, Sarah Miller, Peg Baxter, Bank of Orchard, Bierman Contracting Inc, PKIAS LLC (DBA Misty's Soakers), Anonymous, Neil Ritz.

In Memory of Elaine Usher: Glenn Wiar, Robin Wiar, Dallas Jones, Cynthia Heller, William Kuester, Patrick McCashland, Reginald Kuhn, Roger Rietsch, Dan Snow, Neal & Jane Mahoney, Don Wobig, Kelly Hoffschneider, Dr. S.T. Kamble, Martin Fehringer, Darlene Starman, Dorothy Anderson.

Other: William Ross, Anonymous, David Jensen, Nancy Erickson, Amazon Smile Foundation, Linda Williams, Emily Cleary, Janis Heim, Roy Statton, Robert Bahr, Joyce Miller, Jennifer Smidt, K2 Concrete Leveling LLC.

***Thank You
for Your Generosity!***

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:

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

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janderson@leagueofhumandignity.com
Or subscribe online at:
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For the most up-to-the-minute news, find us on **Facebook** — just click the logo at left or on our webpage or search for us from your own Facebook page.

Follow us on **Twitter** too. Just click the logo at right or on our webpage or find us @LHD68508.



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S/M/XL.....\$24.50
XXL.....25.75
XXXL27.00

(Prices include Tax)

Available only at League of Human Dignity offices



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: 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.

FOR SALE: Invacare Reliant 350 Stand-up lift (sit-to-stand), \$2,000, in great shape; includes two batteries, wall-mounted charger and sling. Invacare 9805P hydraulic patient lift, \$400, rated 450-pounds; includes full body sling (normally sold separately). Hoveround MPV4 and Bruno lift (for back of van), \$300; needs two batteries (sold for \$123 for two). Call 402-499-0123 (Lincoln).

FOR SALE: 2013 Invacare FDX-CG power wheelchair, "Electric Blue" color, excellent condition. Comes with power tilt, left-handed G-Trac joy stick, footplates, ROHO quatro cushion, wheelchair transport brackets (\$250 value) and battery charger. Weight limit is 300lbs. Paid over \$13,000 new. Retail base price \$5,970 plus \$7,800 in additions. Will consider half price or reasonable offers. Contact tdeverson@msn.com or 402-620-1877 (Fremont).

FOR SALE: 2013 Aquatec Ocean VIP Tilt-In-Space shower chair, excellent condition. Height-adjustable frame, swing-away adjustable footrests, covered commode pan, foot-activated brakes, action gel seat, and padded lap belt. Tilts up from 0 to 35 degrees. Weigh limit 330lbs. Retail over \$3,000 with additions. Will consider half price or reasonable offers. Contact tdeverson@msn.com or 402-620-1877 (Fremont).

FOR SALE: 2012 Dodge Van, wheelchair accessible, 14-inch lowered floor both passenger and drivers side, hand controls, zero effort steering, \$32,000. Call 402-890-8235 (Lincoln).

FOR SALE: Electric wheelchair Like New, full recline, tilt, foot elevate, attendant control on back, charger, \$2,500. Call 402-890-8235 (Lincoln).

FOR SALE: ResMed Escape II CPAP machine, in excellent condition, includes heated humidifier and carrying bag. Call Michelle 402-310-6051 (Lincoln).

Support the League of Human Dignity

On the third Wednesday of each month, Dairy Queen at 540 S. 32nd Ave. 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 to promote independent living and the full integration of people with disabilities into their community.

Enjoy a treat & support the League of Human Dignity!



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



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