

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

League Recognizes 12 for Employment Milestones

The 12 League of Human Dignity employees celebrating their work anniversaries this year have accumulated a total of 185 years of helping the League provide services to keep people with disabilities independent.

Topping the list are League Chief Executive Officer Mike Schafer and Accounting Assistant Marilyn Iverson. Both celebrated 35 years with the League in 2014. Mike became CEO on March 1, 1979. Marilyn started work Sept. 4, 1979. During her years at the League she also has served as Secretary/Bookkeeper, Fiscal Manager, Assistant Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer and Housing Manager.

Reaching her 25-year milestone was Nancy Snyder, an Independent Living Advisor in the Omaha office. Nancy started working for the League on Nov. 13, 1989.

Employees who reached their 15-year anniversaries are:

Shannon Pigsley, Services Coordinator in the Omaha Center for Independent Living.

Linda Higgins, Panhandle Medicaid Waiver Office Director.

Doris Rohrer, Independent Living Advisor in the Norfolk CIL. Doris retired in October.

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Mike Schafer



Marilyn Iverson

**SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM
THE LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY!**

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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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A number of years ago, the League of Human Dignity began a Length of Service Award Program to honor League Employees' continuous service to the organization beginning at five years, and in five year increments thereafter. In this issue you will read about employees who were honored over the past several months.

On behalf of the League, I want to extend a special thank you to these honored employees for their dedication to the League of Human Dignity, and those to whom the League provides services. These employees; on a daily basis, demonstrate their belief in ensuring that people who experience disability have the right to live independent lives, and work hard to make this belief a reality.


The more years that I spend on this earth, the quicker time seems to fly by. It just doesn't seem possible to me that the new year is only a month away!

The League enjoyed another successful year of partnering with Iowans and Nebraskans who experience disability to achieve and maintain independent lives in their homes and communities.

The League has also continued to be fortunate to work with the many donors, volunteers, and business partners who play pivotal roles in the League's success.

2015 already promises many changes in service delivery systems for people who experience disability. As a result of these changes, the League is likely to experience an expanded role in serving people with disability. As always, we at the League will adapt to the coming changes, and continue to do our best with the opportunities that are presented to us.

On behalf of the League, we wish you and those you hold dear a happy, peaceful, and safe Holiday Season! Best wishes for the coming year!


Mike Schafer, League CEO



Nancy Snyder



Shannon Pigsley



Doris Rohrer



Linda Higgins



Bob Gomez



Melanie Wellman

MILESTONES

Continued from page 1

Employees reaching their 10-year anniversaries are:

Bob Gomez, Omaha CIL Director.

Melanie Wellman, Transportation and Barrier Removal Coordinator in the Lincoln League office.

Cathy McCauley, Services Coordinator in the Lincoln CIL.

Reaching there five-year anniversary are:

Jessica Clyde, Services Coordinator in the Norfolk CIL.

Cheryl Fischer, Secretary in the Lincoln League office.



Cathy McCauley



Jessica Clyde



Cheryl Fischer



Mark Walker

Mark Walker, Custodian in the Lincoln League office.

League employees are recognized after every five years of employment.

Omaha CIL Hosts Luncheon to Honor Its Volunteers

The League's Omaha Center for Independent Living said "Thank You" to its volunteers past and present Thursday, Nov. 20.

About 20 volunteers, staff and other guests attended the CIL's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. They enjoyed fried chicken and all the trimmings, pumpkin pie and cake.

CIL Director Bob Gomez and Secretary Tracy Curtis welcomed all in attendance and Tracy presented gifts of appreciation: scarves embroidered with the league logo.



Past volunteer Pat Dworak receives this year's gift, a scarf with the League logo.



Omaha CIL Director Bob Gomez, standing, right, and Secretary Tracy Curtis, standing, left, thank luncheon guests



Omaha CIL Medicaid Waiver Supervisor Frank Greise assists some of the guests at the center's Nov. 20 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

League's York Chapter Says 'Thank You' to Volunteers

The League of Human Dignity's York Chapter recognized 15 volunteers at its Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, Oct. 10, at the Chances R Restaurant in York.

Among those honored were four with 30 years of service to the league, including Sue Curran, Dan Gibb, Karren Radcliff and League Board of Directors Chairman and Chapter President Stan Dinkelman.

Others honored for their length of volunteer service were Virginia Kleinholz with 25 years and Leigh Qubty with 15 years.

Those who attended the event were given gifts of appreciation for their service during the past year. This year's volunteers received knit scarves embroidered with the League logo.



York Chapter President and League Board of Directors Chairman Stan Dinkelman (facing away), reads aloud the names of this year's honored volunteers.



