

## WHAT'S INSIDE



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion  
Page 3



Summertime Spotlight  
Page 4



You're Invited! Navigating the  
Waters of Inclusion  
Page 5



# One Voice

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

Summer/Fall 2022



*There's*

## ALWAYS HOPE

Jim navigates life after a stroke thanks to Jeri Bell, Employment Solutions

**J**IM'S BRILLIANT. He's witty and easy to talk to as he cracks half a smile across the table at Jeri Bell, whose official title is Job Coach but could easily add *Life Changer* to her credentials—though Jeri prefers to keep the spotlight on the people we support. Anyone who knows Jeri knows she always goes the extra mile for the Trainees in OV's Employment Solutions program.

If you were to meet Jim today, most people wouldn't be aware that after a life-changing stroke in 2008, Jim sank into a hopeless depression where his brilliant mind kept cruelly returning

to thoughts of what he—now legally blind, partially paralyzed and adjusting to life with significant brain damage—could do to end his life so he'd no longer be a burden to his family.

These days, Jim's life is pretty good. He's got a job he loves and is excited to get up in the morning. He's got more confidence in himself and is hoping to meet people, go out for a coffee, and would really like to start dating again.

### Easy to Remember

In the early '90s, Jim was drawn to study electronics at DeVry University.

*Continued on Page 6*

*Editor's Note: We want to thank Jim for allowing us to share his story with permission. It is our hope that you will be inspired to reach out to people in your life who may need extra support to find meaningful relationships and connections in their communities.*





## WHO WE ARE

One Vision is a non-profit charitable organization that provides services to more than 400 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 Center in Clear Lake, and 4 resale stores 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, 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 Erin Luong at (641) 355-1241 or [info@onevision.org](mailto:info@onevision.org).

## CONTACT US

Website: [www.onevision.org](http://www.onevision.org)

E-mail: [info@onevision.org](mailto:info@onevision.org)

Main office: (641) 357-5277

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

Email: [info@onevision.org](mailto:info@onevision.org)

## 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

### Find us on Facebook!

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[facebook.com/GeneralStoreCL](https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStoreCL)

[facebook.com/GeneralStoreFD](https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStoreFD)

[facebook.com/TriedAndTrueMC](https://www.facebook.com/TriedAndTrueMC)

[facebook.com/TriedAndTrueOsage](https://www.facebook.com/TriedAndTrueOsage)

[facebook.com/GlenOaksCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/GlenOaksCommunity)

[facebook.com/BoyerPoolandWellnessCenter](https://www.facebook.com/BoyerPoolandWellnessCenter)



# Glen Oaks Community

TimberCrest | Terraces  
Active Senior Living

## New Faces at Glen Oaks

Look for Kelly at community events, chamber events, networking in the community or arranging new programs for TimberCrest Residents! Give her a call with your networking ideas or for volunteer opportunities. She can be reached at 641-355-1294 or [kbesco@onevision.org](mailto:kbesco@onevision.org).

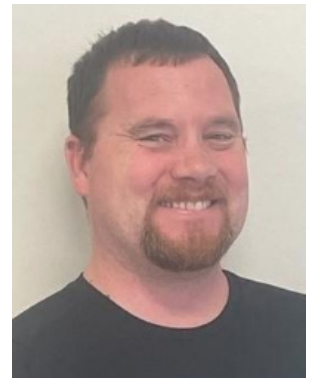


KELLY BESCO, COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR



Jeremy is a lifeguard, swim coach, WSI instructor, LGI instructor, and Certified Pool Operator. He has coached and taught swim lessons for over 12 years in both group and private settings and he currently coaches the North Iowa Swim Club. Jeremy lives in Mason City and served four years with the United States Marines.

To see what Boyer Pool and Wellness Center, Glen Oaks, and One Vision can do to help you and your family live a full, happy, and healthy life, contact Jeremy at 641-355-1240 or [jdebattista@onevision.org](mailto:jdebattista@onevision.org).



JEREMY DEBATTISTA, BOYER POOL AND WELLNESS CENTER MANAGER

## Terraces Phase 2 update

Construction is underway for our next set of townhomes. If you are interested in more information or to schedule an appointment with Lake Iowa Realty, call Matt Wolff at 641-357-7990, [Matt@MoveWithMatt.com](mailto:Matt@MoveWithMatt.com), or Dick Hayes at 641-420-7123, [Dick@LakelowaRealty.com](mailto:Dick@LakelowaRealty.com).



