Inside this issue:
50th Annual Senatorial Dinner...............1
Weather Policy...........................................2
2021 Arc Membership Drive....................2
Best Buddies.............................................3
Next Chapter Book Club..........................4
Ultimate Life.............................................5
Art of Imagination....................................6
Continuing Education...............................7
Supported Employment..........................8
Independent Living.................................9
Staff Directory.......................................10

The office of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. is not currently open to visitors. Team members are continuing to work and provide services remotely. The best way of communicating at this time is by calling our main number at 402-346-5220 or by email.

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

The Arc of Nebraska’s 50th Annual Senatorial Dinner

Tuesday, February 2, 2021
Virtual Event - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

In this unprecedented year, we look forward to an unprecedented event celebrating our 50th Senatorial Dinner Virtually. Over the last year, we have worked to shift direction through a pandemic fighting for services, ensuring utilities stay connected, working for community inclusion, and finding new ways to deal with new problems. We hope you will join us in this new setting as we look forward to the next year!

Guest Speaker: Anthony Ianni

At the age of 4 Anthony was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), which is on the Autism Spectrum (ASD). Doctors and specialists told Anthony’s parents that he would barely graduate from high school, would never graduate from college, would never have a shot at being an athlete and would likely live in a group institution with other Autistic kids for his adult life. His family was devastated but pledged they would help Anthony be successful no matter what.

Anthony graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in sociology in 2012 and was a winner of various awards during his time as a basketball player. He was a two-time Big Ten Champion, a Big Ten Tournament Champion, and a member of the 2010 Final Four team. He won the 2011 Tim Bograkos Walk On award and the 2012 Unsung Player award.

Purchase tickets at: www.arc-nebraska.org
**2021 Arc of Omaha Membership Drive!**

“Time and money spent in helping people to do more for themselves is far better than mere giving.” ~ Henry Ford

This has been a difficult year for all of us, but the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families has been especially devastating. Many of our clients are still largely self-quarantining due to underlying health conditions and have limited access to their cherished friends, hobbies, and routines.

Please consider becoming an Arc of Omaha member today so our clients can safely enjoy virtual adaptations of programs such as the First and Next Chapter Book Clubs, Friends and Best Buddies Mentoring Programs, and sibling and parent support.

**Becoming a member for 2021 is easy!** Options start at just $25. This can be done by mail (fill out the form below) or online at www.olliewebbinc.org. The benefits of continued membership include:

- Use of the Ollie Webb Center, Inc. pass to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Pass use is unlimited based on availability and entitles 2 adults and up to 6 children free admission to the zoo.
- Discounts on many activities and events sponsored by The Arc of Omaha. For more information, please reference our monthly newsletter or www.olliewebbinc.org.
- Support from The Arc of Nebraska and The Arc of the United States, including representation at local, state, and national policy forums and publications on a variety of topics.
- The satisfaction of supporting a local community agency that tirelessly informs the public of the needs, rights, and abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Your Arc of Omaha membership sends a strong message in support of the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please consider becoming a member today!

---

**The Arc of Omaha 2021 Membership Form**

Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2021

Thank you for your past support! Please consider once again being a part of our team!

Name(s) ___________________________________________________________________________
(As you wish it to appear when we publicly recognize our members.)

Address ____________________________________________________________________________
City/State______________________________________________________ Zip ______________________

Phone _________________________ E-mail * ____________________________________________

*May we send our monthly newsletter to your email address:   ____Yes     ____No

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 2021 Arc Members!**

The Arc of Omaha has a free Family Zoo Pass available for use by its 2020 members. It allows two adults and four children to visit the Henry Doorly Zoo. Please note the following rules for its use:

1. The pass can be used anytime the zoo is open.
2. Families may use the pass as often as they like, as long as it is available.
3. Families using the pass must sign it out, giving their name, address, phone number, date of use and date returned. If a family misuses the pass, it is possible that the pass may not be available for them to use again.
4. When families arrive at the zoo, they must present the pass and check in at the Visitors Center.

Call 402.346.5220 to reserve the Family Zoo Pass.

---

**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.

---

**DON’T FORGET!**

to renew your Arc of Omaha membership for 2021.

---
MENTORING SERVICES
Best Buddies

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.

Best Buddies in 2021!

