

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

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

## 2015 Theme: ‘My Disability Is One Part of Who I Am’

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

The theme for this year’s observance is “My Disability Is One Part of Who I Am.” The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy announced the theme early in May.

The theme promotes the message that people with disabilities are, first of all, people — all are the sum of many parts. While disability is one important perspective, it is not only one.

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. The observance is led by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy.

For specific ideas about how to foster a more inclusive workforce, one where every person is recognized for his or her abilities — every day of every month, go to [www.dol.gov/ndeam](http://www.dol.gov/ndeam).

Please see page 6 for the official NDEAM poster.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Latino Fest .....	3
Lincoln Benefit Golf Event.....	4, 5
October is NDEAM.....	6, 7
For Husker Fans .....	8
Classifieds.....	11

### Golf Event Includes Silent Auction



League Benefit Golf Event attendees check out items up for auction during the annual fundraiser Sept. 17 at the Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln. The silent auction took place throughout the day and concluded during the evening awards announcements. The event was the best yet, drawing a field of 21 teams. See pages 4 and 5 for more on the event.

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

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Fall is the time of year that the League of Human Dignity provides special recognition to the individuals that volunteer their time and talent to assist the League of Human Dignity with activities that further our mission, and help to achieve the League's goals. We at the League are fortunate because most of our volunteers are individuals who volunteer year after year, and over time we develop close relationships with them.

Over the next several months, we will hold volunteer recognition events in our various locations throughout the state. At these events we will recognize and thank volunteers, award pins based on the number of years serving the League, and provide a token gift of appreciation. We also award the Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award to an exceptional volunteer in various locations.

In advance of these upcoming events, and on behalf of the League of Human Dignity, I want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the loyal individuals who have volunteered during the past fiscal year. You have truly made a difference, and for that we cannot thank you enough!

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

Mike Schafer, League CEO

## Correction



The people in this photo, taken at the White House in Pierce during the July 11 Norfolk Benefit Bike Run, were identified incorrectly in the August *On The Level*. They are, from left, Jerald Kloppenborg, Joyce Miller, Jesse Peterson, Todd Miller, Dan Hoferer (in white shirt), and Tim Ruge (with his back to camera).

## League at Latino Fest



Photos by Frank Greise

Centro Latino in Council Bluffs held its Festival Latino Saturday, Sept. 19 at 604 S. Main St. in Council Bluffs. The event was a celebration of Latin culture, including games, food and drink from different Latin cultures, and information from community organizations, like the League of Human Dignity.

## November is American Diabetes Month

November is American Diabetes Month, sponsored by the American Diabetes Association, and Diabetic Eye Disease Month, sponsored by Prevent Blindness.

Diabetes, which affects one in 12 Americans, is one of the leading causes of disability and death in the country. If it's not controlled, the disease can cause blindness, nerve damage, kidney disease, and other health problems.



# Great Weather, Turnout for League's 2015 Lincoln Golf Event

Bouwens Plumbing won this year's League Benefit Golf Event, shooting a 13-under-par 59.

The League and its supporters welcomed 21 teams and 81 golfers to the seventh annual Lincoln Benefit Golf Event, held Sept. 17 at the warm and sunny Highlands Golf Course.

The team of Randy Bouwens, Jesse Bouwens, Jack Pietenpol and Jeff Geyer won a tie-breaker to finish first, preventing the John Fink Realty team from scoring its third straight win.



**This 2015 Chevy Malibu went unclaimed in the hole-in-one contest, underwritten by DuTeau Chevrolet**

Teams were divided into three flights. In the second flight, Ed Schulenberg, Brad Johnson, Larry Svec and Chad Kearns took first with a score of 63. Kyle Anderson, Reese Huenick, Jason Wiig were second, also with 63.

