

September/October 2026

Volume 22, Issue 5



The Arc of Omaha & Career Solutions, Inc.



Gazette

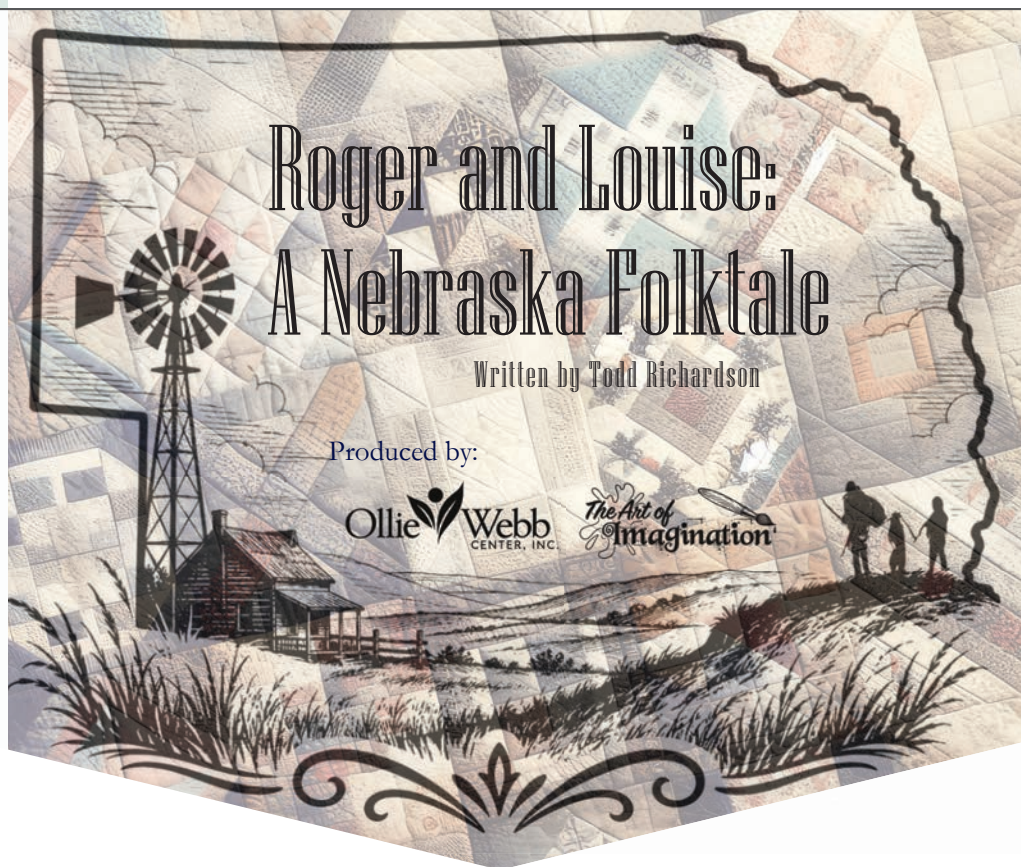
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Mission Statement

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



Join Ollie Webb Center, Inc.'s Art of Imagination for *Roger and Louise: A Nebraska Folktale*, an original theatrical production inspired by two of Nebraska's most celebrated folklorists, Roger Welsch and Louise Pound. Filled with humor, history, colorful characters, and a little bit of truth...or maybe not, this inclusive production brings Nebraska folklore to life through the talents of individuals supported by OWCI programs and local performers. **Come laugh, learn, and celebrate the stories that make Nebraska home!**

2026 Dates:

Thursday, October 15 at 7pm
Friday, October 16 at 7pm
Sunday, October 18 at 2pm

Location:

Scottish Rite Center
202 South 20th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Tickets:

For more information:
call (402) 346-5220
or visit
www.olliewebbinc.org





OLLIE'S BULLETIN BOARD

DON'T FORGET!

to renew your Arc of Omaha membership for 2026.



Ollie Webb Center Inc. offers a pass to Fontenelle Forest.

The Fontenelle Forest pass is based on availability and you must call in advance.

