Mission Statement
To enrich the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through support, programs and advocacy.
“Time and money spent in helping people to do more for themselves is far better than mere giving.” ~ Henry Ford

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.
Sibshops is an award-winning nationally-affiliated program for youth ages six to thirteen years and is uniquely designed to provide high-energy activities for brothers and sisters of children with developmental disabilities. Sibshops is a place where siblings may obtain peer support and education within a recreational context while having fun, and allows sibs to connect with each other about similar experiences.

All ages (6-13) will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (includes snack).
Participants split in age groups (6-8 and 9-13)

Session Cost:
Members: $12.50
Non-Members: $15.00

IEP HELP presented by PTI Nebraska.
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
UNO Community Engagement Center • Room 231

What are Sibshops? For the adults who plan them and the agencies that sponsor them, Sibshops are best described as opportunities for brothers and sisters of children with special health and developmental needs to obtain peer support and education within a recreational context.

Sibshops seek to provide siblings with opportunities for peer support. As Sibshops are designed (primarily) for school-aged children, peer support is provided within a lively, recreational context that emphasizes a kids’-eye-view.

Sibshops is offered at the same time and location as an adult series presented by Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands. Parents are encouraged to register for this series and to register their children for Sibshops. To register for the adult series, please go to their website: https://www.dsamidlands.org/events/.

Please also let us know if you have a child who has “aged out” of Sibshops (14 or older). They may be eligible to participate as supportive mentors/volunteers during the program. For RSVP’s and more information, please email jstocking@olliewebbinc.org or call 402.342.4418 ext. 10.
Parent to Parent Omaha is a parent-to-parent support program for families of newly-diagnosed children with developmental disabilities. The program offers information and emotional support through parent-to-parent matches and socialization activities designed both for parents and their children. The program also offers parent-to-parent matches for families of adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities.

**Free Event for Children, Teens & Young Adults with Special Needs and their Families**

**Bruce Tomes Day on the Water**

with Ollie Webb Center, Inc., Missouri River Valley Paddlers and Nebraska Game and Parks

**Platte River State Park**

**Sunday, September 29, 2019 • 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

Join Ollie Webb Center, Inc. and the Missouri River Valley Paddlers for some fun at Platte River State Park. On this afternoon, those with developmental disabilities of any age and their immediate family members will be given an opportunity to participate in kayaking and canoeing.

Cost is free for the event, but there will be a $6 fee per vehicle to enter the park.

You are welcome to bring your own picnic lunch if you wish as we are not providing lunch for this activity. Adult supervision is required so you may not send your child, teen or adult that needs support alone to this event. Once you are registered, you will receive additional information to your email address. Don’t forget to BRING SUNSCREEN!

**Reservations for this event are required**, A limited number of spots are available, so make your reservation ASAP!

To register go to: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bruces-tomes-day-on-the-water-10th-anniversary-free-event-tickets-64425916651](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bruces-tomes-day-on-the-water-10th-anniversary-free-event-tickets-64425916651)
PRISM (Parent Resource Information and Support Meetings) provide informational and support programs for families of individuals with developmental disabilities. Family-friendly meetings offer educational programs, disability-related information and the opportunity to network with other parents and children with disabilities.

A YEAR IN REVIEW...

PRISM Celebrates Another Successful Year!

September 2018: Living the Dream: Presented by Kim Bainbridge and Janell Sime, Parent Advocates

This session provided families with feedback on planning and best practices for promoting successful independence and inclusion of adults with developmental disabilities from two experienced parent advocates. Thank you to Kim and Janell for offering their insights and expertise.

October 2018: Know Your Right to Vote

REMEMBER! Voters CAN receive assistance if needed! Voters who cannot read, are blind or have a physical disability may request assistance in marking their ballots. The voter may have a friend or relative assist them or the voter may request the assistance of two election board workers, one each of a different party.

