



ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

January/February 2021

TO VACCINATE OR NOT TO VACCINATE?

In the weeks ahead or even less time than that many of us will be faced with this question. Not only to be vaccinated but to realize that we must have two shots. Many influential people have been touting the need to vaccinate. Mr. Biden, president-elect, Vice President Pence, and members of the federal coronavirus panel have shown the ease of receiving a shot that is “life-saving” and pandemic destroying.

The epistle that everyone cried in their 2020 Christmas cards was “What a year” or “Let’s hope for a return to normal”. It appears that the quickest way to become “normal” (remember when that wasn’t a desirable state) is to vaccinate.

Currently there are two different vaccines available. One is produced by Pfizer and the other is from Moderna. It isn’t that we have a choice but rather here is what you get. However, the “getting it” is the help needed to overcome the worse medical calamity of our lifetime.

As you ponder your decision to vaccinate or not consider the following information that is provided through several various sources from the internet, local physicians, scientists and most everyone.

The vaccine will help you and the people you care for, work with and encounter in everyday life be safer. Being vaccinated will assist in fighting off the illness from Covid-19 and will stop the pandemic. It will provide an avenue to the normalcy that we so crave. However vaccinating needs “Herd Immunity” to be effective according to Dr. Carson, a member of the UND medical school. Seventy percent of the population needs to be vaccinated to impact and eventually stop the transmission of the coronavirus and help society return to normalcy. This is essential to prevent the new strain that threatens to be seventy percent more easily transmitted from person to person.

There are side effects of the vaccination as there are with all medications. These are listed as follows: a sore arm in the area of the shot, and symptoms such as a fever, fatigue, muscle soreness, etc. These may follow within a day or two of the vaccination. Most of these side effects can be controlled with over-the-counter medications. Others may experience allergic reactions. However, people will be monitored for several minutes after having received the vaccine to assure treatment of any allergic reactions that may occur.

The pros outweigh the cons of the vaccination especially if you are tired of not being able to spend time with your relatives and friends or attend community events that have been cancelled due to the pandemic. Do you want life to return pre-coronavirus time? Then your choice is to vaccinate.

*Mary Simonson, Executive Director
Open Door Center is an equal opportunity provider and employer
(Mary’s columns are written monthly for the VC Times Record)*

**Open Door Center is a
non-profit corporation
serving
people with disabilities.**

Board of Directors

Bill Cook, President

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Steve Myers - Vice President

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Gail Pederson

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JANUARY

FEBRUARY

REDUCE ~ REUSE ~ RECYCLE



Excellence in serving people with disabilities by:

***Respecting dignity and rights**

***Providing opportunities for growth**

***Fostering independence**

*Open Door Center is an equal opportunity
provider, and employer.*

Mary Simonson, Executive Director
Marcy Svenningsen, Director of Finance
Sherri Horsager, Human Resource Manager

ICF/MR

Tana Plecity

Erin Halland, Staff Trainer

ISLA

Elaine Almberg

Heather Muscha

Ben Simonson

Program Directors

Matt Jensen, Children's Program

Marshall Hopp, Prairie Inn & MSLA

Cindy Schopper, Work Activity

WE WANT YOUR CANS

Open Door Center is looking for donations of *pop cans* for our individuals to crush. Once crushed they are turned in to be recycled.

Our folks get paid to crush cans and look forward to the paychecks they receive.

Cans can be dropped off at the Day Activity Center (north of Pizza Corner).

OR

If you live in the Fargo area, you can take your cans to the MinnKota Recycling center and tell them you want to donate them to Open Door Center in Valley City. They send us a check quarterly.

Please help us,
won't you?



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Kyle Kohn



September 6, 1964–November 22, 2020

Kyle Kohn, 56 Valley City passed away at Mercy Hospital in VC on 11-22-2020 due to complications of COVID-19. In June 1983 Kyle was in a car accident that left him with a severe brain injury. He lived in many rehab centers before calling HI-Soaring Eagle Ranch his home in 1987. He lived there until 2013 when he entered the Sheyenne Care Center. Kyle still has many friends who still reside at the Ranch. One thing his siblings can say about their brother is that his head injury never brought him down and that his sense of humor was always with him and he loved to joke with people.

Kyle you will be missed by so many!

