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.

Happy Holidays

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP
OLLIE WEBB CENTER, INC.

The annual meeting of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. was held on November 17, 2014. The evening’s highlight was the annual awards ceremony. You’ll find pictures from the meeting on page 15 of this newsletter.

Awards were bestowed to:

- Just Friends Mentor of the Year: Austin Severson and Zach Severson
- Best Buddy of the Year: Anna Wattles
- Next Chapter Book Club Facilitator of the Year: Becky Kalinski
- Omaha All Stars Basketball League Coach of the Year: Cecilia Day
- Employer of the Year: Heart Ministry Center
- Agency Artist of the Year: DJ Redmond
- Community Artist of the Year: Mindy Cotner
- Community Leader of the Year: Robin Knudtson
- Community Volunteer of the Year: Aimee Addison
- Inclusion Leader of the Year: Mike Bush
- Agency Volunteer of the Year: Mark Steele
- Project II Member of the Year: Jenny Koley

A plaque was presented to Larry Hammer in sincere appreciation for his many years of invaluable service on the Board of Directors.

The following employees were also recognized for their dedicated years of service to OWCI:

- Five Years: Dave Brown and Jenny Koley

WHAT IS #GIVINGTUESDAY?
We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, join us and be a part of a global celebration and a new tradition of generosity.

http://www.olliewebbinc.org/contacts/donate/
Put Your Honey to Use

Pumpkin Honey Bread

1 cup honey
½ cup butter or margarine, softened
1 can (16 oz.) solid pack pumpkin
4 eggs
4 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
2 teaspoons ground ginger
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

In large bowl, cream honey with butter until light and fluffy.
Stir in pumpkin.
Beat in eggs, one at a time, until thoroughly incorporated.
Sift together remaining ingredients.
Stir into pumpkin mixture.
Divide batter equally between two well-greased 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pans.
Bake at 350°F for 1 hour or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean.
Let loaves cool in pans for 10 minutes; invert pans to remove loaves and allow to finish cooling on racks.

2015 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 2015. 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 2015 Membership Form

Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2015

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 e-mail 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:  $______________

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
Your contribution is tax deductible.
**Holiday Hours - We will be closed on:**
Christmas - December 25 and 26
New Years Day - January 1

**Winter 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 cancelled.

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

Note: If you are not sure if an **evening/weekend “Adult Services” event** will be held or cancelled, 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.

**NEW WEBSITE**

Please check out our new website: [www.olliewebbinc.org](http://www.olliewebbinc.org)!

Like us on Facebook!

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**PROJECT II SELF-ADVOCACY**

by Aimee Addison

**Project II Self-Advocacy**

Members of Project II meet monthly to discuss and train others about self-advocacy. Please join our members on the following Fridays from 6-8 p.m. at Ollie Webb Center.

Because some meetings may be cancelled and/or rescheduled, please RSVP to Aimee Addison if you plan to join us. Her e-mail address is: aimeeaddison114@yahoo.com.

December 19: Holiday party at OWCI (Private party—open to active members of Project II only)
Let It Snow! Snow Painting Activity

Parents do you need to keep the kids busy while planning for the Holiday season? Combine water and Kool-Aid into empty, clean spray or squirt bottles-- which you can purchase at a craft store or a Walmart and let the kids go outside and spray the white snow into colors. It is a great activity for both fine and gross motor planning as well as Sensory processing.

Omaha’s Fun for the Whole Family December Holiday Events

- Take a family road trip and pick out a live Christmas tree at Santa’s Woods in Blair, or Dappen Tree Farm in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

- Celebrating Hanukkah is a new activity at Omaha Children’s Museum, free with museum admission. On December 3, learn to make a candle; do potato experiments in the Science Center; read a Hanukkah book at the Imagination Playground; and learn about force and motion using a dreidel.

- Make a trip to Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium on December 7, 14 or 21 at 10:45 a.m. In the aquarium, at the shark tunnel, you will see special characters who dive with the sharks. Plus animals all around the zoo will receive special gifts. Everything is included in the price of admission.

- Check out Santa’s Magic at Omaha Children’s Museum running from November 29 through December 22 with near-daily shows. There’s a light show set to music; visits by the Snow Queen; and, of course, Santa and a sing-along. Time your visit to catch Santa coming down the chimney starting on November 29: Tuesday – Friday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (Additional show at 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays).

- Don’t forget to tune into ABC Family’s “25 Days of Christmas” lineup for December 25:
  6 a.m. “Frosty’s Winter Wonderland”
  6:30 a.m. “The Year Without a Santa Claus”
  7:30 a.m. “Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town”
  10:00 a.m. “The Muppet Christmas Carol”
  12:00 noon “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” (my favorite!);
  2:00 p.m. “The Santa Clause”
  4:00 p.m. “The Santa Clause 2”
  6:00 p.m. “The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause”
  8:00 p.m. “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.”