November 2018: Disability Rights Nebraska: Inside Olmstead

Olmstead v. L.C. is a U.S. Supreme Court case based on Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In Olmstead, the Supreme Court ruled that states are required to provide services to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Olmstead involved two women with mental health diagnoses and intellectual disabilities. Both women had spent significant time in mental health hospitals. They wished to receive treatment in the community and a treatment professional determined they did not need to be in a hospital. The Supreme Court ruled that it was discrimination to require the women to live in the mental health hospital when they did not need to.

March 2019: Let’s Talk About Transportation

Community transportation providers presented and answered questions regarding the services they offered and the areas their services covered. Thank you to Eastern Nebraska on Aging (ENOA), Metro Area Planning Agency (MAPA), Metro Area Transit (MAT), Uber, Lyft, and zTrip for the time and attention to information, questions, and concerns.

May 2019: Smooth and Steady Transitions: Presented by Laurie Ackermann, OWCI Executive Director

Transition can be a tough time for families to navigate as there are many steps and players. This presentation served to provide families with the information needed to assist in planning for and navigating through the high school transition process to young adulthood for individuals with developmental disabilities. Thank you to Seamus Kelly, for the valuable input from a legal point of view.

August 2019: Cultivating the Spirit to Work: Presented by Denise Bissonnette

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. hosted a day with Denise Bissonnette, acclaimed author, writer, speaker, and trainer in the field of employment and training. Denise provided ideas and tools for families and provider staff navigating the current system of supported employment. In addition to sharing her expertise, Denise dedicated the day to rejuvenating spirits with innovative and practical strategies to assist in successful job development practices.
BOOK CLUB IS BACK IN SWING!

All of our Next Chapter Book Clubs have returned from summer break. Everyone is settling in for a great year of friendship, fun, and reading! We are always on the lookout for new Members and new Volunteer Facilitators.

Here are some common questions we receive about Next Chapter Book Club:

Q. How much does it cost to join Next Chapter Book Club?
   A. There is a $30.00 registration fee to join.

Q. What if I am not a good reader or I am a non-reader? Can I still join?
   A. Absolutely! Individuals of all reading and literacy levels are invited to participate in NCBC. Books are read aloud during the meeting so you do not have to prepare for the group. If you do not wish to read, just say “pass” and the next person reads. We have several members who choose to listen to the story rather than read. The key is that you are participating in the activity by listening and/or reading!

Q. How do we get the books?
   A. OWCI has a library of over 90 titles for groups to choose from. Books are then “checked out” from the OWCI library to groups.

Q. I am still unsure about joining a book club. Can I visit a group before making a decision?
   A. Yes, of course! We understand it can be scary to join a group, especially a book club. Contact Tara if you would like to arrange a visit.

Q. Are there any openings right now?
   A. Yes, we have openings throughout the Omaha metro for both Members and Facilitators. Contact Tara for specific information about your area.

Q. What if there are no openings near my home?
   A. Tara is tracking requests and identifying locations in areas of town where there is interest in creating new groups. She can add your name to the list.

Q. Who is this Tara everyone keeps talking about?
   A. Tara is the Personal Development Services Coordinator at OWCI and manages all of our Next Chapter Book Clubs. She is in the first year of this role and has 18 years experience in education, including 11 years specializing in literacy and adult education. She is always happy to answer questions!
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

Over the past several months, our Ultimate Life Program has nearly doubled in both monthly offerings and in participation. In August alone, we broke every monthly attendance record in the history of the Program!

Here is a rundown of some of our activities during the Summer of 2019:

• We soaked up the sun and some art at the Summer Arts Festival in June. One of the best surprises of the day: making free art for ourselves!

• Several participants enjoyed the cool of the Night Market at Midtown Crossing while others enjoyed the Farmers Market at Aksarben Village.

• We took advantage of free outdoor concerts, including Bridge Beats, Jazz on the Green, and not one, but two evenings, dancing to the music at Stinson Park!

• Baseball fans took advantage of free berm seating at a Storm Chasers game and novice paleontologists explored the T-Rex family tree at the Durham Museum.

