



New DIRECTIONS

Northern Hills Training Center

www.nhtc.org

Our goal is to help others reach theirs.

Spring 2010

NHTC holds 34th Annual Awards Banquet

It's been called the Academy Awards of Northern Hills Training Center. With lights, movies, and cameras, the Annual Awards Banquet is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of each person supported during the past year.

On Sunday, January 31, nearly 400 people gathered at the Spearfish Convention Center for lunch and the opportunity to congratulate the people supported by NHTC. An achievement statement was read and a certificate presented to each person supported. Family members, friends and staff were in attendance for the celebration.

In addition to the annual certificates, special awards were given. Because there are so many deserving people supported, a new award was created this year. **Kassandra (Kassie) Worsch** was the winner of the inaugural Spirit of NHTC. Kassie has been with NHTC since 2004 and has worked on several crews both at the center and in the community. However, since 2004, Kassie's physical abilities to walk, talk, eat and live independently or with minimal supports has been failing. Through countless consultations, tests and doctor visits in an effort to determine the exact cause of the regression of her skills, Kassie has maintained an unfailing spirit and unending determination. She always gives a "thumbs up" to let people know she is okay.

The Achiever of the Year award was presented to a very familiar face at NHTC. **JoAnne Cleveland** has worked at Treasure Island Thrift Store for four years and knows every aspect of the the business. She also has her own candy machine business and has been calling Bingo at the Dorsett Home for over 20 years. JoAnne is very involved with the People First Organization and the South Dakota Advocates for Change. She is the immediate past president of People First, a contributing editor to the Self Advocacy Times and frequently gives talks and trainings on the topics of disability awareness, respect and self-advocacy. JoAnne says, "I want to be treated just like everyone else. I have the same likes and dislikes as anyone; I just get around in a different way. My Jazzy (motorized wheelchair) is my legs".

The Annual Banquet is also a time to share awards with community members or businesses who have made a difference to NHTC. This year the Employer of the Year was presented to **French Bryan of Bay Leaf Cafe**. The Patron of the Year was presented to **Brent and Tracey Steinbach** for their organizing and coaching of the power lifters' program.



At right, from top to bottom: Kassie Worsch, Spirit of NHTC; JoAnne Cleveland, Achiever of the Year; French Bryan and Bay Leaf Cafe, Employer of the Year; Brent and Tracey Steinbach, Patrons of the Year

2 Message from the CEO...



By Linda Williams, Acting CEO

Reynolds Price wrote: "A need to tell and hear stories is essential to the species Homo sapiens, second in necessity apparently after nourishment and before love and shelter. Millions survive without love or home, almost none in silence; the opposite of silence leads quickly to narrative, and the sound of story is the dominant sound of our lives, from the small accounts of our day's events to the vast incommunicable constructs of psychopaths."

Both the Person Centered Thinking culture of Northern Hills Training Center and the quality measures of the Council on Quality and Leadership, embrace the positive power of telling stories.

Every month, an employee of NHTC is recognized for something outstanding they've done by receiving the Blue Diamond Award. Telling their stories is how we come to know about how they are positively impacting the lives of everyone around them. On January 31, NHTC celebrated the achievements of every person supported through telling stories of their accomplishments, including Achiever of the Year, JoAnne Cleveland, and Spirit of NHTC award winner, Kassie Worscheh. Stories shared about people in the Spearfish community led to the awards for Patron the Year, Brent and Tracey Steinbach, and Employer of the Year, French Bryan and Bay Leaf Cafe'.

Story telling is a long and honored tradition that NHTC embraces and utilizes every day. We use stories to celebrate, to improve, to plan, to take a look at ourselves and our community, to laugh, to cry and to embrace life in all its glory!

Do you have a story to share? We would love to hear it!!

NHTC NORTHERN HILLS TRAINING CENTER

New Directions is published four times a year for friends of Northern Hills Training Center, a nonprofit organization that provides vocational and independent living services to empower adults with disabilities, encouraging all to strive for their ultimate potential in all aspects of their lives. Permission to copy articles granted, when appropriate credit is given. NHTC does not give legal or tax advice. For this information, contact your attorney or tax advisor.