*The Open Door Center would like to sincerely **THANK YOU** for your donations.*



MEMORIALS DONATED:

In Memory of: Kyle Kohn
Karen (Chilson) Pullen, Dan Pullen & Cindy (Pullen) Bruce
Al Kapaun
David & Vicki Grande
Al & Gisela Cruchet
Joyce Kohn
Derek & Trudy Hjelseth
Jim & Gini Stevens
Brad Tibke
Sue Martin
Mary Creviston
Renae Martin
Constance & Wayne Horsager
Janice & Richard Hanson
Sandra & Arlen Sommers

In Memory of: Andy Anderson
Erllys Sis

Dotation to HI-Soaring Eagle Ranch:
Nancy Andersen
Darold & Ardella Johnson
Mandan Eagles Ladies Auxilliary

Donation: In gratitude for staff at the HI-Soaring Eagle Ranch and Open Door Center
Karen Pullen

Donation:
Linus & Margaret Kensok

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-Alex Lanenga
 3-Faith Hanson
 3-Randy Dimmett
 4-Terry Lee
 5-Abby Bladow
 6-Cullen Engstrom
 7-Mara Heinze
 7-Ashley Sather
 9-Mel Lindgren
 10-Bev Howe
 12-Kari Shape
 12-Charlotte Collier
 13-Amber Webb
 16-Tanner Clark
 16-Taylyn Storbeck
 17-Lynn Wilson
 18-Tim Cluchie
 19-Vanessa Wilson
 19-Derek Murach
 19-Becky Nelson
 20-Karissa Yturalde
 22-Joseph Ruge
 23-Jayne Udem
 27-Brittney Torbenson
 27-Mya Anderson
 29-Helen Olson



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

33 Years
 Cindy Schopper-Program Director

32 Years
 Janie Johnson-ISLA

26 Years
 Michelle Grebel-ISLA

21 Years
 Jessica Peterson-ISLA

17 Years
 Randy Reiser-Prairie Inn

16 Years
 Eric Hoffert-YAP

15 Years
 Chelsea Straabe-WAC & ISLA

14 Years
 Sherri Horsager-Human Resources

13 Years
 Cara Sorensen-ISLA

9 Years
 Marshall Hopp-Program Director

8 Years
 Mychal Vaughan-Lisbon

6 Years
 Lindsay Simms-Jones-GH 1
 Billie Jo Toso-Lisbon

5 Years
 Samantha Coit-Nursing

4 Years
 Denine Duffy-YAP

3 Years
 Jo Snyder-Ranch, Theresa Miller-Prairie Inn
 Layne Nannenga-Prairie Inn

2 Years
 Brenda Bjork-ISLA, Paige Benson-ISLA
 Jacee Lunde-GH 2, Ashley Tostenson-GH 4

1 Year
 Jessica Feist-Lisbon
 Catherine Keppeh-YAP, Miranda Reister-ISLA

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2-Dan Pullen
4-Jon Breckenridge
8-Veronica Miller
8-Kathy Volk
9-Kylie Tucker
9-Bonnie Kapaun
10-Carol McIlvaine
11-Devyn Donley
12-Demi Peltier
12-Paige Benson
12-Jaden Compson
14-Willy Korinta
15-Arlene Andrus
15-Jalynn Anderson
16-Larry Duffy
16-Jocelyn Dumlao
17-Todd Clark
17-Levi Hannig
18-Linda Johnson
19-John Haas
20-Theresa Miller
21-Dinah Heinze
26-Brittany Beedle
27-Lee Hoff
28-Trenton Laducer



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

39 Years
Linda Schaffer-ISLA

38 Years
Diane Wagner-ISLA
Lynn Kensok-ISLA
Pennie Walch-ISLA

36 Years
Janna Bitz-GH 3

22 Years
Dana Leick-Prairie Inn

21 Years
York Grebel-ISLA

20 Years
Cory Duven-GH 2

17 Years
Jaci Colville-Ranch

16 Years
Sharissa Hochstetler-ISLA

15 Years
Carmen Svenningsen-ISLA

14 Years
Jayne Undem-ISLA

3 Years
Maya Kjelland-YAP
Rylee Cihak-GH 4

2 Years
Savana Ley-GH 3
Kristin Petersen-GH3
Jessie Brackins-GH3/WAC

1 Year
Sarah Olson-ISLA
Amanda Bjork-GH 3
Tara Anderson-WAC
Richard Clark-ISLA
Joseph Ruge-GH4
Kyley Lauf-ISLA



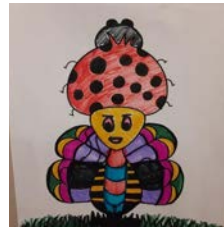
BIRTHDAY WISHES

Jody and Adam were only a few of the folks celebrating their birthday the past few months. Jody even got a surprise visit from her favorite people—the VC Fire Department. What a way to make your birthday special!