This pass allows:

- Free admission for up to 15 people
- Free admission to Raptor Woodland Refuge
- Free admission to Habitat Hollow for indoor play & learning at the Nature Center

Fontenelle Forest Location:
1111 Bellevue Boulevard North
www.fontenelleforest.org

If you would like to reserve our pass, please call (402) 346-5220.

Fall/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.



2026 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 2026 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 2026 Membership Form

Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2026
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 2026 Arc Members!

The Arc of Omaha has a free Family Zoo Pass available for use by its 2026 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.





FAMILY SERVICES PRISM



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 their parents and children with disabilities.

Informed Voting and Registration

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC)

6400 S University Dr Rd N • Omaha, NE 68182

Reservations Required via Eventbrite:

<https://PRISM-InformedVoting2026.eventbrite.com>

Reserved Parking Available in the CEC lot

When arriving inform the parking attendant you are attending the PRISM event.



The PRISM Project is sponsored by the Arc of Omaha at Ollie Webb Center, Inc.





MENTORING SERVICES

Best Buddies



What is Best Buddies?

Best Buddies is a peer mentoring program for young adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in the Omaha metro area. Members with IDD are matched one-to-one with a student volunteer at Creighton University and participate in monthly events, weekly communication, build social skills, and experience friendships with peers.



JOIN TODAY!



Registrations are open for the 2026-2027 program year. Follow the link below or scan the QR code to join. Past participants received a renewal link via email.

Registrations due September 15th.

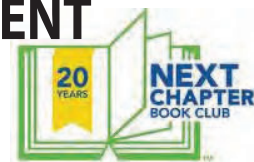
<https://forms.bestbuddies.org/4903689?ChapterAcctID=0014P00003lipG5>

For questions, contact Kaitlin Pearson · kpearson@olliewebbinc.org (402) 830-4025



HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

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. All reading levels can participate!
Members enjoy social connections and the delight of expanding their literacy.

Do you enjoy reading and 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.

We are looking for members to join the following clubs!

Panera off 78th and Dodge

Panera in Bellevue

Hy-Vee at 156th and Maple

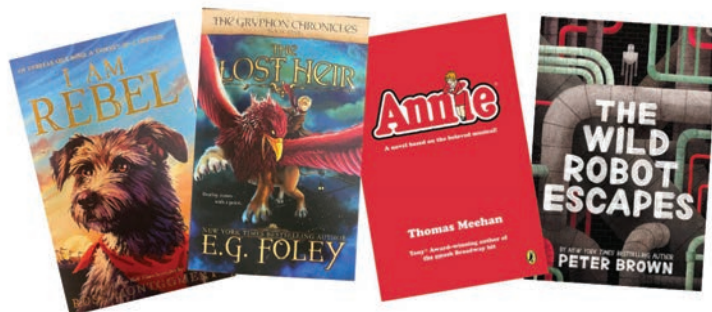
Annual \$50 fee provides club membership and access to a variety of books from The Next Chapter Book Club Lending Library

Become a Volunteer Book Club Facilitator!

For just one hour a week, make a difference in the lives of adults with intellectual and development disabilities. We are looking for additional facilitators for two of our locations: 156th & Maple and Panera Bread at 129th & Center.

New Books!

Thanks to the generous support from the GFWC Papillion Junior Women's Club, we have added 4 new titles to our library.



If you would like to become a member or volunteer facilitator, contact Kaitlin Pearson

Lifelong Learning • Friends • Community

The Next Chapter Book Club is a program of Chapters Ahead, Inc.



Sibshops provide siblings (ages 8-13) of people with disabilities with peer support and information in a lively, recreational setting.

Sibshops are an opportunity for siblings of to meet other sibs (usually for the first time), talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with support needs with others who “get it”, play some great games, explore how other siblings handle sticky situations sometimes faced by sibs, laugh, learn about the services their sibling receives, and have fun!

Join us for our next event!

Saturday, September 19, 2026 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

St. Leo's Catholic Church • 1920 North 102nd Street



Sibshops are developed for siblings of kids with special developmental concerns and support needs, including intellectual and developmental disabilities, and are designed for sibs ages 8-13. Sibshops are offered about every other month in community locations around the Omaha metro area. Sibshops typically meet on Saturdays from 10:00 am – Noon. Registration is required at least one week in advance.

