Greetings,

I wish all of you a joyous and prosperous 2019. The close of one year provides the opportunity for us to reflect on our accomplishments and challenges over the past year. In 2018, we realized our long time dream of bringing a large scale theatrical production to the stage. Many of you were a part of, or came to see our outstanding production of “The White Gander”. We expanded our Summer Vocational Transition program, and had great turnout and/or participation at many of our activities and events offered through our programs such as Book Club and PRISM. We continued to be a strong advocate as numerous issues impacting individuals with disabilities were debated this past year. Those debates often included the defense of rule and funding changes that could, and in many cases did have had an adverse effect. One area that had a positive outcome was the impact that many of you had in sharing your concerns regarding the Nebraska Medicaid “share of costs” issue that became more pronounced in 2018.

As with many of our colleagues, we continue to navigate the rapidly changing landscape of service definition and funding reimbursement among the primary sources of support for people who experience a developmental disability. Our goal is to provide the services and supports you continue to count on from Ollie Webb Center, Inc. in the most efficient and effective way possible, given these new constraints. We have also been impacted by the changing funding priorities of United Way of the Midlands. Programs such as PRISM, Book Club, Just Friends, and Family Service no longer receive core funding from United Way, as a result. Fortunately, a few years ago we mounted an aggressive fundraising plan, and we are working with a number of our very generous local foundations to help offset this loss of funding.

As you can imagine, all of these changes have presented some significant challenges, but with the support of our board of directors, we have worked to minimize the impact to services. We have refined our strategic plan, and continue to analyze where we can collaboratively work with other organizations in our community that share our commitment to creating and providing inclusive opportunities for all citizens. These efforts have paid off, and no programs have been eliminated. We have worked to economize how the services are delivered, keeping the quality intact. We have a dynamic team that is working hard to support all of our programs. Because these adjustments have changed or added new roles among our staff, we have included their bios in this newsletter. We are grateful to these and all our staff that share their time and talents with Ollie Webb Center, Inc.

I would like to thank the board of directors, and in particular the staff that have gracefully navigated all these challenges this past year, and are committed to providing outstanding services in 2019.

Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding any questions you may have related to these changes. We now feel that we can move confidently to the future; bringing you the highest quality services and supports.

Laurie Ackermann, Executive Director
"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,
- The satisfaction of supporting a local agency that informs the public of the needs, rights and abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities.

2019 Arc of Omaha Membership Drive!
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:
January 15, 2019 • February 19, 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.

Amanda Wells, Program Coordinator • awells@olliewebbinc.org
Parent to Parent Omaha is a parent-to-parent support program for families of newly-diagnosed children with developmental disabilities. The program offers information and emotional support through parent-to-parent matches and socialization activities designed both for parents and their children. The program also offers parent-to-parent matches for families of adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities.

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP RESOURCES

When a family faces a new diagnosis or new symptoms for an existing condition, it can be a challenging and overwhelming time. There is a unique ability to provide support to a family that only another parent who has had similar experiences can give. This connection provides hope, strength and a reminder of the resilience all parents have, especially those with a child who has a disability.

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. offers 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.

Support Parents
Because I have been where you are…I can offer…
  …my listening ears
  …my experience
  …my time
  …my heart

Match Parents
With a parent to parent connection, you realize you are not alone; you will find other parents who understand and support you; you discover that together is better! We work diligently to provide a one-on-one match quickly.

If you need support or know of someone who might benefit from this kind of connection, call today.
THE ARC OF NEBRASKA’S
49th Annual Senatorial Dinner

Wednesday, February 20, 2019
Cornhusker Hotel • 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, NE

10:00-2:00 p.m.  Board of Directors Meeting
1:00-3:00 p.m.  Legislative Action Day
4:00-6:00 p.m.  Legislative Briefing
5:00 p.m.  Registration
6:00 p.m.  Social Hour
7:00 p.m.  Dinner

Guest Speakers:
James Meadours- President Texas Advocates and
Angee Barcus Author of Loving and Learning: Life with Lisa and Down Syndrome

Sign up: https://www.arc-nebraska.org/senatorial_dinner_2019

State Senators will be present to meet with and share personal stories along with your hopes for people with developmental disabilities and their families. We wish to express our appreciation to the Senators for their past and continuing support.

