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Holiday Hours

Christmas:
Closed Monday December 24 & Tuesday December 25

New Year’s:
Closed January 1

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

The Arc of Omaha is a member agency of the United Way of the Midlands and a Chapter of The Arc of Nebraska and the U.S.

December 2018

As we go into a season where we count our blessings for what we have and prepare to celebrate the holidays with family, friends and loved ones, we want to let you know we are grateful for you—our families, our supporters and our volunteers. It is your passion and love that sustains, inspires and keeps us eager to find ways to better serve our clients.

We’re also looking back with pride at all we’ve accomplished together this past year. We’re still giddy from the amazing production of The White Gander that our Art of Imagination participants presented. It spotlighted the talent that surrounds us and showcased the amazing creativity that is in our community. We are so thankful for those who shared their special skills with us and made it possible.

It was just one of so many events and activities that emphasized the joy and empowerment that comes with investing in Ollie Webb and its families. And we have even higher hopes for 2019 and what it could mean for those who depend on us for help living independently, as well as connecting with the world. We count our blessings and know we can count on you too! Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts.
“Time and money spent in helping people to do more for themselves is far better than mere giving.” ~ Henry Ford

You are doing more than mere giving when you become a member of The Arc of Omaha. You are supporting efforts to help individuals with developmental disabilities and their families lead lives of greater independence, productivity, integration, inclusion and self-determination. By joining now, your membership will be valid for the calendar year 2019. Membership options are outlined below.

The privileges of membership in The Arc of Omaha include:

- Use of the Ollie Webb Center, Inc. pass to the Henry Doorly Zoo, discounts to many activities and events for individuals of all ages sponsored by The Arc of Omaha, support from The Arc of Nebraska and The Arc of the United States, including representation at local, state and national policy forums and publications sharing important information on a variety of topics, and the satisfaction of supporting a local agency that informs the public of the needs, rights and abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Arc of Omaha 2019 Membership Form

Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2019.

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

Each Single Membership is entitled to one (1) vote. Each family membership is entitled to two (2) votes.

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 2019 Arc Members!

The Arc of Omaha has a free Family Zoo Pass available for use by its 2019 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.
Sibshops is an award-winning nationally-affiliated program for youth ages six to thirteen years and is uniquely designed to provide high-energy activities for brothers and sisters of children with developmental disabilities. Sibshops is a place where siblings may obtain peer support and education within a recreational context while having fun, and allows sibs to connect with each other about similar experiences.

All ages (6-13) will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (includes snack).
Participants split in age groups (6-8 and 9-13)

9 sessions $90 • 5 sessions $50
1 session $12.50
Non-Members cost: 9 sessions $125
5 sessions $60 • 1 session $15

Sibshops will be held at UNO’s Community Engagement Center on Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates are:
December 11, 2018 and January 15, 2019 (additional dates will be added)

What are Sibshops? For the adults who plan them and the agencies that sponsor them, Sibshops are best described as opportunities for brothers and sisters of children with special health and developmental needs to obtain peer support and education within a recreational context.

Sibshops seek to provide siblings with opportunities for peer support. As Sibshops are designed (primarily) for school-aged children, peer support is provided within a lively, recreational context that emphasizes a kids'-eye-view.

Please also let us know if you have a child who has “aged out” of Sibshops (14 or older). They may be eligible to participate as supportive mentors/volunteers during the program.

For RSVP’s and more information, please email awells@olliewebbinc.org for call 402-342-4418 ext. 19.
“My daughter, who has Down Syndrome, is getting ready to turn five and start kindergarten. I’m not sure where to begin. What have other parents done and what should the school be doing?”

“My son has had seizures for a long time, and we didn’t realize what was happening until he had a big one this past summer. He is being seen by lots of specialists, but I don’t understand a lot of what is going on. I’m not sure where we need to go to get more information. Is this the best doctor and team for my child? It feels like we are all alone.”

“My daughter got a concussion playing sports, and she is acting much differently than she had before. I’m not sure if we need to do something. Is this ‘normal?’”

When a family faces a new diagnosis or new symptoms for an existing condition, it can be a challenging time. It can be months before a specialist can be seen, and even then the information can be confusing or hard to digest. There is a unique ability to provide support to a family that only another parent who has had similar experiences can give.