• To stay cool, we saw a live performance of “Matilda” at the Rose, and watched “The Lion King” and “The Art of Racing in the Rain” on movie nights.

• Our always popular Ozone, Dave & Buster’s, and Bowling events kept us out of the heat (although we still may have worked up some sweat).

We are always accepting new program participants!
We are also interested in hiring and adding new staff to our Ultimate Life team!
TEN AMAZING HEALTH BENEFITS OF PLAYING BASKETBALL!

1. Promotes Cardiovascular Health
2. Burns Calories
3. Builds Bone Strength
4. Boosts the Immune System
5. Provides Strength Training
6. Boosts Mental Development
7. Develops Better Coordination and Motor Skills
8. Develops Self-Discipline and Concentration
9. Improves Awareness of Space and Body
10. Boosts Confidence

For more information on the positive health benefits of basketball, go to:
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.

OWCI and Creighton University Best Buddies – Fall 2019

Let the fun begin with the first event of the year!
The Matching Party will be held at Creighton University in early October.
(Details will come directly to participants from the Creighton Executive Team)

Foster one-to-one friendships between adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities through Creighton Best Buddies. Through both one-to-one peer activities and group activities, Best Buddies helps to improve quality of life through social participation and level of inclusion.


To register:
1. Go to BestBuddiesOnline.org.
2. Click "Membership Application" and click "College" on the drop-down menu.
3. Fill out the online application.
4. Please email Alexa Edwards at: aedwards@olliewebbinc.org once your application is completed for more information.
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.

Lunch and Film Club for Teens and Adults
Both teens and adults may register. Spend the afternoon socializing, eating lunch and watching a movie with friends.

Saturday, October 26, 2019

Start time is at 12:00 p.m.
Please email aedwards@olliewebbinc.org the week of the film to find out an exact time for arrivals and which film we will be seeing.

Westwood 8 Theater
2809 S 125th Ave # 297 Omaha, NE 68144

Pick-up typically between 2:00 - 2:15 p.m.
Lunch is included.

Cost: $15/Arc member • $20/non-member
Includes hot dog, popcorn, beverage and admission for participant only

For other upcoming social and recreational opportunities, please check out our Best Buddies and Ultimate Life programs!

Please mail your check and RSVP form to Ollie Webb Center Inc., by October, 18 2019

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

RESERVATION FORM

Name:_____________________________________________________ Phone #: (_____)________________
Address:___________________________________________________ Zip: ___________________________
Date of Birth:______________________________ Allergies:   _____________________________________
Emergency Contact ________________________  Emergency Phone:  _____________________________

I allow the use of images for public relations purposes and release and discharge Ollie Webb Center, Inc. and its employees and volunteers from any liability as a result of my participation and/or my child’s participation.                                *Signature: _______________________________________

PLEASE CHECK THE EVENT(S) THAT CORRESPONDS WITH PAYMENT

❑ Lunch and Film Club (October 26)................................................................. $15 Arc members/$20 non-members
A support person or caregiver is required to attend if one-on-one support is needed.

Total Enclosed: $ __________ Please make checks payable to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc.
Return to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc., 1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 122, Omaha, NE 68105

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.

Aimee Addison Program Coordinator • aaddison@olliewebbinc.org

The Therapeutic Recreation Program and Ollie Webb Center, Inc. proudly present:

The Annual Halloween Dance
for teens and adults with disabilities

October 18 • 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Come join your friends for a fun Halloween costume party!
Mockingbird Hills Community Center • 10242 Mockingbird Dr
Cost: $5/Arc members and $10/ non members • no charge for parents/staff
To register contact Aimee Addison at 402.346.5220, Ext. 19 or aaddison@olliewebbinc.org

RESERVATION FORM

Name:_____________________________________________________ Phone #: (_____)________________
Address:____________________________________________________   Zip: __________________________
Date of Birth:______________________________ *Allergies: _____________________________________
Emergency Contact ________________________  Emergency Phone: _____________________________
I allow the use of images for public relations purposes and release and discharge Ollie Webb Center, Inc. and its employees and volunteers from any liability as a result of my participation and/or my child’s participation in the Adult Services Program *Signature: ________________________________

Halloween Dance (all ages) (October 18)................................................................. $  5 Arc members/$10 non-members
A support person or caregiver is required to attend if one-on-one support is needed.

