

Challenger DAKOTA

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

Freezin' for hunger and homelessness awareness

On Thursday, November 21st, members of the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People, community members and students volunteered to be "Freezin' for a Reason" and stood on the corner of S. 12th and Expressway in Bismarck to bring awareness to hunger and homelessness in our community. The day definitely stood up to what was advertised with a range from 12 degrees to 28 degrees throughout the day. Brrrrrrr!



DCIL staff "Freezin' for a Reason" to bring awareness to hunger and homelessness in Bismarck.

Donations of new or gently used coats, boots, scarves,

mittens/gloves and hats were accepted throughout the day to give to those in need. Cash donations were also accepted to go towards a transportation project that provides agencies with bus passes for their clients.

Passing of Measure 1 game changer for Transit users

Measure 1 passed in November's general election with flying colors. This measure supports public safety and public transportation.

Bis-Man Transit Executive Director Deidre Hughes contacted their customers with a note thanking everyone for their support: "As many of you may have seen, Measure One in Bismarck passed with substantial support. I want to thank everyone on the Board and CTIC for their support and efforts to spread the word. There is still work to be done but having the opportunity to access more funding to continue improving transit in our communities is a tremendous game changer for our organization.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to improving our

community's public transportation system."

City of Bismarck Measure No. 1 Bismarck

Vote For 1

Yes ✓	20,814	59.59%
No	14,113	40.41%
TOTAL VOTES		34,927

Precincts Fully: 19 / 19
Partially: 0 / 19

Bar Graph | Map



DCIL in the Community

Project Service Connect offers free services to community

DCIL participated in Project Service Connect at the Dream Center in Bismarck Wed., September 18th.

DCIL handed out bags with socks, ramen noodle soup, toothbrushes, toothpaste and hand sanitizer. A total of 87 bags were given to help those in need.

Project Service Connect

is held yearly by Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People. Other services offered at this event were free haircuts, groceries, and a free meal at The Banquet.



AT options offered at Parkinson's Conference



The annual Parkinson's Conference was held at the Baymont Hotel in Mandan Thurs., September 19th, and DCIL was on site to provide another great service.

Kathy and Stephanie manned a booth to provide DCIL information and Assistive Technology op-

tions. They saw a total of 93 people visit their booth.



KNDR Telethon rewarding



Staff from DCIL assisted in taking calls for the annual KNDR telethon Wed., Sept. 25th.

Staff's hearts were warmed by the incredible feeling they gained being a part of this event. Great job ladies!

Services highlighted at Standing Rock Health Fair

Staff from DCIL attended the Standing Rock Health Fair on Wed., October 23rd and showcased DCIL services for visitors. Approximately 55 vendors and 300 people attended. Stephanie also had the opportunity to promote DCIL services on the local radio.



DCIL in the Community

DCIL at BSC Cross Disability panel

DCIL spoke to future social workers and human service workers in two classes-- Interpersonal Communication and Cultural Diversity-- during the "Ableism" topic week on Tues., December 3rd at Bismarck State College.

Helen Baumgartner, DCIL president; Jeannie Pederson, retired DCIL IL advocate; Randee Sailer, IL advocate assis-

tant; and Royce Schultze, DCIL executive director sat on the Cross Disability panel and discussed their disabilities and how it affected their families and what they are doing to manage life currently.

There are hopes to expand the panel in the future with more participants who have disabilities to share their stories and participate in Q & A.



After discussions at the panel, games to simulate TBI barriers were played.



DCIL Board & Staff

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She'Maine Oden

Independent Living Specialist, MFP/TDPP

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Independent Living Specialist, MFP/TDPP

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Independent Living Specialist, MFP

Kianna Roecker

Independent Living Specialist, MFP

Girard Glaser

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

Laura Marsh

Independent Living Advocate

Open

DCIL Dickinson in the Community

Housing, Dickinson Transit, & DCIL talk Fair Housing

High Plains Fair Housing, Dickinson Public Transit and Dickinson DCIL held an event September 5th for "Fair Housing: Rights for Renters." The focus was on disability protections in housing.

Speakers were Geraldine Ambe and Michaela Ficek from High Plains

Fair Housing in North Dakota.

Mary Beth Hoffman, Branch Office Coordinator at the Dickinson DCIL office sends her gratitude, "Thank you Fair Housing and Dickinson Public Transit for coordinating with DCIL and making this event a success!"



A harvest of fun at the ninth annual Harvest Festival

The Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce Promotions Committee held the Ninth Annual Harvest Festival event on Saturday, September 21st at the King Pavilion within Dickinson State University. The DCIL Dickinson office participated with a booth at the event.

This festival was geared for the family with old-fashioned games, member booths with games, marketplace vendors, inflatables,

free entertainment, as well as food trucks/vendors.