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. has the Parent to Parent program in which families who have “been there” can provide this kind of unique emotional and informational support. We are committed to assuring access and quality in parent to parent support for families who have children of any age, who have a disability, special health care need, or mental health need. The formal matching of a Referred Parent with a trained, volunteer Support Parent occurs quickly and is of tremendous value for the Referred Parent.

We are looking for parents who would like to participate in the training and become Support Parents.

If you feel you would like to learn more or participate in the Support Parent training and become a Support Parent to other families, please contact Amanda Wells at 402-342-4418 x 19 or awells@olliewebbinc.org.
The PRISM Project is sponsored by the Arc of Omaha at Ollie Webb Center, Inc., with assistance from the Nebraska Department of Education.
HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Next Chapter Book Club

- Book Clubs meets 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.
- For more information email dgehringer@olliewebbinc.org

Next Chapter Book Club

Congratulations to the Best Friends Forever Book Club! The Club read all 9 books in the Little House on the Prairie Book Series!

Spots available at these locations:
- Monday in Papillion,
- Tuesday in Papillion
- Wednesday at 180th and Center,
- Monday near 128th & Center,
- Tuesday in the Saddle Creek/Med Center area

Email ASAP to grab an open spot!

14 Clubs Meeting in the Omaha Metro Area!

Friendship & literacy in a community setting!

Denise Gehringer, Program Coordinator • dgehringer@olliewebbinc.org
The Ultimate Life Program is a fee-based recreation program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities 18 years and older. 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 companions accompany participants. Transportation to and from the activities is part of the program.

The Ultimate Life Program is the place to be for fun and friends!

APPLY NOW! Registration fee $30. For an application, contact: dgehringer@olliewebbinc.org
HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Health Matters

STARS BASKETBALL

Fall 2018 Adult Leisure

Fall 2018 Teens Competitive

Fall 2018 Teens Leisure

Fall 2018 Kids League

Fall 2018 Adult Competitive
MENTORING SERVICES
Just Friends and Best Buddies
(Ages 13 -18)

Community Teen Lunch and Film Club
Spend the afternoon socializing, eating lunch and watching a movie with friends.

Saturday, December 8

Start time between 12:15 - 12:30 p.m.
Westwood 8 Theater
2809 S 125th Ave # 297 Omaha, NE 68144

Pick-up typically between 2:00 - 2:15 p.m.
Lunch is included.
Cost: $15/Arc member • $20/non-member

RSVP to Amanda Clark aclark@olliewebbinc.org
THIS IS A PRE-PAYMENT EVENT ONLY!
Includes hot dog, popcorn, beverage and admission for participant only

Please email aclark@olliewebbinc.org the week of the film to find out an exact time for arrivals and which film we will be seeing.

Shop and Learn
Shop and Learn is an evening class with an emphasis on healthy eating and meal planning in a community setting. As a group, we will discuss meal planning, shop for ingredients and prep a simple meal.

Monday, December 3
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
at Whole Foods Supermarket in Regency

(Please meet us in the café/eating entrance – we will use the “meeting room” next to it)
Cost: $15/Arc member & $20/non-member

Please note:
Class size is limited to 8 people. Before sending in your check/registration, contact Amanda at 346-5220, Ext. 31 or aclark@olliewebbinc.org to see if space is still available.

Fitness Club
Saturday, December 29
From 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

What better way to keep incorporating fitness in your life than with a group of peers and friends?! Each meeting we’ll have fun games, discussions and of course – physical activities to get everyone moving!

St. Timothy’s
(Lower-level community room)
510 North 92nd Street
Omaha, NE 68131

Types of exercise we will be trying with our own supported/adapted interests in mind:
• Yoga
• HIIT
• Aerobics
• Kick-boxing

Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes for fitness activity and bring a water bottle!

Cost: $5/Arc member and $10/non-member
RSVP to: aclark@olliewebbinc.org.

Come to four classes and earn your first fitness prize!

Congratulations to mentoring match, Emma Christian and Julia Altilio!
Community Lunch and Film Club

Spend the afternoon socializing, eating lunch and watching a movie with friends.

