Dear Friends of Ollie Webb Center, Inc.,

We hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy during these uncertain and unprecedented times. Our hearts go out to everyone suffering from the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, Ollie Webb Center, Inc. has suspended nearly all services due to this crisis, in order to protect everyone's health and safety. We will continue to follow all protocols and recommendations for the continued protection of those that we support, and of our staff. This may mean that reopening our office and the renewal of all our program services may need to happen slowly and in phases. We will continue to adjust the timeframe as the COVID 19 pandemic continues to unfold.

While social isolation may be essential for immediate safety, we are concerned about the impact this is having on the development and emotional wellbeing of individuals with disabilities. As we evaluate a reasonable timeframe to reintroduce all our program services, we are also investigating alternative ways to engage individuals without losing the intent and integrity of each program.

As you can imagine, like many businesses, this will have an impact on us financially. We are working extremely hard behind the scenes to mitigate losses; but many of our programs rely on fundraising and community support to keep things running. Because of the pandemic and issues with congregate groups, we needed to cancel our annual Ollie’s Dream Gala this year.

As should be the case, much support is currently going out to ensure that people have roofs over their heads, and meals on their tables. Once this crisis passes, all the nonprofits that provide for the educational, emotional, and overall wellbeing of those that we support will need to be intact, now more than ever, to help everyone return to a new normal.

Agencies like us who support people with disabilities know that many can only dream of lives beyond the basics. For over 60 years Ollie Webb Center, Inc. has been an integral part of our community providing for life beyond the basics with a wealth of original and inclusive programs and services. Ollie Webb Center, Inc. led the charge in our community when 60 years ago, no other such disability organization or leader existed.

We are asking for any support you can provide as we weather these times together. There is information here and on our website about the upcoming annual Omaha Gives! We know for many, cash is currently short, so know that you are in our thoughts; but for others, it only takes a minimum donation of $10 to help make an impact. Please share with your networks, even if you are not able to give at this time. We appreciate everyone’s moral support in ensuring that Ollie Webb Center, Inc. will be positioned to provide many more years of innovative services that help citizens with disabilities and their families live beyond the basics.

Thank you for being a part of our family!
“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 2020. 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.

2020 Arc of Omaha Membership Drive!
Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2020
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 2020 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 2020.

The Arc.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Due to ongoing concerns over the Coronavirus, Ollie Webb Center, Inc. office will be closed Wednesday, March 18 – Friday, May 29, 2020. Direct support services will still be provided as the health and safety of all involved, allows.

Other activities and events canceled for the month of April and May include:

Book Club
Ultimate Life Activities
Sibshops
Lunch and Film Club
Stars Basketball
RentWise Training
Annual Easter Egg Hunt

We apologize for any inconvenience or disappointment that this causes; we are trying to do our part in ensuring everyone’s health and safety.

Please continue to check our Facebook page for updates and information.
Next Chapter Book Club

Celebrating our Next Chapter Book Club Volunteer Facilitators

April 19-25, 2020 was National Volunteer Appreciation Week!

Thank you to our 28 NCBC Volunteer Facilitators!

Diana Allen-Lewis  Connie James
Kim Bainbridge  Becky Kalinski
Kailey Bell  Lee Maass
Patti Brannon  Sammi Maass
Marion Brown  Margaret Miller
Sue Burger  Meghan Mueller
Carla Chin Horton  Christina Paul
Marc Desciscio  Mary Ellen Reckmeyer
Trisha Edwards  Jenni Rock
Adam Gehringer  Kiley Ruff
Kirby Haigler  Amy Stoddard
Terese Hammond  Briana Villafuerte
Jennifer Hensley  Mary Lou Villafuerte
Michael Herzog  Heather Wilkie

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. – Aesop

Friendship & literacy in a community setting!

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

Putting the “Ultimate” in Ultimate Life!

The Ultimate Life Program continues strong! Here’s a rundown of some the activities we did this fall and winter:

We beat the cool, fall breeze at Putting Plus and later enjoyed an evening indoors at Prehistoric Putt-Putt when the weather was cold.

We went to the Bellevue Berry Farm and Pumpkin Ranch for both the daytime activities (for those of us timid folks) and for the Haunted Hayrack ride for the braver souls.

Participants also enjoyed two of the Morzoko performances.

In October, we enjoyed a Sunday afternoon stroll in the Old Market.

In February, we began ballroom dance lessons at the Vintage Ballroom (and also enjoyed some delicious treats from Old Market businesses). Dinner with friends was held at Romeos, Applebees, Pizza Ranch, and Spaghetti Works.

We perused the goods at the Midtown Crossing Merry Market and celebrated Christmas at Union Station.

Our theater aficionados enjoyed a live performance of “The Addams Family” at the Jewish Community Center.

Sports fans enjoyed cheering for the UNO soccer, hockey, and men’s basketball teams.

We also revisited some of our favorite locations: Spielbound Boardgame Café and the Mallory Kountze Planetarium.

As we are looking forward to the summer, we plan to take advantage of all the free activities that will be offered!
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.

Spotlight on: Opera Omaha

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI) recently honored Opera Omaha with the 2019 Community Artist of the Year award. Part of Opera Omaha’s mission is provide outreach through arts education, in addition to their outstanding performances.