Mary Beth Hoffman from Dickinson DCIL and She'Maine Oden from Bismarck DCIL had games and giveaways at the booth for visitors.



Coats for Kids as successful as ever in Oct. 2024

It was that time of year again for the Salvation Army's Coats for Kids event on October 24th in Dickinson. This event is always a well-anticipated event to help all the children in need as winter closes in.

Donations of new and gently used winter gear were collected by Dakota Center for Independent Living and other organizations for this cause. Mary Beth Hoffman, Branch Office Coordinator from the DCIL in Dickinson coordinated the event. Several vendors participated at the event to help provide winter gear to hundreds of individuals in the Dickinson area from kids to adults. Several local students volunteered to assist as well.

What a great community effort!



COATS for KIDS



Hoechst joins as Advocate in October



Hoechst

My Name is Lisa Hoechst, I started at DCIL in October 2024.

I've lived in Bismarck for 4 years and moved here from the Black Hills. I've worked in Mental Health and with individuals with disabilities for over 15 years. I have learned so much from so many people throughout my years and will continue to keep learning, listening and growing as well.

I am a mother of two. My son is high school English teacher, football and wrestling coach, and also does strong man competitions. My daughter is a surgical tech and finishing her RN, as well as mother to my two grandkids.

Since moving to Bismarck, I became a wife to my amazing husband Brandon, and stepmother to three amazing young men and fur baby Dexter. I can't wait to continue my story.

Marsh starts in October as IL Specialist



Marsh

Hi, my name is Laura Marsh, I was hired as an IL Specialist for the MFP-TDPP programs with DCIL in late Oct. 2024. I have had various jobs in my career with affordable housing management, working with the intellectually disabled and with behavioral health programs. Most recently I was fortunate enough to care for my elderly dad in our home for the last year. I was grateful to my husband who helped with dad's care and made it possible

for me to work part time as a care coordinator for Free Through Recovery and Community Connect Program.

I currently live in Dickinson with my husband Corky and fur baby Sadie, our dog. I enjoy cooking, baking, canning, garden-

ing, fishing, and spending time with family and friends at our lake cabin on Lake Sakakawea.

I'm very excited about my new job with DCIL. So far, the work has been very rewarding, I love helping people be happy with their life.

Rauhauser comes on board in November



Rauhauser

I'm Miah Rauhauser, and I began my role as an IL Advocate at DCIL on November 18. I've lived in Bismarck, ND my entire life and graduated from high school here. I hold a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of North Dakota and am currently working toward my master's in Community Mental Health Counseling at the same institution. I chose to work at a Center for Independent Living because I am deeply passionate

about empowering individuals with disabilities. I believe in helping others live more independently, overcome barriers, and achieve their personal goals, and this role allows me to make a real difference in people's lives.

I come from a close-knit family with two older brothers. Logan, my oldest brother, works in ethanol production, while Alec, my middle brother, is the assistant coach for the Bobcats. Growing up, we were always active and involved in various sports. I've been playing softball since I was 6 years old and have continued to play ever since. My love for hockey started when I was 5, and I played competitively until high school. Though I no longer play at a competitive level, both sports remain important parts of my life, and I enjoy staying active through them.

In addition to my family and sports interests, I have two dogs—Molly, a black lab, and Tucker, a Yorkie—as well as a black cat named Jimmy.

DCIL Dickinson in the Community

Dickinson Consumer Luncheon a great time for all

The annual Dickinson "Consumer Appreciation" luncheon was held October 15th at Pizza Ranch in Dickinson.

The event had a great turnout with lots of yummy food, fun games such as picture bingo, and of course, great conversation and community.

Cody Kurtz and Lisa Hoechst of DCIL in Bismarck went to

Dickinson to assist Mary Beth Hoffman from DCIL in Dickinson with the luncheon.



Human Services commends DCIL on efforts

Editor's note: The ND Dept. of Human Services wanted to do a story on one of our former MFP consumers as they feel like DCIL did a great job of advocating for this consumer and getting her independent in the community-- where she wanted to be. MFP has a philosophy of independent living and that is why the CIL's throughout the state are contracted to provide the transition services for that program.

Esther started working with the MFP Program after a referral was given to the ADRL Link by a facility social worker at Western Horizon's Care Center in Hettinger. Esther had been residing at Western Horizons Care Center in Hettinger since 03/30/2022. She wanted to return to Bismarck where her husband William lives. MFP worked with her and the interdisciplinary staff to develop a transition plan that would help her to return to Bismarck. Esther struggled with being able to stand

for extended periods of time. With the assistance of therapy services at Western Horizons Care Center, she was able to regain some strength needed to assist staff with transfers and she was able to walk short distances aided by side rails. Esther met with Prudent Home Care staff to discuss potential placement at the Sunset Haven Adult Foster Care Home in Mandan, ND and was found to be a great candidate for admission. She has support from her brother who has been assisting her with her finances. Upon review of the information, Esther and her brother agreed moving into the Adult Foster Care Home would be very beneficial for her. Esther transitioned from the Western Horizons Care Center in Hettinger to Sunset Haven Adult Foster Care Home on 1/10/23, and was the very first person accepted to the newly opened Adult Foster Care Home in Mandan.