# From our CEO: Navigating the Waters of Inclusion

Mark Dodd  
CEO, One Vision



As I write this CEO Update for the 2022 Summer One Voice, I am just over a month away from my 5-year anniversary with One Vision. As I reflect on this milestone, I can hardly believe it has been five years already. Serving as the CEO for this organization has been a great experience. I've had the opportunity to meet and work with incredible people—persons served, staff members, community partners, and supporters of OV.

Of course, the last couple of years have also presented significant challenges. They have required the entire organization, and society, to learn new methods of collaboration, teamwork, communication, connection, etc., in order to cope with the pandemic, workforce challenges, economic uncertainties, and social upheaval. As we find our way through these challenges, “*Navigating the Waters*” will be a common refrain for the next few years. As an organization focused on “connecting people with purpose,” we are also thinking about how we help the people we support to *navigate the waters of inclusion* given all that is going on. As many of you know, most of the individuals we support live in homes that are considered ‘integrated’ in the community, meaning they are located in neighborhoods where their neighbors are not exclusively other individuals with disabilities.

Integration of homes and jobs in the community has been a significant movement over the last several years, similar to the movement immediately following the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Acts (ADA) that focused on ‘accessibility’. However, neither accessibility or integration means the people intended to benefit from these changes are actually included in and connected to their community. It simply helps create a greater opportunity for them to be included and connected, and it is this next step to “inclusion” on which we are focused for the persons we serve.

But what does it mean to be “included,” to be part of a community? How does it happen? Obviously, every individual will define this differently. What being included means to me will look different than it does for someone else, which means each person we serve will define it differently too. By extension, it

also means that not all of the support and engagement needed for the individuals we support can, or even should come through One Vision.

We must create more opportunities for individuals to participate in the community as independently and safely as possible. We must create bridges to encourage our larger community to reach out, meet, and become friends with people with disabilities—to invite them to a ballgame, or to church, or just to have coffee. The individuals we serve may need support initially as they gain confidence to take steps to connect with the community. Even something as small as introducing themselves to their neighbors may seem scary to some at first.

As we continue to move forward out of the pandemic, rebuilding our social bonds within our communities, it is an opportune time for individuals with disabilities to be more included. There is greater understanding and effort being put into disability-inclusive communities that focus on learning, housing, employment, health, and recreation for individuals with disabilities. The current Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) movement addresses neurodiversity as well as discussion on equity and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

There has never been a better time to engage communities and focus on inclusion. This fall we will be hosting an event in Clear Lake titled “*Navigating the Waters of Inclusion: In A Different Key*.” One important aspect of this event will focus on connecting attendees with One Vision, our supports and services, including new-to-OV programs we now offer such as Host Homes and technology-enhanced services, and how attendees can connect with individuals we serve directly and help create a more inclusive community.

I hope no matter where you live, you will consider finding a way to connect with someone with a disability; help them feel more included in the community. Everyone’s lives are enriched when we are connected with others.

Mark Dodd, CEO



# Summertime Spotlight

## CASINO'S AND CAMERO'S



Hard to beat Camaro rides and Diamond Jo Casino! Calvin was winning big at the casino, and Vicki and Dee were going for a cruise around Clear Lake! LaTasha, Jeff, and Vicki wanted to test their luck at Diamond Jo Casino, hoping to win big!

### WANT TO SEE MORE PHOTOS LIKE THESE?

Like us on Facebook: @OneVisionIowa



### GET INVOLVED!

Join Our Team: [www.OneVision.org](http://www.OneVision.org)

## COMMUNITY REACTION

Bev Stadlander

"Vicki had so much fun that day!"

Diane Carlson

"My brother Jeff, said he had a blast!"

April Templeton

"Omg how awesome!!!"

Patricia Tarr

"Perfect! Great Ideas!"

## UP, UP, AND AWAY

Vicki's dream job is to work at an airport and Calvin has always dreamed of being in an airplane.

Vicki and Calvin both got to experience a little piece of their dreams by going for a plane ride over Clear Lake!



