

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

League Employees Celebrate Work Anniversaries in 2015

One Reaches 25-year Mark, Six Observe Five Years

Seven League of Human Dignity employees reached employment milestones in 2015.

Leading the list is Bryan “Kubie” Kubicek, who is celebrating 25 years with the League’s Mobility Options subsidiary. Kubie has been part of the staff since September 1990 — shortly after the League purchased the business that is now Mobility Options.



Bryan “Kubie” Kubicek

Kubie was hired as a vehicle modification technician and currently is Service Supervisor.

Six other League employees each celebrate their five-year anniversaries in 2015.

Chuck Rigoni, Personnel Specialist in the League’s Lincoln office, joined the League in March 2010.

Kendra Bishop, Services Coordinator in the Lincoln

See **EMPLOYEES** on page 3

CILs Appreciate Volunteers



League CILs show appreciation for their volunteers — see pages 4-7 for stories and photos.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY!

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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Please accept the League of Human Dignity's best wishes for the Holidays. This time of year offers so many wonderful blessings. We wish for you the very best that the holiday season, and coming year has to offer.

We at the League have experienced another eventful yet rewarding year. As is always the case, the League's success in assisting Iowans and Nebraskans who experience disability to achieve and maintain their desired level of independence is due to many individuals and organizations. We are honored that the many individuals we serve have allowed us to be of service to them, and we hope that you have, or are in the process of meeting your independent living goals.

We are also grateful to our volunteers who give of their time and talent, to staff who work hard to fulfill their responsibilities and provide high quality services. We also appreciate and extend our thank you to our many business partners who support us in so many ways.

The League of Human Dignity looks forward to the coming year, and we pledge to continue our efforts assure that people who experience disability have the right and opportunity to live independent lives in their homes and communities.

Happy Holidays!


Mike Schafer, League CEO



Chuck Rigoni



Kendra Bishop



Travis Davis



Stacy Eickman



Mary Veale



Bonnie VanCura

EMPLOYEES

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Center for Independent Living since October, joined the staff of the Kearney Medicaid Waiver Office, in March 2010.

Travis Davis joined the staff in March 2010 as a custodian in the Kearney Medicaid Waiver Office.

Stacy Eickman was hired as a Services Coordinator at the Ke-

arney Medicaid Waiver office in March 2010. She currently is the Kearney Medicaid Waiver Office Director.

Mary Veale, joined the staff of the Kearney Medicaid Waiver Office as a secretary in September 2010.

Bonnie VanCura, joined the League staff in March 2010 as a secretary in the North Platte Medicaid Waiver Office.

League employees are recognized with length of service awards after their first five years of employment and each five years thereafter.

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League's York Group Thanks Year's Volunteers

Chapter Members Meet at Chances R for Annual Appreciation Luncheon

The League of Human Dignity's York Chapter gathered for its 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, Oct. 23, at the Chances R Restaurant in York.

Chapter President Stan Dinkelman recognized a total of 16 volunteers, who helped out at various functions and events during the past year.

There were 15 in attendance, including League CEO Mike Schafer and Public Information Specialist Jim Anderson. Those who attended the event were each given gifts of appreciation for their service. Mike presented each volunteer with a flashlight imprinted with the League logo.

The League's York Chapter is an active group of disability advocates, some of whom have been League volunteers for more than 30 years.

Those recognized were: Dawn Althouse, Sue Curran, Alvin Fox, Virginia Fox, Dan Gibb, Jean Gibb, Marcia Jacobson, Virginia Kleinholz, Mary Kohtz, Ken Mayberry, Randy Nun, Leigh Qubty, Karren Radcliff, Allen Stuhr, Yvonne Stuhr, and Stan Dinkelman.



Left: York Chapter volunteers gather for a meal at the Chances R Restaurant in York.

Above: League CEO Mike Schafer presents a 'thank you' gift to Allen Stuhr, as Chapter President Stan Dinkelman presents a gift to another volunteer.

Norfolk Center Recognizes Volunteers at Annual Luncheon

Rita Bade of Norfolk is the League of Human Dignity's Norfolk Volunteer of the Year for 2015.

Rita's award was presented on Friday, Oct. 23, during the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the League's Norfolk Center for Independent Living. The CIL staff recognized 10 volunteers.

Rita has been a volunteer at the Norfolk center since 2010, where she answers the telephone, often coming to the office on short notice, as well as performing other clerical duties and helping out during the League's fund-raising events. This marks Rita's third Volunteer of the Year Award.

The center's Independent Living Coordinator Jane Fink presented the award following the meal. In all, 10 volunteers were recognized. Those in attendance were presented with gifts of appreciation for their service.

Gifts for volunteers this year were flashlights bearing the League logo.



Left: Norfolk CIL staff, volunteers and friends enjoy their 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, at the center in Norfolk.

Above: 2015 Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award winner Rita Bade.

Omaha CIL Shows Its Appreciation for the Year's Volunteers

Yvette Coanner is the 2015 Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award winner for the Omaha CIL.

Yvette was honored during the center's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Thursday, Oct. 22, in Omaha.

About 25 volunteers, CIL staff and guests attended the event. The luncheon is held each year as a way of saying "thank you" to League volunteers, who are a big part of what



Above left: The food at the Omaha CIL's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is always the best.

