

# ON THE LEVEL

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## From the League of Human Dignity

August, 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]

## Luke Craig Art on Exhibit in League's Lincoln Office

Luke Craig, a Lincoln artist with Traumatic Brain Injury, says art has helped him in his struggle to recover, given him a creative outlet and a way to express and share a part of himself.

A collection of his work currently is on display at the League of Human Dignity office, 1701 P St., in Lincoln. The works, which are for sale, are computer-generated and professionally printed.

"My images represent metaphysical reality. They are digital transcriptions of my thoughts," Luke said.

For years, since his 1997 traffic accident, Luke said he was angry at the changes and disability caused by his injury. But through determination and an unswerving desire to be a productive member of society, he has come a long way in his recovery.

He now lives in Lincoln with his older brother Ben, who also is his caregiver, agent, manager and assistant.

The works were installed in June by Metro Gallery owner Dean Settle and will remain in place through December.

## League Membership Elects Officers

The League of Human Dignity Membership Group elected officers for the coming year during its annual picnic in July.

Melissa Wollen will continue as President and Carrie O'Brien as First Vice President. Mitch Miller was elected Second Vice President. Also re-elected were Kathy Johnston, Secretary; and John Wollen, Treasurer.

Elections were held during the Membership picnic July 2 at Antelope Park in Lincoln.

## CEO'S Note

We are bombarded these days with information about the impending presidential election. I have personally found the presidential campaign process to be fascinating and interesting, and I have been reminded by this process how very important it is for each of us as Americans to become involved in this election.

Even though our country faces many complex problems, America is still a great nation that provides its citizens with many freedoms and opportunities that citizens of most other countries do not enjoy. I believe that each of us has the responsibility as an American Citizen to exercise our right and privilege to vote in the November Election.

If you are not currently registered to vote, please do so. If you do not know how to register to vote, please call a League CIL or Office, and we will provide you with information about how to register to vote. If you are registered to vote, please vote on November 8.

January 17, 2017 will mark the beginning of a new president and leadership in the executive branch of our government for the next four to eight years. Regardless of your political party affiliation, or choice of candidates, your vote is important. We have all heard that our vote doesn't matter anyway. My vote matters to me, and I hope that your vote matters to you.

Mike Schafer, League CEO

## League's Extended Hours Service May Soon Double After-Hours Rides for Lincolniters with Disabilities

We are hopeful that, thanks to anticipated federal funding, the League's Extended Hours Service (EHS) may soon be able to double its available rides from the current 35 per week to 70.

No official date for the increase has been set, but keep an eye on the League's website, Facebook page and *On The Level* for updates.

EHS is designed to provide 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!

The League also is accepting donations to help support the EHS program. You can send us 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, check or credit card donation, or donate online on our website, [www.leagueofhumandignity.com](http://www.leagueofhumandignity.com)

## **38 Take Part in Norfolk CIL's Benefit Bike Run**

### **Third Annual Poker Run Event Includes Reunion of Legendary NE Nebraska Band Loco at O'Neill's Chesterfield West**

It was another great day for a motorcycle ride.

This year's Norfolk CIL Benefit Bike Run, Saturday, July 16, began under some cloud cover, then the skies cleared. The third annual ride was completed before rains rolled through the area.

"We heard from riders that they enjoyed the route and would love to ride again next year," said Norfolk CIL Director Jean Kloppenborg Ruge.

A total of 38 riders and passengers took part in the ride, which started in O'Neill and wound 174-miles through northeast Nebraska, concluding back at Chesterfield West in O'Neill. Riders hailed from O'Neill, Page, Emmet, Neligh, Ericson, Tilden, Clearwater, Spencer, Chambers, Creighton, Meadow Grove, Wausa, Bassett, Atkinson, Bartlett, and Spalding.

The event was organized as a poker run. Winner of the best hand was Jerald Kloppenborg with a full house, followed in second place by Mark Wiseman with a straight. Nick Allemang won the prize for the worst hand.

The day concluded with a dinner, auction, and reunion performance by the band Loco. The band reunited specifically to benefit the League's Norfolk CIL. Band members were Tom Bosn of Yankton, SD; Bob Carlson of Kearney; Mark Elsbury of O'Neill; Randee Falter of Pierce; Tim Herchenroether of Yankton, SD; Adam Manoucheri of Wayne; Dave Lee of O'Neill; Pat Robertson of O'Neill; Orv Morrow of O'Neill; and Lynn Spelts of Fayetteville, Ark.