Pictures by: Sara Loetz  
Page by: Will Finn



# Navigating the Waters of Inclusion

 **OneVision** presents

An exclusive screening of the  
award-winning documentary

## In A Different Key

Reception and Screening Meet the Filmmakers

**DIGNITY • INCLUSION • EQUITY**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022, 3-7PM • SURF BALLROOM, CLEAR LAKE, IA**

This year, One Vision's signature event will be a celebration of Community and Inclusion at the Historic Surf Ballroom on October 16, 2022 from 3-7pm. **This is a free event, but RSVP is required.**

Join us for a screening of the documentary "In A Different Key", with special guests, award-winning journalists and filmmakers, Caren Zucker & John Donovan.

**"Community is everything when  
finding one's place in the world."**

*Q&A with Caren Zucker & John Donovan*

*Plus One Vision Services Expo*

*Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, soda & popcorn*

*\* Sensory friendly spaces available*



[onevision.org](http://onevision.org)

## In A Different Key

A true story  
of love, difference  
and the  
fight to belong



**SURF BALLROOM**



**SPACE IS LIMITED**



**THIS IS A FREE EVENT  
RSVP REQUIRED**

## There's Always Hope

From Page 1

Upon graduation, he accepted a lucrative job with the oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico.

"I was working on navigation positioning services, sending out boats to scan the bottom of the ocean out on the deep sea platforms," he explains. "I even got to go to Africa a few times, which wasn't bad for a 21-year-old."

After a few years, Jim was recruited by a company in California and worked remotely from his home in Rochester, MN. There he renewed a high school friendship with a woman who soon became his wife. The couple rejoiced when they were able to overcome fertility challenges as they welcomed the birth of their twin sons.

"I had a real good life until I had my stroke," Jim's voice softens as he adds, "Easy enough to remember, hard enough to forget... Our boys were 7 or 8. Then I had the stroke and that was the end of everything. No more job, no more independence,

my relationship with my wife and kids dissolved..."

## Sorry I Don't Look Blind

The only thing Jim remembers about his accident is that he had been working on a ladder in his basement when he thinks he turned his neck too far and tore his carotid artery. The stroke left Jim legally blind and paralyzed on his left side, damaging 40% of his brain.

"They say most people only use 10% of their brain. After my stroke I had to use every bit I had left," he said.

That same weekend, his parents' home got flooded to the second story in Mason City's historic floods of 2008. Jim's mom had to stay to take care of their home while his dad rushed to Rochester to be by their son's side. Jim was at the Mayo Clinic for many months for therapy where he had to learn how to walk and eat again.

Though he didn't know it then, he was not alone on his path to recovery. Tyler, his future trainer at



JIM ENJOYS HIS WORK AS A BACKUPS AUDITOR WITH NGT AND WORKS CLOSELY WITH TYLER, HIS TRAINER.

Next Gen Technologies (NGT), was working on his own recovery at the same clinic during this time following a traumatic high school football injury his senior year that left him a C-3 paraplegic. *These two wouldn't cross paths again for another 13 years.*

"It was tough times," Jim said. "Getting used to my new situation was, well, I'm still not used to it. I had a *lot* of depression. I just couldn't see why I should keep going. There was *no hope.*"

## EMPLOYER PARTNERS

One Vision supports people with disabilities to find meaningful work in businesses of their choosing. Businesses gain dependable, qualified employees and the ability to help foster independence and purpose in the lives of others.



### NORTH

City of Ventura- Fire Department  
Diamond Jo Casino  
Buffalo Center Fire Department  
Buffalo Center School  
Simply Nourished  
Clear Lake Middle School  
Rib Crib  
Prime n Wine  
NIACC (enclave)  
Rumorz  
General Store  
Pritchards  
Recycling Center OV  
Farmers Trust and Savings Bank  
Ventura Mart  
HyVee - Garner  
HyVee - Forest City

TJMaxx  
Lunds and Byerly's  
Garner Public Library  
Garner United Methodist Church  
Youth For Christ  
HyVee - Garner  
One Vision  
Juvenile Court  
Best Western - CL  
Next Generation Technologies (NGT)  
Brick Street Theatre  
Ventura Fire Department  
Sukup  
Garner Elementary School  
Subway - Hwy. 18

### SOUTH

Walgreens  
Fort 8 Movie Theatre

Webster City Movie Theatre  
HyVee - Webster City  
HyVee - Fort Dodge  
Wahlburger's  
Heartland HomeStore  
Kwik Star - FD  
Kwik Star - WC  
Great Western Dining (ICCC)  
Casablanca Steakhouse  
Townsquare LLC  
Marshall's  
Taco Tico  
Lauferweiler Funeral Home  
Hamilton County Community Services  
Freedom Pointe  
Applebees  
AmericInn  
One Vision



During this time, Jim's wife announced she was taking their boys and moving to North Carolina.