We held another coloring contest in November. Participants were supposed to disguise the Turkey so that he didn't get eaten for Thanksgiving. A lot of different people had a lot of fun with this one. The winner was Big Bird! Congratulations Sarah Howe!

Of course we had one turkey disguised in a mask and face shield. How creative!



WAC likes to recognize the hard work of the DSP's each month and the DSP of the month of November is Annette Reece and for December it is Bryce Guse. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Open Door Center.





An exceptionally warmer/drier November and December got Michael and the Northside Ladies-Laurie, Marie and Janie outside for another beautiful day of outdoor exercising. They had to take advantage of every nice day outside that they could!



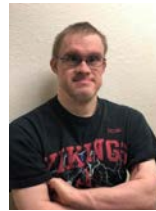
Thanksgiving brought a few games and activities for everyone. Residential areas were asked to submit their pictures of turkeys around their homes and everyone had the opportunity to color and share the many different things they were thankful for this year. We sure enjoyed seeing all these projects.



What is Happening at Work Activity... Holiday Edition

We had a busy event filled December. We had so many things planned that we created an event calendar that was passed out to all the homes.

December 1st kicked off our busy month with UNO tournaments. (get it...Dec 1st) People and staff registered for our Santa Beard contest Dec 1st. The condition was that you had to be clean shaven on the 1st and we would judge the beard on the 21st. We had two winners: Mon/Wed Eric Hoffert & Tue/Thr Phillip Hill.



*Honorable mention:
Cliff, Chris and
Shane*



At the center Albert the Elf hid in a secret spot every day, the winner won a smaller version of the elf to take home, 2nd and 3rd place won an elf snack! We had too many winners to name but everyone loved the Elf Hunt whether you were at home or at work!

We wanted to build a snowman...but there was no SNOW! So we did the next best thing and built snow people out of foam balls and decorated them with what we had around the house.



The Dean House Crew left their snowman outside to cool off and it melted!!



All month long we guessed the contents of our Jolly Jars. There were 3 jars filled with candy. The closest guess won the jar! We had about 100 guesses every week.



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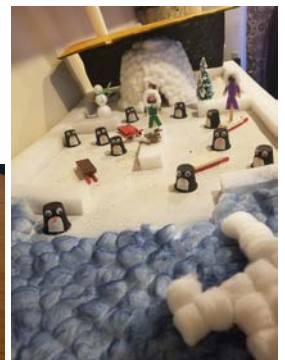
Work Activity may not have traditional Christmas lights on our building, but our upstairs windows have become a fun way to show our spirit. We decorated them for the season with Christmas Stockings, a Tree, and Snowflakes. If you drive by at night, they glow bright. Keep an eye on our windows for the next theme!



Each house was given a deck of cards. The cards were not for playing rummy. They needed to create a House of Cards. There were simple houses, towers, and GH5 New Hilltop won for their replica of their own home!



Everyone received a bag of 200 cotton balls, they needed to craft their interpretation of an igloo. The winners were: Most Creative- New Hilltop- GH5, Best Use of Materials-Cookie Jar GH4, Most Authentic- Ought to Not Scyra & Eric.



You would think building a Gingerbread House from a kit would be simple? But not when you add imagination! Winners: Best use of Edible Materials- Alley Cats GH2, Most Creative-Prairie Inn, Traditional- Chris F.



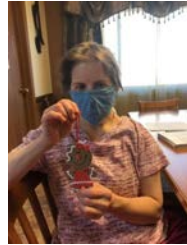
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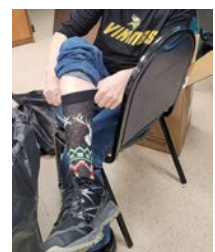
Each group at Work Activity and Group Home was challenged with putting together the same holiday puzzle. The Mon/Wed Upstairs group won for the Most Embellished Puzzle. They decorated the boarder of the cardboard.



Throughout the month we have worked on various ornament crafts to help people decorate their trees. Reindeer, Gingerbread People, Ugly Sweaters and, Christmas trees.



We rounded out the week of Christmas with Hot Chocolate, Fun Holiday Wear, a Holiday Movie and treats.



We hope that everyone had a fun Holiday month and sincerely thank everyone that participated! We made some great December memories! Happy New Year!



Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

Hello Everyone

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Goodbye 2020. Hello 2021! I hope you all had a good Christmas and a happy New Year! Let's all hope this year is better than the last. I am hoping it is not as cold as usual in January. Don't forget about the second holiday in January; Martin Luther King Day. To all you football fans; I hope your favorite team makes it to the Super Bowl! Don't forget Super Bowl is February 7th. Also 7 days after that is Valentine's Day. Don't forget that special someone in your life. Then we move onto Presidents' Day. Hopefully we can all get back to work and this pandemic will be over soon! Remember to stay positive and test negative!

Until next time.KATIE

CONGRATULATIONS

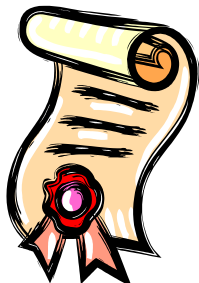
**Direct Support Professionals for
completing their modules!**

Full Time:

**Paige Nelson, Haleigh Earles
Madelyn Zahnow**

Part Time:

Karissa Yturalde



Random Christmas Decoration Pictures

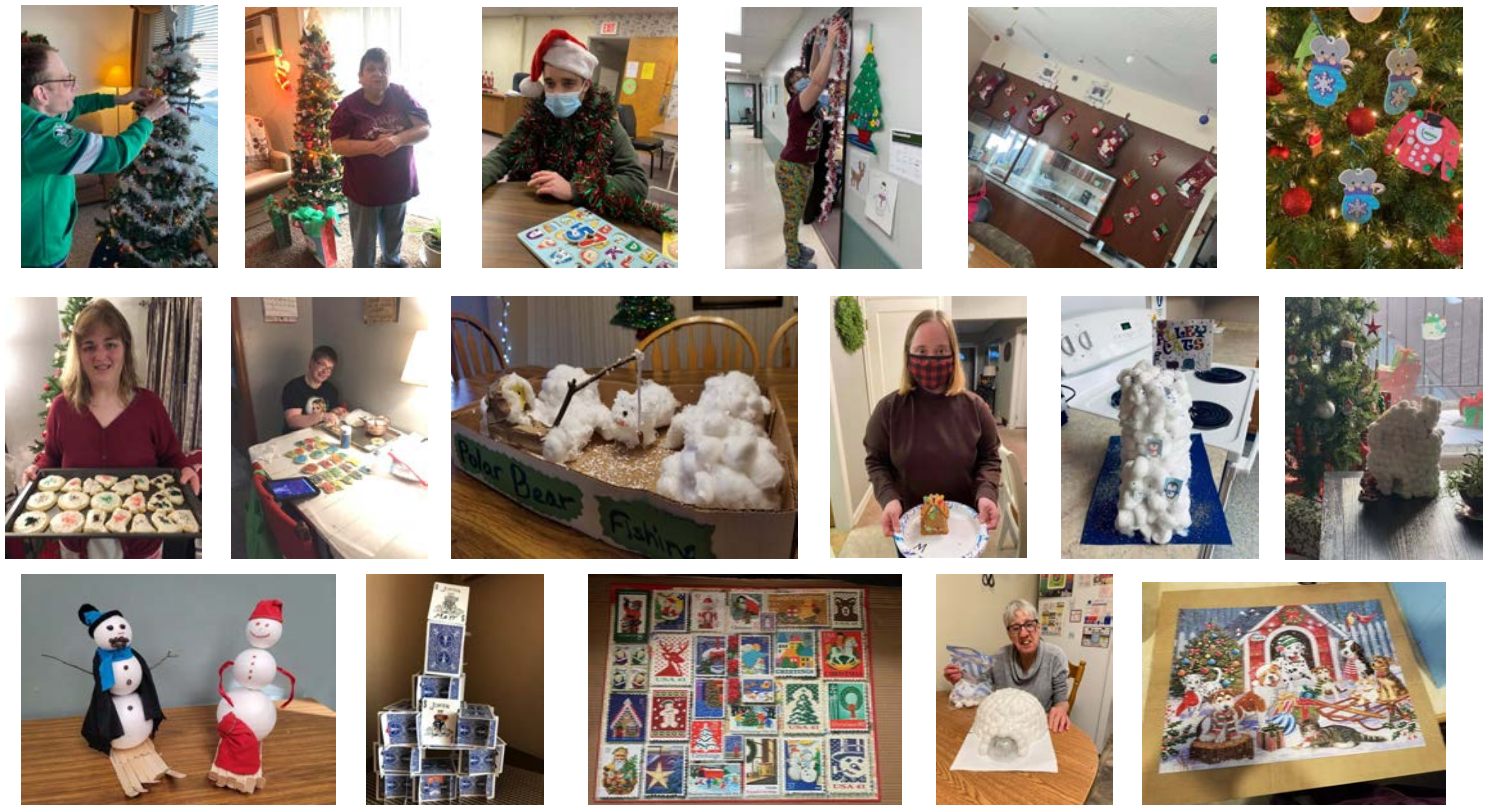
All 5 Group Homes had a Tree Decorating contest—not sure who won, but glad they shared their beautiful trees with us!



