

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

‘Expect. Employ. Empower.’

October is National Disability Employment Month

The theme for this year’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is "Expect. Employ. Empower."

Held each October, the observance is a national campaign to raise awareness about disability employment issues. It also is a celebration of the many contributions of America’s workers with disabilities.

"We all have a role to play in — and benefit to gain from — increasing opportunities for meaningful employment for people with disabilities," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy Kathy Martinez. "This year's theme encapsulates this in three powerful words. It conveys that advancing disability employment is about much more than just hiring. It's about creating a continuum of inclusion. And the first step on this continuum is expectation."

NDEAM's roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." Upon its establishment in 2001, ODEP assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since.

The Campaign for Disability Employment encourages organizations of all sizes and in all industries to participate in NDEAM. For specific ideas on supporting NDEAM, visit the ODEP website at www.dol.gov/odep/.

To see this year’s official NDEAM poster, please go to Page 3.

Golf Event Draws 20 Teams



Jerry Regelean tees off as teammates Randy Bouwens, Kyle Anderson and Reese Huenink watch. For story and more from the League’s Sept. 18 golf event, see pages 4 and 5

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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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I don't know about you, but I am enjoying this fall weather! It has been nice to see the grass and foliage remain green throughout the summer, and now the leaves are starting to turn.

As you might be aware, the League has struggled to keep the Extended Hours Service (EHS) Transportation program operating, due to the loss of federal funding for the program. Though we have been fortunate to receive a grant from the Woods Charitable Fund, and donations from individual donors that have helped keep the program operational, we have only been able to operate the program on a reduced service basis. This reduction in service has adversely affected Consumers' access to after-hours wheelchair accessible, and affordable transportation.

The League currently has an application for funding of the EHS pending, and we are hopeful that this application will be approved. If the grant is approved, the EHS program will be able to increase the number of one way trips to the level that was being provided prior to the loss of funding.

Another positive development for the EHS program is that the average cost of a one way trip has been reduced since Servant Cab has been providing the rides for the program. Though we have only four months of financial data since the switch to Servant Cab, we are optimistic that the current average cost will continue to be less than the amount that the League was paying the previous provider.

The current level of EHS service will continue until such time as the League receives notice regarding approval or disapproval of our pending grant application.


Mike Schafer, League CEO

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark blazer, is seen from behind, sitting in a wheelchair. The background is a dense collage of various people, including some in wheelchairs, all in shades of blue. The text 'EXPECT. EMPLOY. EMPOWER.' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif font.

EXPECT. EMPLOY. EMPOWER.

What can YOU do?

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT
AWARENESS MONTH



OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

www.dol.gov/odep

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Norfolk CIL Bids Happy Retirement to Doris Rohrer



The staff at the League's Norfolk Center for Independent Living threw a retirement party for Doris Rohrer on Sept. 5.

Doris has worked at the CIL for 15 years, as a Services Coordinator and, for the past few years as an Independent Living Advisor. Her official last day is Oct. 3.

"She will definitely be missed by everybody here," said Norfolk CIL Director Jean Kloppenborg.

Doris plans to spend her retirement enjoying times with her family, especially her grandchildren.

At left, Doris is flanked by Norfolk CIL Independent Living Coordinator Jane Fink, left, and CIL Director Jean Kloppenborg, right, at her Sept. 5 retirement party.

Social Security Products, Services Accessible to People with Blindness/Visual Disabilities

Social Security offers a number of services and products specifically designed for people who are blind or visually impaired.

To find out more go online to "If You Are Blind Or Visually Impaired — Your Choices For Receiving Information from Social Security," at www.socialsecurity.gov/notices. Call or visit your local Social Security office or call 1-800-772-1213, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Publications are available in Braille, audio cassette tapes, compact discs, or enlarged print. To get the publication, *If You Are Blind Or Have Low Vision — How We Can Help*, and other publications in alternative formats, call the toll-free number, or 1-800-325-0778 TTY. For more information, see the page "Public Information Materials" in Alternative Media at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/alt-pubs.html.