In the third flight, Mike Crum, Ron Moen, Bob Anderson and Danny Nichols won with a 66. Wayne Lenhoff, Morry Hoppes, Dave Andress and Brian Lowery

were second, also with 66

Play was organized in a four-player scramble format. The day also included a silent auction, games, hole prizes and a hole-in-one contest underwritten by DuTeau Chevrolet that gave golfers a chance at a 2015 Chevy Malibu, among other prizes.

The day concluded with a buffet dinner provided by Telesis (Lazlo's and FireWorks) and awards presentation.

The benefit is the major fund-raising event of the year for the Lincoln Center for Independent Living. It raised about \$6,500, which will be used by the CIL to help accomplish its mission to promote independent living for people with disabilities. The event would not have been a success without the help of our donors and sponsors.

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

Donating \$250 to \$500 - Lincoln Industries, US Bank, Mobile

Computer Repair, Hamilton Equipment, Rohn & Beth Loyd and DuTeau Chevrolet.

Donating Up to \$250 - Target, Residence Inn, Holiday Inn Downtown, Bed Bath & Beyond, Samurai Sam's, Texas T-Bone Steakhouse, Hillcrest Golf Course, John Fink Realty, John & Kathy Fink, Radcliffe & Associates, James & Julie Nygren, Eakes Office Solutions, Union Bank, Stephen McAlister, Brad & JoNell Crain, Nebraska Lottery, Scheels, Frontier Bank, Centrix Solutions, Rural Health Development (HHS Solutions LLC), All Makes Office Equipment, Bouwens Plumbing, and Brian Lowery/Christensen Lumber Co.

## League of Human Dignity 2015 Lincoln Benefit Golf Event

### First Flight

Randy Bouwens, Jesse Bouwens, Jack Pietenpol and Jeff Geyer .....	59
John Fink, Jeff Fink, Clay Peterson and Eric Warfield .....	59
Don Johnson, Brad Johnson, Brett Sundberg and Jim Friese .....	59
Brett Sunday, Adam Heiden, Brandon Noerrlinger and Kelly Sears.....	59
Todd Koeppe, Dan Billerbeck, Jim Moore and Mike Cavanaugh.....	60
Joe Steinbach, Roger Bumgarner, Jay Rose and Craig Madson .....	62
Jim Joy, Scott Glock, Trevor Knuth and Jordan Burt .....	62

### Second Flight

Ed Schulenberg, Brad Johnson, Larry Svec, Chad Kearns .....	63
Kyle Anderson, Reese Huenick, Jason Wiig .....	63
Jeremy Schafer, Jason Vandeventer, Darron Parrot and Dirk Raines .....	63
Peter Katt, Michael Sands, Bobby Robinette and Gerald Wilhelm .....	63
Gene Brake, Pat Mooberry, Larry Melichar and Dan Mlnarik .....	64
Mike Lenhoff, Julian Dible, Adam Lenhoff and Russ Lenhoff.....	65

### Third Flight

Mike Crum, Ron Moen, Bob Anderson and Danny Nichols .....	66
Wayne Lenhoff, Morry Hoppes, Dave Andress and Brian Lowery .....	66
Brett Kolb, Kevin Vech, Andy Hartman and Jason Nitz .....	66
Brian Ohlrich, Randy Klimm, BJ Klimm and Mike Kroese .....	67
Gordon Sovereign, Darrell Sovereign, Les Loth and Doug Hile.....	68
Ed Boehle, John Green, Bill Larson and Ted Sheely .....	69
Nate Podany, Andrew Curry, Michelle Bellamy and Smashley Perkins ....	78
Jay Pieper, Chad Buhman .....	NS

# Annual Benefit Attracts 21 Teams, 81 Golfers

## Top Flight



Winners were, from left, Jack Pi-etenpol, Randy Bouwens, Jesse Bouwens and Jeff Geyer.



Second place, from left, Jeff Fink, Clay Peterson and Eric Warfield and John Fink.

## Second Flight



First place, from left, Chad Kearns, Brad Johnson, Larry Svec and Ed Schulenberg.