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI) continues a long-standing partnership with Creighton University Best Buddies into 2021 as Host Site of the organization. OWCI commends the Executive Team for planning and implementing the Best Buddies program in a new format. Despite changes to the University's academic calendar consisting of condensed semesters without typical breaks, Best Buddy members have prioritized connecting with each other by adapting to virtual activities and events. In 2020, the club had two virtual group events including a Member Reveal Ceremony and Game Night; photos from Game Night are featured on this page. In addition, a group of executive team members assembled fall-themed activity bags and provided them to all members. The purpose of the activity bags was to enrich the Zoom calls of buddy pairs with fun activities, including decorating small pumpkins and doing Mad Libs together. OWCI recognizes and appreciates all Best Buddy members for being open-minded and flexible with the new adjustments. Please stay on the lookout for an email from the Executive Team with information about the upcoming semester! The Best Buddies timeline will fall within the Creighton academic semester which runs from January 27, 2021 - May 14, 2021.

In addition, Best Buddies Internationals (BBI) plans to hold pop-up virtual ambassador trainings, free of cost, offered to any person in Nebraska interested in leadership opportunities involving disability education and advocacy through speech writing and presentation skills training. You do not have to be affiliated with Best Buddies or OWCI to take advantage of these trainings. BBI defines an ambassador as a person with or without an intellectual or developmental disability who is committed to promoting and educating audiences about the mission, philosophy, and benefits of disability awareness and advocacy through public speaking. Therefore, you can be a participant, staff member, volunteer, friend, family, or community member interested in using your voice to reach further audiences about a shared mission. The ability of BBI to continue holding these valuable trainings depends on the number of participants attending, so grab a friend and do not miss your chance to sign up! Please email Alexa Edwards, Mentoring Service Coordinator, at aedwards@olliewebbinc.org if you have questions or would like to be notified when these opportunities become available.

Alexa Edwards, Program Coordinator • aedwards@olliewebbinc.org
Virtual Next Chapter Book Club

Join other adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for reading and conversation!

- Members meet weekly for one hour on Zoom to read and discuss a book.
- All levels of readers and non-readers are welcome.
- Two trained volunteers facilitate each group of six to eight participants.
- NCBC members reunite with old friends and make new friends—it’s the same group each week!
- We practice teamwork—we help one another as we work through the book as a group.
- Join a nationally recognized and unique book club!
- Feed your imagination and build lasting friendships!
- There is a one-time $30 registration fee for this program. Books are loaned to club members from the Next Chapter Book Club Lending Library, which holds over 90 titles!

Interested in joining a Virtual Book Club on Zoom?

Contact Tara at
twaln-lewellyn@olliewebbinc.org

"Next Chapter Book Club truly fits our understanding of literary activism and what that kind of movement can do. When any community is dismissed, when we lose a voice or an audience, we all suffer for it. Next Chapter Book Club is using literature as a way to bring people with intellectual disabilities into a conversation we should all be having." - Lisa Lucas, Executive Director, National Book Foundation.
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.

Creighton University Creative Occupations Virtual Game Night

FREE EVENT!

Thursday, January 28, 2021
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join the Creative Occupations Group and friends for an evening of fun games including “Would You Rather” and “Jeopardy!”

To participate in this free event, RSVP to Tara at twaln-lewellyn@olliewebbinc.org by Monday, January 25th.

Zoom meeting room information will be sent on the morning of the event.
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.

Jim Hoggatt: Accessibility Advocate in the Community
written by Carrie Nath

If you have participated in Ollie Webb Center, Inc. programs and activities, chances are you have met Jim Hoggatt. And, if you have known him long enough, chances are you also know of his esteemed career as an artist, writer, and educator. But what is the chance you know of Jim Hoggatt, community access advocate? Well, I can honestly say I am extremely honored to share yet another facet of this incredibly talented, kind, and respected colleague.

Last fall, The Omaha Community Playhouse (OCP) reached out to Jim to see if he was interested in serving on their Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Committee. Because of his stellar reputation within the theater community and his passion for making opportunities accessible to all creative members of Omaha and surrounding areas, it was a no-brainer. Being a lifelong collaborator and dedicated member of the access community, he said yes.

Jim, along with other members of the Omaha community, meet once a month to support the advancement of DEIA initiatives at the Playhouse. Working directly with Playhouse staff, this group assists with honing and shaping DEIA initiatives and communicating those initiatives to Playhouse constituents and colleagues. In short: the committee discusses how best to support the Playhouse in best serving the community.

But the Playhouse isn’t the only place Jim is in demand. On January 9th, Jim and long-time Ollie Webb Center, Inc’s actress and staff member, Jenny Koley, were invited to participate in a panel at the Nebraska State Thespian Festival. Colleges, national and international professional theater artists, faculty, and over 600 high school students from across the State gather each year to celebrate two days of jam-packed theater events. This year, they focused primarily on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access.

In a Zoom Room packed with 61 students, Jim and Jenny joined Eddie Kraska and his mother, Constance, along with Fran Sillau of Circle Theater and numerous other accessibility and arts colleagues. Each group shared information about access and inclusion programming at their organization. The second half of the session was an extended Q&A answering questions from students and faculty on how to best address these issues in their schools and in their future endeavors in the theatre world.

