



The Arc of Omaha & Career Solutions, Inc.



Gazette

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ANNUAL MEETING RECAP OLLIE WEBB CENTER, INC.



The Annual Meeting of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. was held on November 11, 2024.

Awards were bestowed to:

The Arc of Omaha at the Ollie Webb Center

Best Buddies College Buddy of the Year: Karina Quan
Next Chapter Book Club Facilitator of the Year: Meghan Capps

Career Solutions, Inc. at the Ollie Webb Center

Employer of the Year for 2024: Goodwill Retail Store and Donation Center
84th and Center location
Agency Artist of the Year for 2024: Sammy Biggs

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. Community Awards

Community Artist of the Year 2024: Krista Freimuth
Community Partners of the Year 2024: Matt and Andrew Decker
Community Volunteer of the Year 2024: Sue Brookhouser

Board Member Service Award

Dan Kammerer
Bob Krist
Deb Sepich

15 Years of Service:

Jenny Koley

5 Years of Service:

Cheri Albin
Theresa Brennan

Please see photo gallery of annual meeting on page 3

#GIVINGTUESDAY



**JOIN THE
Generosity
Movement!**

Tuesday, December 3

<https://shareomaha.org/nonprofit/ollie-webb-center-inc>

Mission Statement

To enrich the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through collaboration, advocacy, relationships, and education.



OLLIE'S BULLETIN BOARD

DON'T FORGET!

to renew your Arc of Omaha membership for 2025.



Winter 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.

Our services will generally be canceled if Omaha Public Schools cancel their day/evening activities and/or staff deem it unsafe for travel.

Please check social media or verify with staff.



2025 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

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.

Becoming a member for 2025 is easy! Options start at just \$35. 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 2025 Membership Form

Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2025

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 \$35 Family \$50 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 \$35

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 2025 Arc Members!

The Arc of Omaha has a free Family Zoo Pass available for use by its 2025 members. It allows two adults and six children to visit the Henry Doorly Zoo. Please note the following rules for its use:

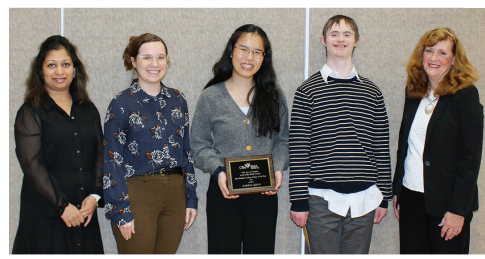
1. The pass can be used anytime the zoo is open.
2. Families may use the pass as often as they like, as long as it is available.
3. Families using the pass must sign it out, giving their name, address, phone number, date of use and date returned. If a family misuses the pass, it is possible that the 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.





ANNUAL MEETING PHOTO GALLERY





SOCIAL RECREATION Holiday Bingo

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.



Join Ollie Webb Center, Inc. for

BINGO

Saturday, December 14, 2024

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Saddlebrook Community Center

14850 Laurel Avenue • Omaha, NE 68116



Drinks, Snacks and Prizes provided

Cost: \$10 Arc Members • \$15 Non-Members • \$5 Staff/Family Member

Register by December 6 via mail

or email Audry Childers at achilders@olliewebbinc.org.



Partnering with the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation

RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Allergies: _____

Emergency Contact _____ Emergency Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of Staff/Family Member Attending (If Applicable) : _____

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 individual's participation.

*Signature: _____

BINGO (December 14).....\$10 Arc Members • \$15 Non-Members • \$5 Staff/Family/Care Giver

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

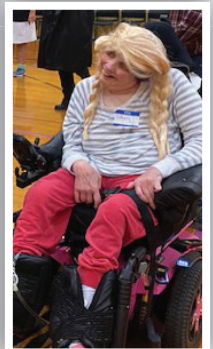
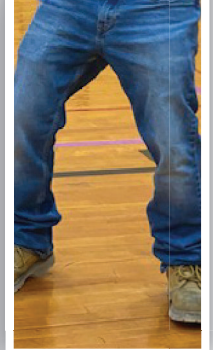
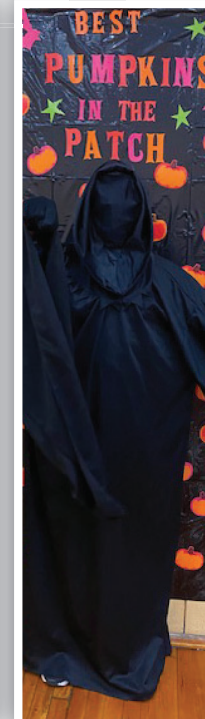
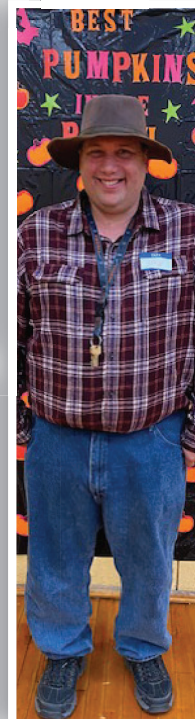
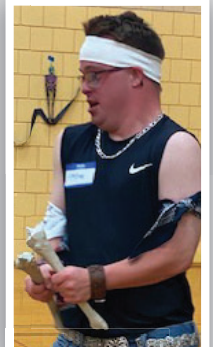


SOCIAL RECREATION Halloween Dance



Halloween Dance 2024!

