



## Guitars & Good Times concert



Jim Poehlman, Executive Director and Jeane Hoffmann, Business Manager enjoy the concert from the stands.

Country music star Jack Ingram was a crowd pleaser at Mosaic’s Guitars & Good Times concert held June 4, 2011 at the Crawford County Fairgrounds in Denison, Iowa. Jack interacted with the audience and put on an exciting show. Bill Weber, Larry Levi, Ellie Spencer and Donna Stuhr all had a great time and enjoyed Jack in concert. When asked if

he was having fun, Bill Weber said, “This is the best night of my life!”

Many people were able to meet and greet Jack before and after the show. The crowd was pleased to be near the stage and up front and center



Debra Grant and Mary Sue Carson enjoy the concert together.

with all the action. There was not a bad seat in the house thanks to the wonderful grandstands the fairgrounds offers.

The VIP Party was a success. Brad Morgan’s country sound engaged the crowd of around 100 people and contributed to an enjoyable evening. The After Party was also a success. The Majestic Hills Bar & Grill was packed as the crowd enjoyed listening to Peace, Love and Stuff perform their hits. Later in the evening, Peace, Love and Stuff, Fork in the Road, Brad Morgan, Porter from Porter and Aron, and



Jack Ingram on stage at Guitars & Good Times.

Jack Ingram’s band played a Johnny Cash song together! This was a highlight for the crowd.

**Special Thanks:** Mary Morgan, Public Relations Specialist, would like to thank the Community Advisory Committee members who assisted with the planning and organization of the event. The Community Advisory Committee members include: Sharon Wight, Dale Wight, Greg Kehl, Jane Gronau, Margaret Gilmore, Sue Bergamo, Barry Bergamo, Jan Jacobsen, Shawn Blum, Jeanne Kropf, Helen Lapel, Pat Palmer, Cindy Pittz, Deb Harvey and Molly Mains.



LuAnne Straight wore her cowboy hat in style.

A special thanks goes out to the Fair Association for providing concessions, Hy-Vee for catering the VIP Party and the special catering they did for Jack Ingram and his crew, and to Shannon at Boulders Inn and Suites for all the hospitality needs she provided for Jack and his crew. Drew Brown, the

band manager, said everything was over the top!

From everyone at Mosaic in Western Iowa, thank you all very much for your support!

# Will you remember Uncle Sam in your will?

Dave Nielsen, planned giving counsel for Mosaic, is recognized as one of the foremost estate planning counselors in the Midwest. Dave presents more than 20 seminars each year for more than a dozen colleges and charitable organizations where he is known for his rare ability to explain estate planning concepts in clear and concise terms. Dave offers this presentation, as well as estate planning services, at no charge to Mosaic families, friends, and staff.



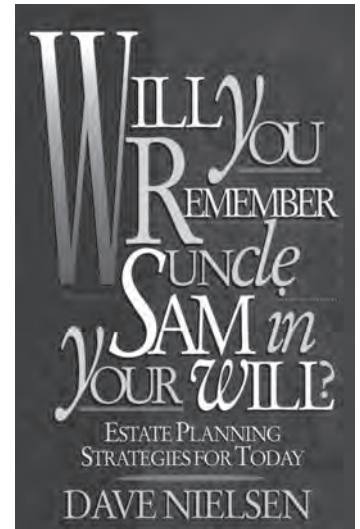
David Nielsen

Dave grew up in Plattsmouth, Neb., graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1969. He served six years in the Air Force as a pilot before returning to law school. In 1978, he earned his Juris Doctorate from Creighton University, magna cum laude. Dave has been involved in the planning of the estates of several thousand people ranging from moderate estates to those in excess of \$100 million. He currently maintains a private law practice with the firm of Erickson and Sederstrom with offices in Omaha and Lincoln, Neb. and serves as Planned Giving Counsel for Mosaic.

Below is a brief excerpt from Dave's book, Will You

Remember Uncle Sam in Your Will?, which really encompasses Dave's pre-sentation at an estate planning seminar:

"We all leave a legacy at our death. What will yours be? Will it be one of hassle, wasted time and resources, contentions, dissensions and hard feelings or rather a legacy of commitment, good stewardship and love and concern for those left behind? Once you have made your decision, then it's time to identify your objectives, develop your strategies and take the steps necessary to put your plan into effect."



Your estate planning team may include an attorney, accountant, insurance expert, trust officer and other professionals; however, you need to have a basic understanding of the rules of the game and the techniques available to conserve your resources at death. David Nielsen offers insight into the complicated world of estate planning in simple terms you can understand. Don't leave Uncle Sam any more than the law requires!

If you are interested in learning more about estate planning, feel free to contact Diana Bishop Ewing at 515.246.1840 or [diana.ewing@mosaicinfo.org](mailto:diana.ewing@mosaicinfo.org).