- Visit the Durham Museum for Family Night with Santa Tuesdays, December 3, 10 and 17, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Expect live music and holiday crafts and you may just meet a reindeer to boot! Cost of admission applies.
Ollie Webb Center, Inc. is proud to offer Sibshops in Omaha. Sibshops are lively celebrations which convey a sense of joy, wonder, and play!

What:
This award-winning nationally affiliated program for youth ages 6 to 13 is uniquely designed to provide high-energy activities for siblings of children with developmental disabilities. Sibshops is a place where siblings may obtain peer support and education within a recreational context; while having fun, sibs connect with each other about similar experiences.

Who:
The brothers and sisters of individuals with developmental disabilities experience many of the same concerns as their parents as well as other concerns uniquely their own. A maximum of 20 youth ages 9-13 and 20 youth ages 6-8 can participate each session. Lunch is provided.

Where:
Sibshops will be held at a location to be announced. All registrants will be notified of the location prior to the first workshop.

How:
Contact Annie at 402-346-5220 Ext. 23 or aanderson@olliewebbinc.org to receive a registration form.

When:
Sibshops are held the 2nd Saturday of the month.
9-13 year old Sibs will meet on Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14 and April 11 from 9:00 am to noon.
6-8 year old Sibs will meet on Oct. 11, Dec. 13, Feb. 14 and April 11 from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m.

Cost:
If you are an Ollie Webb Center, Inc. Member the cost is:
9-13 year olds - 8 sessions $100
4-6 year olds - 4 sessions $50
Non-Members cost:
9-13 year olds - 8 sessions $125
4-6 year olds - 4 sessions $60
Individual sessions may be purchased at $12.50 each for members and $15 each for non-members.

Contributions to the Sibshops Scholarship fund are welcomed and will help a sibling who cannot afford to attend the opportunity to participate in Sibshops.

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Sponsored by:
Ollie Webb Center, Inc.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the United Way of the Midlands.
The PRISM Project is sponsored by the Arc of Omaha at Ollie Webb Center, Inc., with assistance from the United Way of the Midlands and the Nebraska Department of Education.
Next Chapter Book Club

The Best Friends Forever Book Club, lead by the fantastic Carla and Connie, has been meeting every week, only taking breaks for holidays and snow storms, since August of 2012! The club has read 12 books including Dracula. Recently the club has started watching the movie about the story they have just completed reading to compare to the book. This group continues it’s friendships outside of club meetings at picnics, pizza gatherings and craft nights.

When asked to describe their most recent read, Dracula, this is what club members had to say:

- Very Scary!! - David
- Vampires! - Brittney
- Scary hand! - Jeff
- Very interesting. - Marzia
- Eats people’s blood! - Marshal
- Dracula!! - Nick
- Dracula is a vampire and he has fangs - Deanna

Thank you to Michael A. James & Associates for donating the set of 12 Dracula books for our Next Chapter Book Clubs to enjoy!

- 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.
- Clubs meeting in West Omaha and 78 & Dodge on Wednesday nights have open spots. Contact Denise ASAP if you would like to get involved!
- New club forming in the Papillion area on Monday evenings. Interested volunteers & new members contact dgehringer@olliewebbinc.org.

Our newest club meeting in the 78th & Dodge area!

Friendship & literacy in a community setting!
The Ultimate Life Program is the place to be for fun and friends!

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.

APPLY NOW!
Registration fee $30
For an application, contact: dgehringer@olliewebbinc.org

Ultimate Life getting WILD at the ZOO
Welcome to the Just Friends Program, Amanda Clark!!!

It is with much excitement that I would like to introduce you to our new Program Coordinator, Amanda Clark! As some of you know, I am starting nursing school in January; therefore, my time with the Just Friends Program will lessen. I have absolutely loved getting to know each and every one of you over the past 2 years! With that said, I am entirely confident that you will enjoy working with Amanda, she has worked with Ollie Webb Center, Inc. for over 6 years now, and has worn many hats within the organization. Along with taking over the Just Friends Program, Amanda will continue as the Adult Services Coordinator. I hope that you will all welcome her warmly into the program!

~Kelsie Troudt

Amanda has worn several hats at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. in her 6 years at OWCI. She started off as an Ultimate Life Companion and proudly counts many clients as friends. Some of them have actually known her for years, because as a teenager, she volunteered at programs helping people with disabilities. Now she coordinates evening classes, special events and other opportunities for adults 19 and older at OWCI. Her understanding of these programs and receptiveness to learn more will help along as she coordinates some of the same events and classes for teens. She also looks forward to training new mentors and growing the mentor-mentee base at OWCI.