Contact Kaitlin Pearson to register. (402) 830-4025 • kpearson@olliewebbin.org



Basketball League for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities - Fall 2026



Register by Friday, September 11, 2026 via email:
Audry Childers at achilders@olliewebbinc.org

Please check preferred program choice.



Location: Autism Center of Nebraska 9012 Q Street

PLEASE CHECK PREFERRED
PROGRAM CHOICE



SELECT ONE SESSION

Monday evenings
September 14 -
October 26, 2026

☐ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Leisure

☐ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Semi Competitive

☐ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Highly Competitive

COST

☐ \$45 for Arc Members

☐ \$55 for Nonmembers

*Free Jersey loaned weekly
for team play!*



Stars Basketball Registration

Name _____

DOB _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Parents/Guardian Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Restrictions to Physical Activity _____

Medical Diagnosis/Allergies _____

Other Health and/or Safety Concerns _____

I/We _____, the parents/guardians of the above named individual for participation in STARS Basketball, hereby give my/our approval for my/our individual to participate in any and all STARS Basketball activities. I/We agree to return any equipment issued to my/our individual in as good condition as when I/we received it except for normal wear and tear. I/We give permission for the free use of my/our individual's name and or photo in any newspaper, broadcast, or telecast of the STARS Basketball program and for use in promotional efforts.

I/We acknowledge that it is recommended to consult with my/our individual's physician prior to beginning a new fitness or exercise program. I/We hereby release and hold harmless the Autism Center Nebraska, the the Ollie Webb Center, Inc, their officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and affiliates from all liability and damages for personal injury and property damage I/we may or my/our guests and participants may suffer by participating in STARS Basketball. In case of medical emergency, I/we give my/our permission for Ollie Webb Center, Inc. to arrange for transportation for my/our individual to the nearest medical facility to receive treatment.

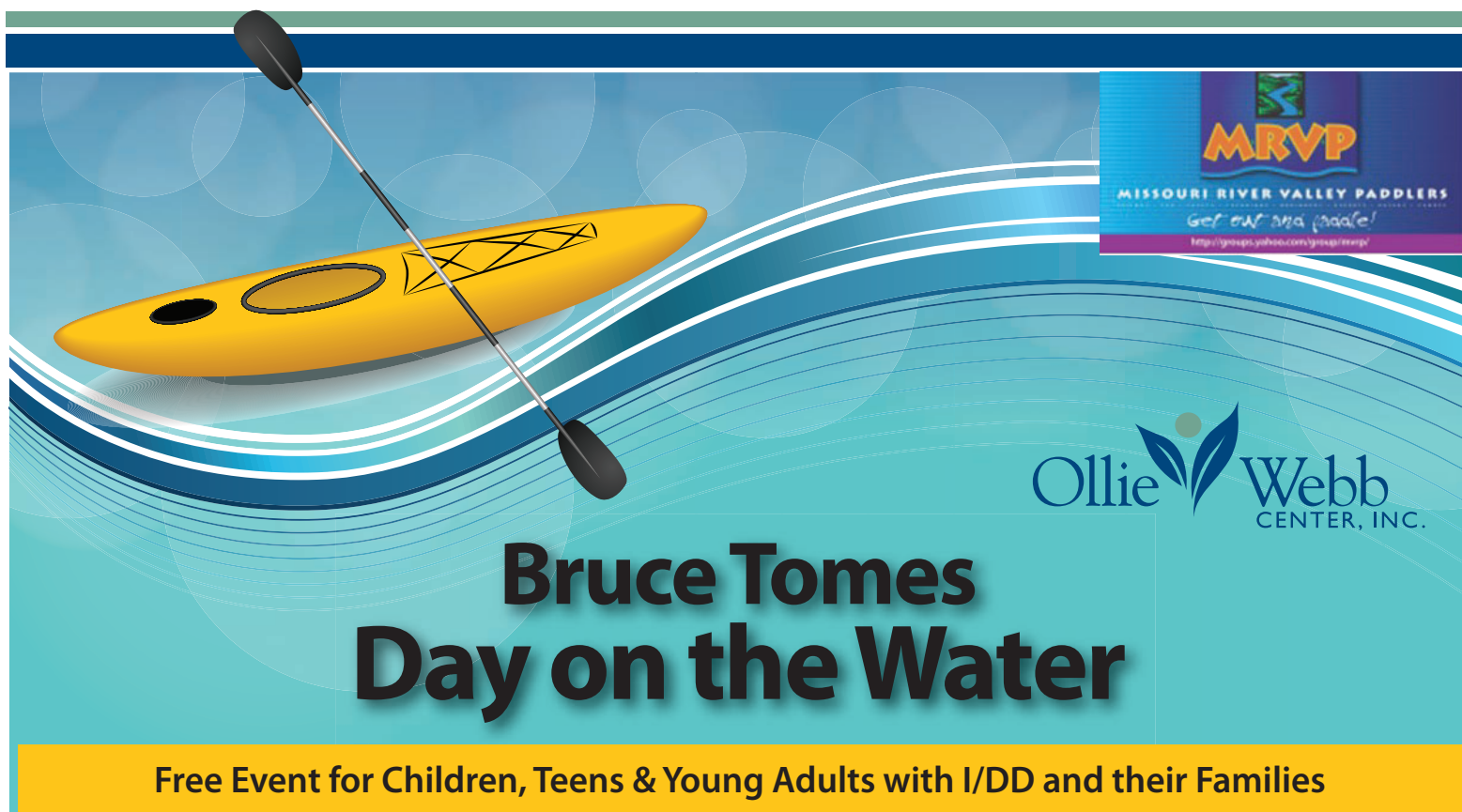
I/We acknowledge that a legal representative must be in attendance during the program.

