

Challenger

DAKOTA

Dakota Center for Independent Living • www.dakotacil.org

"Serving people with disabilities since 1980"

Consumer Appreciation luncheon fun for all!



DCIL in the Community

DCIL will do accessibility assessments at no charge

Dakota Center for Independent Living (DCIL) will do an accessibility assessment of your business and give ideas on how to make your business more accessible for people with disabilities, and it's free of charge across the 18 counties we serve.

Most recently, DCIL provided training for staff of USDA Rural Development to do accessibility assessments.

If you'd like an assessment done at your business, please contact executive director Royce Schultze at DCIL: 701-222-3636.

Right: USDA Rural Development staff practice proper measuring techniques for accessibility assessments.



#Voices4HomeMods focus at BMHBA Home Show booth

The 2024 Bismarck-Mandan Home Show was held March 15th and 16th at the Bismarck Event Center. This event was the perfect opportunity to bring the "Voices for Home Modifications of the Dakotas" project into awareness. Both NDSU/SDSU Extension Service and Dakota Center for Independent Living represented for this program with a booth at the Home Show.

The Voices for Home Modification Project's mission is to increase knowledge and awareness about

the role home design plays in quality of life for people with mobility limitations. #Voices4HomeMods has a vision that every home should be constructed to enhance the quality of life for all people.

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*Interested in learning more about Voices for Home Modification project? Contact Leacey E. Brown, SDSU Extension Gerontology Field Specialist, at 605-394-1722 or leacey.brown@sdstate.edu for more information.*



**Let's Get Active  
~TOGETHER~  
Beginning MAY 7**

- \* Indoor Walking
- \* Outdoor Walking
- \* Balloon/Beachball Volleyball
- \* Chair Yoga
- \* Tai Chi
- \* Fitlot\* Park
- \* Simple strengthening  
May use light weights or resistance bands

Every other week on  
Tuesday afternoons  
at 1pm through the  
Summer months



Contact CathyJo  
cathyj@dakotacil.org

**DAKOTA**  
Center for Independent Living  
Serving people with disabilities since 1980  
3111 E Broadway Ave  
701-222-3636

## Olson finds her dream job at DCIL in January



**Olson**

Josie Olson was born and raised in Bismarck ND. It's clear Olson comes from a family who cares about helping people: Olson's husband works at Bismarck Public Schools, her daughter, Paige Feist, works for ND Center for Persons with Disabilities, her step-daughter is an RN at CHI, and her step-son works at USPS. Olson enjoys spending time with her three wonderful grandchildren and camping in the summer.

Olson was working at BPS when her daughter mentioned this position being open, so she came in to interview with Program Director Cody Kurtz and was sure she'd like to work here after interviewing. Olson said, "This is a dream job for me! I like to shop, drive, and assemble furniture. The most rewarding part is seeing the joy, happiness and thankfulness that all the staff bring to the consumers. The tears of happiness that some consumers express and say to us that there are still good people and hope in this world is priceless. Can't say enough for what all the staff do for our community. It is truly a blessing I can be a part of; all the staff are amazing and I really enjoy coming to work everyday!"

## Brew joins DCIL board of directors in February

"My name is Linda Brew from Bismarck. I recently retired from EAP at the state of ND. I was the director of Policy and System Support. I had worked in some line of human services for 43 years, including Eligibility Worker at the county level. With that I bring knowledge of all economic assistance programs. I feel my knowledge in those programs and my leadership skills will benefit me while serving on the DCIL board. I have attended many fundraisers for DCIL so understand the importance of interaction with the Board, employees and recipients.



**Brew**

On a personal level I'm a wife, mom, grandma and great grandma. I have a large active family and I love following them to games or any school events. I also love to travel and hope to hit all 50 states before too long. I love reading, crafts and sports.

It is a privilege to serve on the DCIL board and am looking forward to working with all individuals."

