

# Challenger

DAKOTA

Dakota Center for Independent Living • www.dakotacil.org "Serving people with disabilities since 1980"

## DCIL to hold first fundraising walk & health fair July 20

The Dakota Center for Independent Living (DCIL) is announcing their first walk and health fair in Bismarck, ND on July 20th, 2024 – "Walk for Walkers & Wheelies: an all-inclusive awareness walk for people with all abilities."

The "Walk for Walkers & Wheelies" will start at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, July 20th at the Bismarck Amvets, 2402 Railroad Ave., Bismarck, ND. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Along with the walk, there will be a silent auction, ADA activities, 50/50 Raffle with two drawings, bake sale, and a wellness health fair with area exhibitors.

This event is being held in conjunction with the anniversary month signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All funds raised through Walkers & Wheelies will go to the consumers served by DCIL in its 18-county service area through assistive technology, community and social activities, and independent living skills training. Dakota Center for Independent Living (DCIL) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

"This is a family friendly, all-inclusive walk being held indoors at the Bismarck Amvets Club on July 20th, Royce Schultze, DCIL executive director explains. "People can come to support loved ones who are impacted by all abilities. It brings awareness to our community about the barriers individuals with various abilities face, and proceeds will benefit DCIL's consumers through programs we carry out in our service area daily."

This is strictly an indoor event. Strollers and service animals will be allowed entrance.

**To get involved as a walker, sponsor or exhibitor, please either visit our event page for full details at <https://dakotacil.org/walkersandwheelies/> or contact Cathy Job at [cathyj@dakotacil.org](mailto:cathyj@dakotacil.org) or 701-222-3636. Sponsors and exhibitor deadline: July 1st.**

### Walk for Walkers & Wheelies

\*All inclusive awareness walk for people with all abilities

## July 20

Registration begins 7:30-8:30 ♦ Walk starts at 9am

Bismarck Amvets ♦ 2402 Railroad Ave. Bismarck

**Text Walkers&Wheelies to 44-321 to DONATE!**

50/50 Raffle      ADA Activities  
 Silent Auction Items      Wellness Health Fair  
 Bake Sale

*Special thanks to Bismarck Amvets*

**Fundraising for:**

- Assistive Technology
- Community & Social Activities
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Outreach to an 18 County Service Area
- Empower People with Disabilities by Minimizing Barriers

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

Contact CathyJo  
[cathyj@dakotacil.org](mailto:cathyj@dakotacil.org)



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in several areas, including employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications and access to state and local government programs and services.



## DCIL demonstrates AT devices at health fair

Dakota Center for Independent Living (DCIL) frequently sets up a booth at area events to showcase assistive technology (AT) devices that are available to people to help make daily tasks easier.

On June 6th, DCIL's Independent Living Advocate Kathy Temchack and Executive Director Royce Schultze participated in a health fair at New Salem, ND.

*Left:  
DCIL's assistive technology (AT) booth set up at the RAAN Health Fair in New Salem, ND on June 6th.*

## Schultze delivers information on Universal Design

Royce Schultze, DCIL executive director, presented information on "Universal Design" for a webinar hosted by the Money Follows the Person Housing Program on Tuesday, May 21st through Zoom.

Universal design is a concept to add accessible features to homes during construction to make a home more accessible to anyone regardless of physical ability or age.

The slides from Schultze's "Universal Design" presentation are available upon request. Please email [kellir@dakotacil.org](mailto:kellir@dakotacil.org) to receive a PDF of the slides.



## We can visit rural locations for assessments

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 staff traveled to Carson, ND to do an assessment at the Carson City Hall.

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



*Right:  
Royce Schultze, DCIL executive director, doing an assessment at Carson City Hall in Carson, ND.*





## Larrew steps into IL Advocate role in Dickinson branch



Larrew

My name is Kelsey Larrew, I am a devoted wife and mother. I moved to North Dakota four years ago, from Washington state. I am currently obtaining my social work degree online. I began working in the field of helping others about four years ago when moving to ND, starting out as a QSP and CNA. I have always had such a strong passion in helping others and making an impact in their lives whether that is in a small or big way. Any positive impact is meaningful.

I learned about DCIL while working in the DD field and thought to myself, "This is a position that is really hands on and I could truly help make a positive impact in the lives of others. I could make a career for myself there." Which I do see to be true. I am so excited to be with DCIL and to make a difference.

## Once in a lifetime opportunity



Mary Beth Hoffman & Hannah Berg of DCIL Dickinson enjoyed their Black Hawk ride in May.

Independent Living Specialist Hannah Berg and the Dickinson Branch Office Coordinator Mary Beth Hoffman were blessed with a once in a lifetime opportunity to go on what they call a "Boss Lift Flight." The Montana ESGR's invited the North Dakota ESGR to join them in Glendive on May 10th to soar above the butte tops and rivers in a Black Hawk.

