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One Voice

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

Spring 2021



1971-2021

Expanding BRIDGES of Inclusion for 50 years

Building Resources for Individuals with
Disabilities to Grow with life Experiences

Our organization began as a vision. An idea that the lives of people with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities and Brain Injuries deserved to be so much more than what most of society in the 1970s and before thought them to be capable of. Our founders believed in the right to live with opportunities for dignity for all people with disabilities.

As the groundwork for the first cottages were being planned, no one knew for sure if this new concept would take hold. We

knew that all people should be able to establish individual identity and live a self-directed life and we continue to provide services and support 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.



WHO WE ARE

One Vision is a non-profit charitable organization that provides services to more than 550 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 many retail businesses that provide revenue for our organization and job opportunities for people we support. Currently, we provide services in 30 Iowa communities including Clear Lake, Mason City, Fort Dodge, Eagle Grove 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

Website: www.onevision.org
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PO Box 622, Clear Lake, IA 50428

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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“Jaylin works at HyVee West in Mason City. She takes pride in working and knows she is an essential employee to her work & community. She is one of a kind! Jaylin has an infectious spirit to go along with her welcoming smile & laugh. Jaylin is so kind to others & is always offering her help when she can. She is polite & treats everyone with respect. Jaylin is very easy to talk to & al-

ways has a story for you if you're willing to listen.

Jaylin is such an inspiration to her peers & uses her peppy spirit to motivate others to do the best they can. She continues to blow us away with how much she continues to grow & learn! Jaylin strives to be as independent as she can be & is always eager to learn something new.”

Nominated by Jenna Olson

Thornblade goes to Ashton Tucker

This quarter's Thornblade award was awarded to HR Manager Ashton Tucker this January. She received many nominations from co-workers across several departments, illustrating how far her dedication and commitment to One Vision extends.

Ashton is accommodating and flexible in meeting the needs of staff and people supported. Regardless of her busy schedule, she makes time for staff when they have questions or concerns about payroll or benefits.

Ashton checks in on co-workers, asking how they are doing



Mark Dodd and Ashton Tucker

and making sure they have everything they need while staying positive and engaged.

From our CEO

Mark Dodd
CEO, One Vision



As I write this, we have finished up the month of January 2021—one where I believe we were all wishing the new year would bring new hope for a return to a more normal, familiar lifestyle. Some of you have endured tremendous hardship because of the coronavirus, and all of us have experienced significant challenges. Here at One Vision, we saw the initial distribution of the vaccines, and our hope is these vaccines will create a bridge to the more normal and familiar life we would like back, for the people we serve and for ourselves.

The bridge metaphor is one that applies to many ideas and issues here at OV as we think about the year ahead. A bridge provides passage, physically and/or metaphorically, over or past an obstacle, usually something that is otherwise difficult or impossible to cross, allowing us to continue toward our destination.

This September we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary of the opening of the first two cottages on the original Handicap Village campus—the culmination of seven years of discussions, planning and effort by a score of dedicated people determined to improve the lives of persons with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and Brain Injury. Back then, there were very limited options for people with disabilities and their families. These usually included large institutional settings with little to no opportunity to live a self-directed, person-centered life.

We know that for the first residents who moved into those brand new cottages on a revolutionary campus, the opening of Handicap Village was a bridge to inclusion in a group living community that challenged society's norms and expectations. Through the years, we have added additional living options and services: Employment Solutions, Day Habilitation, and Autism therapy. We provide our employees with a thorough on-boarding experience to connect them to the past while giving them the tools they need to succeed in the present. Each additional service has strengthened our bridge to provide safe passage to a life of greater purpose and independence for the people we serve.

Just as all of the leaders who came before me and who cumulatively created our incredible organization, we

continue our mission to fulfill the original vision of our founders and bridge all of the obstacles when they rise up to impede our progress.

In conjunction with our 50th anniversary of our first cottages opening, we are developing the next phase of our strategic plan for One Vision. This updated plan will identify our present challenges and include the path our organization will commit to lead us for another 50 years. As our past has taught us, just because something is difficult does not mean it is impossible.

One Vision continues to provide compassionate, effective and inclusive services for people with disabilities and their families. We've expanded beyond our original Clear Lake campus to make it easier for people with disabilities to remain in their communities and closer to loved ones. We're adding new resources to build inclusion in living arrangements and personal choice via our Host Home service and transition to CQL. This national-level accreditation through the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) provides resources which promote an even greater level of understanding for us of the people we serve to support them to fulfill their goals and dreams. The launch of our Host Home service will provide one more community living option to be part of a family, a home, a community.

I look forward to updating you on these efforts as this year progresses. We have overcome many obstacles in the past and continue forward with dedication and faith. I am glad you are here to support us in our efforts.

Mark Dodd, CEO



SHIRLEY ECHELBARGER WAS THE FIRST AUXILIARY SERVICES DIRECTOR AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT THE VILLAGE. SHIRLEY'S MEMORY LIVES ON WITH OUR ANNUAL SHIRLEY ECHELBARGER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR. CONGRATULATIONS TO JERI BELL!

