As we think about the year we've had at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. we can't help but smile. And the one word that keeps coming to mind is JOY. The delight in the smiles of young adults as they show off their computer programs that they designed from scratch during their sessions at The Art of Imagination. Or the pride that beams from the Adult Services participants as they tell you about their jobs. And the infectious laughter of children as they cheer for each other on the basketball court.

Our Ollie Webb Center family members are accomplishing amazing things and there are too many achievements to share with you here. We hope you know that all of this joy would not be possible without you.

Thank you for all that you have done to make the smiles and possibilities reality. From sharing your time to facilitate a book club group, to buying honey on Honey Sunday, wine tasting and bidding your hearts out at Ollie's Dream Gala, your contributions made programs possible for so many people. Your generosity is truly an investment in the potential of our community and we hope we can continue to count on your support.

As we turn the page on 2017 and look forward to the potential in 2018, we wish you and your family Love, Magical Moments, and JOY.
"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 2018. 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 2018 Membership Form

Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2018

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

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 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 “Adult Services” event will be held or canceled, 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.

Zoo Pass Available to 2018 Arc Members!

The Arc of Omaha has a free Family Zoo Pass available for use by its 2018 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
(Ages 6 -13)
by Amanda Clark, Program Coordinator
aclark@olliewebbinc.org

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 on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at UNO’s Community Engagement Center.
The dates are:
January 16 • February 20 • March 20 • April 17 • May 15, 2018

We will not be offering dinner, but will have snacks. The payment structure will still allow a significant discounted price for signing up early for all 9 sessions, which we highly encourage. Please plan to come to our sharing session for parents (in the newsletter) and please share if you have friends who might be interested in the program.

Secondly, we can’t wait for you to meet our new facilitator, Isabella, who is studying psychology at Creighton University, has a lot of experience working with children and people with disabilities, and she has a younger brother who has Autism. And of course, we are also thrilled to have Jamie co-facilitating again this year. He has been a steadfast group leader who keeps the kids engaged in discussion and fun.

Lastly, please also let us know if you have a child who has “aged out” of Sibshops (14 or older). We may be interested in utilizing them as supportive mentors/volunteers during the program.

For RSVP’s and more information email aclark@olliewebbinc.org or call 402.346.5220 ext. 31.
! SAVE THE DATE!

LIFT YOUR VOICE!

Disability Legislative Advocacy Day
February 8, 2018

Visit Our Senators 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Nebraska State Capitol

The Arc Legislative Update 4:00 – 6:00 pm

The Arc Senatorial Reception & Dinner 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Cornhusker Hotel

DISABILITY SELF-ADVOCATES, FAMILIES, AND ALLIES
JOIN US AS WE VISIT WITH OUR STATE SENATORS TO EDUCATE
THEM ABOUT ISSUES IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

For more information about the Senate Visits, follow the People First of Nebraska Facebook Page, visit www.PeopleFirstNebraska.com, or call (402) 559-4892

For more information or to register for the Arc Senatorial Dinner, go to the Arc website at www.arc-nebraska.org/ or call (402) 475-4407

Sponsored by People First of Nebraska, Inc., the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council, Disability Rights Nebraska, and The Arc of Nebraska
SMOOTH & STEADY TRANSITIONS

This educational event will provide information addressing support and services after high school and beyond.

If you have a student in Middle School, High School or a Transition Program, this event is for you! The recommended age to begin the process is age 16. This event will provide information addressing what to plan for, when to start the process and disability services and supports available after the school years are done.

Since planning for the future of a student with disabilities can arouse fear of the unknown, a parent may tend to delay addressing these issues, and instead focus only on the present. It is our belief, however, that working through these fears and thinking about the child’s best future interest will ensure a meaningful outcome. ~National Association of Special Education Teachers

The key to a manageable transition is getting informed and planning early!

Each attendee will leave with a checklist to help navigate the transition process. Self Determination Workbooks to assist individuals with disabilities along their path to adulthood will also be available.

Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center
6001 Dodge Street
Reserved Parking available for the first 40 RSVPs.
RSVP at: https://smooth-and-steady.eventbrite.com

Interpretation services available by request. Requests MUST be received by January 14.

Presenter: Laurie Ackermann, Executive Director of Ollie Webb Center, Inc.