Saturday, December 15

Start time between 12:15 - 12:30 p.m.
Westwood 8 Theater
2809 S 125th Ave #297 Omaha, NE 68144

Pick-up typically between 2:00 - 2:15 p.m.
Lunch is included.
Cost: $15/Arc member • $20/non-member

RSVP to Amanda Clark aclark@olliewebbinc.org
THIS IS A PRE-PAYMENT EVENT ONLY!

Includes hot dog, popcorn, beverage and admission for participant only

Please email aclark@olliewebbinc.org the week of the film to find out an exact time for arrivals and which film we will be seeing.

Shop and Learn

Shop and Learn is an evening class with an emphasis on healthy eating and meal planning in a community setting. As a group, we will discuss meal planning, shop for ingredients and prep a simple meal.

Tuesday, December 4
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
at Whole Foods Supermarket in Regency

(Please meet us in the café/eating entrance – we will use the “meeting room” next to it)
Cost: $15/Arc member & $20/non-member

Please note:
Class size is limited to 8 people. Before sending in your check/registration, contact Amanda at 346-5220, Ext. 31 or aclark@olliewebbinc.org to see if space is still available.

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Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes for fitness activity and bring a water bottle!

Cost: $5/Arc member and $10/non-member
RSVP to: aclark@olliewebbinc.org.

Come to four classes and earn your first fitness prize!
Animal Careers is one of the many Career Planning and Development courses offered by the Continuing Education program at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI). The goal of this class is to expose participants to the exciting world of exotic and companion animals while gaining real-world experience, advanced knowledge, and the critical skills necessary to become a successful employee in an animal-related career. In addition to learning about emotional support and service animal training, dog walking, and pet grooming careers, participants actively explore what it takes to work at a kennel or animal shelter, rescue or foster different types of pets, or become a veterinarian or zoo assistant in all areas from animal care to guest services.

With direction from OWCI instructors Deb Gibson and Meghan Morse, individuals currently enrolled in the Animal Careers class have participated in exciting tours and activities, including touring the Omaha Police Horse Barn, visiting the Nebraska Humane Society, and learning about diverse careers in animal care as well as the different ways to protect and enrich the lives of animals in our community. Communication and critical thinking skills are fostered in this class through research and exploration initiatives related to the job skills and expertise needed to work in this industry. Upcoming tours and curriculum will focus on investigating the work of wildlife documentarians, pet groomers, and animal shelter workers in addition to learning more about Scatter Joy Acres, an animal rescue facility that also provides Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT).
We would like to express our gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of The White Gander, an original inclusive theatre production of Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s The Art of Imagination program that closed on Sunday, October 28th. Four performances saw 150 – 200 audience members per night, a record number for any of The Art of Imagination’s previous productions. With over 30 cast and crew consisting of artists with and without disabilities, the team set out to create a truly professional theatre production involving several months of planning, writing, building, rehearsing, and finally performing. In many ways this production has been in the making for over a decade when The Art of Imagination was originally conceived and this production was a positive culmination of much dreaming and hard work.

Appreciation goes out to the many people who made this production possible. Huge thanks to Jill Anderson, the director and writer of the project and Jim Hoggatt, Artistic Director of The Art of Imagination program. Thanks also to Jesse Wohlman and Marty Dowds, the music director and choreographer for the project respectively. While some of our performers had music and dance experience, others had none. The careful and thoughtful guidance given to the performing artists by these two men helped ensure solid and confident performances. Special thanks to John Leclerc, the technical director; his quiet and capable talents saw issues solved even before they became problems.

Thanks to all the performers of The White Gander, a terrific team of actors who shared their warm open talents with all as colleagues and friends as well as their families and friends who positively supported them throughout the course of this project. Recognition also goes to the wonderful troupe of musicians, which included Mindy Hunke, Vince Krysl, Michael Murphy and Jesse Wohlman.