One Vision Names VanDijk CFO

Mario VanDijk has accepted the position of One Vision's Chief Financial Officer (CFO). VanDijk assumed the position from Doug Helm, who served as interim CFO since April 2020. VanDijk took over CFO duties on November 9th.

"I'm happy to be on board with One Vision. So far everyone I've met has been a pleasure. It is a company with a good mission," explained VanDijk. "I've been fortunate enough to have had a few jobs with interesting companies allowing for a diverse experience."

Prior to working for One Vision, VanDijk served in financial and consulting roles for a variety of international industries in agriculture, health and business sectors. Originally from the Netherlands, what was supposed to be 1-2 year

adventure in the U.S. turned into a more permanent home when he met his future wife, married and had 3 kids—2 girls and one boy in Fairfield, IA. His oldest is married and works at Mayo, the other two attend college with his son also in the Army Reserve.

In addition to family, the other pull to remain in the States was the space, the people he met, and their attitudes towards life. "The community here in Iowa being a smaller one, with many nationalities and people from all over the US helped as well," said VanDijk.

"As a result, I decided I wanted to stay, and haven't regretted it yet. What I do miss from the Netherlands is the 'coziness', having missed a significant part of the growth and development and relations of immediate and extended family, and the



separation between work and personal life."

VanDijk also enjoys traveling, spending time with family, reading, cooking, being out in the sun, making chocolate, working in the yard, and mentoring—in particular in entrepreneurship and development.

Faith, Kaiden
and Orion



J. Brooks
WALK-A-BLOCK
for Autism Awareness



Early diagnosis and therapy make all the difference in the world for kids with Autism and their families. One Vision's Children's Autism Center (CAC) provides valuable, life-changing skills to children on the Autism spectrum—skills that open up their world and allows loved ones to share in theirs.

Faith Lau's two sons, Orion, 5, and Kaiden, 4, have been receiving services at the CAC for several years. "Being able to get in services right away, before school was a huge help. When they entered preschool each boy had a game plan with family, CAC and teachers so we were all on the same page," Faith explains.

"Before they started therapy at the CAC they wouldn't play with each other, but now they play together all the

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CULVER'S DAY in Clear Lake

Thursday, April 1st 10 AM - 10 PM

Eat at Culver's in Clear Lake and a portion of the proceeds will go to the CAC.

8th ANNUAL J.BROOKS WALK-A-BLOCK for Autism Awareness

Sunday, April 18th 1 PM

Southbridge Mall, Mason City

www.jbrookswalkablock.org

Walk-A-Block is back for 2021! Join radio personality J. Brooks of 98.7 KISS Country and One Vision's Children's Autism Center to celebrate autism awareness!

SOUTHBRIDGE SUPPORTS AUTISM

Sunday, April 18th noon-close

Southbridge Mall, Mason City

Visit these participating mall businesses who support autism awareness and One Vision's CAC:

Country Axe • The Sports Page • Riddles Jewelry
• Claire's • Chris' Kettle Corn • Pretzelmaker •
Larson's Red Zone Sports • Today's Your Day
• River City Mini Golf

Noon-1:30 PM Silent Auction

Place your bids at our tables outside of Country Axe.

1:30-4:30 PM Axes for Autism, Country Axe

\$5 for 10 throws. Win prizes for top score!

www.jbrookswalkablock.org

****For more details & like us on Facebook****

OneVision.org

“Before they started therapy here they wouldn’t play with each other, but now they play together all the time, and with their friends that they now have.”

—Faith Lau

time, and with their friends that they now have.”

This past year, in addition to all the challenges COVID has brought to our lives, the Lau family has navigated the ebb and flow of therapy availability at the CAC.

Before telehealth services were set up in Spring of 2020, missing weeks of therapy meant social regression and relearning skills. But thanks to grant funding and donations for the CAC, telehealth has helped bridge the gap. “Orion wanted



Orion and Kaiden explore all the possibilities of a marble maze at a recent therapy session at One Vision’s Children’s Autism Center in Clear Lake.

to show Jayden (his therapist) everything in our house,” Faith laughed.

In spite of all the challenges, Orion and Kaiden continue to grow and learn new skills and interact with their world in new

ways every day. Community supports and events are essential for the CAC to thrive and continue. Please join us at the Walk-A-Block on April 18 so kids like Orion and Kaiden can continue to receive services.



From Facebook: “Extremely grateful and honored to receive this donation of an electric piano from the Deb Hild family in memory of their daughter Amy Hild. Grandparents Denny and Donna are residents of TimberCrest at Glen Oaks. The piano is an amazing addition to our community room. We are very thankful and appreciative. It will bring many hours of joy!”

“Just moved in and already love it. I’m home.”