You may have known about Jim Hoggatt, esteemed artist, writer, and educator. Now you also know him as a community access advocate who will continue to work on enhancing awareness of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in the community.
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.

**New Technology and More!**

The Continuing Education program is pleased to announce that Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI) was recently awarded a grant through the HDR Foundation to facilitate virtual programming during the pandemic. Since June, the program has been operating entirely using the Zoom video conferencing platform to help ensure everyone's health and safety.

The HDR Foundation provides grants to qualified organizations that align with HDR's areas of expertise: education, healthy communities, and environmental stewardship. This grant will support new technology and curricula so that the program can continue to deliver quality training in the areas of workplace skills, career planning, social-emotional learning, independent living, and more.

Access to new technology and equipment for instructors and participants will greatly facilitate teaching and learning. We are excited to begin using award-winning social-emotional learning and career-readiness digital curricula purchased through this grant. Several software applications were also explored by our education leadership team to enhance our visual and performing arts class offerings, including digital animation, video creation, and line memorization techniques among others.

We are looking forward to 2021 and are grateful for the opportunities afforded to OWCI through this generous grant from the HDR Foundation.
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.

Job Satisfaction

Brian has been working at UMNC since 2018 as a Laundry Aide within the Durham Research Center. Brian’s job is very important as he keeps a steady supply of clean lab coats for other personnel to wear as they complete critical tasks within the comparative medicine department. Brian washes, dries, folds, and restocks the white and blue lab coats for four different gown stations within the facility. He utilizes two different laundry stations so he doesn’t have to transport dirty and clean coats as far. This adds to Brian’s responsibility of balancing laundry duties on two opposite ends of the building. On the days that Brian works, he is the sole staff member responsible to keep up with the laundry workload. He recently has had more opportunities to help in his department when he has completed his laundry duties, including assembling freshly cleaned cages with pellets, lids, and water feeders.

Brian enjoys the people he works with and also helping his co-workers. He works hard in his current role and keeps a folder where he tallies the number of lab coats he folds to track his production level. He is motivated to do better than the day before by meeting or matching his score. Brian benefits from his job coach helping him navigate social interactions and building and maintaining natural supports and relationships with co-workers.

Brian’s employer is very supportive of his work and his supervisors Connie and Theresa shared that “Brian is doing a really good job at work at this time and has had a great positive attitude!” He has also done well transitioning to a new clock-in system manually logging in his time. Along with his job coach, Brian has received support from his supervisors in learning to access, log in, and correctly fill out his timecard. Theresa provided Brian with a color coded power-point print out to help him complete the process step by step. Brian is excited to continue to grow and learn new tasks and responsibilities in 2021.
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.

Independent and Healthy Living

Program participants are working with OWCI staff and learning how to remain healthy and safe during the current health care crisis. These daily living skills are now more important than ever. One of the skills that staff have been teaching is how to properly sanitize and clean all surfaces in their home on a consistent basis. Teaching this skill has always been one taught by our team and now concerns during COVID-19 have given it a higher importance which will hopefully continue on throughout the participant’s life.

OWCI staff are taking all of the necessary precautions shared by the CDC and local health department which includes: using hand sanitizer, washing hands upon entrance to a home, wearing a face mask the entire time they are in participant’s home, and encouraging individuals to wear face masks when they leave the home and go into the community. While some participants are receiving Independent/Supported Family Living services in the home, DHHS has also allowed our team to temporarily provide services via Zoom for those individuals and families who are concerned about possible exposure. This exception from DHHS will be in place until the beginning of March and possibly longer.
STAFF DIRECTORY

**Administrative Office Staff**

**402.346.5220**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Ackermann</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Dougherty</td>
<td>Compliance Director</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Hillebrandt</td>
<td>Controller</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Koley</td>
<td>Receptionist</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin McArthur</td>
<td>Operations Director</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Stocking</td>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program Support Staff**

**402.346.5220 or 402.342.4418**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Ackermann</td>
<td>Education Services Manager</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aimee Addison</td>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness Services Coordinator</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Brown</td>
<td>Independent Living Services Coordinator</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexa Edwards</td>
<td>Mentoring Services Coordinator</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Hoggatt</td>
<td>Artistic Director</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Kneifl</td>
<td>Interim Employment Services Manager</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa McMichael</td>
<td>Independent Living Services Manager</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie Nath</td>
<td>Managing Director</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Waln-Lewellyn</td>
<td>Personal Development Services Coordinator</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheri Albin</td>
<td>Family Services Coordinator</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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