Now seated with Jim and Jeri around his kitchen table, Jeri puts it in perspective. "In this relatively short amount of time, Jim lost his ability to see, move, eat, work, lost his home, his wife and his children."

In spite of it all, flashes of Jim's humor shine through. "There's a lot people can't know by looking at someone. I know I don't look blind to most people. I get that a lot: 'Well, you don't look blind...' Jim laughs. "Ummm... sorry?!"

### New Beginnings

Jim moved in with his parents in Mason City. They reached out to one agency for help. It went "nowhere" for Jim and his family. "They never had me do a job shadow or anything. Nothing at all."

One Vision was the second agency on the list. "I started to work with Jeri and thought, 'Wow!', there *is* something out there [for me]!"

Jeri lined up a few job shadow opportunities for him. He tried pricing items at a few retail stores, then washing dishes, but they proved to be too much standing/walking.

"And he said, 'Have you seen me, Jeri? I can't wash dishes!'" she smiled. "That's the thing I learned about Jim. He was honest with me. We got to working and I felt I needed to know more about what he could do, so I reached out to Brian Blodgett, our IT guy and CEO of NGT, and asked him if he would Facetime with us just so I could get an idea of where I should be looking for Jim. I didn't want to let him down."

"Brian said, 'I'll do you one better. I'll drive up to Jim's house (from Buffalo Center) to meet him in person."

### Small World

Brian had a nice conversation with Jim that day and enjoyed learning about his former work on the oil rigs. "I went back to my team at NGT, and started looking at

how we could bring him on board. We all have different strengths and weaknesses. Just like in our personal lives we build our team and fill in around them," Brian explains. "Jim's a sharp guy. Very conscientious. We couldn't ask for a better guy to work with."

Now, Jim enjoys his work as a Backups Auditor with NGT, and works closely with Tyler, his trainer. It was a few weeks until they discovered they had already shared a bit of the same world 13 years ago when they were undergoing therapy at the Mayo Clinic.

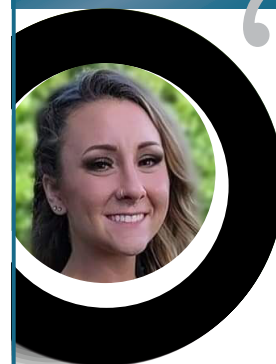
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***We appreciate you taking the time to read Jim's story. If you would like to support One Vision's mission to ensure people with disabilities have access to supports and services they need to navigate the waters of inclusion, please donate today at our website [onevision.org](http://onevision.org). Thank you!***

***"It's important for each person to feel meaning in their life and as I work here I realized that I make an impact on people every day."*** —Randall Reid, DSP MA, 29 years at OV



RAY AND MARY BETH ENJOY A RECENT DRIVE AROUND MASON CITY!



***"I love seeing the difference I can make in each individual's day. The way their faces light up when I show up to work is such an inspiration to support them in their life choices..."***

Shania Walker, QIDP

**We are hiring for multiple shifts, locations & positions! Find the one that's right for you:**

**[OneVision.org](http://OneVision.org)**



**OneVision.org**



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*ELuong@OneVision.org*

**In this issue:**

- Navigating Life after a Stroke ... 1
- New Faces at Glen Oaks ..... 2
- Summer Spotlight..... 4

← YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED →



avigating the Waters  
*of Inclusion*

 **OneVision** presents

*Sunday* **Oct 16**

3-4 PM Meet & Greet; Expo  
4-6 PM *In A Different Key*  
6-7 PM Q&A

*In A Different Key*

VIP RECEPTION & PRIVATE SCREENING WITH FILMMAKERS



*Q&A with Caren Zucker & John Donovan*

*Plus One Vision Services Expo*

*Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, soda & popcorn*

*\* Sensory friendly spaces available*

[onevision.org](http://onevision.org)