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1015 Canyon Street 605-717-1015
815 34th Street 605-717-8150

Ryan Road Apartments
1620 Ryan Road, 605-717-1620

Hill Street Apartments
Hill Street Main Floor, 605-717-7287
Hill Street Supervised, 605-559-0363

Board of Director Emeritus

During the 2010 Annual Meeting, Merlyn Aman was honored with Board of Director, Emeritus, status for his valuable contributions to the BOD from 1986-2009.

**Congratulations,
Merlyn!!**



Merlyn Aman, seated, receiving his Director Emeritus certificate from Ed Furois, Shawn Rost and Fred Romkema

SDACBS recognized for Exceptional Service

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The South Dakota Association of Community Based Services (SDACBS) and its member Community Support Providers (which includes NHTC) were recognized as the national winners of the “Moving Mountains Best Practices Award”, for their exceptional service to South Dakota citizens with developmental disabilities. The award was received from *Minnesota’s Research and Training Center on Community Living* and *The National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals*, and presented during the eighty-fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota.

Congratulations are in Order...

Blue Diamond Winners

November...Niles Armstrong, Direct Support Professional
December...Amanda Allred, Direct Support Professional
January...Bev McNeese, Direct Support Professional

Harvard Employees of the Month

November...Josie Good Shield
January...John Krambeck

Congratulations to the 2010 People First Officers:

President: Eric Bowers
Vice President: Lorraine Miner
Secretary: Ellie DeVilleneuve
Treasurer: Doug Speirs



And Last, but not Least...

Rhonda Erickson, Vocational Coordinator, as the Spearfish Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year.

Letters We Like...

From a Family Member...“I am truly impressed when I see all this. From the office folks, the nurses, the teachers, building management, food preparation and transportation. Each and everyone I met while there was very helpful, considerate and genuinely interested in my questions and showing me the center. Seeing my family member in his home that is clean and well cared for and the caretakers who treat him with respect and consideration, as well as his housemates, it eases my heart knowing I am so far away. The people who are caretakers there are special and I want them to know how much I appreciate them.”

From President Barack Obama to Joanne C...“Thank you for your kind note... Each day, I am inspired by the encouraging messages of hope and determination I have received from people across the country. With the magnitude of challenges we face, we will only overcome them if our imagination is joined to common purpose... with your help, we will build on what we have already achieved and lay a new foundation for real and lasting progress.”

From United Blood Services...“The patients and families who benefit from the recent blood drive will be forever grateful for all your hard work on this community service... We say “thank you” to NHTC for sponsoring the drive and offering the use of their facility. Our appreciation goes out to all the volunteers who helped with this drive, and special thanks are in order for every blood donor who set time aside to give the ultimate gift of life... We were able to collect 35 units of blood.”

4 *Holiday Activities at Northern Hills Training Center*



Vicky & Kevin at Thanksgiving Dinner



Caleb Anderson



Kaylene Rost and Karen Wiessner

Above left: Thanksgiving Dinner – Above and below: Photos from the 34th Annual Banquet



Ryan Road Gang



34th Street Gang

Special Olympics SD includes Three from NHTC

Team South Dakota is made up of 65 athletes and 17 coaches. Athletes were chosen to participate in one of the following competition venues; Aquatics, Athletics, Bowling, Powerlifting, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, or Unified Basketball. Local athletes Carla and Marla West will compete in Bowling, while athlete Ammee Schwender and coach Cathy Grubb will represent South Dakota in the Track and Field competitions.

Team South Dakota will meet in Sioux Falls and travel together to Lincoln, Nebraska, site of the 2010 USA National Games, in July of 2010.

Athletes selected for these National Games will be eligible for nomination to the USA TEAM for Special Olympics International Summer Games competition in Greece in 2011.

Carla West, Ammee Schwender and Marla West will represent Northern Hills Training Center at the South Dakota Special Olympics in July



More Holiday Activities at the Training Center



Keaonna at the Hickory House Social



Elf Jen, Mrs. Santa Claus, Santa Claus



Diane modeling at the Christmas Fashion Show



Above: People Supported Christmas Party

Right: Kassie, Heidi and Maxine decorating Holiday Cookies



Lead-Deadwood group photo

6 *ANCOR Commends Introduction of Rosa's Law*

ANCOR, the American Network of Community Options and Resources, applauds U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD) and U.S. Senator Michael B. Enzi (R-WY), for introducing a bill that would eliminate the terms “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” from the federal law books.

