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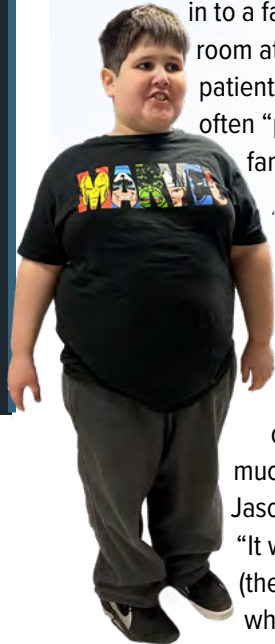
One Voice

A newsletter for families, friends, and supporters of the One Vision community.

Spring 2022

Changing Lives: The Impact of Early Therapy

Today, Sam enters the Children's Autism Center (CAC)'s waiting room, greets his therapists, and settles in behind the Candyland board game. "I'm going to win," he confidently tells his long-time therapist. "I know you will, Sam. You usually do," replies Laura Korth, Clinic Director at the CAC. Sam and his family have been making the 44.7 mi trip from their home in Charles City to the Children's Autism Center in Clear Lake, "since it was Opportunity Village." Sam's Dad, Jason, who is gathered today with his wife, Amy, and their oldest son, Vinny, settles in to a familiar loveseat in the waiting room at the CAC while his youngest son patiently awaits his session. Sam, who often "plays clinic" at home, is quite familiar with this routine.



"44.7 miles a day.
Two days a week, for
7 years, since Sam was
three years old."

"When Sam was first diagnosed, he just didn't talk much, wasn't meeting milestones," Jason Joslin, Sam's Dad recalls. "It was nice to have someone (therapists at the CAC) who knew what was going on who could explain it to you. Like, *Here, this is what we're looking at.*"



The Joslins, Sam, Vinny, Amy and Jason with Laura Korth, CAC Clinic Director.

1 family
44.7mi from home to therapy 🚗

32,541 miles

728 appointments

1 FISH* caught on Sam's first appt at the CAC
(only fish caught that summer)

Countless memories of family connecting with purpose ❤️



WHO WE ARE

One Vision is a non-profit charitable organization that provides services to more than 450 individuals so they may achieve greater independence through personal choice and community involvement. Connecting people with purpose is the essence of what we do. This includes helping individuals find jobs in their communities, supporting them in homes that meet their needs and wants, and encouraging them to pursue personal interests.

One Vision was founded in 1971 as Handicap Village and in 1994 became Opportunity Village. Today, our realm of services has evolved to include community-based personal and employment support for individuals with disabilities: the Children's Autism Centers in Clear Lake and Fort Dodge; and 4 resale stores that provide revenue for our organization and job opportunities for people we support. Currently, we provide services in 30 lowa communities including Clear Lake, Mason City, Fort Dodge, Lake Mills, Garner, Osage and Humboldt.

One Vision does not release donor information to other entities. If you wish to have your name removed from future communications, please notify the One Vision Foundation Office at (641) 355-1356 or info@onevision.org. You may place a collect call if necessary to request removal from mailings.

CONTACT US

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VOLUNTEER

Clear Lake General Store

Contact Lisa Dodgen: 515-573-2272

Fort Dodge General Store

Contact Lisa Dodgen: 515-573-2272

All other volunteer inquiries

Contact Jennifer Pinske: 641-355-1356

DONATE

You are important to people with different abilities who depend on One Vision. Financial support for OV takes many forms:

- Memorials or "in honor" gifts
- Planned giving (bequests, gift annuities, insurance)
- Gifts of assets (real estate, stock, other property)
- One-time or recurring contributions

For more information on how you can play a role in helping connect people with purpose, contact Jennifer Pinske, Chief Development Officer, 641-355-1356.

Find us on Facebook!

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2022 IACP Day on the Hill

Thank you to our elected officials who met with members of One Vision's Executive Leadership Team in February. Our 2022 Legislative Session Policy Priority is to "CLOSE THE GAP" between what providing services to North lowans with disabilities costs and the state's reimbursement rate for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). **This issue is vitally important to help protect lowa's vulnerable population across the state.**

Thanks to State Senator Amanda Ragan, Senator Jesse Green, Senator Dennis Guth, Senator Tim Kraayenbrink, Representative Shannon Latham (*right*), State Representative Sharon Steckman, Representative Jane Bloomingdale, Senator Mark Costello (*above*), and Representative Ann Meyer for taking the time to learn more about how this legislation impacts lowans each day. #IACPHillDay2022. #closethegap

Because state reimbursement rates have only increased 3.55% (effective July 1, 2021) in the past 30 years, each year, One Vision must make up this growing gap to ensure our employees are paid a fair wage and that the people we support have access to the quality of services and supports they need to live their best person-centered life. If you are able to give a little to make a big impact of the lives of lowans with disabilities, please consider making a donation through our safe and secure portal: www.onevision.org.