Food, live DJ music, and treats made the evening an enjoyable time for all!





SOCIAL RECREATION

The Best of Ultimate Life!

Ultimate
LIFE

The Ultimate Life program is a fee-based companion recreation program for adults ages 18 and older with developmental disabilities. This program offers opportunities for adults to participate in small, planned group activities of their choice in the community. Trained staff accompany participants and transportation to and from the activities is part of the program. **APPLY NOW!**

Need an evening out? Looking for fun times with a group of friends? Join Ollie Webb Center, Inc.'s Ultimate Life Program!

Here is how it works:

- Enroll in our Ultimate Life Program with a \$50.00 registration fee.
- We offer numerous exciting activities and send you a monthly calendar of events for you to choose from.
- You choose the events you are interested in. Attend every event or just a few per year, there is no minimum participation requirement!
- Each event has a cash fee, which covers meal and other costs such as entrance fees. Then a second fee for the companion time and mileage are billed monthly.
- A trained OWCI staff member (a Companion) picks you up and drops you off at your home.
- You join other friends and staff at the actual event.
- Most importantly, you have fun!

Past activities include:

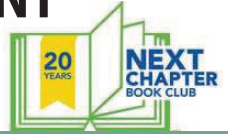
- Dancing
- Bowling
- Miniature golf
- Picnic at the Lake
- Movie Night
- Dinner with Friends
- Game night at Spielbound
- Lauritzen Gardens
- Dave & Busters
- Sporting Events, and more!





HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Next Chapter Book Club



Book Clubs meet once a week for an hour as a small group at a local coffee shop to read and discuss a book. All reading levels can participate! Members enjoy social connections and the delight of expanding their literacy.

Do you enjoy reading & want to share the joy of literature?

Join Ollie Webb Center, Inc. Next Chapter Book Club!

Book Clubs meet once a week for an hour as a small group at local coffee shops and community venues to read and discuss a book.



Wednesday Night Group

We are looking for members to join the following clubs!

Panera off 78th and Dodge

Panera in Bellevue

Hy-Vee at 156th and Maple

Annual \$50 fee provides club membership and access to a variety of books from The Next Chapter Book Club Lending Library

Audry Childers, Arc Program Manager, achilders@olliewebbinc.org

FAMILY SERVICES Sibshops



Sibshops provides siblings ages 8-13 of people with disabilities with peer support and information in a lively recreational setting. Sibshops are an opportunity for sibs to play games, meet other sibs, talk and learn about their lives with siblings, and have fun.

Save the Date

Sibshops in 2025

Saturday, February 1st

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1725 S 60th St, Omaha, NE 68106

Time TBD (To Be Determined)

Siblings (ages 8-13) of people with disabilities are invited to our participate in Sibshops!

Contact Kaitlin Pearson, ARC Program Coordinator • kpearson@olliewebbinc.org • 402.830.4025



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.

**Best Buddies celebrated their Matching Ceremony in October this year!
This year's group has 160 members and 62 matches.**





MENTORING SERVICES Just Friends



Just Friends is a peer mentoring and friendship program that gives adolescents with developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate in social and recreational activities with adolescents who do not have developmental disabilities. The program also offers social events and educational classes.

Still accepting mentee applications!

Just Friends is a peer mentoring and friendship program for adolescents ages 13-18 with and without disabilities. Adolescents are matched 1-to-1 and participate in social and recreational activities together. Participants learn and experience age-appropriate social interaction, build self-advocacy and leadership skills, and enjoy meaningful social inclusion.



Mentors & Mentees agree to:

- ✓ 1 year mentoring relationship
- ✓ Weekly communication
- ✓ Monthly in-person hang outs
- ✓ Just Friends events & classes



Apply Today!

All peer mentors attend a mandatory 2.5 hour training prior to being matched with a mentee. Please note that mentors and mentees are responsible for any associated costs with outings.



To apply, request an application at
kpearson@olliewebbinc.org
(402) 830-4025



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, photography and more. Theater classes include improvisation, playwriting, scripted pieces and radio drama culminating in rehearsals and public performances.