Sponsors who contributed \$500 or more were Elkhorn Valley Bank; Waste Connections; Nucor Steel; Chesterfield West; and the band Loco.

Other sponsors were Love Signs; Abe's Detailing & Car Wash; Bierman Contracting; Bomgaars - O'Neill; Brenda Johnson; Burger King; Caretech, Inc.; Casey's General Stores, Inc.; Cobblestone Hotel; Cornhusker Auto Center; Creighton Locker; Culvers; Dairy Queen; Deb Lash; Dew Drop Inn; Double D's; Doug Wright; El Mezcal; Frocks Flowers; Frontier Bank; Greiner's Furniture; Grove Lake Bait Shop & Campground;

Hampton Inn; Harley-Davidson Sales of Columbus; Home Health Medical Equipment, Inc.; Home Instead Senior Care; Hungry Horse Saloon; Jerald Kloppenborg; Jerry's Sinclair; Jimmy Johns; JMBH Holdings DBA Caring Senior Options; Johnson's Plumbing & Heating; King's Lanes and Sports Bar; Knotty Pines Inc.; Kreycik Elk and Buffalo Wagon Train; Kuper Farms Country Market; Lawnco; Little Caesar's; Michael's; Moody Motor Company, Inc.; Motoplex of Norfolk; Nebraska Life; New Victorian Inn & Suites; Norfolk Country Inn; O'Neill Chamber of Commerce; Palmer Candy Company; Perkins; Pierce Locker; Prenger's; Pizza Hut; Prime Stop North; Rags to Riches; Renegade; Sandhills Guest House; SAPP Brothers of Columbus; Sioux City Musketeers; Smokin' Stan's; Sportsman's Family Grill; Subway; Taco John's; Taylor's Grill; The Abbey; The Granary; The Water Hole; The Willows; Town & Country Insurance; Two Blooms & A Bud Floral & Décor; Uncle Jarrol's; US92 & NCN35 TV; Walmart; Wetzel & Truex Jewelers; Whiskey Creek; Windmill Bar.

## Let's Keep in Touch

Get On The Level in your email box! Send your email address to [janderson@leagueofhumandignity.com](mailto:janderson@leagueofhumandignity.com) or subscribe online on our website.

## Nine Teams Compete at Omaha/SW Iowa Golf Benefit

A total of nine four-player teams enjoyed warm, sunny golfing conditions at this year's Omaha/SW Iowa Benefit Golf Event.

The annual benefit is the main fundraising event for the Omaha and Southwest Iowa Centers for Independent Living. It was held Friday, June 10, at Bent Tree Golf Club in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

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

In the 18-hole golf scramble, the team of Chad Seim, Tom Pascale, Troy Schmidtke and Brad Buschow, representing Westgate Assisted Living, shot a 64 to take first place. Second Place went to Theo Hudson, Shawn Harris, Tim Schafer and Zach Conway, sponsored by Akkase Home Health Care, with a 68. Third Place went to Dan Kissinger, Mike Messerole, Matt Dykstra and Eddie Pantan, the Caring for People Services No. 1 team, with a 69.

The benefit netted just over \$2,800 for the two CILs.

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

Giving \$250 to \$500: Jetter and Associates LLC; Bent Tree Golf Club; Westgate Assisted Living; Security Equipment, Inc.

Giving \$250 and under: Applebee's - J.S. Ventures, Inc.; Ashley Lynn's Inc. DBA Palm Beach Tan; Borsheim's; Boulder Creek Amusement Park; Children at Home; Creighton University Athletic Dept.; Doll Distributing Inc. Menards; Family Fun Center XL; Film Streams at the Ruth Sokolof Theater; Funny Bone Comedy Club; Golden Corral; Grease Monkey; Henry Doorly Zoo; Honda Cars of Bellevue; Ideal Pure Water; Spaghetti Works; Joslyn Art Museum; Lauritzen Gardens; Lazlo's Brewery and Grill; McMullen Ford; Scheels All Sports; Minnesota Vikings Football Club; Shannon Pigsley; Hy-Vee; Physicians Mutual Insurance Company; Opera Omaha; Papio Fun Park; QuikTrip Corporation; The Amazing Pizza Machine; Walmart; The Durham Museum; Upstream Brewing Company; Struyk Turf, Ltd; Arby's — Panda Inc.

Special Thanks to Hy-Vee and Olive Garden for providing Lunch and Dinner for the event.