The bill is called “Rosa’s Law”, after a constituent of Sen. Mikulski’s, a child diagnosed with an intellectual disability, whose 13-year-old brother told the Maryland General Assembly, “Some say we shouldn’t worry about the words, just the way we treat people. But when you think about it, what you call people is how you treat them! If we change the words, maybe it’ll be the start of a new attitude toward people with intellectual disabilities. They deserve it.”

The bill calls for the terms “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” to be replaced with “intellectual disability” and “individual with an intellectual disability” in federal education, health and labor law. The bill does not expand or diminish services, rights or educational opportunities. It simply makes the federal law language consistent with that used by the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and the President of the United States, through his Committee on Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) to Visit NHTC

As part of Northern Hills Training Center’s four year accreditation partnership with the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL), preparations are underway for a second onsite visit to our agency. CQL reviewers will be here May 4-6. The focus of their review will be the 2005 Quality Measures for Community Life and Responsive Services. In addition, they will be monitoring our continued compliance with Basic Assurances, which are the non-negotiable measures that help us ensure the health, safety and security of people supported.

The CQL reviewers will spend time with people supported and NHTC staff members during their visit. They will observe the person-directed plan process and review the Personal Outcome Interviews that are completed for each person supported. At the end of the visit, the reviewers will present their findings, offer suggestions or tools for improvement and plan for the ongoing partnership between CQL and NHTC in ensuring the continued provisions of quality, person-centered supports and services.

Edwards and Cross attend Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities

The mission of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities is to catalyze and integrate advances in science, engineering and technology to promote the quality of life and independent living of people with cognitive disabilities. The Ninth Annual Coleman Institute conference, *Cognitive Disability, Inequality, and Technology in an Age of Economic Uncertainty*, was held on November 5, 2009 in Westminster, Colorado. James K. Galbraith, PhD, noted American economist and former Director of the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, was the distinguished keynote speaker. There was sharing of ideas about ways to use technology to benefit people with disabilities.

Carl Edwards and Dan Cross attended the conference and found the information to be useful. NHTC has been pursuing technology applications in exactly the manner recommended at the conference, by using web based applications such as Therap, Timeforce, and College of Direct Support.



Thank You for Thinking of Northern Hills Training Center

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Mike and Heather Tripp for 300 hamburger buns for the people supported Christmas party.
20 anonymous Christmas gifts of blankets, hats and scarves.

Ms. Edith Miles and Ms. Diane Simbeck for 12 hand-knit hats to Hill Street residents.
Cedar House, Lueders, the Butcher Shop and McDonald's for food products to the Relay for Life
pancake breakfast.

Spearfish Volunteer Fire Department for support of the Relay for Life pancake breakfast.

Thank you to our donors (October 6, 2009 through February 2, 2010)

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A NEW way to donate:
To donate on-line, visit
www.giveblackhills.org

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

March – Developmental Disability Awareness Month

March 13 – Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics in Spearfish, SD

March 13-14 – Spearfish Optimist Home and Trade Show

May 1 – NHTC Disc Golf Tournament at Black Hills State
University

May 4-6 – Council on Quality and Leadership Visit



New Directions

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Are We Connecting?

Please let us know if we need to correct or delete your address on our mailing list. Contact Peg at 605-642-2785, ext. 201 or e-mail your address changes to: holmquest@nhct.org.

Visit our Facebook page. Newsletter is available on our website at www.nhct.org

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

Disc Golf Tournament

A new fundraising event is coming to NHTC. In partnership with Countryside Disc Golf Club, a disc golf tournament will be held on Saturday, May 1, on the disc golf course of Black Hills State University. All levels of "golfers", from beginner to advanced, are invited to participate. For more information, please contact Chris Davis at 642-2785 x 243 or davis@nhct.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

A Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Spearfish Special Olympics and SD Special Olympics is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, at the Spearfish Rec Center. Volunteer opportunities include "jumpers" (those brave enough to jump into cold water) and "helpers" to run the event.

If you are interested, please contact Ashley Shevling at NHTC.

Visit

[www.firstgiving.com/
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