Auditions for the mainstage are happening and we couldn’t be more excited. A record breaking twenty-four individuals are signed up! Each night for three nights, actors will present a short monologue, a brief song, and then jump into an improvisational movement exercise with the goal of highlighting their greatest performance strengths. Our Fall Production, Dionysia: Three Greek Myths, is full of heroes, villains, and magical creatures as well as some of history’s most terrifying monsters: Medusa The Gorgon with 100 snakes writhing on her head and Cerberus the giant, three headed hound of fury who guards the Underworld (think Fluffy from Harry Potter).

While acting on stage certainly takes courage and commitment, the audition process can be the most challenging as you never know what the casting directors might throw at you! A huge round of applause please for our auditionees – they are the bravest who allow themselves to be the most vulnerable and Ollie Webb is full of brave souls. Break a leg and know we are so proud of you all!

Stay tuned for more details about Dionysia: Three Greek Myths planned for November 2021.
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.

DON’T FORGET!
to renew your Arc of Omaha membership for 2021.

Weather Policy

The following weather conditions may cause us to close our office and/or cancel/reschedule events.

- Tornado warnings
- Extreme heat of 90+ degrees and humidity
- Severe thunderstorms and/or lightning

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 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.

[Image of a tiger and giraffe]
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.

Free Individual Training on Self-Advocacy and Social Media

Join this awesome, free, virtual 1:1 training opportunity hosted by Best Buddies International! The training will be centered around self-advocacy, social media etiquette, and utilizing social media to share your story. Individuals who participate will be able to create a short speech focused on sharing their story, or whatever is important to them, while working on their self-advocacy skills. This offer expires on June 30, 2021.

You do not have to be a Best Buddies member to participate.

Please reach out to Monica Moya or Lee Anne Alsup to set up your training or have any questions!

AMBASSADOR TRAINING:
Speech Writing, Self-Advocacy, & The Power of Social Media

Learn social media and self-advocacy skills to professionally share your story in a 1:1 training.

CONTACT LEE ANNE ALSUP OR MONICA MOYA TO SET UP YOUR INDIVIDUAL TRAINING TODAY!

leeannealsup@bestbuddies.org
monicamoya@bestbuddies.org

Offer expires June 30, 2021

Alexa Edwards, Program Coordinator • aedwards@olliewebbinc.org
The Social Recreation Program offers small and large group activities in which youth and adults with disabilities can enjoy leisure time, build friendships and access the community.

Register Now for Books N Art!
July 14, 21, and 28
Start time: 7:00pm – 8:00pm

This series of virtual events is free and open to everyone!

Join us for a unique series of virtual events celebrating a good book and the arts; a collaboration between Executive Women’s International (EWI) and the Ollie Webb Center.

Registration is free and all materials are being generously provided by EWI.

RSVP by July 10th:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/books-n-art-july-7-14-21-and-28th-at-700-pm-tickets-158153297771
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.

Virtual Ultimate Life Events
Fast Facts October 2020 - May 2021

✔ 46 Regular Monthly Events with 341 RSVPs

✔ 34 New Participants

✔ 73 hours of fun and friendship

✔ And counting……..

Ultimate Life Participants: Please be on the lookout for emails from Tara regarding updates on Ultimate Life events. Your input is welcomed as we start transitioning back to live events.
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.

Collaboration: WhyArts and Teaching Artist, Lisa Kalantjakos

In less than a month, Ollie Webb Center, Inc.’s (OWCI) Continuing Education and The Art of Imagination classes will be returning to in-person programming. Courses will be organized into separate educational tracks and will be held at community spaces throughout Omaha, including a track based on the visual and performing arts. OWCI is partnering with another inclusive arts organization, WhyArts, to facilitate local visual and performing arts with teaching artist Lisa Kalantjakos leading workshops in studio art and dance, movement, and theater arts.

Lisa has worked with WhyArts for over nine years and has a diverse background and degrees in studio art, education, and dance. Lisa has studied in both Greece and the United States, and has worked with emerging artists of all ages and abilities. Lisa has also facilitated workshops and residencies for other organizations in Omaha including Mosaic, VODEC, the Bemis Museum of Contemporary Art, and Omaha Public Schools, among others.

Some of Lisa’s specialties include two-dimensional and three-dimensional visual art work, creative movement, and music. She encourages individuals in her workshops to draw, paint, and sculpt in the mediums they choose. In her workshops, Lisa emphasizes individual and group expression and prefers to focus on the process of the creation of art rather than the product created. In regard to her creative movement workshops, her goals include an exploration of space, meter, rhythm, floor work, and combinations. She enjoys promoting opportunities for individuals to express themselves through their own choreography. Lisa also believes that music and musical instruments from other cultures can take artists on journeys around the world.
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.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. has always placed great value on community partnerships and the wonderful contributions and opportunities they afford program participants as a whole. With Continuing Education services being offered virtually over the past year, we would like to highlight one of our partners that has been a phenomenal resource throughout this time: the UNL Extension Office.