Total Enclosed: $____________  Please make checks payable to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc.
Return to: Ollie Webb Center, Inc., 1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 122, Omaha, NE 68105

Aimee Addison Program Coordinator • aaddison@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.

Save the Date

THE ORIGINAL INCLUSIVE THEATRE PRODUCTION OF MOROZKO FEATURING THEATRE ARTISTS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES WILL PERFORM AT THE SCOTTISH RITE AT 202 SOUTH 20TH STREET IN DOWNTOWN OMAHA NOVEMBER 1-3.

Prop Designing for the Upcoming Morozko Theatre Production

Participants in The Art of Imagination (AoI) theatre courses are integral to the creation of all AoI theatre productions. Our Costume Design class is responsible for helping professional costumers build and maintain the costumes. In the Elements of Drama class, participants research aspects of this production, a Russian folktale, to help inform and guide prop and scene design. Recently Artistic Director Jim Hoggatt spoke with some of the Prop Design participants about their present involvement in helping to create props for Morozko, OWCI’s upcoming theatre production set for November 2019. Participants were painting the outside of Baba Yaga’s Hut and creating paper thatching for the roof at the time of the interview.

Jim Hoggatt, Artistic Director: So Ed, why did you take Prop Design class?
Ed, Class Participant: Because I like to draw and paint.
Jim: What other parts of the play are you involved with besides Prop Design?
Ed: I’m playing the dog in the play, Kostya.
Jim: That’s right. You’re acting in the play as well. You like your part, don’t you?
Ed: Yes, a lot.
Jim: What other ways have you been involved with other The Art of Imagination productions at OWCI?
Ed: I helped out with The White Gander. I worked on the props for that one too. I also was an usher.
Jim: What are some of the props that you’ve worked on so far?
Ed: I’ve helped with painting Baba Yaga’s Hut. And we made a rabbit and a rooster.
Jim: Amy, Why did you take Prop Design class?
Amy, Class Participant: Well, I like the structure part.
Jim: You mean you like building things?
Amy: Yes.
Jim: In what ways have you helped with past The Art of Imagination productions?
Amy: I know a few of my productions were on stage.
Jim: That’s right. You’ve written some plays that we’ve produced. What else? You’ve acted in some of our plays, right?
Amy: I acted in Zombie Carnival.
Jim: That was our first play about 10 years ago.
Amy: Yes, Zombie Carnival.
Jim: Molly, what made you decide to take Prop Design class?
Molly, Class Participant: Some of my previous teachers thought I’d be good at something artistic.
Jim: You did a lot of painting today and are very creative.
Molly: Yes.
Jim: Well, thanks to all of you for your hard work!
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

One of the exciting new classes being offered this semester is College and Career Exploration. This course is based on a partnership with the Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) of the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s Think College Trailblazers Program. The Think College program is a national model that is currently offered as a pilot project here in Omaha, and Ollie Webb Center, Inc. is proud to be a partner in this effort. The overarching goal is to provide post-secondary educational opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Rachel Ray, Think College Initiative Coordinator at MMI, shared that many transition-age students are not offered college as an option and that the Think College model is hoping to change that.

The College and Career Exploration class meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and is taught by OWCI instructor Simon Chandrapalaka. Simon creates the curriculum on Mondays and Fridays and works in partnership with Rachel Ray and her team on Wednesdays. An initial activity was deciding on course goals and interests. A few participants said they wished to formally attend college so Simon discussed the importance of time management skills as well as setting and meeting realistic deadlines. Other participants expressed interest in customer service and other careers, and the group explored ways to prioritize daily tasks and how to excel in a job.