League Benefits from Sixth Annual Lincoln Golf Event

Golfers at the League's 2014 Lincoln Benefit Golf Event Sept. 18 enjoyed beautiful weather at the Highlands. In all, 78 players in 20 teams finished the 18-hole four player scramble.

John Fink's team repeated as champion, shooting a 53 on the par 72 Highlands Golf Course. The team consisted of John Fink, Jeff Fink, Clay Peterson and Craig Flenniken.

Taking second with a 57 was the team of Jay Moore, Jim Moore, Todd Koepp and Dan Billerbeck.

Teams were divided into three flights. Winner of the second flight

was the team of Brian Lowery, Dave Andress, Wayne Lenhoff and Dave Claus, shooting a 64. Winner of the third flight was the team of Mike Kroese, Brian Ohlrich, Randy Klimm and Brandon Klimm with a 68.

The golfing began at 11:30 a.m., following a grilled burger lunch. The day included a silent auction, buffet dinner provided by FireWorks Restaurant and awards presentation. Proceeds benefit the League of Human Dignity's Lincoln Center for Independent Living.



The League's Paula Shufeldt and Chuck Rigoni sign in golfers before the start of the Sept. 18 event.

Thanks to Our Sponsors & Donors

Donating \$500 to \$1,000 were Lincoln Federal Savings Bank, Baylor Evnen Curtiss Gruit & Witt, Telesis (Lazlo's & FireWorks) and INSPRO Insurance Co.

Donating \$250 to \$500 were Lenhoff Construction, Hamilton Equipment, Mobile Computer Repair, Rohn & Beth Loyd, DuTeau Chevrolet and Carper's O Street Carpet.

Donating up to \$250 were Frontier Bank, Union Bank, Brad &

2014 Lincoln Benefit Golf Event Four-Player Scramble Results

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Jo Nell Crain, Care Tech, Scheels, John & Kathy Fink, Nebraska Lottery, Walt Radcliffe, Julie & James Nygren, Watering Hole, Century Solutions, Dave Claus, Samurai Sam's, The Eatery, Jack's Bar & Grill and Rent-A-Van.

This year's event was organized by a committee made up of John Fink, Wayne Lenhoff, Rohn Loyd, Craig Madson, Ed Schulenberg, Noah Heflin, Jay Rose, Jeremy Schafer, Robert Tridle, Scott Tridle, League CEO Mike Schafer and League staffers Chuck Rigoni, Paula Shufeldt and Jim Anderson.

A Good Day To Support The League



Jay Rose tees off as teammates, from left, Tim Schlegelmilch, Craig Madson and Julene Schoen look on, during what turned out to be a beautiful, clear day for golf.



Program emcee John Fink, left, gives the autographed Kenny Bell football Jersey to winning bidder John Walker at the close of the event's auction.



The winning team, from left, Jeff Fink, John Fink, Clay Peterson, Craig Flenniken.



Taking second, from left, Jay Moore, Todd Kloeppel, Dan Billerbeck, Jim Moore.

Some Caregivers See Change In Income Tax Regulations

The federal government has made a big change to income tax rules for certified caregivers who are paid by Medicaid waiver funds to give non-medical care.



Effective Jan. 3, 2014, the caregivers no longer have to pay income tax on that money. Rules are spelled out in a Jan. 21 IRS bulletin. Among them, the person cared for must live

with the person giving the care.

The full text of the bulletin is available on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/irb/2014-4_IRB/ar06.html

Caregivers also can file amended tax returns to get refunds on taxes already paid. Amended returns can be filed for the past 3 tax years. Before taking action based on the bulletin, or for further questions, be sure to consult a tax professional.

Football Fans:

The League of Human Dignity Membership Group is selling parking spaces again this season in our lot, 17th & P streets, on **NU** home football game days.

Remaining 2014 NU Home Games

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat. Oct. 25	Rutgers*	TBA
Sat. Nov. 1	Purdue*	TBA
Sat. Nov. 22	Minnesota*	TBA

* Big 10 Conference Games

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:

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

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 or on our Facebook page. For more information about EHS, call the League at 402-441-7871 or stop by our office.