Mandy’, as she’s called by her family, was raised by adopted parents who are life-long advocates of creating opportunities for people with disabilities because of their late daughter. Amanda is continuing the tradition. In her spare time, she plays tennis and dances, and loves to laugh at her lack of skill in both arenas. She's passionate about coffee and cooking. Please give her any suggestions you might have for food and friends, any other events, movies to show at lunch and movie or evening-education-class ideas. She loves to write new curriculum as well as review the classics.”

Presented by Ollie Webb Center, Inc. and Creighton University’s Occupational Therapy Students

Two Groups on One Great Night! A "Winter Wonderland" Evening.

We’ll make Holiday Crafts, Eat Pizza, Decorate Cookies and More!
Group 1: Teens 13-18
Group 2: Tweens 10-12

Friday, December 5
4:30-7:00 p.m. (Pizza at 6 p.m.)
Ollie Webb Center, Inc.
Cost: $5 - Pay at the door or make arrangements with Amanda.
RSVP: no later than December 2, by e-mailing aclark@olliewebbinc.org

For Adult Services and Just Friends Participants

Holiday BINGO Party with Adult Services

Bingo, Prizes, Holiday Music and refreshments

Sunday, December 14, 2014
Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Mockingbird Community Center
10242 Mockingbird Drive, Omaha, NE
Price: $10 for participants and no charge for staff/parents.
Send RSVP to Kelsie Troudt by December 8, 2014
Food and Friends
Date: December 4, 2014 or January 5, 2015
Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Being able to cook is such an important life skill, join us for a fun filled evening of socialization while practicing our skills of cutting, spreading, measuring, and many other cooking skills! Meal is provided!

Location: OWCI
Cost: $15 for Arc members/$20 for non-Arc members

Congratulations to New Matches!!
At the printing of this newsletter, we would like to congratulate the following matches that were made in the Just Friends program recently! May your friendships brighten your life!
Melanie Kaiser and Emily Lanouette
Isabella Rudd and Karly Schlecht
Rachel Recker and Sarah Troia

Before sending in your registration and payment contact Kelsie at 402-981-2858 or ktroud@olliewebbinc.org to see if space is still available.

RESERVATION FORM – Just Friends
Name: ___________________________________________ Phone #: (___)_______
Address: ___________________________________________ Zip: ________________________
Date of Birth: __________________________
Emergency Contact __________________________ Emergency Phone: _________________________

PLEASE CIRCLE THE EVENT(S) THAT CORRESPONDS WITH PAYMENT
Food & Friends (December 4)................................. $15 Arc member/ $20 non-member
Circles II (December 2, 9, & 16) .......................... $45 Arc member/ $50 non-member
Holiday BINGO Party (December 14) ................. $10 for participants
Food & Friends (January 5)................................. $15 Arc member/ $20 non-member

Total Enclosed: $____________ Please make checks payable to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc.
Return to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc., Just Friends, 1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 122, Omaha, NE 68105
Lunch and Movie
is an afternoon of relaxing and socializing over a hearty lunch and after that we watch the latest blockbuster DVD on the large projector screen at the Ollie Webb Center. (Film and lunch suggestions are always welcome.)

12:30-3:00 p.m. at OWCI
Cost: $15/Arc member - $20/non member

Please note:
Class size is limited to 12 people.
Before sending in your check/registration, contact Amanda at aclark@olliewebbinc.org or 402.346.5220 ext. 31 to see if space is available.

December 20: Send RSVP form to Amanda by December 15 or call/e-mail by December 19.

January 31: Send RSVP form to Amanda by January 26 or call/e-mail by January 30.

Food and Friends
Food and Friends is a fun way to reinforce basic skills in the kitchen, while spending time with new and old friends. Students will make a rational meal and take the recipe along home to try again.

5:30-7:30 p.m. at OWCI
Cost: $15/Arc member - $20/non member

Please note:
Class size is limited to 7 people.
Before sending in your check/registration, contact Amanda at aclark@olliewebbinc.org or 402.346.5220 ext. 31 to see if space is available.

December 6: Please note that this is a Saturday. We will meet from 1:00-3:30 and will work on baking holiday goodies only. Cost and location remain the same. Send RSVP form to Amanda by Dec. 1 or call/e-mail by Dec. 3

January 6: Send RSVP form to Amanda by January 2 or call/e-mail by January 5.