Upon some troubles with the steering in the second Black Hawk that arrived, it still turned out to be a great day with 48 employers between North Dakota and Montana. During this time all of the employers were thanked for their tributes to keep these men and women who have to leave for the guards to go to duty when called upon. It was noted that employers are the ones who make the greatest sacrifices.

Each employer was given a Certificate of Honor for being a company who supports the ESGR's. Hannah Berg stated, "I would rather work overtime hours for these men and women who dedicate their lives for us then to make them feel like they can't leave due to nobody covering for them."

## 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  
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**Director**

Colette Fleck  
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Bismarck, ND

**Director**

Linda Brew  
Bismarck, ND

### Staff - Bismarck

**Executive Director**

Royce Schultze

**Program Director**

Cody Kurtz

**Independent Living Advocate**

Kathy Temchack

**Independent Living Advocate**

Carol Cristilli

**Independent Living Advocate/Community Outreach**

Cathy Job

**Administrative Assistant/Marketing Specialist**

Kelli Richey

**Independent Living Advocate**

Jeannie Pedersen

**Independent Living Advocate Assistant**

Randee Sailer

**Independent Living Specialist Supervisor**

She'Maine Oden

**Independent Living Specialist, MFP/TDPP**

Kevin Bailly

**Independent Living Specialist, MFP/TDPP**

**Independent Living Specialist, MFP/TDPP** Katie Sims

**Independent Living Specialist, MFP**

Andrea Schlobohm

**Independent Living Specialist, TDPP**

Delores Nagel

**Independent Living Specialist, TDPP**

McCallie Willows

**Independent Living Specialist Assistant, MFP/TDPP**

Josie Olson

### Staff - Dickinson

**Branch Office Coordinator**

Mary Beth Hoffman

**Independent Living Specialist, MFP/TDPP**

Hannah Berg

**Independent Living Advocate**

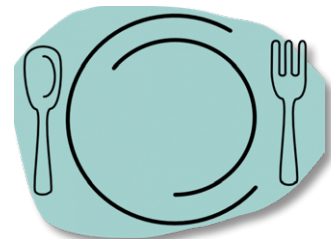
Kelsey Larrew



# April: Milk Jug Bird Houses



# April: Dinner at the DreamCenter



**DC DREAMCENTER**  
BISMARCK

# MAY: Bowling Fun





# Wendy is living her best independent life now

by Cody Kurtz, DCIL

Wendy's referral came to DCIL through the Money follows the Person Program in March 2022 while she was in the hospital recovering from a double leg amputation. Wendy was given a very small chance to survive and continued to get infections that caused several set backs in her recovery. Wendy was taken to another hospital for IV antibiotic therapy to try to help her body fight the many infections.

When the MFP transition coordinator meet Wendy for the first time in the hospital she was so weak she could barely lift her head off the pillow. She weighed 74 lbs and was not given a

very good chance to survive. A few weeks later Wendy was admitted to a local skilled nursing facility.

Still recovering, she continued to get infection after infection which would set back her therapy and ability to recover. She was in and out of the hospital. However during all of this, the one thing Wendy did not do was give up. Wendy is one of the strongest, most positive person you will meet and to be around her is pure enjoyment. Wendy continued to fight and in early 2023 she got prosthetic legs. She worked so hard to learn how to walk again. Her goal was to get back into the community and on May 18th 2024, she did just that with the assistance



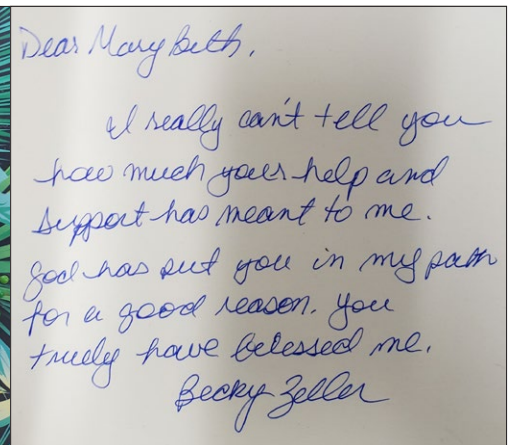
of DCIL and the Money Follows the Person Program.

Wendy has been in her apartment for a month now and is living her best independent life! Wendy's story of sheer determination is absolutely amazing.

# Dickinson receives gift of gratitude for their help

Mary Beth Hoffman, branch office coordinator for the Dickinson DCIL office, received an amazing gift of gratitude with a touching thank you note from a consumer they provided services for recently, "Dear Mary Beth, I really can't tell you how much your help and support has meant to me. God has put you in my path for a good reason. You truly have blessed me. ~ Becky Zeller."

It's moments like these that really warm our hearts!



## What Are Disability Protections Under The Fair Housing Act? Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

Individuals with disabilities have the right to request reasonable accommodations and modifications to ensure equal opportunity to use and enjoy housing. A reasonable accommodation is a change, exception, or adjustment to a rule, policy, practice, or service, such as having an assistance animal, receiving help with completing paperwork, or changing rent due dates. A reasonable modification is a structural change to the premises, such as physical changes related to mobility or sensory needs.

