Building Confidence and Independence

Northern Hills Training Center celebrated its 40th anniversary in May. We have grown from an agency of serving six individuals to one that now serves 145 individuals. During our existence and growth, our mission has been “To enhance lives and achieve dreams”. Our efforts are aimed at including people in their communities and helping them be as independent as possible. Two of the ways we are meeting our mission is through the start of two initiatives: Steps to Success and Life Training.

Steps to Success: Workforce Development Training

Agencies, such as ours, are under a mandate from the federal government to transition people with disabilities from sheltered workshops to employment in the community. This mandate is called Employment First; a change that is “centered on the premise that all citizens, including individuals with significant disabilities, are capable of full participation in integrated employment and community life.” By following this mandate, we are also preparing for compliance mandated by the passage of and reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIOA) of 1998 through 2020. This mandate will affect approximately 75-80 people of NHTC who currently work on job crews supervised by a Job Coach or work in a sheltered workshop environment and must prepare for working in the community.

With the support of a grant from the South Dakota Community Foundation, we have started a program called Steps to Success: Workforce Development Training. For each eight-week long session, six individuals are invited to participate in these weekly classes taught by NHTC Employment Specialists, Julie Lewandowski and JC Donner. The curriculum covers such topics as: skills/talents, searching for jobs, completing job applications, interview skills, grooming/hygiene, and employer expectations. In addition to printed materials, power points have been developed by Bailey Sadowsky of the Enactus Team at Black Hills State University. As one session finishes, another session will start.

First graduating class: Joanna, Michael, Randy
On March 28, 2016, the South Dakota Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) announced that three companies were selected as the External Case Management Companies to provide Conflict Free Case Management in South Dakota. Those companies are Benchmark Human Services (providing Statewide service), New Horizons (providing service in Northeast SD), and LifeScape (providing service in Southeast SD).

In addition to Benchmark, we recently learned that Resources for Human Development out of Philadelphia, PA will also be an External Case Management Company in the Western Region of South Dakota.

Benchmark Human Services has been in business since 1960, and has corporate headquarters in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Benchmark has been a provider of services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the United States for many years. They have over 3,500 employees and currently serve over 8,500 children and adults with disabilities. They have been interviewing potential employees for External Case Managers, and will make selections and begin training in the coming weeks.

On April 27th, we were informed that our Admissions Coordinator, Tacey Dunwoody, was selected to become Benchmark’s State Director for South Dakota, and Laura Wendland, Director of Service Coordination, has been selected as the Western Region Manager. We are very happy for both Tacey and Laura in their new positions. We are fortunate that we will have friends in Tacey and Laura from NHTC in such key positions, as we make the transition to working with Benchmark Human Services. A number of our other Service Coordinators will also transfer to Benchmark as External Case Managers. Our current Service Coordinators and Leadership Team recently met with a representative from Benchmark to learn more about the new changes to come. We are all looking forward to a cooperative and smooth transition to Conflict Free Case Management. Once the Case Managers that will be supporting NHTC are hired, we plan on scheduling a Parent/Guardian Meeting to give everyone the opportunity to meet with the new Benchmark employees and to ask questions of the Benchmark representatives. We anticipate this meeting occurring in late May or early June.

We will continue to provide all stakeholders with updates as we receive them. If you have any questions regarding Conflict Free Case Management, or any other matters, please contact me directly at my office at 605-642-2785, ext.205.

Richard S. Mulholland, CEO
Congratulations are in order…

Blue Diamond Award Winner
2016 First Quarter: Keli Knaub

Nominees:

Christy Nguyen
Melody Nelson
Glenna O’Grady
Charity Noor
Hope Tennant
Sheila Albright
Ashley McCabe

Maddison Carr
Shilo Lamont
Desirae Lamm
Ericka Barnes
Teri Stapert
Marti Herber
David Christiansen

Lizzie Mattson
Megan Patterson
Miranda Howie
Savannah Hartl
Kelli Leitner
Louise Bauernfeind
Jamie Davidson

Katie Kelly
Marcie Holben
Kelsey Baker
Lauren Hagg
Peggy Erskin
Jim O’Grady
Janny Clough

