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

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An important message from Peter Berns, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of the United States:

“After a year of your advocacy—calls, emails, texts—we now have the dedicated Medicaid home and community-based funding necessary to support people with disabilities, their families, and service providers in this crisis.

On Wednesday, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan legislation, which includes $12.7 billion of vital dedicated funding for one year to strengthen and expand access to Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS). HCBS help people with disabilities live as independently as possible in their communities and out of the danger of institutions and nursing homes (read The Arc’s statement here). This funding is what we have been emailing you about for almost a YEAR, and we got it!

This is an incredible victory, thanks to you!

The Arc network has worked tirelessly together to fight for the critical needs of people with disabilities, their families, and the direct support professional (DSP) workforce to be included in COVID-19 relief legislation. Advocates from The Arc have contacted Congress nearly 170,000 times, shared their stories with the media, organized days of actions with partner organizations, and much more – and we made it happen!

In addition to the HCBS funding, other critical provisions in the bill include:
- Including all people with disabilities, including “adult dependents” in receiving stimulus payments
- Extension and expansion of tax credits to cover COVID leave, so that families can support loved ones while care is interrupted.

This has been a difficult year. People with disabilities have been disproportionally impacted by this pandemic. We have lost loved ones, friends, and direct support professionals. We did not give up. Your relentless work to advocate for what we needed to survive this public health crisis made a difference.

Take a moment to celebrate this victory. There will be a lot more work to do to secure long-term funding to make access to the community a reality for all, and I know you will be ready to fight for the human rights of people with disabilities with The Arc.”

Help us continue this important fight. Donate today to support The Arc’s critical advocacy efforts.
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.

- 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.

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.

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

Please circle:
Single $25       Family $40       Contributing $75       Sustaining $100       Corporate $150

Each Single Membership is entitled to one (1) vote. Each family membership is entitled to two (2) votes.

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!

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.
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.

The Best Buddies Talent Show!

Best Buddies took their talents to the next level by showcasing them virtually! The Creighton Executive Team was impressed with all of the talents and said the show was a major success! Pats on the back to all those who were brave enough to perform, especially in a virtual format.

Way to challenge your creative skills and thank you for sharing a part of what makes you awesome.

Best Buddies looks forward to seeing you in March, April, and May at the Live Stream of Creighton Basketball as well as our Movie and Kahoot events.
Great Benefits – Join a Book Club Today!

The most frequently asked question about Next Chapter Book Club is “Why should I join a book club?” There are a plethora of benefits in joining a book club besides building vocabulary and other important literacy skills.

• Book club members immerse themselves into secure group settings while building new friendships.
• Being a member of a book club is an affordable way to build one’s social life while exploring new concepts and broadening horizons.
• Some studies have suggested that participation in book clubs may help delay or prevent intellectual decline.

Book clubs also help members gain new perspectives through discussion and reflection on the readings.
• Verbal communication and skills such as active listening and patience improve within the security of the group.

• Members realize they have an equal voice within the group, which generates increased confidence and positive self-image.
• Members also build important teamwork skills such as reliability, punctuality, time management, and collaboration as they realize their participation is an essential piece of the group.

Each member is a valued member of the book club community.

Participation in a book club also gives members a break from everyday life and nourishes creative and critical thinking as well as empathy.

Together, book club members also realize goals and achieve success as they complete works they may never have read otherwise.
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 - February 2021

- ✓ 23 Regular Monthly Events with 173 RSVPs
- ✓ 2 Special Events with 38 RSVPs
- ✓ 31 New Participants
- ✓ 38 hours of fun and friendship
- ✓ And counting………

Karaoke Night
Game Night
Line Dancing

Dance Party

Tara Waln-Lewellyn, Program Coordinator • twaln-lewellyn@olliewebbinc.org
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, Artistic Director • jhoggatt@olliewebbinc.org

The Business of Art: 21st Century Skill Building

Written by Carrie Nath, Managing Director

By now, we are all aware of the 21st Century Skills necessary to succeed in the workplace. They are often referred to as The 5 C’s: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Character.

It is very evident in the Continuing Education courses with titles such as Character, Communication and Collaboration and Bring Your “A” Game, that these classes are focused on honing the 21st Century skill sets. However, do The Art of Imagination (AoI) classes and productions provide the same opportunity to hone these skillsets? Absolutely!

The majority of AoI classes this semester focus on the next production, Dionysia: Three Greek Myths. Below are four examples of 21st Century Skill Building, one from each of our AoI current classes:

Theater Studies: Utilizing the music composed for Dionysia, individuals collaboratively choreographed the first half of the opening processional. Capitalizing on critical thinking/problem solving, participants deconstructed the choreographic process: identifying the style of music, determining the number of necessary steps to match the rhythm of the piece, and identifying a change in direction by listening for tonal shifts in the music.

Playwriting: Given the parameters of a scene in the final adventure in Dionysia, Perseus and Medusa, the playwriting class worked collaboratively to create a Land of the Nymphs. Participants constructed a Nymph world utilizing text from the play and from traditional Greek poems. Exploring individual character traits with themselves as a model, they then crafted the words and phrases to fit the text to the individual characters.

Theater Design: If you have seen one of the Ollie Webb productions, you are no stranger to the magnificent costumes, props, and puppets created by instructors Shannon Bittner-Miller and Brandon Mass and our many talented participants. In the coming weeks, instructors will work with individuals in class to create miniature models of the large puppet creatures in Dionysia. Participants will define the design based on character traits and work collaboratively to solve issues pertaining to functionality and lifelike movements.