And everyone from WAC got very involved in decorating their tree!



Josh, Bekah shared pictures of their trees and several also shared pictures of the different ways they decorated for Christmas - Eric really got into the Christmas spirit at WAC! Several of the ladies also did some serious cookie baking! Also pictured are some pictures that just did not fit into the WAC Holiday Edition article.





Giving Hearts Day

**OPEN DOOR CENTER WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN
Giving hearts day on February 11, 2021**

Please help support Open Door Center

- 1. Visit www.givingheartsday.org**
- 2. Click donate**
- 3. Select Open Door Center**
- 4. Type in amount and click add to cart**
- 5. Follow thru to payment option**
- 6. If you prefer not to do an online credit card payment you can also write a check payable to the Open Door Center that we can upload to receive matching funds. Checks need to be dated 2/11/2021 for funds to be matched.**

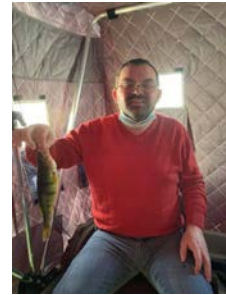
Thank you for your support!

**All of our various programs are included in
the Open Door Center:
**HI-Soaring Eagle Ranch
Lisbon Open Door Center****

Nothing Better Than Ice Fishing!

The middle of December brought several ice fishing trips for some of the men from Open Door Center.

Shane and Michael snuck out of work to catch their supper.



Next trip brought out Matt, Marshall and Layne to try their luck and they were all surprised that they were able to catch 94 fish as a group! They were also able to eat some great food while fishing too. Layne also wants everyone to know that he caught his FIRST FISH EVER!! He was very excited! But whatever you do, don't ask them where the lucky spot is - Nobody will divulge that information!



Diane Loves her Christmas present from Russell! He did a great job picking out some of the things that she loves!



COMING EVENTS

JANUARY:

1 - New Year's Day - CENTER CLOSED

18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - CENTER CLOSED

FEBRUARY:

2 - Groundhog's Day

14 - Valentine's Day

15 - President's Day - CENTER CLOSED

Have news???
Let Nancy know.
Your news is our
news!

All Staff
Door Prize Winners:

November:
Veronica Miller
Dani Neuberger

December:
Jacob Gottenberg
Kim Bjerke
Randy Eggermont
Elaine Almberg

CONGRATULATIONS!!

2021
Happy New Year

A BIG



TO NEW STAFF WHO HAVE JOINED:

**Kiana Bakalar, Brittany Beedle, Matthew Dobmeier, Alyssa Dreyer
Kaitlyn Eliason, Tifani Komrosky, Bradley Kumlin
Kelci Nelson, Josephine Parsons,
Kenneth Stopczynski and Talainia Williams**

OPEN DOOR CENTER
129 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND 58072
701-845-1124

Address Label Here

Celebrating 59 Years

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
ODCVC.COM

Charitable Donation

Please consider us when making your charitable donation. Open Door Center is a non-profit organization which receives support from the North Dakota Department of Human Services. Although it is our main funding source, it is not enough to cover all the costs of our corporation. The money received will help provide continued support and assistance to those supported by Open Door Center. We are very appreciative for the support we do already receive. If you would please consider a financial contribution to help meet the extra needs of our children and adults with disabilities, please fill out this form and return it to Open Door Center, 129 3rd Ave. NE, Valley City, ND 58072.

ENCLOSED IS MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION:
I would like my contribution:

☐ \$ 50 ☐ \$250
☐ \$100 ☐ \$500
☐ \$150 ☐ \$Other

In memory of: _____
In honor of: _____
Other: _____

May we publish your name? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Your thoughtful gift will be acknowledged to the family indicated:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DONATE

You may also donate on our
webpage: www.odcvc.com
Hit the red **DONATE** button
on the home page and choose
the amount you wish to
donate, hit the **NEXT** button
and follow instructions. The
Open Door Center would
really appreciate this donation.