Second place, with one man short, from left, Reese Huenick, Kyle Anderson and Jason Wiig.

## Third Flight



First place, from left, Danny Nichols, Mike Crum, Ron Moen and Bob Anderson.



Second place, from left, Dave Anders, Brian Lowery, Wayne Lenhoff, and Morry Hoppes.



Gene Brake makes a putt as teammates Dan Mlnarik (in blue) and Larry Melichar look on.

***Thanks to Everyone Who Helped  
Make This Year's Event a Success!***

# My disability is **one part** of who I **am**.

At work, it's what people  
can do that matters.

**National Disability Employment  
Awareness Month —  
Celebrating 70 Years!**



OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

[dol.gov/odep](http://dol.gov/odep)



The official poster for this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month. For more information on the annual observance, visit [www.dol.gov/ndeam](http://www.dol.gov/ndeam).

# Social Security Offers SSDI, Help Getting Back to Work

The Social Security Administration is marking October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month by reminding Americans that Social Security is an earned benefit for millions of people with disabilities, and it can help them get back to work.

The Social Security disability insurance program, or SSDI, is perhaps the most misunderstood program of Social Security. Some people may think that SSDI recipients have never worked and are taking advantage of the system by receiving money for minor impairments.

Nothing could be further from the truth. First, anyone who qualifies for SSDI must have worked enough to pay into the system and be "insured." Second, Social Security has some of the strictest requirements in the world for disability benefits. To qualify, a person must not only have an impairment that will last one year or more, or result in death, but they must be unable to perform any substantial work.

As a result, SSDI beneficiaries are some of the most severely impaired people in the country, and they greatly depend on their benefits. You can learn more by visiting the Faces and Facts website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts). At the website, you will find many personal stories of those who have benefitted from Social Security when they needed it most.

Social Security also has incentives that give beneficiaries with



disabilities — who are able — the opportunity to return to work. Work incentives include continued cash benefits for a period of time while you work, continued Medicare or Medicaid coverage, and help with education, training, and rehabilitation to start a new line of work. In some cases, certain impairment-related work expenses may be deducted from your countable income, making it possible to earn more and also remain eligible to receive benefits. Examples of these expenses are wheelchairs, transportation costs, and specialized equipment needed for work.

Social Security also offers the Ticket to Work program, which gives participants a "ticket" to go back to work while keeping their disability benefits. This program is free and voluntary. Ticket to Work gives access to an employment network, which offers assistance with job searches and placement, and vocational rehabilitation and training.

Those who enroll find the Ticket to Work program makes it easier to explore whether going back to work is right for them. Some even find that they are able to eventually get back to work and earn far more than the disability payments they once received.

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work) for more information on the Ticket to Work program and work incentives. You may also call 1-866-968-7842 (TDD 866-833-2967).

## Videos Highlight Importance of Work for Young People with Disabilities

A new three-part video series highlights the importance of work and work-based experiences in a young person's transition to adulthood, particularly for young adults with disabilities.

"Work Early, Work Often" was created by the Youth Transitions Collaborative's career preparation and management working group. Each storyline in the series focuses on a different subject and narrative, told from the perspective of key audiences that are part of the transition journey. All videos include open captioning and audio descriptions. The videos are available on YouTube or at [www.theny.org/workearly](http://www.theny.org/workearly).

The video highlighting "Young Adults with Disabilities" is 2 minutes, 56 seconds long. Hear from a young professional how her early work experiences helped lead to long-term success.

"Employers of Young Adults with Disabilities" is 3 minutes, 18 seconds long. Listen to employers discuss how exposing young adults with disabilities to real work experiences can help to meet the needs of a business and improve their bottom line.

"Parents/Caregivers of Young Adults with Disabilities" is 3 minutes, 31 seconds long. Watch a mother describe "letting go" when her son entered the world of work.