Name of medical plan _____

Signature _____ Date _____



SOCIAL RECREATION



Free Event for Children, Teens & Young Adults with I/DD and their Families

**with Ollie Webb Center, Inc., Missouri River Valley Paddlers and Nebraska Game and Parks
Platte River State Park • 14421 346th St., Louisville, NE 68037**

The event will be held at the lake area. Signs will be posted to direct attendees to the lake.

Sunday, September 13, 2026 • 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Join Ollie Webb Center, Inc., Missouri River Valley Paddlers, and Nebraska Game and Parks for kayaking and fun at Platte River State Park.

This is a free event. There is a \$7 fee (\$14 for out of state plates) per vehicle to enter the park without an Annual Park Pass.

You are welcome to bring your own picnic lunch if you wish. Food/drink will not be provided as part of the event. Adult supervision is required for all participants. Please plan accordingly to be with your child, teen or adult for the entirety of participation, which includes assisting with kayak entry/exit and riding in/alongside kayaks, as needed. **BRING SUNSCREEN and DRINKING WATER!**

Reservations for this event are required. Please register by Thursday, September 10, 2026.

To register go to:

<https://OWCI-Day-on-the-water-2026.eventbrite.com>



SOCIAL RECREATION

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.

Partnering with the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation



Halloween Fall Dance

Dancing & Costume Party

Happy
Halloween

Friday, October 30, 2026 • 6:00 ~ 8:00 pm

Mockingbird Hills Community Center • 10242 Mockingbird Dr.
Drinks, Snacks, and a Treat Provided

Cost: \$25 Arc Members • \$30 Non-Members • \$15 Family/ Staff

Register by October 14th via mail or email Audry Childers at Achilders@olliewebbinc.org
for online registration form and electronic payment information.

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: _____

Halloween Dance (Friday, October 30, 2026).....\$25 Arc Members • \$30 Non-Members • \$15 Staff/Family

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



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.

Spotlight on Murals

We wish to highlight two different mural projects that our participants created over the Summer 2026 class session.

The first one was made in collaboration with WhyArts, Inc. and WhyArts, Inc. artist Peggy Jones. Jones came to visit each of the five Continuing Education (CE) classes several times. She created an overall design of a heart-shape, then guided class participants to each personalize their own individual panels. The result is a stunning large-scale mural that shows off the creativity and individuality of all who participated. The project hung at Hot Shops Arts Center throughout the month of July and into early August. It was then moved to its permanent home in the Food Pantry of the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC) on the University of Nebraska at Omaha's campus.