**DCIL is a  
FRAGRANCE  
FREE  
office.**

*Thank you!*



## DCIL Board & Staff

### Board of Directors

#### **President**

Helen Baumgartner  
Mandan, ND

#### **Vice President**

Trevor Vannett  
Bismarck, ND

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Glenn Lauinger  
Mandan, ND

#### **Director**

Marcia Hettich  
Elgin, ND

#### **Director**

Colette Fleck  
Solen, ND

#### **Director**

Eunice Meidinger  
Bismarck, ND

#### **Director**

Linda Brew  
Bismarck, ND

### Staff - Bismarck

#### **Executive Director**

Royce Schultze

#### **Program Director**

Cody Kurtz

#### **Kathy Temchack**

Independent Living Advocate

#### **Carol Cristilli**

Independent Living Advocate

#### **Cathy Job**

Independent Living Advocate

#### **Kelli Richey**

Administrative Assistant/Marketing Specialist

#### **Jeannie Pedersen**

Independent Living Advocate

#### **Randee Sailer**

Independent Living Advocate Assistant

#### **Kevin Bailly**

MFP/TDPP Independent Living Specialist

#### **She'Maine Oden**

MFP/TDPP Independent Living Specialist

MFP/TDPP Independent Living Specialist

#### **Katie Sims**

MFP/TDPP Independent Living Specialist

#### **Andrea Schlobohm**

MFP/TDPP Independent Living Specialist

#### **Delores Nagel**

TDPP Independent Living Specialist

#### **Josephine Olson**

MFP/TDPP Independent Living Specialist Assistant

### Staff - Dickinson

#### **Tammy Weiler**

Office Coordinator/Independent Living Advocate

#### **Mary Beth Hoffman**

Independent Living Advocate

#### **Hannah Berg**

MFP/TDPP Independent Living Specialist





## JANUARY: BINGO!



you are forever  
in our hearts



**Richard Walleto**

DCIL is saddened at the loss  
of one of our long-time  
consumers in January 2024,  
Richard Walleto.

He will be greatly missed.

# Kimberly has new-found freedom with ramp

by Kevin Bailly, DCIL

Kimberly Jackman from New Salem, ND is working with MFP Program through DCIL to help her reintegrate into her community where she lives with her husband, Scott.

Kimberly had difficulty with mobility due to her front yard was composed of mostly dirt with a few patches of grass so when it rained it made it difficult to leave her home as she had to drive her wheel-

chair through the mud. She was provided with a ramp through the MFP Program to help her access community functions such as doctor appointments, grocery shopping, and to visit others. Kimberly says she is so impressed with the quality of work that the contractor did and she is so happy she can have more access to her community.

Kimberly was very happy the contractor had finished the right before Christmas.



*Right: Kimberly is overjoyed with her new ramp install awarded by the MFP Program through DCIL.*

# Gabe is more comfortable in new community setting



by Kevin Bailly, DCIL

Gabe DeGroat started working with the MFP Program through DCIL in May of 2023 after a referral was placed by the social worker at Dakota Alpha where Gabe was residing. Gabe worked hard with the MFP team where he was presented with options for housing and support and services. Along with his daughter and guardian, Gabe selected to meet with Prudent Home Care staff to discuss placement at the Oasis Adult Foster Care Home in Bismarck.

After some strategic planning Gabe discharged from Dakota Alpha Skilled Nursing Facility and found his new home at Oasis

Adult Foster Care Home in Bismarck.

Gabe was struggling with his ability to stand from a seated position and MFP purchased a lift chair so that he could remain independent in the community. Gabe has been doing well with his transition to the community thus far.

Gabe was very excited to move to the Adult Foster Care Home. Seeing the discharge date come closer, Gabe's appearance and expressions appeared more gleeful. Since transitioning he has become more comfortable in his community setting. He has made friends at the Adult Foster Care Home he is residing at with two other individuals.

*Left: Gabe is enjoying making friends at the Adult Foster Care Home where he currently resides.*

# Another successful transition thanks to DCIL staff

by Kevin Bailly, DCIL

Jennifer Greff started working with the Money Follows the Person Program (MFP) through DCIL in May of 2023. Jennifer has successfully transitioned back to the community where she will receive support and services from a local care provider.

Jennifer moved into her new home in Bismarck, ND. MFP assisted Jennifer with establishing her residence prior to transi-

tion. Jennifer was provided with household goods, cleaning supplies, furniture, and food to help her get by the next few months. Jennifer was also provided with a new lift chair which will make it much easier to transfer to and from her wheelchair when she wishes to relax in her home and be more comfortable.

Jennifer is happy she now has a place to call home.



**H**  **OME** *sweet* **H**  **OME**

*Right: Jennifer with her care provider from Home Helpers after the transition into her new home.*

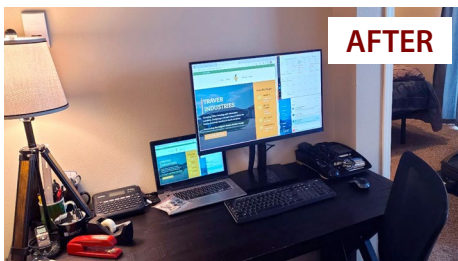


# DCIL's help has become a path of hope for Geordan

Submitted by Mary Beth Hoffman,  
DCIL Dickinson; written by G. Traver

"This is a story of circumstances that seemed to be beyond any possibility of ending well but did end with a great success.