Please call your Senator and encourage him/her to attend. You may call The Arc of Nebraska for the name and phone number of your Senator. The Arc of Nebraska’s website also has a Legislative link where you may find your Senator’s contact information.

This year you may also register on our website for the Senatorial Dinner.

402.475.4407 • info@arc-nebraska.org • www.arc-nebraska.org
2018 Next Chapter Book Club Facilitator of the Year

Diana Allen-Lewis (with her club)

Next Chapter Book Club Needs Volunteer Facilitators!

Help needed at these locations:
Tuesday Med. Center Area • Wednesday 180th & Center • Wednesday Med. Center Area • Thursday 125th & Center

Wanted: Adults interested in a rewarding experience enhancing the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Make a difference in their lives by meeting once a week for an hour with a small group at a local coffee shop to read and discuss a good book. Book club participants will enjoy social connections often missing in their lives and the delight of expanding their literacy. Volunteer Facilitators will be provided with CPR, First Aid and Facilitator training.

Who can facilitate Next Chapter Book Club meetings?
Volunteers are the lifeblood of Next Chapter Book Club. While Program Coordinators launch and manage our network of clubs, Facilitators devote one hour each week guiding the actual meetings. Facilitators come from all walks and stages of life and include students, family members of individuals with disabilities, and retirees looking for an opportunity to make a difference.

What does a Facilitator do?
Each club has two-three Facilitators. They guide the members in making book selections, encourage conversation, assist with reading and act as mentors in the club. They are knowledgeable about our Standards of Practice and have learned strategies for engaging readers of all levels, including those who are emerging readers.

For more information about becoming a Next Chapter Book Club Facilitator, please contact Amanda Clark, Program Coordinator 402-345-5220 x 31.

Amanda Clark, Program Coordinator • aclark@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.

Ultimate Life Companions and Staff

Program Coordinator

Tara

Connie

Deb

Ellie

Emily

Erin

Kelly

Liana

Megan

Rob

Tammi

Tanya

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

Name_________________________________________________________________________________
DOB_________________________  Age_________
Address________________________________________________________________________________
City___________________________________________  State__________________ Zip______________
Day Phone________________________________   Evening Phone________________________________
Parents/Guardian Email Address____________________________________________________________
Emergency Contact______________________________________      Phone ________________________
Restrictions to physical activity __________________________________________________________
Medical Diagnosis _______________________________________________________________________
Name of hospitalization plan_______________________________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________ Date ________________

Send completed registration form and check made out to OWCI: Please write “Basketball” in memo on check. Scholarships are available.

1941 South 42nd Street, #122, Omaha, NE 68105.

Please check preferred program choice.

If you have questions, please contact Aimee Addison at aaddison@olliewebbinc.org

Stars Basketball Registration

Name_________________________________________________________________________________
DOB_________________________  Age_________
Address________________________________________________________________________________
City___________________________________________  State__________________ Zip______________
Day Phone________________________________   Evening Phone________________________________
Parents/Guardian Email Address____________________________________________________________
Restrictions to physical activity __________________________________________________________
Medical Diagnosis _______________________________________________________________________
Name of hospitalization plan_______________________________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________ Date ________________

I/We_____________________________________________, the parents/guardians of the above named candidate for participation in Stars Basketball, hereby give my/our approval for my/our child to participate in any and all Star Basketball activities. I/We agree to return any equipment issued to my/our child in as good condition as when I/we received it except for normal wear and tear. I/We give permission for the free use of my/our child’s name and or photo in any newspaper, broadcast, or telecast of the Stars Basketball program and for use in promotional brochures of The Arc of Omaha at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. I/We acknowledge that it is recommended to consult with my/our child’s physician prior to beginning a new fitness or exercise program. I/We hereby release and hold harmless the Autism Center Nebraska, OPS Schools and Ollie Webb Center, Inc., their officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and affiliates from all liability and damages for personal injury and property damage which I/we may or my/our guests and participants may suffer by participating in Stars Basketball. In case of medical emergency I/we give my/our permission for The Arc of Omaha at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. to arrange for transportation for my/our child to the nearest medical facility to receive treatment. *We request that one parent/guardian be in attendance during the program.*

Total $______________________________

Optional! Not required. STARS Basketball T-shirt! Only $12 each.

