Inside this issue:
Save the Dates................................................. 1
Weather Policy................................................2
2021 Arc Membership Drive......................2
Social Recreation ...........................................3
Next Chapter Book Club...............................4
Circles Classes..............................................5
Art of Imagination........................................6
Continuing Education.................................7
Supported Employment.............................8
Independent Living......................................9
Staff Directory..........................................10

The office of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. is not currently open to visitors. Team members are continuing to work and provide services remotely. The best way of communicating at this time is by calling our main number at 402-346-5220 or by email.

Mission Statement
To enrich the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through support, programs and advocacy.

Save the Dates
Join Us For
A Toast to Ollie Webb!
Fall Fundraising Event
November 4, 2021

and

Dionysia: Three Greek Myths
Annual Fall Theatrical Production
November 5 – 7, 2021

More details to follow!

The November 4th fundraising event will benefit Ollie Webb Center, Inc.

Our annual fall production is open to the public and will carry on our thespian tradition!
DON’T FORGET! to renew your Arc of Omaha membership for 2021.

The Arc

Weather Policy
The following weather conditions may cause us to close our office and/or cancel/reschedule events.

- Tornado warnings
- Extreme heat of 90+ degrees and humidity
- Severe thunderstorms and/or lightning

If the weather is questionable, our services will be canceled.

If Omaha Public Schools cancel their day/evening activities and/or staff deem it unsafe for travel our services will be canceled.

Note: If you are not sure if an evening/weekend event will be held or canceled, call 402.346.5220 ext. 31 for event updates.

Most decisions will be posted by 3:00 p.m. for evening activities, and 8:00 a.m. for daytime activities.

2021 Arc of Omaha Membership Drive!

“Time and money spent in helping people to do more for themselves is far better than mere giving.” ~ Henry Ford

This has been a difficult year for all of us, but the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families has been especially devastating. Many of our clients are still largely self-quarantining due to underlying health conditions and have limited access to their cherished friends, hobbies, and routines.

Please consider becoming an Arc of Omaha member today so our clients can safely enjoy virtual adaptations of programs such as the First and Next Chapter Book Clubs, Friends and Best Buddies Mentoring Programs, and sibling and parent support.

Becoming a member for 2021 is easy! Options start at just $25. This can be done by mail (fill out the form below) or online at www.olliewebbinc.org. The benefits of continued membership include:

- Use of the Ollie Webb Center, Inc. pass to Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo. Pass use is unlimited based on availability and entitles 2 adults and up to 6 children free admission to the zoo.
- Discounts on many activities and events sponsored by The Arc of Omaha. For more information, please reference our monthly newsletter or www.olliewebbinc.org.
- Support from The Arc of Nebraska and The Arc of the United States, including representation at local, state, and national policy forums and publications on a variety of topics.
- The satisfaction of supporting a local community agency that tirelessly informs the public of the needs, rights, and abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Your Arc of Omaha membership sends a strong message in support of the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please consider becoming a member today!

The Arc of Omaha 2021 Membership Form

Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2021

Thank you for your past support! Please consider once again being a part of our team!

Name(s) __________________________________________________________________________ (As you wish it to appear when we publicly recognize our members.)

Address ____________________________________________________________________________

City/State______________________________________________________ Zip _________________

Phone _________________________ E-mail ______________________________________

*May we send our monthly newsletter to your email address:   ____Yes     ____No

Please circle:

- Single $25
- Family $40
- Contributing $75
- Sustaining $100
- Corporate $150

☑ I would like to sponsor an additional single membership for a person who is unable to pay, for an additional $25

Total amount enclosed:  $______________ Your contribution is tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to Ollie Webb Center, Inc. Mail this form and your check to:

Ollie Webb Center, Inc., 1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 122, Omaha, NE 68105

The Arc of Omaha has a free Family Zoo Pass available for use by its 2020 members. It allows two adults and four children to visit the Henry Doorly Zoo. Please note the following rules for its use:

1. The pass can be used anytime the zoo is open.
2. Families may use the pass as often as they like, as long as it is available.
3. Families using the pass must sign it out, giving their name, address, phone number, date of use and date returned. If a family misuses the pass, it is possible that the pass may not be available for them to use again.
4. When families arrive at the zoo, they must present the pass and check in at the Visitors Center.