YEARS OF Service

5 Years
Janny Clough
Patty Davidson
Jacq Gangelhoff
Kameron King

10 Years
Terri Holien

15 Years
Cheryl Rohlf
Kenzie Umberger

20 Years
Pam Schroeder

Annual Banquet

John Wright
Achiever of the Year

Alan Birrenkott
Spirit of NHTC

Spearfish Rec & Aquatic Center
Employer of the Year

Spearfish Ambulance Service
Patron of the Year

Northern Hills Training Center New Directions  *  www.nhtc.org
Special Olympics

Spearfish Peaks Cheerleaders

Two points

Fans in the stands

Dan’s got the ball

Spearfish Peaks Team

West River Powerlifters
BHSU YJ Friends

Bobbi during Rodeo Day

Having fun at the YJ Friends & BHSU Psych Club dance

Table of friends

Dancing with Todd

Josh at bowling

Garet and Mark with their gold

View of the lanes

Rita and Matt playing games

Lee Jay roping

St. Patrick’s Day friends

Stick horse race
SUCCESS

While individuals are participating in Steps to Success, we are also reaching out to business owners in Spearfish and surrounding communities. We are asking them to consider NHTC as a potential work force, and are sharing information about the hiring process and financial benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

Life Training:

On March 31, 2016, NHTC began a new program aimed at teaching skills and competencies to assist those we support at becoming more independent. These group training sessions will be known as Life Training and will take place every other month at the Fred Romkema Center (FRC). This training will be offered to people we support from our Community Monitored Program, Community Supervised Program, and for others in our Group Residences as appropriate. The topics of training are varied and staff will invite those we support to specific trainings, depending if they are among the appropriate target audience. Some topics will not be appropriate for all people we sup-

Life Training topics:

- **Personal Boundaries/Healthy Relationships**
  (March 31st) Circles - saying no - hugs - handshakes

- **Apartment Living**
  (May 25th, 3 pm) Cleanliness - rights and responsibilities

- **Sex Education**
  Sexually transmitted diseases - making good choices - birth control options

- **Health & Wellness**
  First Aide - CPR - emergency protocols

- **Personal Hygiene**
  Oral hygiene - personal appearance - appropriate clothing

- **Community Involvement & Safety in the Community**
  Registering to vote - know your churches - Bicycle safety - wheelchair safety - curfew and traffic laws - Internet scams - social media

- **Respectful Manners & Bullying**
  Table manners - holding the door - greeting people - using inside voice - cyber or text bullying
Thank you to our donors:
January 26, 2016 - May 2, 2016

Builder ($1000-4999)
Robert & Vicki Fenimore

Sustainer ($500-999)
Carolyn Blake
Bruce & Connie Ellingson
Doug & Jo Kissack
Dr. Thomas Matthews
Jodi, Matt, Dave & Diane Somers
First Interstate BancSystem Foundation

Advocate ($150-499)
Dr. Thomas Matthews
Jodi, Matt, Dave & Diane Somers
First Interstate BancSystem Foundation

Friend ($50-149)
Blayne Pummel

Neighbor ($1-49)


Myles Kennedy
Lions Pancake Feed tickets

Upcoming Events

August 19
Summer Picnic

October 18
NHTC Community Chili Feed

April 1, 2017
Awards Banquet

Help save postage and printing costs!
Receive NHTC’s newsletter, “New Directions,” by email or read it on-line. Either option is available by visiting www.nhtc.org. Be sure to let Katie know if you no longer wish to have the newsletter sent to you at your postal address. kelly@nhtc.org or 605-642-2785, Ext. 201.

Support NHTC when you shop at smile.amazon.com, and search for Northern Hills Training Center. Use the Amazon button on our website or the SHOP NOW button on our Facebook page.
Are We Connecting?
Please let us know if we need to correct or delete your address on our mailing list. Contact Katie at 605-642-2785, ext. 201 or email your address changes to: kelly@nhtc.org

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SUMMER PICNIC
Friday, August 19
Spearfish City Park
Main Pavilion
11:30am