League CEO Mike Schafer presents a 30-year service pin to York Chapter volunteer Dan Gibb during the Oct. 10 York Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Lincoln Press Conference Highlights Sidewalks Program

City Getting 40-year Backlog Under Control, Enhancing Accessibility

League CEO Mike Schafer, with microphone, speaks during an Oct. 30 press conference called by Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler, far right. The event was to announce the city is clearing its once-extensive backlog of repairs to sidewalks and curb cuts. Mike commended the city for its continued work to make neighborhoods more accessible for people with disabilities. Other groups with a stake in the projects also were invited to speak.



LEAGUE EMPLOYEES

Saying Hello:

Leanne Sawyer, Independent Living Advisor, Norfolk
Vicki Piening, Secretary, Lincoln

Saying Good-Bye:

Julie Dudley, Secretary, Lincoln
Jill Rischling, Services Coordinator, Lincoln
Jodi Selig, Services Coordinator, Lincoln

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."

Norfolk CIL Appreciates Its 2014 Volunteers

Rita Bade of Norfolk is the League of Human Dignity's Norfolk Volunteer of the Year for the second year in a row.

Rita's award was presented on Friday, Oct. 3, at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Norfolk Center for Independent Living. About 20 volunteers, staff and friends attended the event.

The award is named in honor of the late Ken Lindhorst, who best exemplified the volunteer spirit and commitment to the League. The League's centers in Norfolk, Omaha, Council Bluffs and Lincoln also honor a volunteer of the year.

Rita has been a volunteer at the Norfolk center since 2010, performing clerical duties as well as helping out during the League's benefit golf event in Norfolk.

In all, 18 volunteers were recognized and those attending received gifts of appreciation for their service. Gifts this year were scarves embroidered with the League logo.



Above right: Rita Bade, left, receives the 2014 Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award from Norfolk CIL Independent Living Coordinator Jane Fink. The League recognized its Norfolk volunteers during its annual luncheon Friday, Oct. 3, at the Norfolk CIL. Above left: The award was presented following a program by CIL staff. Top left: Attendees enjoyed sandwiches and dessert.

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
for the latest word regarding cancellations.

KFOR

1240 AM

The one you depend on
for winter weather information

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



Get Your 'On The Level' Newsletter Via Email!

Simply Send Your Email Address to:
janderson@leagueofhumandignity.com

New Council Bluffs Low Vision Group Holds Second Meeting, All Invited

A second meeting of the new Low Vision Support Group in Council Bluffs is set for 1 p.m. Dec. 2 at The Center, 714 S. Main Street, and is open to all.

At the meeting, the Iowa Department for the Blind will share information on items available to assist with everyday activities, including talking clocks, writing templates, large print playing cards, items for marking things around the home, and more.

Following the presentation, the group will discuss future meetings.

The group formed following an Oct. 22 meeting, when members got together to share ideas and discuss the need for a support group for the blind and visually impaired in Council Bluffs. They agreed there is a need to get together and learn from each other.



People of all ages and from all communities interested in learning more about living with vision loss are encouraged to attend the meetings. For more information, contact Barb Weigel at 319-231-3059 or 800-362-2587.

Lincoln's Transport Plus Reopens

Transport Plus, the Lincoln transportation company for people with disabilities, is back in business.

The company, which formerly also provided rides as part of the League of Human Dignity's Extended Hours Service transportation program, closed its doors last spring after losing a city contract.

New owner Dave Brauer of Lincoln reopened the business on Nov. 3, under the same management staff, some of the same drivers as formerly, with a new fleet of four red vans.

Transport Plus is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The company's new telephone number is 402-805-7975.

● 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!

Time to Get Your Flu Shot



Bonnie Huff, a Registered Nurse from Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, administered flu shots to participating League employees in the Lincoln CIL on Oct. 22. According to the flu.gov website, everyone age 6 or above should get a seasonal flu shot. The vaccine is the best protection against the flu this season — you are 60% less likely to need treatment for the flu by a healthcare provider. Getting the vaccine has been shown to offer substantial other benefits including reducing illness, antibiotic use, time lost from work, hospitalizations, and deaths.

LEAGUE DONORS

Sept. 24, 2014, through Nov. 7, 2014

Supporter (\$250 to \$499): Weathercraft Co.

Century (\$100 to \$249): Gary McCaugherty; Paul J. McIntosh

Other: Lonnie Mueller; Eugene Kelly

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



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

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



Available
at League
offices

Sizes S through 3XL

\$13.95

(Price includes
sales tax)

League of Human Dignity HOODED SWEATSHIRTS

S/M/XL.....	\$24.50
XXL.....	25.75
XXXL	27.00

(Prices include Tax)

While
They
Last!

Available only at
League of Human
Dignity offices



On the third Wednesday of each month, Dairy Queen at 540 S. 32nd Ave. in Council Bluffs gives a portion of its proceeds from 5 to 8 p.m. to benefit the SW Iowa Center for Independent Living. Come on out and enjoy a delicious treat and support the League of Human Dignity!



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.

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. Or contact any of our other Centers for Independent Living.

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

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.

Follow us on **Twitter** too. Just click the logo at right 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

www.mobility-options.com

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