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Living and Learning: A Look into the Roommate Experience of Jerus and Justin

Please join Career Solutions of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. in congratulating Justin and Jerus on their one year anniversary of apartment living! January 4, 2014 Justin and Jerus, and their families embarked on a new journey to fulfill both of the guys' dreams to live in their own apartment. With assistance from their moms, Justin and Jerus started their journey signing a 3 month lease. Before we knew it, 3 months had flown by, and the guys and their families felt that things were going so well that they would sign a one year lease. Fast forward, and here we are in January 2015, celebrating the success that both Jerus and Justin have had during the past year of apartment living. Jerus stated, "It is great!" with a big smile on his face when asked how apartment living is. Justin reiterated this enthusiasm in his response to the same question, saying "I'm so happy!"

Adorned with Husker décor and pictures of the guys and many of their friends, their apartment is fit for a king, two for that matter! Jerus and Justin both shared with me many of the things that they do to ensure the upkeep their apartment: clean the bathroom, vacuum the floors, do the dishes and the laundry, grocery shopping, and making food, to name a few. In fact, during the time I was visiting with them, Jerus had laundry going and when it was done in the washing machine he immediately got up to switch it over to the dryer; Justin arrived with several grocery bags in hand and swiftly moved to the kitchen, letting me know he was busy, and proceeded to put all of his groceries away. Apartment living for Justin and Jerus isn’t all business however; they both enjoy hosting Husker football and Super Bowl parties, inviting their friends over to join in on the fun. They even provide the snacks!

Kim, Justin’s mom, shared, “Never in my wildest dreams did I think it would go so well.” Both she and Janell, Jerus’ mom, expressed that they are very proud of their son’s journey so far helping them through just a few small bumps in the road over the course of the year. Janell noted that it has increased Jerus’ independence, as well as his initiation and decision making skills. Kim stated, “The guys picked it all up very quickly, so much quicker than we thought they would,” and also expressed how the consistency in both Justin and Jerus’ support staff has been “key to their success.”

Korey Anderson, Direct Support Professional, provides in-home services for both Jerus and Justin throughout each week. He noted the success of the roommates in how they get along, and how nice it is to see them doing things around the apartment, that their families helped them with prior to moving into an apartment, all on their own. Korey expressed, “they definitely have grown over the past year.” I have had the opportunity to help in supporting both of them throughout this year as well, and am also very proud of their success during their first year of apartment living; here’s to several more years Justin and Justin!

~Lydia Clark, Independent Living Services Manager
Put Your Honey to Use

Hoisin & Honey Glazed Salmon / 4 servings

Ingredients:
3 Tablespoons Hoisin Sauce
3 Tablespoons Honey
1 Tablespoon Unsweetened Pineapple Juice
4 Salmon Filets (6 oz. each)

Instructions:
1. Preheat broiler. Mix hoisin sauce, honey and pineapple juice.
2. Place salmon filets on a foiled-lined baking pan.
3. Broil 4-5 inches from the heat for 12–14 minutes or until fish just begins to flake easily with a fork.
4. Baste occasionally with ¼ cup hoisin mixture during the last 6 minutes of cooking.
5. Serve with remaining sauce.

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.
ABLE Accounts: 10 Things You Must Know

In recognition of the historic piece of legislation, the ABLE Act of 2014, NDI has created a list of 10 items about ABLE accounts that individuals with disabilities and their families should know. They are:

1. What is an ABLE account?
   ABLE Accounts, which are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities and their families, will be created as a result of the passage of the ABLE Act of 2014. Income earned by the accounts would not be taxed. Contributions to the account made by any person (the account beneficiary, family and friends) would not be tax deductible.

2. Why the need for ABLE accounts?
   Millions of individuals with disabilities and their families depend on a wide variety of public benefits for income, health care and food and housing assistance. Eligibility for these public benefits (SSI, SNAP, Medicaid) require meeting a means or resource test that limits eligibility to individuals to report more than $2,000 in cash savings, retirement funds and other items of significant value. To remain eligible for these public benefits, an individual must remain poor. For the first time in public policy, the ABLE Act recognizes the extra and significant costs of living with a disability. These include costs, related to raising a child with significant disabilities or a working age adult with disabilities, for accessible housing and transportation, personal assistance services, assistive technology and health care not covered by insurance, Medicaid or Medicare.
   For the first time, eligible individuals and families will be allowed to establish ABLE savings accounts that will not affect their eligibility for SSI, Medicaid and other public benefits. The legislation explains further that an ABLE account will, with private savings, “secure funding for disability-related expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries with disabilities that will supplement, but not supplant, benefits provided through private insurance, Medicaid, SSI, the beneficiary’s employment and other sources.”