On Wednesdays, Simon and course participants attend a session at UNO led by Rachel Ray with eight other Think College participants focused on the “ins and outs” of the college experience. The goal of the program is inclusivity and participants have full access to UNO’s campus, including the Student Center, Art Gallery, libraries, the Community Engagement Center, and the campus shuttle. Key topics explored within the program include: whether college is the right option based on each person’s needs and interests; how to feel safe on a college campus; what kinds of supports and services are available; whether state funding for disabilities covers supports needed to attend college; and how to successfully navigate the campus, be it going to social events, making friends, eating at the cafeteria, and more.

As part of the course’s goal of inclusivity, participants not only learn if college is the right option for them but focus on the importance of self-advocacy and self-awareness. Additionally, participants hone their skills in leadership, communication, decision-making, time management, collaboration, critical thinking, setting and achieving goals, and study skills with the emphasis on helping them enhance their quality of life, both personally and professionally.

The Continuing Education program is excited to be part of this project and work with the Think College Initiative as it continues to grow in Omaha and across the nation.
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.

PROVEN VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Employment department at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI) takes great pride in assisting individuals in finding and maintaining competitive and community-based employment. We are currently serving over 52 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities pursuing individualized career goals and recently wrapped up our summer program which provided pre-employment opportunities to transition-age youth.

Recent Program Accomplishments

■ 50% of our job placements occurred with newly formed employer partners based on each participant’s specific needs.
■ 30 individuals celebrated over 1 year of employment with their current employer.
■ 4 reached 10+ years of employment.
■ 2 individuals celebrated over 20 years of employment with their current company.
■ 2019 marked the third year that OWCI was awarded the Pre-Employment Transition Summer Program grant through Nebraska VR.
■ Participants supported by OWCI employment staff are employed in the following industries:
  • Restaurant Service
  • Bakery Assistance
  • Hospitality
  • Customer Service
  • Janitorial
  • Sales
  • Fitness
  • Printing
  • Entertainment
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.

Independence and Safety

Safety is a key part of independence and a vital part of being prepared to live on your own means knowing how to ensure safety at home as well as in the community. Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (IOWCI) takes pride in helping individuals like Brian improve their safety and independence skills. Brian’s Independent Living staff are currently working with him on learning and understanding how much information should be shared with others in the community and how to be safe in his own home.

Brian has been receiving services from OWCI for eight years. He lives at home with his parents and has his own private living space in the basement. Brian has been working on attaining the independent living skills that he will need to feel comfortable living completely on his own and is confident that he will master these with assistance from OWCI staff.

Brian has many interests both in the community and the world at large. He loves looking at magazines in Barnes and Noble and participates in a local bible study group. He also enjoys professional wrestling and creating art. Recently he has been helping create a mural at the Croc center. He also works at St. Wenceslaus School and enjoys walking, both to work as well as on a treadmill for fifty-five minutes each day.

Staff member Korey Anderson shared that, “Brian has learned how to do the self-check out at the grocery store on his own. He still likes staff to be with him when he checks out but he does it all on his own without any assistance from staff. Brian has come a long way in his ability to do things for himself and is eager to learn more, including continuing to work on his community safety skills as well as reading. Brian also enjoys traveling to watch his niece’s softball team”.

“Brian’s residential services from OWCI have helped him improve upon his ability to maintain the cleanliness of his living space, enhance reading skills, and become more aware of safety concerns at home and in the community,” stated Lisa McMichael, Independent Living Manager. Brian shared with the team that he is looking forward to continuing to increase these skills in the future.
The Arc of Omaha & Career Solutions, Inc.
1941 South 42nd Street
Suite 122
Omaha, NE 68105-2942

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

For more information about Ollie Webb Center, Inc. activities and programs, you can pull up our website on your smart phone QR app!

STAFF DIRECTORY

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