December 2019
The stockings are hung, the holiday lights burning bright and holiday movies are all around. Such is the joyous season that starts earlier and earlier every year.

Here at Ollie Webb, as we wrap up the year, we want to showcase the gifts you’ve shared with all of us to make sure 2019 casts a warm glow in the memories of so many clients and families. There are the whoops of triumph for those who participated in the basketball league and upped their game while excitedly showcasing their skills. Or how about the smiles of pride as book club members finished a satisfying read? We can’t forget to spotlight the cast and crew of Morozko who received standing ovations each night, not to mention sold-out the Masonic Temple venue!

All of these accomplishments are a present from every one of you reading this message. Whether you threw your heart and efforts into being part of one of Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s programs, showed up to cheer on participants in a variety of activities, volunteered your time to provide experiences and services, or donated to make our work come to life THANK YOU!

Our gratitude knows no bounds and we know that your gifts have made our community richer and more inclusive of everyone living here.

We’re excited to see what the New Year brings and look forward to seeing you part of it!

Happiest of Holidays from our family to yours.
2020 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

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 2020. 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 2020 Membership Form

Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2020. 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.)
Name(s) ___________________________________________________________________________
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

DON’T FORGET!
to renew your Arc of Omaha membership for 2020.

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

❄ Heavy, accumulating, blowing and drifting snow
❄ Ten degrees or more below zero and/or wind chill
❄ Ice, sleet and/or freezing rain

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 and/or check our Facebook page for event updates. Most decisions will be posted by 3:00 p.m. for evening activities, and 8:00 a.m. for daytime activities.

Zoo Pass Available to 2020 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.
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.

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.

Sibshops is offered at the same time and location as an adult series presented by Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands. Parents are encouraged to register for this series and to register their children for Sibshops. To register for the adult series, please go to their website: https://www.dsamidlands.org/events/.

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 jstocking@olliewebbinc.org or call 402.342.4418 ext. 10.
Ollie Webb Center, Inc. closed its second annual large-scale inclusive theatre production, Morozko, on Sunday, November 3rd after three sold out performances. The cast consisted of 28 performers with and without disabilities as well as an even larger production crew. Among the production crew were many individuals involved in The Art of Imagination, the visual and performing arts program of the Ollie Webb Center. The Art of Imagination works in partnership with Ollie Webb Center’s Continuing Education program to provide innovative programming, training, and classes to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Many of the above mentioned courses including, Costume and Prop Design, Playwriting, Musical Theater, Choreography, Voice Acting, Art Design for Theater, Theater Design, and Elements of Drama have supported this production in many ways. Individuals involved in the classes helped create many of the costumes, set, and props seen in the performance. Musical Theater participants also helped create a pre-show for the play and those enrolled in the Elements of Drama course researched historical terms and concepts involved in the folktales which comprised the play.

The production was performed in the beautiful Scottish Rite Center in downtown Omaha. This is the second year that the Ollie Webb Center has presented a production in this space. The company was also fortunate to have much of its rehearsal time in the performance space as well. Other organizations donating space for rehearsals were St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church and the City of Omaha’s Benson Community Center.

There was a good deal of media coverage of the production as well. The Omaha World Herald featured the play in an article on Halloween, the day before opening. There were radio interviews on KPAO, KGOR and KIOS and a Saturday morning TV interview on KETV.

Funding from the Todd and Betiana Simon Foundation, the Fred and Eve Simon Foundation, the Sherwood Foundation and the Bluestem Prairie Foundation made this production possible. Much thanks for their support and generosity!
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.

CONVERSATIONS WITH BOOK CLUB PARTICIPANTS
NCBC participants highlight the many positive benefits of the program!

What do you learn from reading the books?
“I learn to understand characters and what they are going through”
“I learn about taking turns and learn new words”
“It can make your brain smarter”

Do you feel your reading has improved?
“Yes, my reading is better when reading aloud”
“Yes, I have been able to read pretty tricky books”
“Yes, I don’t stumble over as many words as I used to”

Have you made any new friends?
“Yes, everyone at the table”
“Yes, new friends and old friends”
“Yes, I have gotten to know everyone and have great facilitators”

Do you want to continue to participate in Book Club?
“Yes—I love reading”
“Yes, because I want more reading”
“Yes. I feel like I have more opportunities to learn things about others.”
“Yes! I love it so much!”
“Yes. I love it. It’s fun. I can’t picture myself not being in book club.”

What do you tell your friends about NCBC?
“Go to book club!”
“Book club is fun and you learn things!”
“Book club is fun and you should try it out.”