3. Am I eligible for an ABLE account?
   Passage of legislation is a result of a series of compromises. The final version of the ABLE Act limits eligibility to individuals with significant disabilities with an age of onset of disability before turning 26 years of age. If you meet this criteria and are also receiving benefits already under SSI and/or SSDI, you are automatically eligible to establish an ABLE account. If you are not a recipient of SSI and/or SSDI, but still meet the age of onset disability requirement, you would still be eligible to open an ABLE account if you meet SSI criteria regarding significant functional limitations. The regulations to be written in 2015 by the Treasury Department will have to explain further the standard of proof and required medical documentation. You need not be under the age of 26 to be eligible for an ABLE account. You could be over the age of 26, but must have the documentation of disability that indicates age of onset before the age of 26.

4. Are there limits to how much money can be put in an ABLE account?
   The total annual contributions by all participating individuals, including family and friends, is $14,000. The amount will be adjusted annually for inflation. Under current tax law, $14,000 is the maximum amount that individuals can make as a gift to someone else and not pay taxes (gift tax exclusion). The total limit over time that could be made into an ABLE account will be subject to the individual state and their limit for education-related 529 savings accounts. Many states have set this limit at more than $300,000 per plan. However, for individuals with disabilities who are recipients of SSI and Medicaid, the ABLE Act sets some further limitations. The first $100,000 in ABLE accounts would be exempted from the SSI $2,000 individual resource limit. If and when an ABLE account exceeds $100,000, the beneficiary would be suspended from eligibility for SSI benefits and no longer receive that monthly income. However, the beneficiary would continue to be eligible for Medicaid. States would be able to recoup some expenses through Medicaid upon the death of the beneficiary.

5. Which expenses are allowed by ABLE accounts?
   A “qualified disability expense” means any expense related to the designated beneficiary as a result of living a life with disabilities. These include education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology, personal support services, health care expenses, financial management and administrative services and other expenses which will be further described in regulations to be developed in 2015 by the Treasury Department.

6. Where do I go to open an ABLE account?
   Each state is responsible for establishing and operating an ABLE program. If a state should choose not to establish its own program, the state may choose to contract with another state to still offer its eligible individuals with significant disabilities the opportunity to open an ABLE account.
   After President Obama signs the ABLE Act, the Secretary of the Department of Treasury will begin to develop regulations that will guide the states in terms of a) the information required to be presented to open an ABLE account; b) the documentation needed to meet the requirements of ABLE account eligibility for a person with a disability; and c) the definition details of “qualified disability expenses” and the documentation that will be needed for tax reporting.
   No accounts can be established until the regulations are finalized following a public comment period on proposed rules for program implementation. States will begin to accept applications to establish ABLE accounts before the end of 2015.

7. Can I have more than one ABLE account?
   No. The ABLE Act limits the opportunity to one ABLE account per eligible individual.

8. Will states offer options to invest the savings contributed to an ABLE account?
   Like state 529 college savings plans, states are likely to offer qualified individuals and families multiple options to establish ABLE accounts with varied investment strategies. Each individual and family will need to project possible future needs and costs over time, and to assess their risk tolerance for possible future investment strategies to grow their savings. Account contributors or designated beneficiaries are limited, by the ABLE Act, to change the way their money is invested in the account up to two times per year.

9. How many eligible individuals and families might benefit from establishing an ABLE account?
   There are 58 million individuals with disabilities in the United States. To meet the definition of significant disability required by the legislation to be eligible to establish an ABLE account, the conservative number would be approximately 10 percent of the larger group, or 5.8 million individuals and families. Further analysis is needed to understand more fully the size of this market and more about their needs for new savings and investment products.

10. How is an ABLE account different than a special needs or pooled trust?
   An ABLE Account will provide more choice and control for the beneficiary and family. Cost of establishing an account will be considerably less than either a Special Needs Trust (SNT) or Pooled Income Trust. With an ABLE account, account owners will have the ability to control their funds and, if circumstances change, still have other options available to them. Determining which option is the most appropriate will depend upon individual circumstances. For many families, the ABLE account will be a significant and viable option in addition to, rather than instead of, a Trust program.
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.

**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.

**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.

**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 aanderscn@olliewebbinc.org to receive a registration form.

**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.

"Go Bananas in the New Year" with a Banana Split Sundae Bar and activities.
Saturday, January 10, 2015 • 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at OWCI
Please register by e-mailing aclark@olliewebbinc.org by January 4, 2015.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the United Way of the Midlands.
From the day her 4th son was born with Down Syndrome, her life was set on a new trajectory. She immersed herself in learning everything possible to better understand and assist him. That grew to a love of helping all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve their full potential to live healthy, fulfilling and meaningful lives.