Stay in touch with Mosaic in Western Iowa online at our website: [www.mosaicinwesterniowa.org](http://www.mosaicinwesterniowa.org)

## The Mosaic Journal by Mosaic in Western Iowa

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### Mission

Embracing God's call to serve in the world, Mosaic advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and provides opportunities for them to enjoy a full life.

### Integrity at Mosaic

If you have a concern, call our national Confidential Reporting Hotline at 800.443.4899, or email [integrity@mosaicinfo.org](mailto:integrity@mosaicinfo.org).

### Relationships

Mosaic is an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a member of Lutheran Services in America.

### Non-discrimination

Mosaic will not discriminate in matters of employment or service delivery on the basis of race, creed, age, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, marital status or veteran status.

To be added or removed from the mailing list for the Mosaic Journal, or to receive information via email, please contact Mosaic at the address given.

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# Disability for a Day

by Mary Morgan, staff development manager



Alyssa Ertz participates in Disability for a Day activities.

This is the fourth year that we have had our Disability for a Day event in a school. I am very proud of this project. It is always rewarding to see what the children learn from this experience. This year, we worked with the sixth through eighth grade students at Zion Lutheran School in Denison, Iowa on March 15, 2011.

The theme for the day was Inclusion, meaning we want people with disabilities to be a part of the community and not apart from the community. The goal was to have students experience what it is like to have a disability for a day. The students were paired with each other and one student had the disability for half of a day and then they switched, so each student had the opportunity to experience the disability. They may be given a wheelchair for their experience or a walker, crutches, earplugs (hearing impaired) or eye patches, or they may have to wear a helmet to experience what it is like for people who have epilepsy and wear a



Mary Morgan, staff development manager at Mosaic in Logan poses with the essay winners, from left to right: Allyssa Ertz, first place; Jillian Ludwig, second place and Kelsey L'heureux, third place.

helmet for protection from falls.

The teachers were all involved. There was no cheating or getting out of the disability that is chosen for the person. The idea behind the Disability for a Day event is for the students to try to be as independent as they can, but also realize how much they are limited in what they can do. By the end of the day, we hope that they have learned that they would not want to be excluded from anything because of a disability.

The exercise didn't end after the school day. There was also an essay contest in which the students had two weeks to write a two-page essay. They were judged on whether they understood the theme and whether they offered any insight from their experiences that day. This year the first-place winner was Allyssa Ertz, the second-place winner was Jillian Ludwig, and third place went to Kelsey L'Heureux. Good job, girls!

## Round it up for Mosaic

No Frills Supermarkets offered a fundraising opportunity the week of Jan. 19 – Feb. 1, 2011. Customers were able to “round up” their bills to the nearest dollar and No Frills would donate the extra change to Mosaic in Western Iowa.

The participating stores included:

- 1817 W Broadway — Council Bluffs
- 1801 Valley View Drive — Council Bluffs
- Hwy Junction 59 & 39 — Denison
- 238 S. 8th St. — Blair

No Frills Supermarkets even pitched in an additional donation to boost the total amount given by customers to Mosaic in Western Iowa to \$500. Thank you for Rounding Up for Mosaic! Your donation helps Mosaic provide a life of possibilities in western Iowa.



# Battle of the Bands



Byron James Gang on stage at the 2011 Battle of the Bands.

Mosaic held a Battle of the Bands contest for bands to compete for the honor to play as the opening act during the Guitars & Good Times concert held June 4, 2011. Mosaic in Western Iowa's Community Advisory Committee was responsible for gathering demo CDs of interested bands. They narrowed the competition down to five bands, who were then invited to compete at the Battle of the Bands event at the Schleswig Community Building in Schleswig, Iowa on April 9, 2011.

The competing bands were:

- Fork in the Road — Logan, Iowa
- Brad Morgan — Manning, Iowa
- Peace, Love and Stuff — Ankeny, Iowa
- Byron James Gang — Logan, Iowa
- Porter & Aron — Denison, Iowa

The Battle of the Bands had a great turnout with fans, community members and individuals served by Mosaic cheering them on and enjoying the shows. The building managers were so inspired by the individuals served by Mosaic enjoying the event and the volunteers who helped coordinate the event that they donated half of the venue rent back to Mosaic!

Fork in the Road took first place and won the opening act slot for Jack Ingram at the Guitars & Good Times concert. Brad Morgan, the second place winner, earned the opportunity



Porter & Aron perform at the 2011 Battle of the Bands.

to play for the VIP Party preceding the concert. Peace, Love and Stuff, the third place winner, earned the chance to play at the After Party, held at the Majestic Hills Bar & Grill following the Guitars & Good Times concert. The bands were chosen by local celebrity judges; Tom Bebke, an inductee of the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and Matt and Ben, disc jockeys from the Omaha radio station Twister 93.3.