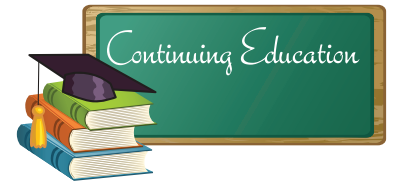


This is the second mural project that the class participants made together with Jones and WhyArts, Inc. The first was in 2024. After the participants completed the 2024 project, the mural was disassembled and participants took home their individual panels. Now, instead of being disassembled, the artwork will permanently be on display in the Food Pantry at the CEC. It stands as a reminder of community, collaboration, creativity, and love.

OWCI Teaching Artist Brandon Mass offered guidance to the participants of the CE class that meets at the A.V. Sorensen Community Center. Together, they created a large dinosaur mural to display in the children's section of the A.V. Sorensen Library. The Omaha Public Library gave OWCI special recognition on their social media page, highlighting the importance of learning, knowledge, and creativity.

We are so thrilled that the work of our participants is making an impact and adding to the rich art scene in Omaha.





Digital Projects Brought to Life

Spotlight the summer “Explore Omaha” and fall “The Design Studio” class learning tracks.

The class meets at Digital Express on MCC’s Fort Omaha campus, then takes numerous field trips to visually interesting places around Omaha. Field trips during the summer session have included the riverfront, the KANEKO gallery, and the statues in front of the CHI Health Center. While at each location, participants practice their photography skills.

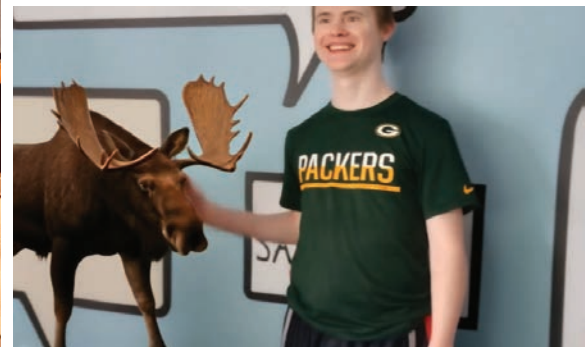
Once back at Digital Express, a world of creative expression emerges.

Participants upload their photos and create several different projects. They work on their photo editing skills and create different collages. Using different angles of the same object (such as a statue), they use their photos to create a 3-D design, and print a 3-D model of it.

Finally, they work on their video editing skills using Capcut, to create fun short videos utilizing photos and videos that they had shot. They use AI graphics to help bring their works to life. They have even created some catchy songs to go along with their projects!

Below, please see photos from one project they worked on. We wish you could view the full videos and songs that they have created so far.

We’re so proud of all of their hard work throughout the summer. The instructors have informed us of some planned trips to explore unique architectural locations around Omaha, and we cannot wait to see the artwork the participants create after visiting these sites.





HONEY SUNDAY

Benefitting Ollie Webb Center, Inc.



Honey Sunday is an annual fundraiser. Proceeds benefit The Arc of Omaha at Ollie Webb Center, Inc., a local non-profit agency serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Honey is sold in bear-shaped 12-ounce bottles.

1 or 2 bottles \$10 each, 3 for \$25, 4 for \$30, 6 for \$40 or 12 (a case) for \$75!

JOIN US FOR A "SWEET" VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!
Corporations – Schools – Churches – Family and Friends

When: Sunday, November 1, 2026 Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers are very important to this event – we'd like to involve **EVERYONE!** This is an excellent **community service project** for all ages. Volunteers, in small groups, go door-to-door in neighborhoods throughout Omaha to sell honey.

Corporations: Sell honey on site in lunchrooms or lobbies - or a friendly intra-office competition!

Schools: Opportunity for Student Volunteer hours – through door-to-door sales; at local places of business; or at school sponsored activities (sports, musicals, plays) provided by student clubs, organizations and/or civics classes.

Churches and Synagogues: Youth and service groups sell either door to door or after Worship services. A great way to get community service hours.

Family and Friends: Canvas your own neighborhood; reach out and share the sweetness across the city with your family and friends.

Participation is simple to arrange for group leaders.
You provide the volunteers, and we handle the details.