Requests for accommodations or modifications can be made at any time and must be considered by housing providers, even if the preferred forms or procedures are not used. Verification of the need may be requested, but detailed medical information or specific forms cannot be required.

Fair Housing Act: Protected Classes

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, Fair Housing Act (FHA), makes it unlawful to discriminate against individuals in housing transactions based on:

DISABILITY RACE SEX COLOR NATIONAL ORIGIN RELIGION FAMILY STATUS

## DCIL consumer visited Europe in March with attendant

DCIL's long time consumer, Danny Freidt, enjoyed a trip to Europe in March with Ray Nearey, his home attendant from KAYD Home Care in Bismarck.

Danny and Ray were entertained with walking tours on their trip, including the Jack the Ripper tour in London. *(Danny pictured in the center with light blue shirt; photo submitted by Ray Nearey, KAYD HC).*

Danny was also excited to visit with relatives he hadn't seen in some time.

Sure looks like it was lots of fun!



## DCIL Government Updates

### Bismarck City Measure 1 efforts going strong for the November 2024 ballot

In November, Bismarck voters will decide on Measure One: a half percent sales tax to help fund Public Safety and Public Transportation.

If passed, some of the money will be put towards public safety needs. The rest will fund public transportation, including providing services to those with disabilities, the elderly and low-income residents.

Bis-Man Transit receives funding from Bismarck, Mandan, and the federal government. However the service is struggling to stay afloat.

In addition to the ongoing petition efforts by many Bismarck citizens, DCIL consumers have sent their thoughts to the local paper to gain extra support that helped Mandan pass the Measure in June, and will help the passing of Bismarck's Measure 1 in November.

DCIL invites others to write letters as well in support of the measure.

Submit your letter to the editor online at: [https://bismarcktribune.com/forms/contact/letter\\_to\\_the\\_editor/](https://bismarcktribune.com/forms/contact/letter_to_the_editor/) or you can also submit by mail to: Bismarck Tribune, Attn: Letter to the Editor, 707 E Front Ave, P.O. Box 5516, Bismarck, ND 58506.

#### Support Measure 1 in Mandan Tuesday

Asking people to vote yes on measure 1 in Mandan. Transportation helps us people w disabilities so we won't have to be forced to walk long distances. Mine is cuz of my feet, athletic feet. I can't even walk a mile. Without transit, I'd have to walk long distances. It'll effect my legs. My doctor said I'd end up in a wheelchair. Transportation helps me so I don't have to walk or ask people for rides, or hitchhiking. My doctor said this is dangerous to me.

**Beverly Tikanye, Bismarck**

#### Support Measure 1 in Mandan election

I am writing to encourage you to vote Yes on Mandan's measure #1. Without transit or the city's Capital Area Transit (CAT) buses, how can people like those in wheelchairs get around? Or those not in wheelchairs who don't have family/friends to help get them around? Transit is what helps people live on their own and not in nursing homes/facilities, which would cost taxpayers five times more money than it would if they can live on their own and get transit & CAT buses. And a lot of those people who need these transportation are people who have some kind of disability, are on disability, on a fixed income & can't afford taxi fares. This is where transit & the CAT buses have helped people w/disabilities for years now, & thanks to their services, have helped us to be able to get around affordable & to live on our own & not in nursing homes/facilities.

**Randee Sailer, Bismarck**

#### Connelly supports public transportation

My name is Trevor, and I need public transportation to live independently in Bismarck, and to remain a disability advocate for people living in both Bismarck and Mandan. I support Mike Connelly for the Bismarck City Commission because he supports public transportation. Without public transportation I would face isolation and my ability to advocate for all individuals that struggle like I do would lose my voice. Mike worked with people like me in both Bismarck and Mandan because public transportation and Transit funding is not keeping pace with community needs. He taught groups of us about the initiated measure process, how to form sub-committees, about collection signatures, and promotion. In Mandan, citizens like me collected enough signatures to have a measure placed on the primary ballot (June 11th). I encourage Mandan residents to vote "YES" on Measure 1, so people like me have a place in our communities! The Bismarck measure will be on the ballot in November after the few remaining signatures are collected. Transit and Public Transportation are an essential service and badly needed. I use transit to attend meetings in Bismarck and Mandan, go to church, make medical appointments, leisure, and enjoying time with family and friends. Mike Connelly is the number one person who stands up for disabled individuals like me.

**Trevor Vannett, Bismarck Bismarck-Mandan disability advocate**





June:



## Justice Department Warns States Not To Disenfranchise Voters With Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Justice is warning that people with disabilities should not be kept from voting due to their guardianship status or for other reasons.

The federal agency recently updated its guide clarifying the rights of people with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws to cast their ballot.



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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).**