Mosaic Community Advisory Committee members (from left) David and Margaret Gilmore, Shawn Blum and Sue Bergamo enjoy the evening.

Thank you to all the volunteers, staff and participants in this year's Battle of the Bands event! Proceeds from the Battle of the Bands event went to support the Guitars & Good Times concert.

## Sharing furry friends



Ollie Ridder (left) and Ashlee Brus



Molly Mahs (left) and Annie Ellison



Katie Nourse (left) and Annie Ellison, Mosaic employee and Ashlee's aunt

Ashlee Brus is a 10-year-old from Denison, Iowa who raises rabbits and participates regularly in her local 4-H Chapter. Several times, Ashlee has brought her furry friends to the home on Settlers Lane in Denison for the individuals who live there to hold and enjoy. As you see in the pictures, they love it when Ashlee and her rabbits come to visit them! Ashlee enjoys visiting with and sharing her rabbits with the people living on Settlers Lane and it fulfills the community relations aspect for one of her 4-H projects. Ashlee recently won two blue ribbons for some of her 4-H projects.

## Mosaic visits the Humane Society



Mosaic employee Joan Segebart (left) and Margaret Ford (right) visit with a Humane Society staff member (middle).



Joan Segebart (staff, left) Molly Mains (middle) and Cherokee Ellison (staff, right) make a stop at McDonald's after their visit to the Humane Society.



Stanley Hicks visits with the rabbits.



Deb Wight and Mosaic employee Kate Grant say hello to a dog waiting to be adopted.

Staff and individuals supported by Mosaic visited the Humane Society in Omaha, Neb. on April 28 2011 to donate a gift bag of baggies, gloves, blankets and peanut butter for the animals housed and cared for at the humane society. They were also pleased to be able to visit the animals there that day and enjoy a meal at McDonald's afterward.



## Become a voice for people with disabilities

When decisions are being made about important issues like services, homes and health care, people with intellectual disabilities should have a right to express their opinions. Too often, they have no chance to speak. You can level the playing field.

Become a Mosaic Allied Voices volunteer. Just go to [www.mosaicalliedvoices.org](http://www.mosaicalliedvoices.org) and sign up with your contact information. When issues that impact people with intellectual disabilities are identified, you will receive an email alert asking you to contact your elected official. We promise you will only be contacted when there are critical issues that need immediate attention.

You can be the voice of a person who would otherwise be silenced. Help them be heard.

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## Letter from the Executive Director

by Jim Poehlman



I have been reflecting on where we've been and where we've come over the past 24 years as Mosaic in Western Iowa. We've just wrapped up another successful fiscal year and we look forward to the new challenges that lay ahead of us in fiscal year 2012. When I think about 2012, I'm struck by the number itself.

Although we are just beginning the fiscal year and the calendar year 2012 is still six months away, I'm amazed at how far our little program has come.

Mosaic in Western Iowa began in 1988 as the result of forward thinking and determination. There was an identified need in the area and the agency was created to meet that need.

Through the years, the agency has been blessed with great employees. Some of the hardest-working people I have ever known spend weekends and holidays ensuring that the people for whom we are entrusted to care have the best life they can have. I've been working in the field of developmental disabilities since 1987, and I've never seen a more dedicated and caring bunch of people in my life. I count my blessings every day.

It's always kind of fun to take a trip down memory lane. Most of us can remember our successes and our challenges fairly easily. Sometimes the successes are just a little more successful in our memories than they were in reality, and for some reason, the challenges are remembered much more fondly than they were at the time we were faced with them.

At Mosaic, we celebrate our successes and we face our challenges head on with determination. We have big dreams and we believe wholeheartedly that we will achieve them.

Keeping that in mind, I wanted to reflect on this past year's successes before I start remembering them as better than they actually were.

**Financial Performance/Stewardship** — We ended this fiscal year on a positive note. We have established a culture of good stewardship within our agency. In these difficult economic times, we continue to do more with less. It is a testament to the culture of quality that is expected of all employees.

**Advocacy** — Mosaic in Western Iowa has enlisted the assistance of nearly 30 first responders through Mosaic Allied Voices. Mosaic Allied Voices (MAV) volunteers call or email elected officials in response to alerts from the Mosaic Governmental Affairs Office. These alerts are about specific issues that relate to people with intellectual disabilities. The alerts contain brief, specific information about the issue and offer a suggested message for MAV volunteers to use if they are uncertain of what to say in their own words.

The time commitment of a MAV volunteer is minimal. Every MAV volunteer needs an email account to receive alerts. The most important aspect of being a MAV volunteer is the timeliness of the response. Legislative action is sometimes quick, and action alerts may ask for an immediate response. To let your voice be heard and advocate for and with people with intellectual disabilities, please visit [www.MosaicAlliedVoices.org](http://www.MosaicAlliedVoices.org).