Quantity_____ Size (please circle) Youth M, Youth L, Adult S, Adult M, Adult L, Adult XL, Adult 2XL, Adult 3XL
JUST FRIENDS AND BEST BUDDIES
(Ages 13 - 18)

Just Friends is a peer mentoring and friendship program that gives adolescents with developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate in social and recreational activities with adolescents who do not have developmental disabilities. The program also offers social events and educational classes.

Happy New Year! Please stay tuned for events and activities to come.

Cadie and Anna, participants in the Just Friends mentoring program at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI) were featured in MENTOR, a National Mentoring Partnership with the pair’s photo as their Facebook cover with the tagline: “In December We’re Celebrating All Abilities.”

Mentoring Services Coordinator, Amanda Clark, was thrilled to see this match featured. Anna’s sister, Victoria was given OWCI’s Mentor of the Year Award in 2018 and Amanda nominated Anna for the Midlands Mentoring Partnership award, which will be announced in 2019. Both young ladies have been matched to the same OWCI friends for a few years now. Amanda knew the matches would work from the get-go and loves celebrating the thriving matches and their many great moments as friends. But it’s the personal stories like the one below that the ladies relay on a monthly basis that are truly great to hear.

OWCI mentor Anna Fleming shared this about the mentoring relationship. “I thought mentoring went pretty well this month! I just went to Cadie’s birthday party on Saturday at Painting with a Twist and it was a BLAST! It was a great place to have a party, Cadie seemed super happy, and it was so fun to meet some more of her friends, who are also very fun to talk to! We also went to Ralph Breaks the Internet a couple of weeks ago, which was a pretty good movie… and it was great to talk with Cadie about favorite moments and characters. Cadie has definitely started more conversations and seems even more engaged, and also more interested in hearing what other people have to say too (I think I’m naturally more quiet and she’s naturally more talkative, and I think that our personalities complement each other, but I think even in the past few months our conversations have become more complex with more follow-up questions, which has been great!).”

IN DECEMBER WE’RE CELEBRATING ALL ABILITIES

Amanda Clark, Program Coordinator • aclark@olliewebbinc.org
On Thursday November 1st 2018, over 90 community members came to The Venue at the Highlander for the “Close the Gap for Livable Communities” event. This initiative was organized by Heartland 2050, AARP Nebraska, and AARP Iowa. Representatives from AARP, the 24th Street Corridor Alliance, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency participated and the conference focused on sharing best practices on planning and designing communities to support special populations, including the aging, those living in poverty, and individuals experiencing a disability, through multi-modal transportation options. Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s Independent Living Services Manager, Lisa McMichael presented as part of a four-person panel representing the needs of citizens with disabilities.

Danielle Arigoni, Director of AARP’s Livable Communities, discussed the national trends in housing for aging populations and policy goals to increase and ensure age-friendly communities. A major theme of the day centered on how public transit plays a large role in supporting everyone and the current efforts underway to increase connections between people and places.

Bradley Anderson, AARP Iowa State Director and Kent Sovern retired AARP Iowa State Director presented about Des Moines MPO’s Complete Streets & Better Block Project, which advocates for sidewalk and infrastructure improvements to facilitate services and accommodate for diverse populations, including multi-age groups and those with specialized needs. In addition, the Better Block project works towards revitalizing city blocks into interactive, welcoming areas of the city.