Laurie, a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has worked in the field of developmental disabilities for over 30 years. “We are advocates, we are mentors, we are neighbors, we are friends, we are fellow co-workers.” Those are all roles Laurie feels are deeply important ones that Ollie Webb Center, Inc. fulfills for families. Her life journey has been tightly interwoven with the organization—two of her siblings benefited from the programs offered and her parents were among the first “Pilot Parents.” So it seemed destined that an organization that has meant so much to her family would be where she would land. She has served as the Executive Director since 2003, when she led the merger of The Arc of Omaha and Career Solutions, Inc. into what Ollie Webb Center, Inc. is today.

The PRISM Project is sponsored by the Arc of Omaha at Ollie Webb Center, Inc., with assistance from the Nebraska Department of Education.
Next Chapter Book Club

• Book Clubs meet once a week for an hour as a small group at a local coffee shop to read and discuss a book.
• All reading levels can participate!
• Members enjoy social connections and the delight of expanding their literacy.
• For more information email dgehringer@olliewebbinc.org

14 Clubs Meeting in the Omaha Metro 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
**Community Shop and Learn**

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

**Monday, January 8 at OWCI**

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**Monday, February 5**

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

at Whole Foods Supermarket in Regency

(Please meet us in the café/eating entrance – we will use the “meeting room” next to it)

Cost: $15/Arc member & $20/non-member

Please note:

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

---

**Community Teen Lunch and Film Club**

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

**Saturday, January 6 & Saturday, February 3**

Start time between 12:15 - 12:30 p.m.

**Westwood 8 Theater**

2809 S 125th Ave # 297 Omaha, NE 68144

**Pick-up typically between 2:00 - 2:15 p.m.**

Lunch is included.

Cost: $15/Arc member • $20/non-member

RSVP to Amanda Clark aclark@olliewebbinc.org

**THIS IS A PRE-PAYMENT EVENT ONLY!**

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

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

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**Fitness Club**

**Saturday, January 20 & February 17**

from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

**NEW LOCATION:**

St. Timothy’s (lower-level community room)

510 North 92nd Street • Omaha, NE 68131

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

Types of exercise we will be trying with our own supported/adapted interests in mind:

- Yoga
- HIIT
- Aerobics
- Kickboxing

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

Cost: $5/Arc member and $10/non-member

RSVP to: aclark@olliewebbinc.org.

**Come to four classes and earn your first fitness prize!**

---

**January is National Mentoring Month!**

Midlands Mentoring Partnership will launch the 5th Annual Mentor Recruitment Campaign in January 2018 during National Mentoring Month. The campaign focuses on increasing awareness for the range of mentoring opportunities available in the community and addresses common misconceptions about eligibility factors, time commitment and other possible deterrents to becoming involved.

MMP will kick off the campaign at a media conference on Thursday, January 4, at 9:30 a.m. at the Greater Omaha Chamber. Vic Gutman & Associates will be providing assistance for the campaign and organizing the media conference.

The upcoming campaign will be restructured from past campaigns. Instead of billboards, MMP will be working with KETV to launch a social media video campaign. Look for Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s “Just Friends” match!

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. will host a mentoring recruitment event for teens who are interested in becoming peer mentors. Please reach out to Amanda Clark, mentoring coordinator, if you’d like more details or to help promote the event: aclark@olliewebbinc.org.
RESERVATION FORM – Just Friends

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 in the Adult Services Program *Signature: _______________________________

PLEASE CIRCLE THE EVENT(S) THAT CORRESPONDS WITH PAYMENT

Teen Lunch and Film Club (January 6) • (February 3) $15 Arc members/$20 non-members
Community Shop and Learn (January 8) • (February 5) $15 Arc members/$20 non-members
Fit Club (January 20) • (February 17) $5 Arc members/$10 non-members

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

RESERVATION FORM – Adult Services

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 in the Adult Services Program *Signature: _______________________________

PLEASE CIRCLE THE EVENT(S) THAT CORRESPONDS WITH PAYMENT

Community Shop and Learn (January 9) • (February 6) $15 Arc members/$20 non-members
Adult Lunch and Film Club (January 13) • (February 10) $15 Arc members/$20 non-members
Adult Fit Club (January 27) • (February 24) $5 Arc members/$10 non-members