Since she has lived at the Adult Foster

Care Home, MFP has assisted Esther with obtaining a heated massaging reclining lift chair. She states she has been treated like a queen ever since coming to the Adult Foster Care home. Esther also said the staff are great and they take her out into the community to socialize and take an active participatory role in achieving her goal of social participation. She has been out in the community with staff for PCP appointments, to visit her husband at a nursing home in the Bismarck/Mandan area and she has been out with staff to play bingo in the community. Esther said she is very happy to have the MFP Program working with her to get her back to living in the community and being more independent.

All parties involved from the SNF staff to the Adult Foster Care made community living possible for Esther-- a very happy consumer!!!

Nice work Kevin and transition team!!!

DCIL helped rebuild Scott & Kim's life after house fire

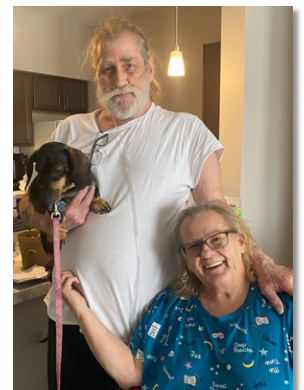
by McCallie Willows, DCIL

Scott Jackman was referred to DCIL after he lost his home and everything he owned to a house fire after a propane tank exploded. Scott and his wife Kim were home when the fire started and did manage to get out in time, along with their wiener dog. Scott shared that his home was paid off and they had cancelled their homeowner's insurance just a few weeks before the fire in an attempt to save money. After the fire, Scott and his wife Kim had to be hospitalized for smoke related injuries. Once out of the hospital, they went to stay in a hotel which became very expensive very quickly. Scott has been working with Bill Schafer, MFP Housing Coordinator and me to try and get into a new apartment and start over with

furniture and household items. It started out simple, but Scott did not have enough money to pay for the hotel. Due to their health conditions, Scott and Kim could not go to a homeless shelter. I was able to contact the Salvation Army, who were willing to pay for 1 week of their hotel stay which pushed them to the day after Thanksgiving. Bill was able to get the apartment to speed the application process up and we just received word that Scott and Kim will be signing a new lease tomorrow! They are moving into a brand new, never been lived in, accessible apartment and their furniture will be delivered to them on Friday with the help of Slumberland Furniture pulling some strings to move their delivery date up. Scott, Kim, and their dog could not be more

grateful for this program. They get a fresh start in a new home that they will be able to stay in for as long as they are able to. Scott has stated that knowing he will have a roof over his head is the biggest relief he has ever felt.

Scott and Kim would like to once again say thank you to DCIL Staff, Bill, Admin, and Slumberland!



Scott and Kim story BONUS: but wait, there's SO MUCH MORE!

Scott and Kim Jackman are now in their new apartment and didn't think there could possibly be any more perks to their new life. McCallie has another consumer that is living in the building next to the Jackman's and she is always looking for a way to help, give back, or support others. She has been through her own hardships in life and knows what it is like to need a little help to get back on your feet. She was asked by McCallie if she would be willing to introduce herself and talk to the Jackman's about the apartment complex and the neighborhood. She became very excited and explained that she used to be the Jackman's neighbor for many years and that she would be more than happy to reconnect with them. She went to the apartment with McCallie, and Scott and Kim were so surprised and excited to see her again! They were able to reconnect again and because of this, the Jackman's now have the start to a brand-new community and support system. Scott and Kim feel as if Christmas came early and they were blessed with a brand-new life. Scott, Kim, their family, and wiener dog Allie are grateful for everyone that has helped them and they look forward to their new future.



Apple Jam- September



November



Thanksgiving Potluck



TOUR IN NOVEMBER

Gateway to
Science



December



Wooden Presents



DCIL saw so many success stories this quarter AGAIN that we weren't able to fit all the details!

- Consumer compliment for Stephanie: "Everything is going great! I got approved for financial assistance, all of my unpaid bills are covered 100%! I just wanted to share this with you and say thanks for all your help. It means so much to me that you take the time to help me and others."
- Consumer compliment for McCallie & her diversion team as reported by DCIL MFP/TDPP Program Director Cody: "Consumer would like everyone who has helped him to know that if it wasn't for this program he would never have been able to move to a place that he felt safe and comfortable. He truly feels that this program has helped him get his life and health back on track. So great guys!"



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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
- 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.