Denise will be working full time as a program coordinator at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. for The Next Chapter Book Club, The PRISM Project (Parent Resource & Information Support Meetings), Ultimate Life, Family Services; Parent to Parent, Tween Scene and Omaha All Stars Basketball programs. Her goal is to enhance and elevate the lives of the people who participate.

Her passion for helping those with special needs has filled every facet of her life. She currently serves on the Board of Directors at the Munroe-Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She was (2011-2014) the program director of the Down Syndrome Specialist Program for the Down Syndrome Association of the Midlands, working with specialists in 18 school districts. She was a member of the Omaha area Post-Secondary Academic Readiness and Success Council 2011-2012. Denise is also the founder & director of the BSC TOPSoccer Program for athletes with special needs now approaching its 12th year. In addition, she’s the Nebraska State Soccer Special Needs Commissioner and a member of the Special Needs Advisory Board at the Rose Children’s Theatre.

“My son, and all of the delightful people I have met along my journey, have inspired me to strive to raise awareness that all people are valuable, have abilities and deserve the opportunity to pursue their unalienable rights to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”
The PRISM Project

Disability Guardianship & Conservatorship

Families of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities face decisions regarding Guardianship and Conservatorship as their family member approaches adulthood, age 19 in Nebraska. Gathering information and planning years in advance of your family member reaching age 19 is highly recommended.

This educational event will provide information addressing:

- What is Guardianship and Conservatorship and how does it differ from other legal representative roles?
- Who should consider these options and who best serves as a Guardian and/or Conservator?
- What forms and procedures are involved?
- What are the steps to establishing Guardianship and/or Conservatorship of a loved one?
- When to take action?

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2015
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center
6001 Dodge Street

Reserved Parking Available for the first 40 RSVPs.
Please e-mail RSVP to by 1/16/15: Denise Gehringer dgehringer@olliewebbinc.org

Interpretation services available by request. Requests MUST be received by January 12th.

Guardianship is a valuable tool which can be used to protect individuals who lack the ability to make appropriate personal or financial decisions for themselves. The guardian assumes the duty of caring for the person with disabilities and/or their assets, and the court maintains oversight to reduce the risk of exploitation or abuse by the guardian.

Presenters: Knowledgeable local Attorneys will share their experiences with Guardianship and Conservatorship.

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

- 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 and Bellevue areas. Interested volunteers & new members contact dgehringer@olliewebbinc.org.

NCBC Holiday Party

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

Tis the Season for Ultimate Life!
Thank You Volunteer Mentors!!

Across the nation, January is celebrated as National Mentoring Month. Just Friends knows how difficult it is to find dedicated Volunteer Mentors. We hope that during January you will make sure to tell your mentor how much he/she means to you! Maybe you could do something special for him/her such as making a card, baking him/her cookies, or treating your mentor to lunch or dinner. Whatever you do – be sure to say, “THANK YOU FOR BEING MY FRIEND!”

The Ollie Webb Center staff would like to send a huge “Thank you” to each and every one of the current 2015 Volunteer Mentors for the time, energy, and friendship that they have provided to their friends this year! Without you, Just Friends would not be a success! Thank You!

Erin Bertone
Melanie Kaiser
Rachel Recker
Katie Gilroy
Micaela Marsh
Isabella Rudd
Courtney Hottovy
Shelby Massow
Evan Varner

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

Two Groups on One Great Night!
A "Kicking off the New Year" Evening.

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

Friday, January 16, 2015
5:00 - 7:30 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 January 12 by e-mailing aclark@olliewebbinc.org

The Sweetheart Dance at Gross High School
Dancing, Music and Refreshments

Sunday, February 8, 2015
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Gross Catholic High School
7700 South 43rd Street, Bellevue, NE

Cost $10 for participants and no charge for staff/parents

Send RSVP to Amanda Clark by February 9 or e-mail/call by February 13:
aclark@olliewebbinc.org or 402.346.5220 ext. 31
Food and Friends
Date: January 5, or February 2, 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

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 (January 5) ........................................... $15 Arc member/ $20 non-member
Creighton Craft Night (January 16)......................... $5
Sweetheart Dance at Gross High (February 15).. $10 Arc member/ $15 non-member
Food & Friends (February 2) ......................................... $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
ADULT SERVICES  
(Ages 19 and Older) 
by Amanda Clark  
aclark@olliewebbinc.org

Valentine’s Crafting, Activities and Pizza with Creighton Friends

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.