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
Community Lunch and Film Club

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

**Saturday, January 13**
**& Saturday, February 10**

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

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

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

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

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

---

Community Shop and Learn

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

**Tuesday, January 9**
**Tuesday, February 6**
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
at Whole Foods Supermarket in Regency

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

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

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Fitness Club

**Saturday, January 27 & February 24 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.**

NEW LOCATION:
St. Timothy’s (lower-level community room)
510 North 92nd Street • Omaha, NE 68131

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

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

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

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

Come to four classes and earn your first fitness prize!
IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Recently Artistic Director Jim Hoggatt sat down with one of the Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s Continuing Education instructors, Shannon Bittner-Miller, to discuss a new project being spearheaded by herself and OWCI participant Eddie Kraska. The project is meant to benefit US soldiers and first responders.

Shannon explained the genesis of the project, “Eddie came back from his vacation this summer and told me that he had several members of his family serving in the military. He said that he wished that he could serve in the military himself or do something to be supportive of his relatives.” So Shannon went to work and discovered a non-profit group called Operation Gratitude which “benefits US troops serving overseas, soldiers going through boot camps, veterans and first responders” through the sending of letters and care packages.

Eddie and Shannon are accepting letters and drawings from any Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s participants or if a participant does not want to write a letter or make a drawing, there are American Flag postcards on which participants can write a short note.

“Operation Gratitude asks for a simple thank you or letters detailing stories about what people are doing in their lives,” Shannon told Jim. “Our group wants to give the soldiers and first responders just a little snapshot of what our participants are doing and who we are.” One participant wrote a full letter describing his love for WWE wrestling. “There have been a lot of drawings submitted as well,” Shannon continued. “Participants have total freedom to write about whatever they would like to.”

Shannon and Eddie are sending these letters, postcards and drawings to Operation Gratitude who will then add them to care packages to be sent to troops and first responders. The care packages are valued at around $100 and usually contain food, batteries, socks, and specific things that certain groups may request. Submitters can request to whom or to where they would like their letters to be sent or they can let Operation Gratitude make that decision. Some participants have asked that they send their letters to family members or friends serving in the military themselves. Shannon said that she and Eddie are helping participants to do this as well.

This project is open to all Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s participants, staff and family members of participants. At this time, Shannon and Eddie have received 12 letters from participants. The project is running through the entire month of December, and so they expect to receive many more letters. The letters will go out in the early January.
# STAFF DIRECTORY

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**Ollie Webb Center, Inc.**

The Arc of Omaha & Career Solutions, Inc.

1941 South 42nd Street

Suite 122

Omaha, NE 68105-2942

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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- **The Arc of Omaha & Career Solutions, Inc.**
  - Serving the Programs of Career Solutions, Inc.
  - 402.342.4418
  - Ext.

- **Ollie Webb Center, Inc.**
  - Serving the Programs of The Arc of Omaha
  - 402.346.5220
  - Ext.

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### 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>Cathy Smith</td>
<td>Controller</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Stocking</td>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Staff Directory

#### Serving the Programs of The Arc of Omaha

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judy Bednarz</td>
<td>Program Specialist (Stars Basketball)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Clark</td>
<td>Program Coordinator (Adult Services, Best Buddies, Just Friends, Sibshops)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Gehringer</td>
<td>Program Coordinator (Family Services, First Chapter Book Club, Next Chapter Book Club, PRISM, Ultimate Life, Stars Basketball, Tween Scene, Parent to Parent)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aimee Addison</td>
<td>Program Assistant (Adult Services)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gina Urbanski</td>
<td>Program Assistant (Ultimate Life)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Serving the Programs of Career Solutions, Inc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annie Anderson</td>
<td>Education Specialist</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Brown</td>
<td>Independent Living Coordinator</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Hoggatt</td>
<td>Artistic Director</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Loftus</td>
<td>Education Coordinator</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin McArthur</td>
<td>Operations Director</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa McMichael</td>
<td>Independent Living Manager</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Kneifl</td>
<td>Employment Services Coordinator</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaine Villafuerte</td>
<td>Employment Services Manager</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Wells</td>
<td>Intake &amp; QA Specialist</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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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