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."

LEAGUE DONORS

July 22, 2014, through Sept. 19, 2014

Builder (\$500 and above): U.S. Bank, Lincoln Federal Savings Bank, Cattle National Bank, INSPRO Inc., Baylor EvnenLaw Offices

Supporter (\$250 to \$499): Caretech, John Fink, Walmart Vision Center, Caring for People of Omaha Inc., Duteau Chevrolet, Rohn Loyd, Ed Boehle, FBM Lincoln Drywall Services Inc., Bouwens Plumbing Co. Inc., Pro Line Construction LLC, V and K Construction

Century (\$100 to \$249): Mary Radcliffe and Associates, Centrix Solutions, Union Bank, Frontier Bank, James and Julie Nygren, Brad Crain, Lincoln 21st Century Lions Club, Anonymous Network for Good

Believer (\$50 to \$99): Foundation, Debbie Kee, Patty P. Doyle Enterprises LLC

Other: AmazonSmile, Bill Crawford, Anonymous 3M donation, Lonnie Mueller

Social Security Services Also in Spanish

National Hispanic Heritage Month is Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and the Social Security Administration is reminding the public that its information and services are available to people whose first language is Spanish.

The administration's website provides information and services in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov. It also lets visitors use benefit calculators, sign up for direct deposit, and locate their nearest Social Security office. The Retirement Estimator, available in Spanish, provides instant, personalized estimates of future retirement benefits

Social Security offices also offer interpreter services if there is not a Spanish-speaking representative working in the office. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/espanol/interpreter.htm.

In addition, the administration's national toll-free number (1-800-772-1213) provides automated prompts in Spanish for callers.

Visit www.segurosocial.gov (or www.socialsecurity.gov in English) to learn about Social Security.

LEAGUE EMPLOYEES


Saying Hello:

Stacy Eickman, Kearney Office Acting Director

Saying Good-Bye:

Lorrie Wold, Kearney/North Platte Office Director

Doris Rohrer, Independent Living Advisor, Norfolk.



DQ

**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!



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

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



Join Us on Social Media

For the most up-to-the-minute information and conversation, join us on social media.



Find us on **Facebook** — just click the logo at left or on our webpage or search for us from your own Facebook page. When you get there, you can “Like” our page, rate it or even donate to the League if you want. But whatever you do, please don’t forget to leave a comment - even if it’s just to say hello.

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



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



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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: Triumph electric scooter, \$300 OBO; two-drawer filing cabinet, \$15. Call Brenda, 402-261-4124 (Lincoln).

FOR SALE: Vertical Platform Lift, fully installed with concrete pad and electrical hookups. Ready to use! \$2,500. Tom Duey, 402-560-1111 (Lincoln).

FOR SALE: Pride Victory scooter, nearly new, works perfect, \$1,500 OBO. Call/text 402-520-8239 (Lincoln).

FOR SALE: Invacare Compass wheelchair, Tilt in Space model, 18' x 18' seat dimensions with 18' x 18' gel cushion. Includes adjustable two step headrest. All items used in good condition, asking \$899. 402-217-7704 (Lincoln)

FOR SALE: 1992 Ford 150 Econoline full-sized van, raised roof, wheelchair lift, excellent condition, \$6,500. Call for details, see Craigslist Lincoln, Omaha for photos, 402-984-7688 (Fairmont).

FOR SALE: 2003 Chrysler T&C Entervan conversion van. Side ramp, 66,800 miles, excellent condition. Wheelchair included. 402-466-6632 (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.

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



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While
They
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Available only at
League of Human
Dignity offices



League Centers Offer Services to Achieve, Maintain Independence

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

Our services include the newest mandated service for CILs — transition. Transition refers to helping people with disabilities make the move from nursing homes and other institutions into their own homes in the community. It also includes helping people 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.

CILs are mandated to provide these four other core services as well:

- 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. Or contact any of our other Centers for Independent Living, listed at right.

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

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

www.mobility-options.com

and Follow us on Facebook and Twitter