Carrie Schneider-Miller, RD is a Nebraska Extension Educator from the Food, Nutrition, and Health department at the UNL Extension office and has provided support and guidance for our classes focused on personal growth and development. In addition, Alyssa Wessling, SNAP-Ed Assistant, has been a regular guest instructor in multiple Ollie Webb classes this past year.

With a virtual class format, Alyssa has facilitated activities across HealthMatters; Health and Wellness; and Move, Groove, and Grow courses emphasizing the importance of nutrition and introducing participants to “My Plate.” “My Plate” is a program sponsored by the USDA that discusses and teaches about healthful eating choices. Alyssa has shared a wealth of healthy recipes and has done live cooking demonstrations on zoom. Not only does she prepare the dish, she also discusses important facts about kitchen safety, including how to hold and cut vegetables safely, effective hand washing techniques after handling raw meat and eggs, kitchen surface sanitation and personal hygiene, and proper cook times, as well as how to know when food is cooked and what it should look like. She even discusses proper substitutions should you not readily have an ingredient available.

Participant reaction to Alyssa has been overwhelming positive with participants completing surveys and sharing how much they’ve enjoyed having Alyssa in class as well as how much they have learned from her. Those who do not cook very frequently have made a point to try it more often and one participant was even quoted as saying, “I must have this recipe”!

As we look ahead, OWCI will continue to cultivate more partnerships as we return to in-person services. We hope that Alyssa will continue to attend our classes in-person and continue the unique contributions she has made through this unpredictable year.
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.

The World of Work and Benefits

Many of Ollie Webb Center, Inc., (OWCI) individuals served in our Supported Employment program qualify for SSI and or SSDI among other benefits. These benefits can be very important to maintain for various reasons. Individuals can still receive these benefits while working competitive wage jobs in the community. At OWCI, many of the individuals who come to us seeking jobs are first referred by Nebraska VR. Nebraska VR has an agreement with Easterseals to provide benefit services to individuals who receive Social Security and other benefits. Dana Daigre, Senior Employment Specialist from Nebraska VR office shared some important insights, guidance, and information with Craig Kneifl, Supported Employment Coordinator at OWCI about this process:

Craig – Hi Dana, could you explain to me a couple of the basic points of benefits planning?

Dana - You may want to take a look at Easterseals of Nebraska website, as they have information about the partnership they have with VR for Benefits services.

https://www.easterseals.com/ne/our-programs/employment-training/services-for-nebraska-vr.html

Craig - Who besides Social Security should they contact after they obtain a job?

Dana - They will need to contact Health and Human Services, if they are receiving benefits from their agency (Medicaid, SNAP), housing if they are receiving rental assistance, utilities provider if they are receiving Energy Assistance. Particularly any income-based program that requires a person to provide their household income to receive services.

Craig - Does VR need to send a referral to Easterseals for a full benefits analysis after a job has been obtained to learn how their benefits will be impacted by their new expected work earnings?

Dana - VR sends a referral to Easterseals when the individual obtains a job. The client is made aware of this referral at time of Benefits Orientation and Benefits Assessment. I personally contact the client when they have a job and discuss the referral back to Easterseals for Benefits Planning. I also do this for clients that are not in supported employment.
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.

Cooking and Kitchen Safety

In recent months, the Independent Living team has had requests from participants and families for new and innovative habilitation program ideas related to cooking and kitchen safety. Based on this feedback and working directly with participants and families, our team is developing new programs that help individuals learn critical life skills in the kitchen, including oven usage and safety using a counter top convection oven; exploring specialized supplies like full sleeve oven mitts in place of pot holders to avoid arm burns when cooking in a standard oven; how to prevent common kitchen injuries; caring for and cleaning kitchen gadgets and equipment, identifying and managing common kitchen hazards, practicing nutrition and healthy cooking ideas; using measuring tools and kitchen math for recipes; implementing effective kitchen sanitation strategies, and reviewing food storage tips and tricks.

Independence and safety are integral parts of a healthy and happy lifestyle. Reach out to Lisa McMichael for more information about our intermittent residential services.
**STAFF DIRECTORY**

### Administrative Office Staff

<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>
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<tr>
<td>Robin McArthur</td>
<td>Operations Director</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Stocking</td>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
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### Program Support Staff

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Ext.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craig Kneiff</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>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>
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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!*

*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*