One Vision Announces New Chief Human Resources Officer

One Vision is pleased to announce Heidi Willrett has joined OV as Chief Human Resources Officer in January. "We know the importance of workplace culture and investing in our employees to grow retention," says Mark Dodd, CEO. "Heidi knows North lowans from her more than two decades with large and diverse workforces. Every employee matters here at One Vision, and we look forward to having her on board."

As former Senior Colleague Relations Partner at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center and Network, Willrett brings her valuable expertise with navigating large healthcare organizations to OV.

Willrett is a longtime resident of Mason City, where she resides with her husband, Brian, their twin sons, Jack and Holden, who are Juniors at Newman High School, and their two dogs. A graduate of Luther College, Willrett has a degree in Psychology. She has served various board roles for HRANI, the Human Resources Association of North Iowa.



From our CEO: Workforce Recognition

Mark Dodd
CEO, One Vision



As I write this One Voice article, we are at the two-year point in the Coronavirus pandemic. Early on we saw an outpouring of support for #Essential workers, including healthcare workers. At that time, we emphasized the #Essential role our Direct Care Staff play in the lives of people we serve.

However, as the pandemic continues into a third year, we have seen less and less public-wide support for #Essential workers, including healthcare workers. In fact, as you all know, unfortunately a number of aspects of the pandemic have become extremely polarized.

What can't be questioned or refuted is the incredible dedication, honor, and Duty to Care of our staff. Clearly, our Direct Care Staff have had to mitigate risk of COVID-19 infection for the persons we serve, however, all of our staff have stepped up over the past two years. A fundamental tenet of the work we do is a "Duty to Care".

Obviously, during the pandemic this tenet became even more of a responsibility. Because of the restrictions early on, and now with the critical staff shortage significantly limiting our ability to get people out into the community, the greatest "risk" to the persons we support is the staff persons coming in and out working with them. Because of this and our commitment to our Duty to Protect, we continue to require masking throughout a shift when working with a person served – now for a full 2 years and starting on a third. Again, it is impossible to overstate the dedication and commitment of our Direct Care Staff and everyone across the organization who has helped out in a Direct Care role. I am extremely grateful for all of them.

So, I am asking you to take two minutes, literally, to recognize the work they do. Go to our website contact page (Contact Us | Clear Lake, Iowa | One Vision) or our main Facebook page (One Vision | Facebook) and post a comment recognizing the work they do. If you know someone who works for us give them a shoutout directly, if not, simply a note of support.

I have a second ask in this message, a bit bigger and more involved. It is budget time at the Legislature. The #1 Legislative priority for both One Vision and our association, Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP), is a \$22 million increase in funding for Home-

and Community-Based Services (HCBS) so we can begin to "close the gap" in wages between what we

are able to pay staff, and what other employers are now paying. At One Vision, of the Direct Care Staff who resigned in the 12 months, 65% did so due to schedules/hours worked and wages/compensation.

Several stated that they love the work they do and the people we serve, however, as a parent supporting a family, they just couldn't "afford" to pass-up a job where they can make \$3-4/hour more than One Vision can pay. Even though this message will most likely get to you after the 2022 Legislative session has adjourned, it's always the right time to talk with your Legislator about the #Essential work our staff does.

In fact, here's one mom's comments to a staff regarding our services: *She told me she has a daughter who's been living at a home supported by One Vision for about a year. She said One Vision has made such an impact on her daughter and on their family. She said without the help of One Vision, her daughter wouldn't be living on her own, have a job and being able to experience life like any other adult in the world. She said how grateful she was for all the time and effort people have put in to making all of it a reality for her.*

This is the impact we make in people's lives every day. No matter where you live – within Iowa or outside Iowa, the workforce crisis and funding needs are everywhere for organizations like One Vision. We were at the Capitol on February 23rd making our case for the need for the increased funding. We need as many voices as possible talking with Legislators about the importance of the work we do and how necessary it is to fund agencies adequately so we keep great staff to continue to ensure people can live their best lives.