Friendship & literacy in a community setting!

Tara Waln-Lewellyn, Program Coordinator • twaln-lewellyn@olliewebbinc.org
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.

UPCOMING ULTIMATE LIFE WINTER EVENTS

The weather outside may be frightful, but we have some delightful events on the calendar for Ultimate Life this winter!

Game Night at Spielbound Board Game Café
Dinner with Friends
Indoor Mini-Golf
A visit to the Planetarium
Christmas at Union Station
An Afternoon at the Joslyn
A Performance at The Rose Theatre
UNO Basketball

Plus our monthly favorites…
Dinner and a Movie
Bowling at West Lanes
Dave & Busters
Dancing at the Ozone and at Bogies

…and more!

CALL AND SIGN UP TODAY!
BECOME A PART OF THE ULTIMATE LIFE PROGRAM AT OLLIE WEBB CENTER, INC.
SOCIAL RECREATION
Annual Halloween Dance
SOCIAL RECREATION

The Social Recreation Program offers small- and large-group activities in which youth and adults with disabilities can enjoy leisure time, build friendships and access the community.

Lunch and Film Club for Teens and Adults

Spend the afternoon socializing, eating lunch and watching a movie with friends. Both teens and adults may register.

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Start time is at 12:00 p.m.

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

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

Please mail your check and RSVP form to Ollie Webb Center Inc. by December 4.
Questions? Email Alexa Edwards at aedwards@olliewebbinc.org.

For other upcoming social and recreational opportunities, please check out our Best Buddies and Ultimate Life programs!

RESERVATION FORM

Name:_____________________________________________________ Phone #: (_____)________________
Address:___________________________________________________ Zip: ___________________________
Date of Birth:______________________________ Allergies:   _____________________________________
Emergency Contact ________________________  Emergency Phone:  _____________________________

I allow the use of images for public relations purposes and release and discharge Ollie Webb Center, Inc. and its employees and volunteers from any liability as a result of my participation and/or my child's participation.                                *Signature: _______________________________________

PLEASE CHECK THE EVENT(S) THAT CORRESPONDS WITH PAYMENT

❑ Lunch and Film Club (December 7).................................................................................. $15 Arc members/$20 non-members
A support person or caregiver is required to attend if one-on-one support is needed.

Total Enclosed: $__________ Please make checks payable to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc.
Return to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc., 1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 122, Omaha, NE 68105

Alexa Edwards, Program Coordinator • aedwards@olliewebbinc.org

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Best Buddies is a peer mentoring program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through this program, adults with disabilities are matched to Creighton college students and participate in social and recreational activities, enabling these individuals to experience friendships with peers.

Best Buddies is the world’s largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Best Buddy programs like ours empower the special abilities of people with disabilities by helping them form meaningful friendships with peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society.

December's Best Buddy’s Event: Christmas Party!
(Details will come directly to participants from the Creighton Executive Team)

Highlighting three special buddy pairs this month!
Troy and Luke and Evie and Casey (pictured on the left) are newly paired this year!
Heather and Hannah (pictured below) are a returning buddy pair for their second year in a row.
We are excited to see these friendships continue to grow throughout next semester!
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.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Ollie Webb Center's Continuing Education program strives to represent a college environment where program participants take meaningful classes that expand their knowledge and prepare them for the work force while also promoting interaction with friends and opportunities to build social skills.

Recently, we sat down with several individuals to ask about what drew them to Ollie Webb and why they continue to enjoy new opportunities within the program. There was a wide mix of individuals, some who had only been taking classes for a short while and others who had been attending for years.

What have you learned in Ollie Webb classes that has helped prepared you for the workforce?

**Asia:** I have learned how to work together as a team.

**Kevin:** I like to learn with others more.

**Katrina:** It has helped me to be happier.

**Amy:** I learn new things and art.

**Bryan:** I have learned to be safe.

**Elizabeth:** I’ve learned how to get out into the community more.

**Tyler:** I have learned to stay focused.

**Jordan:** I have learned customer services skills and proper greetings. I have learned how to avoid conflict.

**Monica:** I have been able to practice lots of skills.

**Alan:** I have learned how to work hard and to be patient.

**Eve:** I have gained an education. I feel like I’ve gained life skills and learned a passion I didn’t know I had.

**Elizabeth:** I have learned personal happiness and am better equipped to handle situations at work.

What do you like about taking classes at the Ollie Webb Center?

**Jerus:** I like doing the play and singing. The people. I am trying to be more independent in my apartment and with myself.

