Global Accessibility Awareness Day!
May 20, 2021

“On Thursday, May 20, 2021, help us celebrate the tenth Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD)! The purpose of GAAD is to get everyone talking, thinking and learning about digital access and inclusion, and the more than One Billion people with disabilities/impairments.”

What is Digital Accessibility?

“Every user deserves a first-rate digital experience on the web. Someone with a disability must be able to experience web-based services, content and other digital products with the same successful outcome as those without disabilities. This awareness and commitment to inclusion is the goal of Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD), a global event that shines a light on digital access and inclusion for people with disabilities.”

“Accessibility Removes Barriers and Unlocks the Possible”

For more information, please go to: https://globalaccessibilityawarenessday.org/

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

DONT FORGET!  
to renew your Arc of Omaha membership for 2021.

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

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 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.

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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

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.

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.
The Circles Series at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. in June!

This program is perfect for individuals that have difficulty with understanding relationships and appropriate personal space. It teaches about social boundaries and safety (TouchAutism.com).

About Circles
The Circles Program is being offered in a course series format with 2 separate options, Circles Level 1 and Circles Level 2 & 3 (combined), for individuals 18 years or older who would like to learn about relationships, intimacy, and boundaries. The Circles program, created by James Stanfield, teaches social distance and levels of intimacy through the use of seven color-coded concentric circles. Starting from the center circle, which represents the self, each new color-coded concentric circle represents behaviors, feelings, and actions appropriate to the distance from the center or self. The courses are intended for a variety of individuals including those with functional challenges, for non-readers, for concrete learners, and for others who would like to learn more about concepts to related relationships, intimacy, and boundaries.

Circles Course Levels Offered

Circles Level 1: A series of 3 virtual courses
1. Discriminate different degrees of intimacy and relationships using the Circles Paradigm (see below), corresponding short videos, and interactive tools
2. Understand the appropriate level of Touch, Talk, and Trust with each relationship circle
3. Learn how to create opportunities to practice social skills with acquaintances, community helpers, and health workers
4. Determine the appropriate way to communicate with others in person, online, and over the phone

Circles Level 2 & 3: A series of 4 virtual courses
1. Understand that relationships can be but are not always dynamic using the Circles Paradigm (see below), corresponding short videos, and interactive tools
2. Recognize the blurred lines of relationships and use judgment to decide when it is acceptable to cross boundaries
3. Determine when it is OK and NOT OK to Circle Jump, or the process of transitioning into and out of relationships
4. Distinguish intimacy levels, rejecting intimacy/having intimacy rejected, and relationship dissolution
5. Determine the appropriate way to communicate with others in person, online, and over the phone

Registration Information
*You may register for both or either one of the opportunities below depending on your interest. Both options are being provided free of cost.

Circles Level 1: A series of 3 virtual courses
• Dates: June 1st, June 3rd, and June 8th each from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
• Register by: May 25th
• Registration: *Note that Eventbrite only allows you to sign up for dates separately. Despite the day you sign up for, this action counts as registration for all 3 courses in the series. Circles 1 registration link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/145113056057
• Note: The Zoom link will be sent via Email the morning of each event.

Circles Level 2 & 3: A series of 4 virtual courses
• Dates: June 15th, June 17th, June 22nd, and June 24th each from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
• Register by: June 8th
• Registration: *Note that Eventbrite only allows you to sign up for dates separately. Despite the day you sign up for, this action counts as registration for all 4 courses in the series. Circles 2&3 registration link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/145746486665
• Note: The Zoom link will be sent via Email the morning of each event.

Questions? Email Alexa Edwards at aedwards@olliewebbinc.org.
Book Lovers - Save the Date!

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

Events will be held on Wednesday evenings in July!
Registration will be free and all materials will be generously provided by EWI.
Stay tuned for further details!

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.

Celebrating Animals!

To say that Ultimate Life has gone to the animals is an understatement! We have recently held two big celebrations in honor of all animals.

For our World Wildlife Day celebration in March, we made virtual journeys to several zoos and aquariums, including the San Diego Zoo, Houston Zoo, The National Zoo, Monterrey Bay Aquarium, and The Georgia Aquarium. We then “left” the U.S. to watch live cams at an animal preserve in South Africa. It was amazing to watch baboons begin to wake up to start their day as we were preparing to wrap up ours.

Our very own animal companions joined us for our National Pet Day celebration. Furry guests of honor included several cats and dogs as well as two guinea pigs. We even had a dancing stuffed rabbit come by to say hello. It was a special opportunity for everyone to share stories about their own pets and those who live with family members and friends. Not only do Ultimate Life participants love animals, their knowledge about all animals is astounding! Participants aced all of the animal quizzes we shared, including recognizing the sounds of a baby crocodile and an angry koala! Both evenings were full of animal-related conversation as participants realized shared interests and experiences.
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.

Critical Thinking in Theater Studies

The Art of Imagination’s (AoI) current Theater Studies class is focusing on ancient Greek theater and culture in support of our upcoming inclusive theater production titled Oh Great Dionysia! Program participants work with AoI instructors to research aspects of ancient Greek culture, history, and mythology to better understand the importance of Greek theater to the ancient Greek people. Greek theater was considered an important part of life in regard to entertainment, education, religion, and even health.