Juanita Johnson, President of the North 24th Street Corridor Alliance, and Aron Williams (muralist), talked about the 24th Street Mural Project and how the North 24th Street Corridor Alliance was a recipient of the AARP Livable Communities grant. The grant supported the installation of a mural at 24th and Burdette Streets in North Omaha which recognized the Tuskegee Airman and created an opportunity for neighborhood engagement. Public art was discussed as one method of helping to create and build walkable neighborhoods.

Megan Walker, Associate Transportation Planner at MAPA, discussed the regional transit options and resources that are supported by members of the Coordinated Transit Committee. Megan also shared a video about Metro transit use and para-transit options.

Following the presentations, a panel focused on connecting people and places was held with the following panelists:

Lisa McMichael-Ollie Webb Center, Inc., Independent Living Services Manager
Lisa Picker-Heartland Family Service, Chair of MAPA Coordinated Transit Committee
Mark Bulger-Omaha Association of the Blind
Megan Loberg-Simmering-Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership

Lisa McMichael from Ollie Webb Center, Inc. presented the different types of transportation options most often used by individuals with disabilities and the challenges that are faced in accessing the community with the current modes of transportation. Much of the discussion was focused on the need to expand the coverage area and available hours of service of Moby Para-Transit to help increase accessibility for citizens with disabilities.

Conference attendees left with a greater understanding of what actions and steps can be taken to move forward as a community and how to become actively involved in helping to create a user-friendly region for all populations.
NEW PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. is excited to introduce new Program Coordinators in the areas of Vocational Education Services, Health and Wellness, Mentoring and Best Buddies, Family Services, and Personal Development for 2019.

DAVID ACKERMANN, Education Services Coordinator

David Ackermann has extensive experience supporting individuals and families with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Originally contracted in 2012 to develop specialized courses and projects for The Art of Imagination program, David has continued to work with multiple programs at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. spanning Continuing Education classes and programming, Supported Employment services, and The Art of Imagination program on past productions and comprehensive course development. David also serves as the resident filmmaker and videographer for the agency.

David’s professional background includes creative technology and broadcasting expertise with non-profit educational organizations as well as experience conducting workshops in theatre and film and producing numerous promotional shorts for local disability advocacy and arts education groups, including The Arc of Nebraska, The Rose Theater, and the Circle Theatre. David is a graduate of the University of Nebraska- Lincoln, receiving both a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film & New Media and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

AIMEE ADDISON, Health and Wellness Services Coordinator

Aimee Addison is recognized as a long-standing advocate of individuals with developmental disabilities. She is dedicated to the mission of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. and has supported several programs and services for the organization since 2015. Aimee brings over 15 years of diverse experience delivering high quality services spanning vocational and residential programs as well as social-recreational events. For almost a decade, Aimee has knowledgeably served as the Project II Advisor for the Omaha Chapter of People First of Nebraska, Inc., honored with Chapter of the Year Award in 2018.

Aimee is instrumental in implementing agency-wide Quality Assurance activities, assisting with fundraising, and coordinating our STARS Basketball League. Aimee actively pursues professional development and has extensive subject matter expertise in the areas of documentation best practices, person centered planning and advocacy, positive behavioral supports, crisis management, and enhancing the quality of life of those experiencing a disability.

AMANDA CLARK, Mentoring Services Coordinator

Amanda Clark has expertly managed and implemented mentoring programs, Sibshops, and adult activities for Ollie Webb Center, Inc. since the fall of 2008 and also currently supports our Continuing Education department as an instructor. She has a demonstrated track record in successfully recruiting and training support staff and volunteers, developing community and partnerships, and providing classes and workshops on social skills, mentoring, and healthy living. She currently leads the organization’s HealthMatters Advisory Committee.