Thank you for your continued support of One Vision.
Mark Dodd, CEO

Congratulations

Recognizing Staff Excellence



Congratulations to **Pam Garcia** on being One Vision's Shirley Echelbarger Employee of the Year winner for 2021! Pam has a part of OV since 2015 and is currently a Team Leader at one of our site homes in Webster City.

"She has always been one to give of herself consistently throughout her employment. Pam represents One Vision well in the greater community and is enthusiastic, sincere, honest and trustworthy with people served."

Congratulations, Pam!



Congratulations to our recent Thornblade winner, **Sue Kemmerer!** "Sue's job is to handle quality control and manage the day to day functions of the Recycling Team. Sue is our frontline contact person for dispatch of Covid 19 related PPE to all of One Vision. This is a huge job that Sue has received much praise for following through on." Congratulations, Sue, and thanks for all you do for One Vision!

Congratulations to **Michael Bartusek** who works in Mason City!

He is our newest Tom Thornblade staff award winner. His coworkers "can count on him as he's always willing to help them out with nothing in return. Mike is always positive and always trying to find the best in even the most frustrating situation. Mike has the best interest of the organization, the people he supports, and his coworkers always as a top priority and this truly shows through his actions." We are honored to work with Michael!

Note: His wife Lisa also works for One Vision. We are so lucky to work alongside this great dynamic duo!



PROUD TO ACHIEVE
CQL POM Trainer Certification

Barb Ewer & Dena Nielsen
(Clear Lake) (Fort Dodge)



Pizza and Praise-a fan favorite is back!

And everyone was so excited to join in fellowship, song, food and of course bingo!

Thanks to the Evangelical Free Church in Clear Lake for hosting, to Jason Peterson, Spiritual Life Coordinator and several volunteers and staff for helping to make this such a great time together.

Feel free to contact us if your church is wanting to invite others in, host something similar, or would like to hear how you can best help the people we support in their spiritual journey.

One Vision Welcomes New Spiritual Life Coordinator

One Vision is excited to announce Jason Peterson's return to One Vision as Spiritual Life Coordinator. Jason brings nearly 20 years of experience in the field of Human Services working with people who have disabilities. Fourteen of those years have been with One Vision, across many locations and departments.

"I remember spending time, as a child, with many of the people we still support. Both of my parents worked for this organization and let me tag along to the homes, to events, or picking people up to bring them to church," recalls Jason.

"It is an honor for me to have the opportunity of serving some of those same individuals that I used to look up to (literally) as a kid, in such a meaningful way."

Jason attended Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, and has served many local churches and ministries throughout North Iowa through teaching classes, organizing events and groups, preaching, and being involved in various music ministries. "I am energized by being able to share the message that each and every person is loved, valued and purposefully made," Jason explains.

Jason and his wife, Megan with MP Home Design, live in Clear Lake, IA.



Become a Host Home Provider



Tax-Free Income | Work from home

People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities want to have choices about where they live, who they live with, and the neighborhood they live in. You can help make this possible!

Host Homes are one service option One Vision provides people with disabilities 100% personal choice in living arrangements. To learn more, visit https://www.onevision.org/what_we_do/one-vision-host-home-program.html for more info.

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF ESTATE PLANNING

LUNCH + LEARN

Having an estate plan is an important part of life to be sure the assets you have worked hard to accumulate in your lifetime pass on to the people or organizations that are most important to you. Building your plan can be complex and overwhelming. We will spend an hour breaking down the basics to make sure you have your plan in order.

*Presented by Stephanie Hassebroek, CTFA
Assistant Vice President & Trust Officer
Clear Lake Bank & Trust*

Tuesday, May 10 Noon-1pm

Open to public. FREE Lunch included and free tours of TimberCrest Apartments if requested. RSVP: Kim Boyd. Kboyd@onevision.org or 641-355-1203 by Monday, May 9, 2022. TimberCrest Apartments Community Room. 200 Glen Oaks Dr., Clear Lake.

Autism affects **1 in 54** children

Each year, an estimated **70,000 teens with autism** become adults — and lose school-based autism services.

Autism services cost families an added estimated **\$60,000 each year.**



They've (CAC) helped Sam in many so ways. To just be attentive to a task or to be able to sit still enough to learn something... Things other people may take for granted. Being able to walk down the street with my child and not have him run off... At home and at school, he's much better about knowing what's expected and decreasing anxieties around that." — Amy Joslin, Sam's mother

Sam's family has benefited from services provided by the Children's Autism Center since his diagnosis.

