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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.

ANNUAL MEETING
OLLIE WEBB CENTER, INC.
November 2021

Seeking Nominations for our 2021 Awards!

Agency Volunteer of the Year
Agency Artist of the Year
Community Artist of the Year
Community Partner of the Year
Employer of the Year
Just Friends Mentor of the Year
Best Buddies College Buddy of the Year
Next Chapter Book Club Facilitator of the Year

Stay tuned for more details!

Contact Jordan Stocking for additional information

Mission Statement
To enrich the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through support, programs and advocacy.
DON’T FORGET! to renew your Arc of Omaha membership for 2021.

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

Zoo Pass Available to 2021 Arc Members!
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.
What is Best Buddies?
• Global, non-profit organization – chapter located at Creighton
• Fosters 1-1 friendships between adults with IDD and Creighton University college students from October-April
• Monthly hosted group events by Creighton members
• Weekly contact and monthly individual hangout requirements

What are typical group events?
• Peer Matching Ceremony ➔ Halloween Event ➔ Christmas/Holiday Event ➔ Creighton/UNO Sport Event ➔ Movie/Game Night ➔ Spring Fling/Formal Dance ➔ Bowling ➔ Zoo Event

If you are interested, please email Alexa Edwards, Best Buddies’ Host Site Coordinator, at aedwards@olliewebbinc.org for more information.
Book Clubs meet once a week for an hour as a small group at a local coffee shop to read and discuss a book. All reading levels can participate! Members enjoy social connections and the delight of expanding their literacy.

Join a Book Club!

Our library is expanding! We have over 110 titles available to members of both First Chapter and Next Chapter Book Clubs. We have something for everyone...below are just some highlights!

Like to be a part of an adventure? Try “Treasure Island”, “Moby Dick”, or “My Side of the Mountain.”

Want some fantasy? How about the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy or the first books in the “Harry Potter” series? “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe” or “A Wrinkle in Time” may also satisfy your thirst.

Sci-fi anyone? How about a “Journey to the Center of the Earth” or to a “Mysterious Island”?

In the mood for something scary? We have “Dracula”, “Frankenstein”, “The Witch of Blackbird Pond”, and others to keep you up at night.

Are you into short stories? Spend some time with “The Gift of the Magi”, “Roman Myths”, “Greek Myths” and “Aesop’s Fables.”

Do you enjoy reading about people overcoming challenges? Then “The War that Saved My Life” and Helen Keller’s autobiography “The Story of My Life” will fit that bill.

Just want to curl up with a good book? One of our other 90+ titles should fit the bill.

NCBC is looking for Volunteer Facilitators to serve either online or in one of our metro area locations.
The Ultimate Life program is a fee-based companion recreation program for adults aged 18 and older with developmental disabilities. This program offers opportunities for adults to participate in small, planned group activities or one-on-one outings of their choice in the community. Trained staff accompany participants and transportation to and from the activities is part of the program. APPLY NOW! Registration fee is $30.

“We’ve Got You Covered!”

In-Person and Virtual Events coming in August 2021!
The Ultimate Life Program continues to adapt to these changing times! Based on participant feedback, we are offering both In-person and virtual events for the foreseeable future. Be sure to check your emails for additional updates, information, and event-filled calendars.
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.

Summer Theater Classes are Now in Session!

The Art of Imagination Summer 2021 classes have begun and are back in the community! Last March, due to the COVID-19 emergency, Ollie Webb Center, Inc. suspended all in-person Continuing Education and The Art of Imagination (AoI) classes. In July of 2020, online classes were initiated on Zoom and continued through this past June. Now with new guidance about public spaces, classes have gone from online back to exciting community locations.

As mentioned in previous Gazette articles, Ollie Webb Center, Inc. is now offering courses as full day educational tracks. The Art of Imagination is running two tracks, a Visual and Performing Arts track and a Theater Design track. The Visual and Performing Arts course is being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Hot Shops Arts Center in downtown Omaha. Tuesdays feature a series of drawing, painting, music and movement workshops with local theater artist, Lisa Kalantjakos. The workshops with Lisa have been arranged in partnership with WhyArts program.

The Theater Design track is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Kaneko Art Center in the Old Market of downtown Omaha. This course features projects that will support The Art of Imagination’s upcoming inclusive theater production Dionysia: Three Greek Myths. Participants involved in this track are directly involved in the design of props, set pieces and costumes for the play. Recently individuals worked on the design of a hinged two-piece flat for the Arachne vignette section of the production.

Participants have expressed a lot of excitement at coming together with Ollie Webb Center, Inc. staff and friends after only seeing one another on digital devices and phone screens for nearly a year and a half. The new track format is already a great success. Enrollees have commented positively about being in one place for the entire day rather than traveling around the city from class to class. The staff of both Hot Shops and Kaneko have been extremely welcoming and helpful with our team and program participants. Holding The Art of Imagination courses in such enriching spaces surrounded by incredible art works and amazingly talented artists is proving to be a powerful experience for all involved.

Jim Hoggatt, Artistic Director • jhoggatt@olliewebbinc.org
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.

Due to the overwhelming success of our summer continuing education programming, OWCI is excited to extend our day service classes through December 31st. Our wonderful partnerships with the Jun Kaneko Studio, Hot Shops Art Center, AV Sorenson and Sherman Community Centers, and Do Space will continue in the fall for our Theater Design, Visual and Performing Art, Everyday Health, Wonders of the Natural World, and Health and Wellness courses.

If not already registered for the summer semester, please contact Lisa Dougherty for more information at 402-346-5220 ext. 22 or email ldougherty@olliewebbinc.org.

Congratulations!