## LEAGUE EMPLOYEES

### Saying Hello:

**Genette Albertsen** (formerly Education & Quality Assurance Specialist), Independent Living Advisor, Lincoln.

**Kendra Bishop** (formerly at Kearney office) Services Coordinator, Lincoln.

### Saying Good-Bye:

**Bobbi French**, Independent Living Advisor, Lincoln.

**Peg Baxter**, Services Coordinator, Omaha.

**WINTER IS COMING:  
SNOW CLOSING INFORMATION**

We have designated KFOR Radio  
as our official weather station.

In times of severe weather, please tune to  
KFOR 1240 AM or go to [www.kfor1240.com](http://www.kfor1240.com)  
for the latest word regarding cancellations.

**KFOR  
1240 AM**

The one you depend on  
for winter weather information

## LEAGUE DONORS

July 24, 2015 to Sept. 22, 2015

**Builder (\$500 and above):** Cattle National Bank, IN-SPRO Inc.

**Supporter (\$250-\$499):** John Fink, Ed Boehle, Leslie Loth, Home Real Estate, Don Johnson Homes II Inc.

**Century (\$100-\$249):** Robert Bahr, Radcliffe and Associates, Jean Knapp, Union Bank, Brad Crain, Gene Zoetis.

**In Memory of Marilyn Morse:** Doris Rohrer.

**Other:** David Jensen, Lonnie Mueller, Frances Young.

*Thank You  
for Your Generosity!*

## 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 2015 NU Home Games

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat. Oct. 10	Wisconsin*	TBA
Sat. Oct. 24	Northwestern*	TBA
Sat. Nov. 7	Michigan State*	6 or 7 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 27	Iowa*	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:

**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

## 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."

## Join Us on Social Media



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.



**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 at:  
**ON THE LEVEL**

The League's Omaha Center for Independent Living currently has 19 cases of Jevity 1.5 for j-tube nutrition. If you or someone you know can use this nutrition, please contact Caroline at the CIL, 402-595-1256.

## 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)



## 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.



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

Available  
at League  
offices

Sizes S through 3XL

**\$13.95**

(Price includes sales tax)

# 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:** Solid Steel mobility carrier w/folding ramp, \$200. Heavy duty; fits 2" hitch, load, transport wheelchairs, mobility scooters. Ramp pivots up for transport. Call Michelle, 402-465-4201 (Lincoln).

**FOR SALE:** Apex Stella sit-to-stand Assist Power Lift designed for patient transfers as well as supported walking by removing the foot platform. Unit has foot pedal base opening for wheelchair/commode access, adjustable knee pad unit, quick release removable foot platform, low base height provides maximum stability and fits under lower beds, accessory storage bag included for slings and charger. Also included is standard sling as well as new hoyer sling, size large. Also included is an additional new unused battery. Unit been used for single patient, no longer needed, great condition. Call 308-962-0189 for price and additional information (Arapahoe).

**FOR SALE:** Bruno scooter lift, VSL670 for vehicle. Call Denise 402-374-2097, leave a message & she will get back to you (Tekamah).

**FOR SALE:** 2012 Dodge Van, wheelchair accessible, 14-inch lowered floor both passenger and drivers side, hand controls, zero effort steering, \$28,000. Call 402-890-8235 (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!



**FOR SALE:** Accessible walk-out ranch home in Harrison Woods, Omaha for \$300,000. Details and pictures at [www.7407s173rd.com](http://www.7407s173rd.com). 4 bed, 3 bath & 3 car garage, open floor plan & recent upgrades. Granite counter tops, beautiful cabinets & hardwood floor. Master bath w/travertine roll-in shower & travertine tile floor. Finished basement w/stairlift, family room, huge bedroom w/attached bath & w-in closet. Professional landscaping & brick driveway, deck patio & sprinkler. Contact [7407s173rd@gmail.com](mailto:7407s173rd@gmail.com) or call 402-578-2479 (Omaha).

## 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)  
and Follow us on Facebook and Twitter



- 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!