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

**February 3:** Send RSVP form to Amanda by January 29 or call/e-mail by February 2.

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Lunch and Movie

*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 402.346.5220 ext. 31 or aclark@olliewebbinc.org to see if space is available.

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

**February 28:** Send RSVP form to Amanda by February 23 or call/e-mail by February 26.
**ADULT SERVICES**
(Ages 19 and Older)
by Amanda Clark
aclark@olliewebbinc.org

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Phone/Parent Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Friends (January 6)</td>
<td>$15 Arc member/ $20 non-member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch and a Movie (January 31)</td>
<td>$15 Arc member/$20 non-member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noodle Night (January 24)</td>
<td>$10 /$0 staff/parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valentine Crafts (February 13)</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweetheart Dance (February 14)</td>
<td>$10 /$0 staff/parents</td>
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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

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

**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.

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**The Sweetheart Dance at Gross High School**
Dancing, Music and Refreshments

**Sunday, February 8, 2015**
**1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Gross Catholic High School
7700 South 43rd Street, Bellevue, NE

Cost $10 for participants and no charge for staff/parents

Send RSVP to Amanda Clark by February 9 or e-mail/call by February 13: aclark@olliewebbinc.org or 402.346.5220 ext. 31
Change of Plans

It was with a heavy, uncertain heart that I chose to postpone the performances of our holiday theater production, The Ice Troll, this past month. We had worked hard in rehearsals and we were nearing production week, but the play was just not ready to perform. So after much discussion with co-workers, I decided that rather than present an unready production, we would hold off performances until a later date.

So here’s the plan. We’ll be presenting our playwriting festival, Loud Mouths, in partnership with WhyArts, during April. Auditions for Loud Mouths will be in February. So, rather than trying to mount The Ice Troll this month and then turn around and begin the rehearsal process for the festival, I’ve decided to hold off on presenting The Ice Troll until next holiday season. This will give me time to re-work the script and to re-think the overall production.

I appreciate all who contributed to this season’s holiday production, and I intend to make up for the cancelation of the production by presenting a stronger, more interesting remount of the piece next holiday season.

~Jim Hoggatt
Annie Anderson is in her office orchestrating a transition. A transition that will take her from her current role as Family Services Coordinator to Education Coordinator in the Continuing Education Department at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. “Transitioning to a new position with an emphasis on curriculum development will be a good kind of complicated for me” says Anderson. “It allows me to continue interacting with families, students and teachers while focusing on education which has been an interest of mine for quite some time.”

Anderson began working at GOARC 24 years ago, after the premature birth of her son George. Hired as the Pilot Parent Coordinator, she was involved in Parent to Parent program milestones such as being chosen the 704th Point of Light for the Nation during the George Bush administration and celebrating 25 years of Parent to Parent programming in Omaha. In connection with her job at GOARC, Anderson partnered with Munroe Meyer Rehabilitation Institute as a Micro-Counseling Educator and was a referral coordinator for the Early Intervention Project at Omaha Public Schools. She enjoyed being a statewide parent trainer for Nebraska Parent Center and developing the Harbor and PRISM Project for families. In 1999, Anderson transitioned to Career Solutions Inc. and while there was a program specialist in the supported employment arena. In 2002, she returned to the Ollie Webb Center Inc. formerly known as GOARC to coordinate the Just Friends program. When the opportunity arose to align herself with Parent to Parent again, Annie returned to her roots by taking on the job. By this time the P2P national organization was founded and operational so Anderson enjoyed having P2P Omaha be a member of P2P USA. With the addition of Omaha All Stars Basketball, Sibshops and keeping tabs on legislation and public policy for the agency, Annie became the Family Services Coordinator.

“Assisting parents in being informed, emotionally supported and active has been a joy for me. Helping children, adolescents and adults reach their potential through strong families and responsive systems has afforded me vital connections in my own community that have benefitted my entire family especially my son George. Through all of my work opportunities I have memories to cherish and challenges I learned from that have made me an advocate and supporter for all people. I look forward to 2015 as an Education Coordinator and am passing the Family Service baton to two wonderful ladies, Denise Gehringer and Amanda Clark.” “Let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank Ollie Webb Center, Inc. and the families I have met while there for providing me with wonderful life impacting memories. I know there is more to come as I celebrate 25 years of working in the field of developmental disabilities in August of 2015. Happy New Year!”
"Winter Wonderland" Teen Craft night with Creighton University.