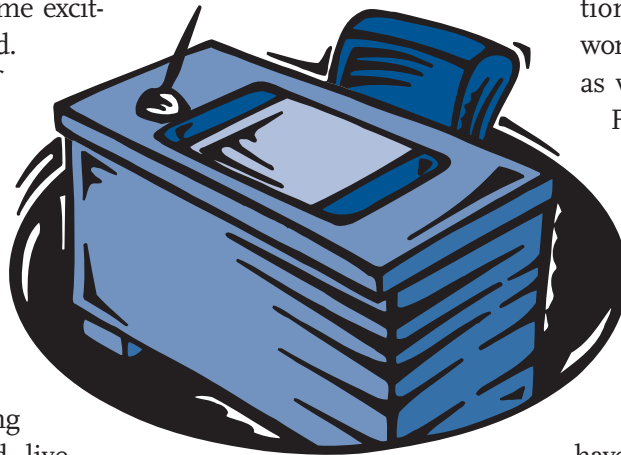


Mosaic is part of a national network certification in Basic Assurances from The Council on Quality and Leadership. This award represents the dedication to making great things happen in the lives of all people.

From the Executive Director

I want to extend a very grateful thank you for all the support and generous contributions in 2008. We had a wonderful year and are anticipating another in 2009. Mosaic in Tri-Cities has some exciting events and activities planned.

The first event is the Night of Inclusion to kick off National Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This event will take place Friday, March 13 in York at Chances "R" Restaurant and in Grand Island at the Mid Town Holiday Inn on Saturday, March 14. The evening will include dinner, silent and live auctions, and live entertainment by The Mighty Nish Band. I am very excited for a successful evening of raising awareness for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



by Sheila Krolkowski

We are excited to be teaming up with other community members to have a successful and fun day of golfing on June 20 at Jack Rabbit Golf Course. More information will be coming about an all women's golf tournament in Hastings as well. We will be having our annual Friends and Family Picnic later in the summer or early fall as well as the annual Christmas Celebration in York. This celebration will be happening in Grand Island and Hastings this year as well and I am very excited about coming together with friends, guardians, employees, and the communities to have a night of celebration with our individuals in service.

Again, thank you for your generous support in 2008. We are excited about building and creating stronger community relationships and looking forward to a successful 2009.

Mosaic Tri-Cities Prepares for Night of Inclusion

March is National Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Month. In celebration of this month, we are excited to bring the first fundraising event to the Tri-cities called Night of Inclusion. This event will take place at two locations on March 13 and 14 to bring awareness throughout the communities about Mosaic and the services we provide, and will also help us to 'friend raise' by creating new relationships and strengthening existing ones.

The first evening of Night of Inclusion will be **March 13, 2009 in York at Chances "R" Restaurant and Lounge**. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a meet-and-greet. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. with the choice of a prime rib buffet or marsala chicken. The live auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. with our very own Von Lutz as auctioneer. After the

auction is complete, everyone will be entertained by live entertainment, The Mighty Nish Band from Omaha. They are a four-piece band that plays music from the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s, and current. They are interactive and have guaranteed to get the crowd up and moving.

The second Night of Inclusion will take place on **March 14, 2009 at the Mid Town Holiday Inn** in Grand Island. It will begin at 5 p.m. with a meet-and-greet until dinner at 6 p.m. This will also be a prime rib buffet with rainbow chicken.

After the dinner is over, our very own Von Lutz will get the auction going which will lead into the performance of the The Mighty Nish Band.

Ticket sales started in February and will continue until the day of the event. We will also be selling tickets at the door. For



The Mighty Nish Band from Omaha mixes in favorite tunes from the present back to the 50s. Pictured are band members Jason Burmeister, Jamie Burmeister, Seth Burmeister, and Gary Petersen.

a more accurate food count, buying tickets ahead of time is recommended. Tickets are \$40 at both events. We will be auctioning items such as a movie night, spa items, autographed husker memorabilia (football and volleyball), etc. We will also be selling tickets for a drawing to win a 37" LG Flat Screen TV, compliments of Licht's in York and a 42" Flat Screen TV donated by Video Kingdom in Grand Island. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 a piece or five for \$20.

If interested in purchasing tickets for Night of Inclusion, you may contact Traci Dusatko at the Grand Island Mosaic office at 308.381.1690 x211 or online at www.mosaicinfo.org/nightofinclusion. When purchasing your tickets online, they will be mailed directly to you. This will allow purchasers to get their tickets whichever way is convenient for them.

We hope to see all of you at our events and we are excited for a successful Night of Inclusion. The money raised will go toward specific client and Mosaic agency needs.

Mark Your Calendar:

March 13 and 14 Night of Inclusion Events

June 20 Golf Tournament at Jack Rabbit Golf Course

TBA Hastings All Women's Golf Tournament

TBA Friends and Family Picnic

Grand Island

2846 Old Fair Rd.
Grand Island, NE 68803-5222
308.381.1690

Hastings

818 W. 21st St.
Hastings, NE 68901-2627
402.463.7422

York

220 W. South 21st St.
York, NE 68467-9316
402.362.2180

S.M.I.L.E.S.

S.M.I.L.E.S. is Mosaic's official newsletter for Tri-Cities, Neb., which includes Grand Island, Hastings, and York.

Executive Director
Sheila Krolikowski

Editor
Traci Dusatko

Mission
In partnership with people who have disabilities, Mosaic provides supports and advocates that all may realize God's gift of wholeness of life.

Relationships
Mosaic is an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, 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.

Integrity at Mosaic
If you have a concern, call our national Confidential Reporting Hotline at 800.443.4899, or e-mail integrity@mosaicinfo.org.