For the past four years, OWCI’s Education department has been partnering with Opera Omaha. Through this partnership, our Musical Theater class has had the opportunity to attend a monthly workshop taught by the Opera Fellows. The fellows created a detailed curriculum designed specifically for the program participants, with feedback and direction from the Musical Theater instructors. It includes an introductory game where the fellows take time to learn the names and interests of each of the program participants. Not only do they learn the names and interests of each of the participants, but they also use the game as warm-ups for their voices and bodies. The remainder of the workshop is spent practicing music and stage movement. During the last couple of workshops, while the majority of the group is engaged in the main activity, each individual participant has been given the opportunity to have a personal ten-minute vocal lesson with one of the fellows. They practice and try out various songs that they will sing for the Musical Theater end-of-semester showcase. The workshop wraps up with the participants having an opportunity to reflect on their performance for the day.

Recently, as a valued community partner, Opera Omaha invited instructors from OWCI’s Musical Theater class to meet, interview and provide feedback for the final candidates for next year’s fellowship program. Later that same week, the Musical Theater class held a workshop that was led by the finalists. The instructors were emailed a survey that emphasized the importance of how they felt the candidates would work with the program participants on a long term basis.

OWCI and the Continuing Education department hope that the partnership with Opera Omaha will continue to grow and last for years to come.

Thank you Opera Omaha for this outstanding opportunity!
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.

Touring the Scottish Rite Theater

The Art of Imagination (AoI) offers much in the way of performing arts courses for its program participants. Currently the program is teaching Advanced Acting Techniques, Musical Theater and Scene Study workshop courses. Theater itself however is made up of many more positions than just performers. AoI’s annual inclusive theater productions involve designers, technicians, a director, writers, and a stage manager, among others. As a result, Ollie Webb Center, Inc. offers a course titled Theater Behind the Scenes. This class gives enrollees an overview of the many other careers available in the theater rather than just acting.

The main components of the Theater Behind the Scenes course include visits to local performing arts venues and theaters. Omaha is known for its vital theater community and AoI has partnered with several local performance spaces and theaters, including the Holland Center and Orpheum Theater, Opera Omaha, the Rose Theater, the Blue Barn Theater, The Omaha Community Playhouse and the Scottish Rite Masonic Center Theater. Recently AoI course participants were invited on an extensive exploration of the Scottish Rite Theater.

The theater seats around 400 in velvet covered chairs over a polished wooden floor. Mr. Wolfe was very generous in his telling of stories about the theater. He explained the term “Break a Leg” as having to do with crossing the thick red line dividing the wings of the stage from the performing space. The red line tells the performers where to stand so they won’t be hit by descending drops and curtains. He demonstrated a Ghost Light which is kept lit at night when all other lights are out. He said it was there to “Cast away the ghosts” and to help find the way to the light switch in the morning. He also took the tour up to the pipe room to see the pipes of the building’s pipe organ, an impressive sight.

Collaborating with local organizations is very important to The Art of Imagination, Ollie Webb Center’s visual and performing arts program. We are grateful to the Scottish Rite for partnering with us over the past several years as we continue to build and grow our vocational arts program.

Jim Hoggatt, Artistic Director • jhoggatt@olliewebbinc.org
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.

INDEPENDENCE AT WORK

Alan has been working at TJ Maxx since July 2018. He works very hard at his job and has greatly improved his level of independence in his role. TJ Maxx has been a wonderful partner, helping to support Alan to grow and learn the day-to-day expectations of the business.

When Alan started with TJ Maxx, he needed guidance learning specific tasks, including how to most efficiently use the duster, where to find necessary supplies, who the most appropriate person was to ask for help, and what task to start and end with. Currently Alan is excited to begin his shifts and with assistance and support from his Ollie Webb Center job coach, begin tasks, gathers work materials, and chooses the best tasks to begin his work day with.

Many of Alan’s co-workers have positive interactions with Alan and praise him for his hard work and contributions. One of his managers Robin said, “We love having Alan here.” Another co-worker, Gene directly told Alan “You do a great job Alan, we and the customers appreciate your hard work.” Alan’s manager Mayson also appreciates the energy Alan brings to work on early Saturday mornings. When the store does their morning huddle, Mayson does his best to fire up the team and Alan always matches his enthusiasm!

With the help of ongoing job coaching support from the Ollie Webb Center, Alan is making great strides towards self-reliance in the workplace and will soon be celebrating his two year anniversary at TJ Maxx. Alan shared that his favorite part about his job are interacting with the people he works with and meeting and helping customers each day.
### Administrative Office Staff

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Ackermann</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Dougherty</td>
<td>Human Resource Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Hillebrandt</td>
<td>Controller</td>
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<td>Jenny Koley</td>
<td>Receptionist</td>
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<td>Robin McArthur</td>
<td>Operations Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan Stocking</td>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
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### Program Support Staff

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<tr>
<td>David Ackermann</td>
<td>Education Services Coordinator</td>
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<td>Jim Hoggatt</td>
<td>Artistic Director</td>
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<td>Aimee Addison</td>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness Services Coordinator</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Craig Kneiff</td>
<td>Employment Services Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Brown</td>
<td>Independent Living Services Coordinator</td>
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<td>Lisa McMichael</td>
<td>Independent Living Services Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Chandrapalaka</td>
<td>Employment Services Manager</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tara Waln-Lewellyn</td>
<td>Personal Development Services Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexa Edwards</td>
<td>Mentoring Services Coordinator</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Cheri Albin</td>
<td>Family Services Coordinator</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 email in error and/or wish to unsubscribe and no longer receive this newsletter, please send an email 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