To learn more or to volunteer, please contact:

Lori Beck • lbeck@olliewebbinc.org
Ollie Webb Center, Inc.
(402) 346-5220

Please share this information with
others who may be interested.





SAVE THE DATE



ANNUAL MEETING



Monday, November 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Leo's Catholic Church
1920 North 102nd Street
Fireplace Room - West Entrance
(102nd and Blondo Streets)

- Business Meeting
 - Presentations
- Awards Ceremony

Ollie Webb Center, Inc. is seeking nominations for its annual Community Partnership Awards. The awards recognize professionals, friends, or volunteers who have made a significant difference in the lives of children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities. The awards include:

- **Community Leader:** A professional who has made a significant difference in the life or lives of children, adolescents or adults who have a developmental disability.
- **Inclusion Leader:** Someone in the community (from a non-disability organization or group) who has shown exemplary inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **Volunteer of the Year:** An individual who has voluntarily provided invaluable assistance or support, making a positive impact on the life or lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Please consider nominating someone for
our distinguished community awards.



SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

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.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Direct from National Disability Employment Awareness Month | U.S. Department of Labor:
(<https://beta.dol.gov/programs-initiatives/ndeam>)

“2026 Theme: “Celebrating Value and Talent,” carrying the spirit of last year's celebration forward through 2026 in honor of America's 250th birthday. We will recognize the skills and contributions Americans with disabilities add to the nation's workplaces, communities, and economy. This year's observance will play an important role in the department's year-long celebration of the American worker in support of the nationwide Freedom 250 initiative.”

Work anniversaries for individuals in our Supported Employment program:

September Employment Anniversaries

Chris S. celebrates 14 years as an usher with AMC and upcoming 1 year with Baker's as a front-end associate!

Anthony P. celebrates 15 years as a dishwasher with Hy-Vee!

Troy K. celebrates 15 years as a courtesy clerk with Hy-Vee!

Jason H. celebrates 14 years as an usher and food prep associate with AMC!

October Employment Anniversaries

Tom V. celebrates 8 years as a floor attendant with Goodwill!

Micheal S. celebrates 13 years as a dining room attendant at Richmond Terrace Assisted Living and Memory Care!

Mariah P. celebrates 2 years with Eileen's Colossal Cookies!

Cassie L. celebrates 13 years as a salon assistant with Creative Hair Design!

Bon F. celebrates 2 years as a retail merchandise associate with Home Goods!





Photos from our annual Ability Experience Luau Party on Thursday, July 9, 2026.



Every year, the Journey of Hope cyclists and Pi Kappa Phi travel across the country to raise awareness and acceptance of people who live with disabilities.





The Arc of Omaha & Career Solutions, Inc.
1941 South 42nd Street
Suite 122
Omaha, NE 68105-2942

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



STAFF DIRECTORY 402-346-5220

		Ext.
Executive Director	Laurie Ackermann	17
Education Services Director	David Ackermann	13
Arc Family Services Coordinator	Cheri Albin	14
Quality Assurance and Intake	Geralyn Bryant	
Operations Director	Becky Cano	23
Arc Program Manager	Audry Childers	31
Education Manager	Debora Gibson	28
Data and Analytics	Michael Herzog	
Art of Imagination Artistic Director	Jim Hoggatt	18
Office Assistant	Jenny Koley	11
Employment Coordinator	Joseph Koll	20
Program Director	Lisa McMichael	24
Arc Program Coordinator	Kaitlin Pearson	12
Executive Administrative Assistant	Maureen Proksel	10
Staff Accountant	Valeria Silva	26

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!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Labor Day - Office Closed, No Classes**
Monday, September 7, 2026
- **PRISM Event**
Tuesday, September 22, 2026
- **Fall Stars Basketball**
Mondays, September 14 - October 26, 2026
- **Day on the Water**
Sunday, September 13, 2026
- **Sibshops**
Saturday, September 19, 2026
- **Fall Production**
October 15, 16, 18, 2026
- **Halloween Fall Dance**
Friday, October 30, 2026
- **Honey Sunday**
Sunday, November 1, 2026
- **Annual Meeting**
Monday, November 9, 2026
- **Holiday Make-and-Take Event - Save the Date!**
Saturday, November 21, 2026 - Time TBD***

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