Amanda has pursued ongoing professional development in program management, relationship-building, advocacy, disability awareness, and effectively monitoring outcomes and metrics. She also participated in the National Arc Convention in Orlando, Florida in 2016 and the Sibshops Facilitator Training in Midland, Texas in 2017.
ALEXA EDWARDS, Best Buddies Coordinator

Alexa Edwards joined Ollie Webb Center, Inc. in May of 2018 as a Job Coach for our Supported Employment program and Program Assistant for adult services. She recently graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and is working towards a Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree at Creighton University. Additionally, Alexa has professional experience in local healthcare and related organizations working with children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Alexa currently serves as President of Creighton’s Best Buddies program and was involved with the program when it was honored as Outstanding Chapter of the Year in both 2015 and 2016. Alexa was also named Ollie Webb Center, Inc’s Best Buddies College Buddy of the Year in 2016.

TARA WALN-LEWELLYN, Personal Development Services Coordinator

Tara Waln-Lewellyn recently joined the Ollie Webb Center team overseeing the Ultimate Life program and also serving as an instructor in the Continuing Education department. She has over 17 years of professional experience in educational leadership, program management, volunteer coordination, literacy and GED preparation, and crisis intervention as well as serving on several committees with Creighton University, Catholic Charities, and the Nebraska Department of Education.

Tara is currently working on an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at the College of Saint Mary and has earned a Master of Arts in Education Administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as well as a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Creighton University. She has published numerous articles and newsletters, delivered professional presentations, and been a member of The American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE), and the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME).

AMANDA WELLS, Family Services Coordinator

Amanda Wells is Ollie Webb Center, Inc’s Intake and Quality Assurance Specialist and has comprehensive experience with individuals with disabilities and brain injury spanning over 15 years. She has successfully performed in multiple capacities within the agency, initially as the Employment Services Coordinator and currently as Intake and Referral/Quality Assurance Specialist collaborating with external partners, including Nebraska VR, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, local school districts, and community groups.

Amanda holds a Master of Science in Clinical Counseling through Bellevue University and is provisionally licensed as a Mental Health Practitioner. She also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Communication and Psychology from the University of Nebraska. Amanda is currently a member of several organizations, including the Nebraska Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIANE).
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.

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.

**EXCITING NEW COURSE OFFERINGS IN 2019!**

It's a new year and a new semester for Ollie Webb Center, Inc.'s (OWCI) Continuing Education/The Art of Imagination program. As always, the program is growing and creating new offerings to further the educational and vocational aspirations of its participants. Many of the course ideas come from the program participants themselves. The Video Game Development course program was requested by individuals interested in gaining first-hand knowledge in game creation and coding. The Amazing Invincible Super Comic Book Project! was suggested by an up and coming comic artist. This semester we have four new course offerings that were conceived by listening to the desires of individuals enrolled in the program who want to further hone their job-readiness and artistic skills.

Over the past several years, OWCI has been developing its filmmaking program. A series of summer film projects featuring participants in the roles of director, camera operator, actor, and editor culminated in the past year with a full-fledged Documentary Filmmaking course. During past filmmaking projects, individuals learned to explore the difference between the techniques of acting on stage as compared to acting in film. This area of study has inspired a new course called, Acting for Film. This class will train its participants to adjust the theatrical acting process for the camera and microphone. This medium demands precision, so skills such as improved diction and posture awareness will be important parts of the course’s regimen, inspiring confidence and self-awareness translating into increased artistic talent and potential job opportunities.

The visual arts continue to play an important part in OWCI’s class offerings. A few years back the program offered a very successful and popular Comic Book Development Project. There has been renewed interest in this genre among those interested in visual arts training and so this semester, we are offering Comic Book History and Design. This class will combine in-depth research into the history and trends of the art form as well as hone participants’ reading, writing, analysis, and drawing skills in preparation for possible vocational prospects in this and other job markets.

Many of the participants in visual and performing arts classes are serious about pursuing a career as professional artists. The program is very aware of these aspirations and so is now offering, Studio Art. This class will offer participants the opportunity to explore their creativity in diverse media and will train them in the areas of drawing, painting, animation, and mixed media. There will also be an emphasis on marketing strategies and exhibition of artwork in professional venues in preparation for an art career.