Call 402.346.5220 to reserve the Family Zoo Pass.
Are you looking to learn or enhance your social skills online?
If so, Social Media Advocacy Training is for you!

This training offers individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, younger or older, the opportunity to engage with each other about best practices for social media and social skills in a virtual format. The training will help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities of any age have the chance to learn new skills and further reinforce existing skills.

Topics covered will include: how to best communicate with others through the internet, post on social media, demonstrate video chat etiquette, and how to be respectful to peers, mentors, and buddies online! Participants will meet on Zoom for a short presentation and then move to breakout rooms with discussion questions to address with each other.

This program is provided by Best Buddies International in partnership with Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities. The funding for this training has been graciously contributed by the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities.

* You do not have to be an active participant in the Best Buddies program to participate in this training and there is no age requirement *

Email Lee Anne Alsup, coordinator of this training, at LeeAnneAlsup@bestbuddies.org or Alexa Edwards at aedwards@olliewebbinc.org if you have questions!
It’s National Volunteer Month!

Thank you to all of our wonderful Next Chapter Book Club Volunteer Facilitators! Your dedication and creativity are especially appreciated in light of this unprecedented last year, when everyone has had to go above and beyond to continue providing services. The social connections and camaraderie our Volunteer Facilitators have created remain strong even during a pandemic! These individuals are the embodiment of not only the mission of Next Chapter Book Club, but also of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. Without the dedication and passion of these remarkable individuals, our Next Chapter Book Club would not exist. We thank you all for your service!
The Circles Curriculum:  
INTIMACY AND RELATIONSHIPS  
FREE  
VIRTUAL CLASSES IN JUNE!

“The Circles Curriculum teaches social and relationship boundaries, interpersonal skills, and relationship-specific social skills using a simple multi-layer circle diagram to demonstrate the different relationship levels students will encounter in daily life.”

Register on Eventbrite:  
Circles Level 1: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/circles-level-1-tickets-145113056057  
Circles Levels 2 & 3: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/circles-level-2-tickets-145746486665

Circles Level 1 (Register by Tuesday, May 25th)  
- Tuesday, June 1st | 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
- Thursday, June 3rd | 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
- Tuesday, June 8th | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Circles Level 2 (Register by Tuesday, June 8th)  
- Tuesday, June 15th | 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
- Thursday, June 17th | 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
- Tuesday, June 22nd | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Circles Level 3 (Register by June 17th)  
- Thursday June 24th | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Questions? Email Alexa Edwards at aedwards@olliewebbinc.org
The Art of Imagination classes are focused on the visual and performing arts. Classes offer artistic opportunities in traditional art forms such as painting, writing, drawing and photography and more. Theater classes include improvisation, playwriting, scripted pieces and radio drama culminating in rehearsals and public performances.

Person-Centered Planning Champions

Written by Carrie Nath, Managing Director

I have been at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI) for six months and have had the honor of meeting so many incredible individuals. Whether staff, students, families/guardians or teachers, one thing is clear: OWCI cares about people. How apropos that one of my most recent opportunities has been the 4-part training series on Person-Centered Planning (PCP) offered through a combined initiative by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Led by Mark G. Friedman, PhD., Director of The Center for Outcome Analysis, Nebraska’s Person-Centered Planning Initiative is one of the first steps towards reintegrating PCP throughout service organizations and schools across Nebraska. The State of Nebraska was a pioneer of this strategy in the 1990’s and state and provider agencies are committed to reinvigorating the process.