My name is Geordan Traver and starting about January of 2020 my health condition rapidly changed. I lost my ability to work and safely drive a vehicle, and at the same time I lost all income and began falling into debt from medical



expenses. It was suggested that I move from rural North Dakota to a city with a hospital so I could receive immediate medical attention in an emergency situation.

I used all of my resources to follow this advice and chose Dickinson ND as my new home. During this time, I felt that things were hopeless and began to call and ask around about how to deal with my current circumstances. I was immediately directed to DCIL in Dickinson as one of the possibilities for assistance.

I can honestly say that I believe DCIL changed the outcome of my story, and I can't imagine how things would be



today if I hadn't received their help. At the very first meeting I was given several options to help me stay independent and cover those monthly expenses we all have. My case worker didn't just direct me to online applications but took the time to fill out those applications and follow up with conference calls for the status as needed. I don't think I would have filled out any of those applications because my vision loss would not allow, and I was intimidated by the complex government format for these types of things. Because of the assistance from DCIL and the caring staff, today I have monthly income. They helped me with a grant to provide an eye care computer

monitor that gives me the ability to order groceries for delivery each week. With out this specialized monitor I would have no access to online communication or services, including my medical related emails.

I recently have had to make those confusing decisions about Medicare part A, B, C, and D. The thing that I appreciate about DCIL is they assisted me with the areas of need that they could effectively help, including some of the basic Medicare coverage. Beyond that they have a network of alliance's that are extremely knowledgeable, tried and proven. I had the pleasure of meeting one of these



Mary Beth, DCIL & Geordan Traver

representatives with the organization known as Angel Advocates in late February. My DCIL case worker provided me with transportation and attended the meeting with me. The outcome of this meeting was beyond what I could have hoped for. I left the meeting with little to no questions as to what would be best for me and my circumstances when it came to Medicare coverage.

During a year and a half of dark, depressing and unsure times for me, DCIL became a path of hope. Each time I would meet with the staff and my case-worker there would be some laughter and something good. I began to notice when I left those meetings I always felt better and had hope and a reason to smile.

There is another story about DCIL helping with my hobby / craft workspace area, but if I try to tell all of the things I want to, this will become a book. I can't say enough good things about DCIL and their dedicated, caring, compassionate staff but I can say they changed my life."

**Driver's Permits** are possible  
with any disability or at any age,  
even at 65 and after a stroke.

*Congrats, Laura!*

To learn more about the DCIL Driver Permit Class or some of the accommodations that may be requested when taking the driver permit exam, call Carol in Bismarck: 701-222-3636 or Mary Beth in Dickinson: 701-483-4363.





## DCIL Events & Fun



## Seeking DCIL BOARD MEMBERS!

Dakota Center for Independent Living  
is looking for energetic and dedicated  
individuals who are willing to serve  
on our Board of Directors.

If you believe in our mission statement  
and are interested please call Royce at  
701-222-3636 for more information.

*\* We welcome those with disabilities to apply*

March's "Understanding Disabilities"  
seminar held at DCIL and via Zoom  
on March 19<sup>th</sup> was very well attended.  
Dr. Rudolph delivered valuable infor-  
mation on brain injuries and how  
he works with individuals who have  
suffered from these injuries.



## MARCH: DIAMOND SUNCATCHERS



## Upcoming Notable Dates

### April

- Nat'l Autism Awareness Month
- Parkinson's Awareness Month
- Developmental Disabilities Month in North Dakota

### May

- Mental Health Awareness Month
- ALS Awareness Month

### June

- Alzheimer's Awareness Month
- Nat'l PTSD Awareness Month
- Deaf & Blind Awareness Week June 25-July 1





**Dakota Center for Independent Living**  
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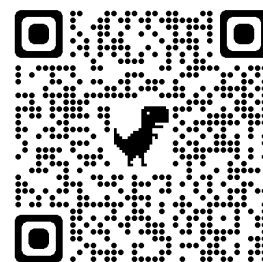
\* DCIL has a satellite office in Dickinson, ND.  
They can be reached at: 701-483-4363.

\* DCIL offices are fragrance free.

## What can we help you with?

### **DCIL Core Services:**

- Information & Referral
- Peer Support & Services
  - Advocacy
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Transitional Services



Scan the QR code above  
to be taken to our website, or find  
Dakota Center for Independent Living  
on Facebook, Instagram, & YouTube!



### **Mission Statement**

The Dakota Center for Independent Living believes in empowering people with disabilities by minimizing barriers, advocating for inclusion and promoting consumer choice.

*The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of HHSC or ACL, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. This newsletter is available in an alternative format - upon request.*

**If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail or an alternate format,  
please contact us at DCIL by calling 701-222-3636 or emailing [dcil@dakotacil.org](mailto:dcil@dakotacil.org).**