Celebrating "Tales of Italia"



The stage at Ollie Webb Center, Inc. recently came alive with the vibrant colors and passionate performances of "Tales of Italia." "Tales of Italia" was this year's inclusive fall theater production that featured OWCI consumers, acting alongside Omaha theater professionals. This captivating production transported audiences to the heart of Italy through a series of vignettes and three one-act plays: the timeless tragedy of "Romeo and Juliet," the hilarious tale of "Scecco the Donkey," and the delightful comedy-drama "The Big Heart of Little Italy."



The talented actors of Ollie Webb Center, Inc. truly stole the show. Their dedication and passion were evident every moment of every performance. From the eloquent delivery of Shakespearean dialogue to the comedic timing of acting with a life-sized donkey puppet, the students showcased a remarkable range of skills. One actor shared, "I got some great advice about projecting my voice and how to be more in character. It really helped boost my confidence." Another actor expressed their enthusiasm, saying, "I really loved the community actors that we worked with this year. I could be goofy with them but also learn."



The production also allowed the OWCI actors to explore different acting styles. One actor commented, "It was fun to portray a character that was more on the sassy side. I got to try out a new style of acting. I also have Italian blood in my family, and it was really cool learning more about my heritage."

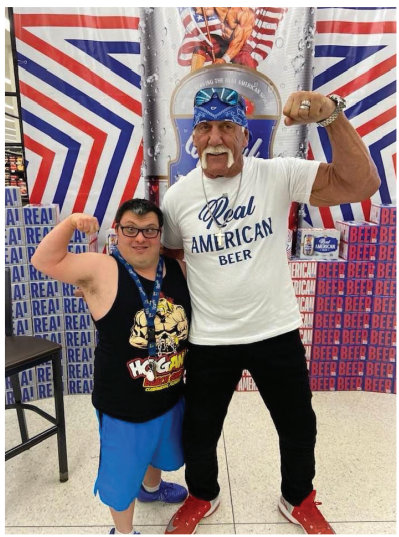
The success of "Tales of Italia" was a collaborative effort involving many talented individuals. The OWCI staff, from directors and costume designers to props masters, and more, played a crucial role in bringing this production to life. This marked the first time a Shakespearean play was performed in a professional setting at OWCI, and the staff's guidance and support were invaluable. To guide the cast through the intricacies of Italian culture, the talented Carmelita de la Guardia shared her expertise and even graced the stage as a featured musician. Additionally, a group of dedicated parents, affectionately known as the "Theater Moms," provided invaluable support throughout the production.

"Tales of Italia" was more than just a play; it was an unforgettable experience that celebrated the power of theater, the richness of Italian culture, and the boundless potential of young talent.



INDEPENDENT LIVING

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.



Look at this, Hulk Hogan was at the Papillion Hy-Vee last week!! What an awesome experience! Troy and his Independent Living Staff Member with the Ollie Webb Center, Inc. happened upon this during their grocery shopping trip.

This was an awesome and rare experience but keep in mind as the holidays approach, be on the watch for scammers. Whether someone is trying to scam you in person or through texts or emails. Be on the guard for

these four common signs that they might be a scammer per an article from the Federal Trade Commission...

Four Signs That It's a Scam:

1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know. Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the FTC, Social Security Administration, IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations.

They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

2. Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE. They might say you're in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone in your family had an emergency. Or that there's a virus on your computer.

Some scammers say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information. Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately. Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story.

They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way. They often insist that you can only pay by using cryptocurrency, wiring money through a company like MoneyGram or Western Union, using a payment app, or putting money on a gift card and then giving them the numbers on the back of the card.

Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), then tell you to deposit it and send them money.

How To Avoid a Scam

Block unwanted calls and text messages. Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect. Honest organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call the number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

Resist the pressure to act immediately. Honest businesses will give you time to decide. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists that you can only pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer service like Western Union or MoneyGram, a payment app, or a gift card. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

Stop and talk to someone you trust. Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

Report Scams to the FTC

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, tell the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.



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!
It's Free!



STAFF DIRECTORY 402-346-5220

		Ext.
Executive Director	Laurie Ackermann	17
Operations Director	Becky Cano	23
Education Services Director	David Ackermann	13
Family Services Coordinator	Cheri Albin	14
Ultimate Life & Social Recreation	Audry Childers	31
Education Manager	Deb Gibson	28
Art of Imagination Artistic Director	Jim Hoggatt	18
Human Resources	YuLon Kimbrough	29
Office Assistant	Jenny Koley	11
Independent Living Director	Lisa McMichael	24
Executive Assistant	Natalie Neumann	10
Arc Program Coordinator	Kaitlin Pearson	12
Finance Coordinator	Shane Staiger	26



Winter/Spring Class Enrollment Deadline — December 5, 2024
 Holiday Bingo — December 14, 2024

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