Musical Theater: How to Succeed in Business: The new focus of this class is not only on musical theater standards, contemporary works, and new musicals (our play included) but on the business of creating productions. Collaboratively, students vote each week on the musical of choice determined by Socratic communication methods. They view a piece of the musical and explore business topics like copyright law and the ownership of artistic material, how to advocate for one’s own work and how to best communicate with an employer who is supportive and those who may not be supportive.

In today’s workforce, 21st Century Skills are not only beneficial, they are a necessary part of retaining work and being successful. These same skills apply to our daily lives providing the best opportunities to serve others and take care of ourselves. In both the AoI and Continuing Education programs, as in all programming at Ollie Webb, we know how important Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Character are towards living our fullest lives. After all, that is our mission.
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.

**Bring Your ‘A’ Game Anywhere!**

With the generous support of a technology grant from the HDR Foundation, our Continuing Education purchased a new e-learning course curriculum called Bring Your ‘A’ Game Anywhere. This course allows greater accessibility for participants to increase their work ethic skills through a deeper understanding and knowledge of seven core work ethic behaviors, including attitude, appearance, attendance, ambition, accountability, acceptance, and appreciation.

“Bring Your ‘A’ Game Anywhere” is a course created by the Center for Work Ethic Development and is focused on developing and enhancing workplace skills that are considered the primary building blocks to a successful career. It is a nationally recognized curriculum where participants are eligible to earn a Certificate of Work Ethic Proficiency. This Certificate can help job seekers to showcase their skills and differentiate themselves from the competition.

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI) has had proven success using the paper-based curriculum before and now with classes being offered virtually via Zoom, it felt like the natural next step to upgrade to this digital course. Instructors and class participants have each created individual accounts that gives them access to the learning modules. As the e-learning curriculum is new to both the instructors and the participants, it has given participants the opportunity to watch their instructors go through the learning process alongside them. This has opened up many new teaching opportunities and class discussions as the instructors model key foundational workplace skills for participants in real-time.

The goal of many classes at OWCI is to emphasize work-readiness skills while promoting increased independence and helping to prepare individuals for competitive employment opportunities. Classroom instruction is paired with collaborative and interactive learning activities to enhance knowledge retention and skill implementation. Our Summer Course Catalog will be available in the spring so be on the lookout for other exciting opportunities and offerings within the Continuing Education program.
The Circles Curriculum: INTIMACY AND RELATIONSHIPS
FREE VIRTUAL CLASSES IN JUNE!

“The Circles Curriculum teaches social and relationship boundaries, interpersonal skills, and relationship-specific social skills using a simple multi-layer circle diagram to demonstrate the different relationship levels students will encounter in daily life.”

Register on Eventbrite:
Circles Level 1: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/circles-level-1-tickets-145113056057
Circles Levels 2 & 3: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/circles-level-2-tickets-145746486665

Circles Level 1 (Register by Tuesday, May 25th)
- Tuesday, June 1st | 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- Thursday, June 3rd | 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, June 8th | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Circles Level 2 (Register by Tuesday, June 8th)
- Tuesday, June 15th | 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- Thursday, June 17th | 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, June 22nd | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Circles Level 3 (Register by June 17th)
- Thursday June 24th | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Questions? Email Alexa Edwards at aedwards@olliewebbinc.org
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.

Spring Cleaning and Independent Living

“The Short Answer: In a home occupied nearly all year round, most professionals recommend changing your home air filter every 60-90 days depending on a number of factors described in detail below, including pets, allergies, etc. A good rule of thumb is to change your air filter every ninety days. That means that you should be replacing your air filter with a fresh and clean version at least once a quarter.”

For portable air purifiers, the recommendation is to “Clean or replace filters regularly. As a general rule, you should replace them (or clean those that can be vacuumed) every six to 12 months for pleated filters and every three months for carbon filters.”

Spring is almost here and we’re looking forward to warmer weather, longer days, and enjoying our homes indoors and out.

Happy Spring!

Participants receiving Independent Living Services through Ollie Webb Center, Inc. have been working very hard to make sure they are staying healthy and keeping their homes and apartments clean and properly disinfected. Spring cleaning this year will mean more than just getting rid of the dust bunnies but ensuring that homes stay virus free.

The Independent Living team is working closely with program participants helping them learn not only the best ways to keep their homes clean but also teaching skills involving important equipment maintenance, like how and when to change home air filters and portable air purifier filters.

A common question the team hears frequently is: How often should my air filter be changed? According to Better Home Guides and Consumer Reports:

Lisa McMichael, Independent Living Services Manager • lmcmichael@olliewebbinc.org
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<tr>
<th>Administrative Office Staff 402.346.5220</th>
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<td>Laurie Ackermann</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Lisa Dougherty</td>
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<td>Megan Hillebrandt</td>
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<td>Jenny Koley</td>
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<td>Robin McArthur</td>
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<td>Jordan Stocking</td>
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<th>Program Support Staff 402.346.5220 or 402.342.4418</th>
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<td>David Ackermann</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Aimee Addison</td>
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<td>Dave Brown</td>
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<td>Alexa Edwards</td>
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<td>Jim Hoggatt</td>
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<td>Craig Kneifl</td>
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<td>Lisa McMichael</td>
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<td>Carrie Nath</td>
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<td>Tara Waln-Lewellyn</td>
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<td>Cheri Albin</td>
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For more information about Ollie Webb Center, Inc. activities and programs, you can pull up our website on your smartphone 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