## Free resources for vacation bible school or Sunday school

Children's educational materials are available for free to churches from Mosaic. There is a four-week lesson plan along with a 20-Day Awareness activity guide that features Duncan the Duck and would be a great platform for children's programming. Materials include coloring books, coin banks, an animated story on DVD and Bible study lesson plans, all of which feature Mosaic's children's mascot, Duncan. To learn how you can receive these educational materials for free, please visit [www.mosaicinfo.org/resources/childrens\\_education/index.htm](http://www.mosaicinfo.org/resources/childrens_education/index.htm).

Contact Mosaic when looking for temple talks, guest speakers or children's programs, as well as further information about admissions, volunteering and giving opportunities.



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Community Involvement/Inclusion — We have partnered with Council Bluffs law enforcement and have become a training site for Crisis Intervention Training. This partnership has helped to educate law enforcement officers in de-escalating individuals who are experiencing a psychological crisis through words rather than force.

Quality — The agency has developed a comprehensive Quality Enhancement Plan. This plan is reviewed at least monthly by agency leadership. Progress is measured on each goal and revisions are made if needed. Over this past fiscal year, we have made progress in nearly all areas on the Quality Enhancement Plan, not as much as we had hoped in some areas, and more than we could have imagined in others.

As Mosaic in Western Iowa begins the journey through a new fiscal year, I am truly excited about the new challenges we will be undertaking. Remember, I said we have big dreams here. There are three initiatives in particular that will test us and when we complete them, we will be better.

In August, we will begin the process of converting our current time keeping system to an electronic system. This conversion will take approximately three months and electronic time keeping should be implemented by November. It will require a great deal of work up-front, but the reward will be a much more efficient time keeping system that will reduce errors and reduce the amount of time spent on payroll.

In October, the agency will begin piloting a new electronic documentation system called Therap. Implementing this system will take approximately three months. All documentation of services and supports provided will be documented electronically through the Therap system. The

documentation can be viewed and reviewed remotely by agency leadership. When an incident report is completed, the individuals who need to be notified within the agency will be notified immediately. This system will allow for more efficient tracking and trending of data and will reduce errors in documentation. Staff will be able to spend less time documenting and more time providing personal supports to individuals in service.

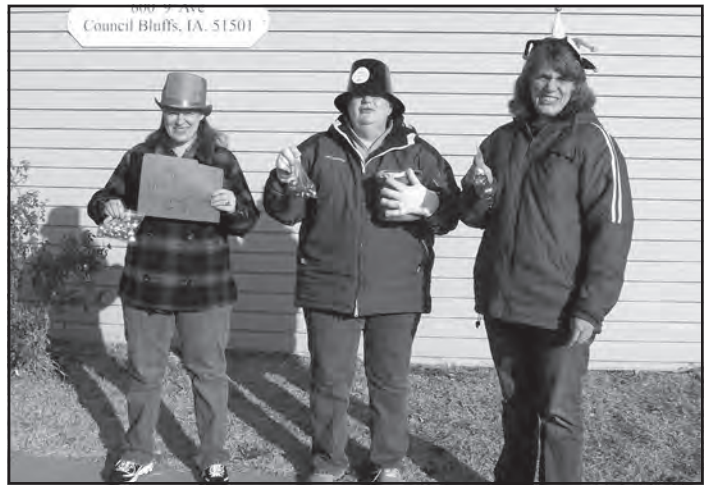
Mosaic is launching an organization-wide change in our approach to fund and friend raising. Through small, introductory events that share Mosaic's mission in a clear and concise way, the new model will help build lasting relationships with donors on the agency level. The goal is sustainable funding that will lessen Mosaic's reliance on state and federal funding.

This is an exciting new direction. We know that there are many people who will choose to support Mosaic in various ways when they have a greater understanding of Mosaic's mission. This approach has proven effective in other small and large nonprofit organizations and is already showing success in the Mosaic agency that started using it several months ago.

To learn more about Mosaic fundraising, please contact Mosaic in Western Iowa at 712.644.2234 or visit [www.mosaicinwesterniowa.org](http://www.mosaicinwesterniowa.org).

I would like to thank you for your continued support of Mosaic and our mission. As a member of the communities where we operate, we understand how vital partnerships with the community and our stakeholders are. Have a safe summer and fall. I'm looking forward to updating you on the agency's progress in our next newsletter.

## Mosaic employees raise funds for Muscular Dystrophy Association



In December, three Mosaic employees raised money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Lynda Karley, Program Coordinator; Rita Gochanour, Direct Support Manager; and VonMae Graves, Direct Support Associate, went Christmas caroling around businesses in Council Bluffs and nearby towns and raised \$90. Then, Lynda Karley and Rita Gochanour spent time in “jail” asking people to raise their bail to get out, all for the MDA!