Participants in the Theater Studies class have delved deep into the world of ancient Greek mythology and Greek gods. Individuals have joined instructors in researching many of the gods from the most well-known like Zeus and Athena, to those who are less familiar like Morpheus, the god of dreams, and Enyo, a little-known goddess in charge of the destruction of cities in the times of war. Participants also practiced debating using the Socratic Method, arguing topics in cooperative polite way. They learned to use critical thinking and to ask questions that draw out interesting ideas and further discussion.

The Theater Studies class’ enrollees also helped to shape the upcoming Oh Great Dionysia! production in that they questioned the role of women in the stories and myths that they had been studying. Women in the stories are often punished by the gods for the misdeeds of the male gods even if they are not guilty. One example is that Medusa is turned into a snaked-headed monster due to Poseidon’s transgression in Athena’s temple. There was a deep and interesting discussion about the unfairness of this during the Theater Studies class which led to some changes to the script.

Finally, there was often a comparison of ancient Greek culture to today’s modern western culture in the class. There was a study of the difference between the Athenian model of lottery-style direct democracy and U.S. representative government. The class explored the different Greek city states’ alliances with one another and how they fought together just like modern nations. There was also an investigation of societies based on monotheism and polytheism. A major question posed to the individuals was: If our contemporary society worshiped many gods like the ancient Greeks, what modern concepts would the gods rule over? Some of the great answers included: a god of the internet, a god of air travel and space exploration, a god of kitchen appliances, and many more!
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.

The Pets of Zoom

We are fast approaching a year of virtual classes in the Continuing Education program at OWCI and although many challenges were initially encountered implementing day services via Zoom, some unexpected opportunities have also been experienced. We polled program participants and one common theme of spending time at home rose to the top: the joy of being able to spend more time with their pets!

Pets have become a great support in helping participants connect and learn along side one another. Classes are designed to enhance prevocational skills, including social and interpersonal skills. As with many of us, participants have been able to find common ground with others through Zoom; being “inside” each others’ homes and “seeing” each other’s pets have promoted new relationships and conversations.

Pets have become a regular part of the class routine. From a bearded dragon to cats and dogs, deeper bonds has been created among the participants as they have supported one another though the loss of a pet or celebrated together the arrival of a new kitten or puppy. In fact, one individual's new puppies became supporting characters in the plays developed in Playwriting; another’s cat had photos and vocalizations used in group projects; and many honed their technology skills by changing their virtual Zoom backdrop to feature their pets.

Research has shown the positive impact that pets have had on mental and physical health and we have seen it first hand as it opened up dialogue among participants and led to new friendships. Pets can be a great source of motivation, comfort, and companionship for many, helping us live more healthy and productive lives. Interest in pets and animals has guided some of the planning of our upcoming summer class tracks with the development of innovative content focused on animal careers and training. Be on the lookout for our Summer 2021 course catalog and descriptions of new classes beginning in July!
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.

Celebrating Employment and Partnerships

Employment program participants Vida and Lucy are celebrating exciting new jobs in the retail industry! Job Developers, Craig Kneifl and Nan Byers, worked with Vida and Lucy submitting job applications and meeting with potential employers to share how OWCI helps support citizens with disabilities seeking and maintaining employment opportunities as well as employers looking to hire staff able to make valuable contributions.

Only a month in to their new positions, both are quickly becoming self-sufficient in their new roles with support of job coaches from Ollie Webb. These supports have been instrumental in getting through the initial orientation, training, and learning new work responsibilities and tasks. The Job Developers have continued to collaborate with the managers at Bakers and Family Dollar to help ensure that job performance expectations are clear and can be accomplished successfully.

Congratulations again to Vida and Lucy!
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.

**Summer Happenings in Independent Living**

As summer quickly approaches, what does this mean for the Independent Living program? Currently Appendix K, the Emergency Preparedness and Response and COVID-19 Addendum which allowed for intermittent residential services and day services to be offered virtually will end on June 30, 2021. Beginning July 1, all Independent Living and Supported Family Living services will only be provided in-person and not via Zoom.

If you currently receive services via Zoom, Lisa McMichael, our Independent Living Manager will be reaching out to participants and families to plan for in-person service delivery and any changes to the number of hours participants are being supported. Planning and good communication are essential in ensuring that we have enough staff to meet service needs. All OWCI staff will continue to wear masks and practice current health and safety protocols when working with individuals in the home and in the community.
The Arc of Omaha & Career Solutions, Inc.  
1941 South 42nd Street  
Suite 122  
Omaha, NE 68105-2942  

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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!

STAFF DIRECTORY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Office Staff</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Ackermann, Executive Director</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Dougherty, Compliance Director</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Hillebrandt, Controller</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Koley, Receptionist</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin McArthur, Operations Director</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan Stocking, Executive Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<th>Program Support Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>David Ackermann, Education Services Manager</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Craig Kneifl, Employment Services Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aimee Addison, Health &amp; Wellness Services Coordinator</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Lisa McMichael, Independent Living Services Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Brown, Independent Living Services Coordinator</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Carrie Nath, Managing Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexa Edwards, Mentoring Services Coordinator</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Tara Waln-Lewellyn, Personal Development Services Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Hoggatt, Artistic Director</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Cheri Albin, Family Services Coordinator</td>
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