Baking with Friends
A.K.A. Baking up something good
A.K.A. Bake-a-thon
We will bake holiday goodies to take home; listen to holiday music and spread good cheer!

Saturday, December 6
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
at Ollie Webb Center, Inc.

Cost: $15 for members $20 for non-members.

Send RSVP form (This event is under Food and Friends) to Amanda by December 1 or call/e-mail by December 3.

For Adult Services and Just Friends Participants
Have you taken Circles I in the past and want to take the next level of boundary/relationship building classes?

Dates: December 2, 9, & 16
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

• Each class will be held at Ollie Webb Center, Inc.
• Cost: $45 for Arc members and $50 for nonmembers. Please call Kelsie or Amanda directly to enroll or send in your RSVP form.

New Content of Circles II
• Alternative Intimacy Level Signs
• Circle Jumping: when it’s OK and when it’s not
• Reversal of Intimacy Level
• Rejecting Intimacy and Having Intimacy Rejected
• Relationship Dissolution
ADULT SERVICES
(Ages 19 and Older)
by Amanda Clark
aclark@olliewebbinc.org

Adult Services Large Group Events cosponsored by the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation - Therapeutic Recreation

RESERVATION FORM – Adult Services

Name:_____________________________________________________ Phone #: (_____)_______________
Address:___________________________________________________ Zip: _________________________
Date of Birth:______________________
Emergency Contact ________________________       Emergency Phone :  ________________________
Will Staff be accompanying to event?  (Indicate which event) ______________________________________

PLEASE CIRCLE THE EVENT(S) THAT CORRESPONDS WITH PAYMENT

Food & Friends  (December 6-baking only) (January 6)  ............$15 Arc member/ $20 non-member
Lunch and a Movie (December 20) (January 31)  .................. $15 Arc member/$20 non-member
Circles II Classes (December 2, 9, 16)..............................................$45 for all 3 nights
Holiday Bingo  (December 14)............................................................$10 /$0 staff/parents
Noodle Night (January 24).................................................................$10 /$0 staff/parents

Total Enclosed: $____________  Please make checks payable to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc.

Return to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc., Adult Services, 1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 122, Omaha, NE 68105

Holiday BINGO Party
Bingo, Prizes, Holiday Music and refreshments

Sunday, December 14, 2014
Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Mockingbird Community Center
10242 Mockingbird Drive, Omaha, NE

Price: $10 for participants and no charge for staff/parents.
Send RSVP to Kelsie Troudt by December 8, or e-mail/call by December 11, to aclark@olliewebbinc.org or 402.346.5220 ext. 31.

Noodle Night
January Dinner and Swimming Party
Swimming first, Dinner and Movie afterwards

Saturday, January 24
Time: 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Mockingbird Community Center
10242 Mockingbird Drive, Omaha, NE

Price: $15 for participants and $5 charge for staff/parents who eat dinner
Send RSVP to Amanda Clark by January 19, or e-mail/call by January 23 to aclark@olliewebbinc.org or 402.346.5220 ext. 31.
The Ice Troll, The Art of Imagination’s holiday production, is over halfway through its rehearsal process. An original play by Artistic Director Jim Hoggatt, the story is about a small village at the mercy of an angry troll. Auditions were held October 6 and 7. A mix of veterans and newcomers to AOI theater productions, the cast consists of 13 actors with and without developmental disabilities. Mindy Cotner and Selina McCormick have returned as Stage Manager and Production Designer respectively.
Colleen Swanson began working with the Ultimate Life Program at the beginning of 2014. She moved to Omaha last year to work as a 3rd and 4th grade resource special education teacher for Omaha Public Schools. Her passion for working with individuals with disabilities stems from her involvement with the Heart of Illinois Down Syndrome Association, which her family supported in memory of her brother Kevin who had Down Syndrome. In college, Colleen got involved with the Penguin Project in which children with special needs put on modified Broadway musicals. As a mentor, Colleen assisted Penguins, or the performers, with learning lines, dance moves, and blocking. More than anything, the Penguins and mentors became and remain friends. Colleen believes her purpose in life is strengthened by programs like the Penguin Project and the Ultimate Life Program in which her passion, career, and personal life converge.

Quote from Colleen: "Being an Ultimate Life Companion increases my quality of life through laughter, fun, and new friends. As a full-time teacher, the Ultimate Life program gives me a bright vision for the future of my current students. With programs like this, I am confident that their futures will be filled with joy, fulfillment, and opportunity like those of the clients I serve."

Quote from Denise Gehringer, Program Coordinator, Ultimate Life Program: “Colleen is very dedicated to the Ultimate Life Program. She offers creative ideas for events and has a great time when she is out with our Ultimate Life members.”