Left: League staffer Nancy Snyder helps present gifts to volunteers during the program.

Above: Yvette Coanner, left, is presented with the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award by Omaha CIL Secretary Tracy Curtis.

makes the League successful.

The York Chapter and each of the League's four Centers for Independent Living recognize their volunteers each fall. The South-west Iowa CIL in Council Bluffs holds its luncheon in December, in conjunction with decorating for the holidays, and will be reported in the next issue of *On The Level*.

Luncheon at Lincoln CIL to Recognize Volunteers

Stan Dinkelman is the 2015 League Volunteer of the Year for the Lincoln Center for Independent Living.

Lincoln CIL Director Shawna Keller presented Stan with the award, named in honor of the late Ken Lindhorst, during the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Friday, Nov. 20, at the League office in Lincoln. There were 19 in attendance at the event.

Stan also won the award in 1990. He is the League Board of Directors Chairman, York Chapter President and provides information and referral, and peer mentoring to consumers in the York area. He has volunteered his time and energy to the League for 31 years.

"Stan is committed to and lives the independent living philosophy on a daily basis," Shawna said in presenting the award.

League CEO Mike Schafer presented gifts to volunteers in attendance. Length of service pins were given to Larry Mackey and Kelli Stanley-Smith, each 10 years, and Steve Walline five years.



Left: Volunteer Steve Walline receives a five-year pin from League CEO Mike Schafer as League Board Member and long-time volunteer Laura Moore looks on.

Above: Stan Dinkelman received the 2015 Ken Lindhorst Volunteer of the Year Award from Lincoln CIL Director Shawna Keller.

Let's Talk!

Individuals, their families, friends, providers, and advocates are critical voices in the programs that serve Nebraskans with developmental disabilities. So the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is inviting every member of this community to a series of town hall discussions.

Representatives from the Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care and the Division of Developmental Disabilities will attend. Learn more about important issues, including:

Heritage Health, Nebraska's upcoming integrated Medicaid managed care program

The Medicaid Developmental Disabilities Adult Waiver renewal

The home and community-based services (HCBS) statewide transition plan progress.

Town Hall Meetings will be held at the following locations:

Nov. 30 – Norfolk - 5:30 PM -7:30 PM: Norfolk Public Library, Large Meeting Room, 308 W. Prospect Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701

Dec. 1 – Fremont – 5 PM – 7:30 PM: University of Nebraska, Cooperative Extensive Office, 1206 E. 23rd St, Fremont, NE 68025

Dec. 6 – Gering – 5 - 7:30 PM: Gering Public Library, Library Community Room, 1055 P St, Gering, NE 69341

Dec. 7 - North Platte – 5 - 7:30 PM: Mid-Plains Community College, Room 204, 1101 Halligan Dr, North Platte, NE 69101

Dec. 8 – Kearney – 5 - 7:30 PM: The Nebraska Student Union, Room 310, 1013 West 27th St, Kearney, NE 68849

Dec. 9 – Grand Island – 5 - 7:30 PM: College Park, Room 207/208, 3180 W Highway 34, Grand Island, NE 68801

Dec. 10 – Hastings – 5 - 7:30PM: Hastings College, Student Union, Room A, 710 N. Turner Ave, Hastings, NE 68901

Dec. 14 – Omaha – 5 - 8 PM: Autism Center of Nebraska, Inc., 9012 Q Street, Omaha, NE 68127

Dec. 16 – Lincoln – 5 - 8 PM: Lincoln Community Foundation, 5th Floor, Large Conference Room, 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508.

LEAGUE DONORS

September 28, 2015 to November 23 2015

Supporter (\$250-\$499): Rohn Loyd.

Century (\$100-\$249): Lincoln 21st Century Lions Club

Other: David Jensen, Anonymous, Steve Lenzen

**Thank You
for Your Generosity!**

WINTER IS COMING: SNOW CLOSING INFORMATION

We have designated **KFOR** radio as our weather station.

In times of severe weather, please turn to **KFOR 1240 AM**, or go online to www.kfor1240.com for the latest word on cancellations.



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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

LEAGUE EMPLOYEES

Saying Hello:

Sophia Cartwright, Services Coordinator, Omaha.
Dean Miller, Services Coordinator, Norfolk
Kathy Kay, League Associate Executive Director
Brenda Cunningham, Services Coordinator, Scottsbluff
Melinda Simonsen, Services Coordinator, Norfolk
Myles Peterson, Services Coordinator, Kearney

Saying Good-Bye:

Julie Shaw, Services Coordinator, Lincoln.
Sherri Eads, Services Coordinator, Scottsbluff.
Sandra Duncan, Services Coordinator, Norfolk.
Jessica Clyde, Services Coordinator, Norfolk
Pam Nomenyo, Services Coordinator, Lincoln

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.

DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!

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."

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



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.



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

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: Ford E350 van 7.3 turbo diesel. Full 8-inch floor drop, power doors, power lift, new carpet, \$11,000. Call 402-890-8235 (Lincoln).

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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!





LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Get ON THE LEVEL in your email box!

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janderson@leagueofhumandignity.com

Or subscribe online at:
ON THE LEVEL

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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