Continued from Page 1

Amy agrees. "At the time it was overwhelming, just the diagnosis in general, but having someone to help us navigate through that was helpful," Amy says. "When something is going on at home or school, we can talk with Sam's therapists about it. They're able to look a little deeper behind it and see what's causing it to see *why* he's doing that behavior. Because it's not for attention.

"It's been so helpful and eye opening that there's people who understand that he's not acting out to be naughty, this is the way he's communicating with us."

The CAC has had a huge impact on Sam's life. He takes what he has learned at the Center and implements it on a daily basis.

"It was hard having a brother who wouldn't talk to you or play when we were growing up," admits Vinnie, Sam's older brother. "But they've (CAC) taught him things and now he can talk with me... *To read more of the Joslin's story, visit us online at https://www.onevision.org/what_we_do/childrens-autism-center/sams-journey.html*

We have tremendous need for increased Autism services in North Iowa. Numerous studies show greater positive outcomes later in life with early behavior therapy. The sooner Autistic minds learn how to process/react in public/community, the more successful they are in all areas of life.

Donate Securely Online or by mail in the envelope provided



JBrooksWalkABlock.org

Will you consider making a charitable contribution to our Children's Autism Center to continue to make sure these therapies are an option for all kids on the Autism Spectrum in North Iowa?



There's still time!!

Make a difference in the lives of children on the autism spectrum and their families in North Iowa who receive services at our One Vision Children's Autism Center (CAC).

- \$100 can provide one 1.5-hour therapy session**
- \$250 can assist with copays for therapy sessions for individuals in financial need**
- \$500 can fund a 12-week social skills group for 1 child**

Any amount helps ensure the CAC is available to local families when needed. What our organization does not receive in government funding must be supplemented by private donations.

Honoring our beginnings & founders

Good deeds, kind thoughts and faithful actions will always live on in the lives of people we know—and when the right people are in the right place at the right time, their actions continue to impact lives of people they never met. One Vision honors the legacy of the recent passing



Bill Otterman, founder

of one of our founders, Bill Otterman, whose actions from a lifetime of advocating for people with disabilities continue to influence the lives of many at One Vision and beyond.

Bill lived a life of service to others, and through his strong connection with his faith “tried to live his beliefs by helping others and spreading joy through humor.” (obituary)

“Ten devoted, concerned Christians brought together under unusual circumstances to be God’s instruments to help Him ‘answer the anguished prayers of many.’ All who attended the gathering give Bob Replogle the credit for being the catalyst, the mover; the one who said “Quit talking, and start acting!” The practical “kick in the pants” the more visionary ones needed! Though he was personally involved because of his brother, God used this man and his talents to get things moving.

‘There is nothing so powerful as an idea whose



HANDICAP VILLAGE DISCUSSED—Willis Schellberg, architect for Handicap Village was on hand at second annual meeting of the Village corporation Monday night to explain details of construction. Interested persons are (left to right) Dr. Rae Bieber, Peter Murley Severtson, Don Boyer, Bill Otterman, Dr. Anne Carlsen, Schellberg, Wayne Oltrogge and Joseph Skram.

time has come.’ The idea of Handicap Village had truly come to time. But none there at that meeting, August 9, 1966, envisioned what that idea would become in reality. Murley Severtson was later to write, “the small vision some of us had in the early days has been shattered by reality far greater than our dreams.” (A Miracle of the ‘70s, Arlene Lashier, p 15-16)

At One Vision, we are honored to continue Bill’s legacy to ensure the incredible individuals we support live their fullest person-centered life.



L to R: Sandi Jo, Jimmy, and Andrea are so glad the North Iowa Humane Society Shelter has reopened! This is a popular choice of activities in One Vision’s Community Integration Program.

One Vision’s Community Integration program kicked off this year’s Earth Day by signing up two teams for Clear Lake’s Earth Day Trash Bash!

You can help too, everyday! They invite you to grab a trash bag and rake to help keep Mother Earth healthy.

Thanks for helping keep our communities clean!



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OneVision

One Voice
Vol. 2022.1
Issued Quarterly
One Voice is a publication of One Vision.
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What a Night to Remember!!

Dinner, Dancing, and more! This year, Facing Autism Inc. in Fort Dodge put on a memorable prom experience for people with disabilities. What a great night!

Thanks to Becky Grazier and Mary Auten, for sharing the photos!

To view all the heartwarming memories that were made, visit our March 4th, 2022 post on Facebook page @onevisioniowa