So what is PCP? As many of you are aware, the concept, “Nothing About Us Without Us” is the charge. The Core Values defined within the sessions state:

- Provide support and opportunities for individuals to participate fully in their life.
- Provide necessary communication needs, e.g., technology, augmentative and alternative communication devices, etc.
- Cultivate the nurturing and maintenance of relationships.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful employment, lifelong contribution, and learning.
- Promote membership in community associations and civic, cultural, faith based, interest based and community building organizations.

The process is fully inclusive with the individual at the helm. It includes a large-scale meeting comprised of people identified by the individual as those family, friends and community members who they believe will support them in the achievement of their lifelong dreams and goals. Participatory Management is key, a management style applying this main principle: individuals are heard before a decision is made.

If a great deal of this already sounds familiar, it is because these core beliefs are woven into the Ollie Webb culture. My involvement is primarily in The Art of Imagination and I see it in our individual advisee sessions when enrolling participants in day service/continuing education classes, in curriculum development where individuals use a direct democracy approach to choose the next musical to study, and in the fully inclusive writing of the mainstage production.

At OWCI we believe in and promote person-centered planning. When I say, we, I mean the individuals, the staff, the families and community members, the board and all of our supporters. All are welcome to join in these trainings and once you have, to become a PCP Champion. Then, not only is your impact felt at OWCI but you can be a part of a statewide and nationwide movement. As we all know, together, we make dreams come true.

“We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams.”

~Willie Wonka via Roald Dahl
The Continuing Education program extends the learning experience beyond high school. Classes are offered in a variety of formats and settings and focus on independent living, money management, social and employment-related skills. Courses provide a person-centered approach that focuses on increased independence as opposed to the maintenance of skills. A five day-a-week program is available and follows a typical college schedule.

Spring into Playwriting!

In last month's newsletter, we highlighted “Bring Your ‘A’ Game Anywhere”, an e-learning curriculum focused on the development of work ethic skills and also how 21st Century Skills are critical in the workplace. Today, we are showcasing one of the classes integral to the success of our inclusive fall theater production, namely Playwriting: The Play’s the Thing.

Participants in this course have worked collectively, contributing to sections of the production’s script. Using skills they have learned about formatting rules and various forms of writing and submission, the class used collaborative learning techniques to work together to properly format and write a cohesive short play. Additionally, each member of the class has further honed their skills through the process of writing an individual short play. These individual works receive peer review during the class, allowing participants to practice constructive criticism skills on both the giving and receiving ends. This valuable experience reminds the class that revision on a first draft is not just okay, it is a powerful tool to produce higher quality work.

Besides the obvious activities of direct playwriting, the class spends time doing research, including watching short portions of existing plays online. This gives participants exposure to interesting and thought-provoking viewpoints on themes including social issues. Class discussion of such works explores how an author can use their creative voice to make an impact while encouraging participants to use their own voices to advocate and tell stories through their writing.

We know that class participants love Playwriting: The Play’s the Thing, but don’t take our word for it! Class members shared their own views in a recent discussion:

JM: I like writing plays. Knowing that my play is halfway done motivates me and makes me a better worker at my job.
CK: It helps me to concentrate.
EK: I like how we have our freedom to write stories. This class lets us help each other with our thoughts and in it we help each other. If we get stuck on one sentence, we help one another. The class has helped prepare me to think more about my future.
RV: I like looking up and learning about different playwrights. It helps me if I want to write other stories, to observe what is around me and write down what I see. It has given me courage and the skill to ask for help when needed.
Supported employment is a community-based work option for adults with developmental disabilities. Supported employment is based on the premise that work should be accessible to everyone, regardless of disability. By providing the necessary support, people with disabilities increase their opportunity for community integration, independence and productivity. Services in this area include: Job Development and Job Coaching.

How to Ace the Interview

Interviewing for a job can sometimes be a daunting prospect. Making a great first impression matters and so properly preparing for an interview is a critical part of the job search process. Our OWCI employment department has compiled a few quick tips to take some of the stress off and make interviewing more fun!