Asia
Joannie
Emanuel
Hunter
Sammy

Congratulations on earning a Certificate of Work Ethic Proficiency and demonstrating mastery in seven foundational workplace skills!

Created by the Center for Work Ethic Development, the Bring Your ‘A’ Game curriculum is designed to teach essential workplace skills and habits:

Attendance, Appearance, Attitude, Ambition, Acceptance, Accountability, and Appreciation.

All five participants listed above earned a Certificate and collectively scored a 97% on their final quiz!

OWCI offers Continuing Education classes in Bring Your ‘A’ Game. Join our next session and earn this valuable credential!
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.

Nan Byers, job developer and coach at the Ollie Webb Center has helped support Mary, a participant involved in many of our programs at OWCI over the past few years. Mary first came to Ollie Webb in high school and was involved in our Just Friends, peer mentoring program. Three years ago in July, Mary worked with our employment team and job developers to secure a job at New Cassel Retirement Center and job coaches have continued to support her in this role since that time. Mary has also participated in our day service program, taking continuing education classes since 2017 and been an active member in Next Chapter Book Club and our Ultimate Life program. Recently Mary informed Nan that she and her family would be moving out of state and wanted to share about her involvement in programs and activities at OWCI. Nan and Mary sat down together to talk more about her experiences with our organization.

**Nan:** Let’s chat about the employment program you are part of at Ollie Webb. You have been through both the development and coaching processes. How do you think coaching has helped you be successful in your job?

**Mary:** Well, Craig is the one that helped me to find my job at New Cassel. He did a good job matching me up with a job that fit with my skills. It was the help that my coaches gave me to learn tasks that were given to me as part of my job. Some I never did before and some I just needed a little help with. That’s what helped me the most.

**Nan:** Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for Ollie Webb so that we can continue to help others like we've helped you on the job?

**Mary:** If someone is really struggling with learning how to complete a task, break it down into steps. It really helped. Coaches helped me step by step, until I could complete the whole task myself. Also, coaches should focus more on helping people advocate for themselves rather than advocate for them. I think coaches should help people to know the right words to use when they are expressing their wants and needs or when they need to report a concern they might have had. I think it’s really important.

Nan also shared with Mary that her favorite part of coaching Mary was watching her interact with the residents. If they asked Mary to walk with them, she didn’t hesitate. If she thought someone looked sad or didn’t feel good, she asked if she could help. If someone was confused, she helped them understand what was going on and made sure they made it to their table for dinner or was safely escorted to their room.

**Nan:** Thanks so much Mary, let’s chat a little bit about the education program. What did you like best about the classes you took through Ollie Webb?

**Mary:** I would have to say it was the “Be Safe” class. It helped me to know what to do to keep myself safe in emergency situations. Also, I will tell you that I have liked all my teachers from Ollie Webb; even the subs.

**Nan:** That’s great. It sounds like that is a class that you can apply what you learned to real life situations. Do you have any suggestions to help the education program continue to develop and help others based on your experience taking classes?

**Mary:** Yes, I do. I enjoyed the tour of the fire station, but I suggest that they set up a tour of a police station. And include the K-9 dogs. I think the students would enjoy the tour and learn a lot from that. I better mention that if they do decide to add a tour of the police station, let whoever will call about that know to use the non emergency number. Do not call 911 for things like that. We need to leave the 911 opened for actual emergencies.

**Nan:** Mary, your suggestions have been amazing! I’m sure that we will use the information you shared with me today and I appreciate that you were willing to be a part of this interview and share your experiences at Ollie Webb.

The interview concluded with Mary sharing how excited she is to experience a new state, new people, and new adventures. We at OWCI want to wish Mary and her family all the best moving forward.
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.

Living the Dream!

Here at Ollie Webb Center Inc. (OWCI), we are committed to helping every individual we serve live their best life. This month, we’re excited to share about one of the best examples of our mission come true: Troy! Troy has successfully been living on his own since 2017 and chooses support and activities from many of the services that OWCI provides. Currently, Troy has residential supports to assist him be as independent as possible in his apartment and also has a job coach to help him at his job at Hy-Vee.

Troy loves living independently and having the OWCI team and his parents to help him grow and learn more advanced independent living skills. Troy and his residential staff are working together to enhance his time management and scheduling abilities, keep track of all his appointments and activities, create shopping lists, and implement a cleaning list for the apartment. He shared that staff help him make a list of shopping items and chores for the week which he keeps on the refrigerator as a reminder.

“I am really happy with all of my staff and how they teach me all the things I want to learn how to do for myself. My staff has helped me a lot!” OWCI staff has also shared resources and information to help Troy and his family navigate other community services that are available to them, such as transportation to get him to and from work. Troy shared, “I enjoy living by myself and not having to share my living space with a roommate.” Troy’s dream has always been to live on his own and he feels that he is living the dream!
### Staff Directory

**Administrative Office Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Ackermann</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Dougherty</td>
<td>Compliance Director</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Hillebrandt</td>
<td>Controller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenny Koley</td>
<td>Receptionist</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin McArthur</td>
<td>Operations Director</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Stocking</td>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program Support Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Ackermann</td>
<td>Education Services Manager</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aimee Addison</td>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness Services</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Brown</td>
<td>Independent Living Services</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexa Edwards</td>
<td>Mentoring Services Coordinator</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Hoggatt</td>
<td>Artistic Director</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Kneifl</td>
<td>Employment Services Coordinator</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa McMichael</td>
<td>Independent Living Services Manager</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie Nath</td>
<td>Managing Director</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Waln-Lewellyn</td>
<td>Personal Development Services Coordinator</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheri Albin</td>
<td>Family Services Coordinator</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about Ollie Webb Center, Inc. activities and programs, you can pull up our website on your smartphone QR app!

It's Free!

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