Thanks also to those behind the scenes. The tireless costume design crew consisted of Katherine Neary, Shannon Bittner-Miller and Jill Anderson assisted by Nancy Mundy, Grace Manley and the team of Costume Design students. Sound effects were designed by Jesse Wohlman, Kathleen Delechant and Sound Effects for the Stage participants while props were designed and created by Brandon Mass, Nils Haaland, Annie Anderson as well as Prop Design students. Parts of the script were written by Playwriting participants with the help of David Ackermann, Cari DeBord, and Jill Anderson. Musical Theatre students were trained by Grace Manley and Shannon Bittner-Miller and research for the script, props and costumes was done by the Dramaturgy team of students and instructor Brandon Mass. Finally, the entire project was recorded by the Documentary Filmmaking class headed up by videographer David Ackermann, Jose Trujillo and Isaac Luk. The stage and technical crew consisted of Mindy Cotner, Eric Griffith, John Leclerc, Melissa Lindsey, Emily Elizabeth Engel, Chris McBride, Tara Waln-Lewelleyn, Sandy Gaube, Sheryl Hess, Kevin Sieczkowski, Tom Guttermann and Paul Sieczkowski.

The project was funded by generous grants from the Todd and Betiana Simon Foundation, the Fred and Eve Simon Foundation (of Omaha Steaks), and the Sherwood Foundation; with some additional support from the Blue Stem Prairie Foundation. Much thanks to those organizations who supported the mission of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. and helped promote performing arts opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the Omaha community.

Lastly, a great deal of appreciation should go to Laurie Ackermann and Robin McArthur who acted as executive producers, working hard to organize and energize the entire project. Both spent many busy days and late nights ensuring that marketing information, grant requests, program drafts, etc. got out on time. Without their behind-the-scene efforts The White Gander would not have happened.
THE ART OF IMAGINATION
JOE DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS

Alan has been a participant of Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s (OWCI) Supported Employment program since 2014. He began with a volunteer opportunity and then became competitively employed in 2015. Over the last year, Alan worked with the Supported Employment Services Coordinator, Craig Kneifl, to hone his employment skills and was offered a position at TJ Maxx in July where he is currently working two days a week.

In job development sessions, Alan spent a lot of time and effort exploring jobs and employers where he would feel welcomed and comfortable. It was important to him that he would be able to successful in completing job tasks. Craig shared that Alan has made great strides towards completing tasks independently since he was hired three months ago and is truly dedicated towards trying to increase his skills. Alan receives daily compliments from co-workers about what a great job he is doing; his manager Alana stated, “Alan has been doing an awesome job so far and is an awesome person. When he arrives, he brings a positive attitude that affects everyone.”

When asked what he appreciates about his new job Alan shared, “I appreciate getting to clean the windows and shelves for TJ Maxx and being a valued team member. I also love that the break room will often have snacks and deserts that people bring to be shared with everyone!” OWCI is proud to partner with TJ Maxx in their support of Alan and continued commitment to competitive supported employment for individuals with disabilities.
David is a long-term program participant of Ollie Webb Center, Inc.'s (OWCI) Independent Living program. David and his in-home residential support staff Nancy Mundy work together to help David learn and acquire many of the skills necessary to live successfully independently in the community. Life skills that David is interested in pursuing include: establishing good exercise habits, time management and keeping track of day to day schedule and appointments, and enhancing writing skills so he is able to text and write clear and legible notes to others.

David and Nancy practice and hone money management and budgeting skills by going shopping in the community. He also loves to play billiards/pool at the Montclair Community Center and Pool, providing a natural opportunity for David to work on interactive communication and social skills. As a result of these weekly activities, David has made friends with Montclair staff and peers and enjoys socializing with them as much as he enjoys playing billiards/pool. Nancy shared that David has learned to engage with different age groups of friends in the community and has also experienced varied ways to work on diverse independent living skills through his participation in this OWCI program. David works part-time in the community and is able to use and generalize what he learns through his residential services to other areas, improving the quality of his day-to-day life.
**STAFF DIRECTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Office Staff</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie Ackermann</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Lisa Dougherty</td>
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<td>Jenny Koley</td>
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<td>Robin McArthur</td>
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<td>Cathy Smith</td>
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<td>Jordan Stocking</td>
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<td>Sue Wymore</td>
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<td>Craig Kneiff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa McMichael</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blaine Villafuerte</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Wells</td>
<td>19</td>
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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!

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