1. Read through the job description and research the company.
   a. Identify what skills the job requires and review a few strengths you have that match those skillsets.
   b. Use the details of the job description to form the questions you have. What do the job tasks and routine look like?
   c. Research the company and their history. What are the company’s core values and mission? You can find this information online, often on the company website.

2. Think about common interview questions and some possible answers you might have based on your background and experience.
   a. What can you tell me about yourself? It’s important to highlight professional skills over personal information.
   b. What are your greatest strengths? Remember the job description and which tasks for the job you might have experience in.
   c. Why do you want to work here? The interviewer wants to know you’re excited to work at the company and what will motivate you to stay with them.

3. Practice makes perfect!
   a. Take some time to practice your answers with a family member, friend, or staff to get more comfortable with your delivery and responses.
   b. Dress for success and decide on a professional outfit that you will wear to the interview.
   c. For online and video interviews, try out your technology in advance to make sure everything is working correctly.

4. Consider health and safety measures for in-person interviews and how to conduct yourself.
   a. Wear a mask to the interview and follow the facility policies regarding social distancing and safety.
   b. Offer some safe alternatives to handshakes which can include an elbow bump, foot tap, bow, brief nod or head tilt, or placing a hand on your heart.
   c. After the interview, write down the name of the interviewer so that you can send a thank you note or email.

Call our team today with any questions about beginning a job search or preparing for an interview. We would love to help you ace the interview!
Independent living services provide instruction for individuals who live in their own home (apartment or house) or in their family’s home. Education, training and support is provided to maintain or increase independent living skills, such as money management, health and safety, interpersonal relations, community awareness, recreational skills, nutrition, hygiene and leisure.

**STUDENT ADVOCACY TRAINING**

**Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions**

Creighton University Occupational Therapy students recently interviewed Lisa McMichael, OWCI’s Independent Living Manager about advocacy organizations like Ollie Webb Center, Inc. and other activism efforts at the local and state levels. Areas of discussion included the following:

**Q:** What are the current public policies that Ollie Webb Center, Inc. deals with and how do they relate to trends in the healthcare environment?

**A:** Ollie Webb Center, Inc. staff and stakeholders sit on statewide committees and councils that focus on transportation issues, school transition and other educational concerns, current and upcoming legislative bills and how they affect individuals who have a developmental disability, service access for citizens with disabilities, civil rights, healthcare issues, and financial concerns as they relate to an individuals’ ability to access services through Medicaid, just to name a few.

**Q:** How can Occupational Therapists as both community members and professionals become involved with Ollie Webb Center, Inc.?

**A:** Community members and professionals of all types are welcome to sit on the same community advocacy committees and councils that OWCI members sit on as well as become members of The Arc of Omaha, part of OWCI, and any internal advocacy and disability-related advisory committees.

**Q:** Is your agency familiar with occupational therapy practices and their application for individuals with disabilities?

**A:** Yes, all of our staff are trained in habilitative practices for persons with disabilities and our residential program specifically focuses on assisting participants with Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and enhancing these skills. OWCI staff work with families and participants to supplement the skills they are working on with occupational, physical, and speech therapists.

**Q:** How do you empower members of your organization or citizens in your community to be advocates?

**A:** GET INVOLVED! Email, call, and write your State Legislature about bills and issues that concern you.

OWCI encourages individuals, families, and guardians to participate on Advisory Committees and boards that advocate for issues and concerns of citizens with developmental disabilities. If you are interested in finding out how you can get involved with Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s advocacy efforts, please contact our agency and let us know how you would like to get connected, and also follow us on Facebook.
If you have received this newsletter via e-mail in error and/or wish to unsubscribe and no longer receive this newsletter, please send an e-mail to info@olliewebbinc.org with “unsubscribe” in the subject line. You may also contact us to unsubscribe by sending a letter to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc. • 1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 122 • Omaha, NE 68105

For more information about Ollie Webb Center, Inc. activities and programs, you can pull up our website on your smart phone QR app! It’s Free!