—Elaine, Timbercrest Resident

Glen Oaks Receives Award



TimberCrest at Glen Oaks has been honored as a SeniorAdvisor.com Best of Senior Living 2021 award winner by *A Place For Mom*, the largest senior living referral service in North America. This honor represents the best of senior in-home care, assisted living, and other senior living providers, as determined by the reviews of seniors and their families on SeniorAdvisor.com. This exclusive designation honors only the top three percent of senior care providers across the United States and Canada.

Contact Kim for a tour: 641.355.1203, kboyd@onevision.org.

www.glenoakscommunity.org

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 of one of our founders,



Dr. Rae Bieber, founder

Dr. Rae Bieber, and our historian/author, Arlene Lashier, whose actions continue to influence the lives of many at One Vision.

In the natural flow of life, these two were among the group of visionaries who committed themselves to providing a better quality of life for people with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and Brain Injury. In Arlene's own words:



Arlene Lashier, historian

“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 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)

As we approach the 50th anniversary of our first cottages opening on our original campus in Clear Lake, we are honored to continue their legacy to ensure the incredible individuals we support live their fullest person-centered life.



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, Pastor Murley Severtson, Don Boyer, Bill Otterman, Dr. Anne Carlsen, Schellberg, Wayne Oltrogge and Joseph Skram.

GIVE A LITTLE TO SUPPORT DIGNITY FOR ALL

Our founders had the vision 50 years ago to raise the funds to start our organization. They started with an idea, and we strive each day to fulfill our mission. Our goal to honor their legacy is to raise \$1M this year to continue advancing human rights, choice and dignity for all with disabilities.

1971-2021

\$50 Challenge= \$1 for each year

\$100 Challenge= \$2 for each year

Donate online at www.onevision.org and if you're up for a bigger challenge, select the "recurring gift" option, or check the box on the remittance envelope.

Prefer E-Mail?

In an effort to save money (and the environment!) we will be offering a digital newsletter. But first— **WE NEED YOUR EMAIL!!**

Follow the QR code to sign up online or email Erin, eluong@onevision.org. Thank you!!





Sunday, April 18th 1pm
Southbridge Mall, Mason City
www.jbrookswalkablock.org



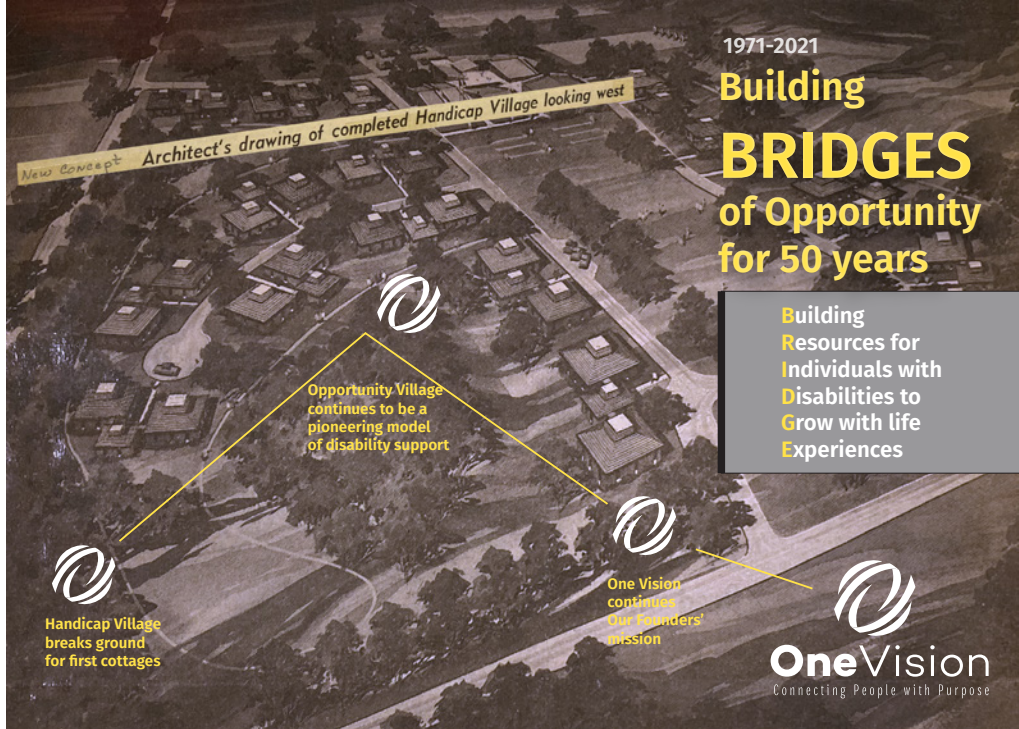
OneVision

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As the 50th Anniversary of our first cottages opening on our original campus in Clear Lake approaches...

...at this time 50 years ago, **no one was receiving services**; our campus was empty except for construction workers. This year as we reflect on our beginnings, we look forward to sharing stories and photos from this influential period in One Vision's history.