**Ian:** I like going out to the South Omaha Library. I like Garden Club class. I like being out in the community.

**Courtney:** I have new friends. I feel accepted.

**GR:** Classes are interesting. I really like the people and the different activities we do.

**MaryJo:** I like the people.

**Amy:** I like the people I can get along with. I wish I could bring my screenplay so people could help produce what I have written.

**John:** I have friends here I enjoy being with.

**Nick:** I do like the flexibility.

**Saxon:** I like coming to make friends. I like the teachers.

**Colin:** I enjoy the classes. Teachers are awesome. Being in plays is fun.

**Jaylen:** I like taking care of things for everybody. I help people with fire drills.

**Alan:** I love music and everybody.

**Jordan:** I have a lot of friends here.

**Ryan:** It’s fun.

**Monica:** The teachers.

**Shea:** Because you guys have the Art of Imagination classes, that’s why.

**Tyler:** I like the classes. I have friends here. It’s just a good place.

**WHAT DOES OLLIE WEBB CENTER MEAN TO ME?**
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.

Best Practices in Supported Employment!

Craig Kneifl, Employment Coordinator for Ollie Webb Center, Inc. answers questions about how Job Development works; helping individuals find and retain inclusive opportunities for competitive employment in the community. Currently, the Supported Employment program serves over 50 program participants through the provision of job development and coaching services for those in new jobs as well as for some that have been in positions for 20+ years!

Q: How can I receive job development services through the Ollie Webb Center?
A: The first step is to contact our Intake and Referral Coordinator to learn about our program. We collaborate with participants and families, Nebraska VR, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Developmental Disabilities division to help provide guidance and funding for job development and job coaching.

Q: What does someone do in Job Development?
A: Job Development is a one-on-one service where a participant meets with a Job Developer to explore career interests and goals, identify employment opportunities, help craft a resume and practice interviewing skills, conduct business outreach, apply for jobs, develop a transportation plan, and advocate for accommodations if needed.

Q: How often would I meet with my Job Developer?
A: Typically once a week for a two hour session. The time will be spent mostly on applying for jobs, following up on leads, and working on the key skills needed to be successful in job hunting.

Q: Where will the Job Development meetings be and how do I get there?
A: The meetings will be out in the community within proximity to your home and/or area of interest for employment. Participants are usually ready to go and dressed professionally to make a great first impression should the opportunity arise to meet with an employer.

Q: How do I apply for jobs?
A: Most jobs today must be applied for online. Your Job Developer will have a computer and can help with navigating the online world of job boards, automated tracking systems, email, and company websites. Additionally, sometimes visiting employers directly or following up in person or by phone may occur. Some businesses still do paper applications that the Job Developer can help with as well.

Q: How will I know if an employer wants to set up an interview or hire me?
A: It’s expected that you and/or an advocate will help with monitoring phone calls, voicemails, and emails for messages from employers. Your Job Developer will also review any employment-related messages with you so that career opportunities are not missed.

Q: Can my Job Developer take me to an interview?
A: Yes! We help many individuals during the interview process and also take the opportunity explain to our Job Coaching services to employers as way to ensure successful and long-term employment.
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.

The Joys of Independent Living!

Brittney has been involved with the Ollie Webb Center for several years and enjoys the support she receives through participation in our Independent Living and many of our social recreational activities. Brittney loves being busy and works hard at learning and enhancing her independence with skills like budgeting, grocery shopping, and going out to eat. Brittney also volunteers every week at the Nebraska Humane Society and takes Taekwondo lessons. This past season she worked at Wenninghoff Farm and is currently applying for new jobs.

She enjoys living in her own apartment with her guinea pig, “Sweet Pea,” and going to movies, bowling, and other activities with friends. Brittney also belongs to the Next Chapter Book Club and Ultimate Life programs, both offered through the Ollie Webb Center. Lisa McMichael, Independent Living Manager shared that, “Brittney makes the most of the opportunities around her and continues to enhance her independence and quality of life.”
The Arc of Omaha & Career Solutions, Inc.
1941 South 42nd Street
Suite 122
Omaha, NE 68105-2942

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

STAFF DIRECTORY

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<tr>
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<td>Laurie Ackermann Executive Director</td>
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<td>Lisa Dougherty Human Resource Manager</td>
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<td>Megan Hillebrandt Accounting Associate</td>
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<td>Jenny Koley Receptionist</td>
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<td>Robin McArthur Operations Director</td>
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<td>Jordan Stocking Executive Assistant</td>
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<td>Tara Waln-Lewellyn Personal Development Services Coordinator</td>
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<td>Cheri Albin Family Services Coordinator</td>
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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!

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