## **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 Benefit Golf Event ad**

18-hole, 4-player Scramble Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016, at the Highlands Golf Course, Lincoln.

11:30 a.m. Shotgun Start.

Register a team for \$300 or other sponsorship levels are available.

To register or for more information, contact The League of Human Dignity, 1701 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, Call 402-441-7871 (V/TDD); Fax 402-441-7650, or email [crigoni@leagueofhumandignity.com](mailto:crigoni@leagueofhumandignity.com)

## League Donors

May 26, 2016 through July 6, 2016

Builder (\$500 and above): Waste Connections, Elkhorn Valley Bank, Caring for People of Omaha Inc., AKKASE Home Health Care.

Supporter (\$250-\$499): Home Health Inc., Frontier Bank, Matt Jetter and Associates, Town and Country Insurance, Norfolk Motor Co., Westgate Assisted Living, Johnson's Inc., Moody Motors Inc., JMBH Holdings LLC, Security Equipment Inc.

Century (\$100-\$249): Colene Walker, Becky Hanna, Honda Cars of Bellevue, Cornhusker Auto Center.

Believer (\$50-\$99): Ryne Seaman, Marcia Knuth, Margaret Puls, Keith Snyder.

Other: Suzanne G. Schreiber, Linda Jane Knox, Bruce Helwig, Kendra Schmidt.

In Memory of Marianne Mack: Sharon Cox, Jill Kuhel, R.D. Neuhaus, Cheryl Kahler, Gerald Ridder.

## League Employees

### Saying Hello:

Sarah Thoene, Services Coordinator, Norfolk.

Dennis Miller, Mobility Options technician; maintenance, Lincoln.

### Saying Good-Bye:

Vicki Piening, Secretary, Lincoln

Sophia Cartwright, Services Coordinator, Omaha

Dean Miller, Services Coordinator, Norfolk

## 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 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

## Talking Book & Braille Service: No Need to Give Up Reading

People with limited ability to read, hold a book or turn pages still can enjoy their favorite books and magazines, through to the Nebraska Library Commission's free Talking Book and Braille Service.

The program provides easy-to-use playback equipment free on long-term loan. Free books and magazines are available on digital cartridge by mail, through digital



download, and in Braille. The service's available digital books and players continue to increase weekly.

All materials received by mail can be returned postage free.

The service is available to individuals, as well as schools and other facilities, such as nursing homes, hospitals and senior citizen centers.

Online application forms can be printed, completed, and then mailed to the Talking Book and Braille Service. The Web site is [www.nlc.state.ne.us/TBBS/applyforservice.aspx](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/TBBS/applyforservice.aspx)

For more information, e-mail [nlc.talkingbooks@nebraska.gov](mailto:nlc.talkingbooks@nebraska.gov) or call 1-800-742-7691.

## Join Us on Social Media

For the most up-to-the-minute news, find us on Facebook — just click the logo in the email edition of this newsletter or on our webpage or search for us from your own Facebook page.

Follow us on Twitter too. Just click the logo in the email edition of this newsletter or on our webpage, or find us @LHD68508.

## 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)  
& Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

## League's CILs Offer Services People Need for Independence

The League of Human Dignity's four Centers for Independent Living provide services that people with disabilities need to achieve and maintain their independence.

Services provided at League CILs in Nebraska and Southwest Iowa include, but are not limited to:

- Individual and systems advocacy
- Information and referral
- Independent living skills training
- Peer counseling and support
- Transition from institutions into the community
- 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. Feel free to contact any of our other Centers for Independent Living for information about independent living for people with disabilities.

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

## 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](http://www.leagueofhumandignity.com/getinvolved) and find "Support Groups" near the bottom of the page.

## 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: 2002 Pontiac Montana Van, w/lift for scooter or wheelchair; leather seats; new tires; 150,000 miles; great shape. New Invacare manual wheelchair. Call 402-316-7778 (Norfolk).

FOR SALE: 1995 Dodge van, side lift, wheelchair lockdown both sides. Midwheel chair w/lockdown, bucket seat. Late model Permobil formed back support for scoliosis patient, righthand steer. Invacare midwheel wheelchair. All chairs heavyduty w/oversize batteries. Tilting bedframe. Hoyer lift. Misc. supplies. Call 402-416-5235 (Lincoln).

## 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)

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

## Southwest Iowa CIL Fundraising ad

We put the FUN in FUNdraising!

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!

## Bruno Vertical 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.