The Art of Imagination program and related Continuing Education classes have focused heavily on the performing and theatrical arts for the past two semesters culminating in a wonderful inclusive theatre production this past October called The White Gander. A further opportunity in technical theatre is a new course offering entitled, Theatre Behind the Scenes, which will provide a unique investigation into the many interesting and diverse employment and volunteer opportunities in the entertainment world. This class will research prospects in theatrical design and technical arts, writing, sets, costumes, and more.

OWCI classes strive to bring truly unique vocational as well as visual and performing arts experiences to participants. Training and skills learned and acquired in these classes help individuals to become better artists and also strengthen real-life skills and self-confidence, translating into impressive talents that individuals can leverage when pursuing volunteer, internships, and employment opportunities.
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.

**CELEBRATING TWO YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT!**

Kyle had been participating in Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s (OWCI) continuing education program for a number of years and decided to pursue new competitive employment opportunities in the community in 2016. He chose OWCI’s Supported Employment department to partner with in his job search and Kyle began working with a job developer exploring his strengths and interests, matching them to potential job opportunities, and practicing and perfecting answers to interview questions.

After submitting applications and learning about different employment opportunities that aligned with his skill set, Kyle was excited to learn that he had received an interview at Dave and Buster’s. Kyle attended the interview with his job developer and was offered a job in The Winners Circle as well as the warehouse. This summer Kyle celebrated his two year anniversary with Dave and Buster’s and has formed many positive relationships with his teammates and managers. Kyle has also been recognized as an Employee of the Month. Kyle shared that, “My favorite thing about work is helping the other workers”.

OWCI is proud to partner with Dave and Buster’s, a company that demonstrates a commitment to providing competitive employment for individuals experiencing a disability. Kyle’s manager gave this endorsement of Kyle’s work performance. "At Dave and Buster’s we have four culture pillars that embody what it means to be a D&B employee. Kyle is a great example of our "Everybody is Somebody" pillar. In his time with us he has had the opportunity to learn and grow in several departments including: The Winner’s Circle where he assists with tagging inventory and maintenance, Janitorial and Cleaning where he helps keep our game room tidy, and Service Support where he helps keep our silverware clean and rolled. Kyle also assists the technical staff with Crane Merchandising Product and is going to learn how to do dishes. If our pillars hold true, and “Everybody is Somebody”, then Kyle is definitely a star in his role."
INDEPENDENT LIVING IN ACTION

Meet Angela, a local author and a participant in the Independent Living Services department at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI). Angela and the residential staff members who work with her have focused on helping her to develop skills towards achieving her dream of becoming a renowned writer and illustrator of children’s books as well as to increase her independence in daily life. Angela is working to establish and enhance healthy exercise habits, manage her day-to-day schedule and appointments, improve time management skills, and of course, further grow her talents as an author and illustrator.

Angela is currently in the process of publishing her sixth children’s book, the fourth in a series about Puffy the Pufferfish with the help and guidance of OWCI support staff. Aside from her writing endeavors, Angela enjoys taking riding lessons at HETRA as well as volunteering at her church. Recently, Angela has shown great progress in her personal budgeting skills as she successfully saved to purchase new furniture for her home. Lisa McMichael, the Independent Living Services manager shared that, “Angela has learned to check her bank balances electronically and is able to look at her spending to determine how much she will need each month for her daily living expenses. Our team of direct support professionals has also helped Angela to learn how to use the Go Go Grandparent app which she uses for transportation to church and other community events, further increasing her independence and overall quality of life.”
# STAFF DIRECTORY

## Administrative Office Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</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>Human Resource Manager</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Koley</td>
<td>Receptionist</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin McArthur</td>
<td>Operations Director</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Wymore</td>
<td>Controller</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Stocking</td>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Program Support Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Ackermann</td>
<td>Education Services Coordinator</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aimee Addison</td>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness Services Coordinator</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Brown</td>
<td>Independent Living Services Coordinator</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Clark</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>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa McMichael</td>
<td>Independent Living Services Manager</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaine Villafuerte</td>
<td>Employment Services Manager</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Waln-Lewellyn</td>
<td>Personal Development Services Coordinator</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Wells</td>
<td>Family Services Coordinator</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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!

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