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2846 Old Fair Rd.
Grand Island, NE 68803-5222
P: 308.381.1690
F: 308.381.6520
www.mosaicinfo.org

To be added or removed from the mailing list for Milestones, please contact Mosaic at the address above.

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York Holds Annual Christmas Celebration

Each year, Mosaic in York holds a Christmas celebration at the local Chances "R" Restaurant. This celebration is to get family, friends, and guardians together with staff and individuals in services and celebrate the holiday together. Clients look forward to this biggest celebration of the year and get dressed up — some people even get their hair professionally done. Everyone gets excited about the community interaction and this special event.

Each person in service received an award for all their hard work and dedication through the year. It was a sit-down dinner with the restaurant's famous fried chicken

and mashed potatoes. Deacon Rick Eldred at East Hill Church of Christ delivered the blessing. It was a great meal and good times were had by all.

Thank you to everyone who made the event a success. Thank you for the parents, guardians, and loved ones who braved the snow storm and were able to attend. Your continued love and support is felt and appreciated by all.

Thank you also to our many generous donors throughout the year and holiday season. God's blessings on a safe and joyous 2009.

Wiese Award Winner: Boyd and Pam Tietmeyer



Rita Wiese proudly displays the Wiese Award plaque while award recipients Boyd and Pam Tietmeyer look on.

The Jerrilyn Wiese Spirit Award began in December 1995 when the mother of client Rita Wiese passed away. Jerrilyn volunteered at Mosaic helping clients with crafts and activities, and was a true friend to them. A plaque hanging in the foyer of our York office has Wiese's picture with the inscription: *Presented in honor of Jerrilyn Weise's devotion to creation of community opportunities and awareness. To building friendships among people and to exceptional volunteer services for families and individuals with developmental disabilities. Jerrilyn was a devoted wife, mother, advocate, mentor and friend. The spirit that she brought to every day life and the willingness to go the extra mile was evident in the way she lived.*

Recipients chosen to receive this award are people in the community that go the extra mile involving Mosaic's clients. Congratulations to the 2009 Wiese Award Winners: Boyd and Pam Tietmeyer.

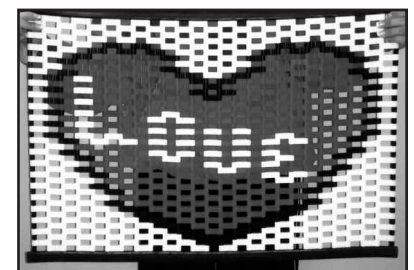
Tri-Cities Vocational Sites Sell Mats

All three of Mosaic in Tri-Cities (Grand Island, Hastings, York) involve our clients in projects. One such project is making rubber mats as a way for individuals served to earn money. They keep busy taking orders, designing mats and selling them. We have many mats to choose from and also take custom orders. Please contact the site in your area for more information and to purchase yours today.

- Grand Island 308.362.2180 (Lynette)
- York 402.362.2180 (Caleb)
- Hastings 402.463.0518 x211 (Cindy)



Erin Runyan shows off the mat she made for Mosaic.





Rusty Adams, owner and proprietor of Rusty Metals in York.

From York, Rusty Metals Helps the Environment

In an effort to further our recycling, Rusty Adams has opened his own business called Rusty Metals. He scraps old electronics, appliances, and anything with metal in it. He's currently scrapping a van.

At this time he is unable to take televisions, monitors, and anything with freon in it. For more details, or to arrange a pickup for an item, please call 402.362.2180 and ask for Chris.

Hastings Success Spotlight

Iva Einsphar attends the Salvation Army Church and is very involved in church activities. She volunteers at the church whenever help is needed. Every year, Iva, who receives services at Mosaic, volunteers her time to sit outside in the cold weather during the Christmas season to ring the Salvation Army bell for money to be raised to help needy families during the holidays. We had many bitterly cold days this past holiday season, but you could always find Iva bundled up in coat and blankets with her signature red bucket and bell in her hand. The money that Iva helped raise goes toward food for families in need and for Christmas gifts for children. Iva put everything else in her life aside to spend many hours volunteering to ring the bell for donations and missed a few holiday activities so she could be available to volunteer at the church. Way to go Iva and thank you for all your volunteer work!

We're Cooking in York

After a long wait, we are opening our vocational kitchen to individuals served at Mosaic in York. The kitchen is built, the cooks are trained and the stoves are hot — let's eat! The kitchen will provide hot meals at no cost to individuals served or staff through the lunch hour.

Appliances came from Licht's in York. Stuebing Construction built the cabinets and the materials came from Mead Lumber.



Aktion Club News in Grand Island

Congratulations to Grand Island Aktion Club member, Lynn Redding, for receiving third place in the International Aktion Club Speech Contest. Lynn has been honored with a certificate and medallion for this achievement. She is the first Aktion Club member from our district to enter any of the annual contests.

Aktion Club is a community service club and the official Kiwanis sponsored program for adults who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. The Aktion Club mission is to provide adults an opportunity to develop initiative and leadership skills, to serve their community, and to be integrated into society and demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens living with disabilities. Aktion Club members strive to return to their communities the benefits, help, and caring they have received, as well as develop important skills in the process.

Christmas Tea in Hastings

The annual Hastings Christmas Tea brought families, friends, and the community together in December. Associate Direct Support Manager, Cindy Douglas, helped plan this event by purchasing various door prizes and made all the food herself, planning for 150 people. They had a good turnout despite the snow and enjoyed spending the afternoon eating and visiting while listening to Christmas music. Kudos to Cindy for organizing and thank you to everyone who attended.



Mosaic Receives National Quality Award

Mosaic has been awarded its second Basic Assurances® Network Certification from The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). Mosaic was the first organization to be awarded this certification in 2006. The review evaluates services and supports for people with disabilities in the areas of health, safety and security. Mosaic sought to attain this certification to affirm its commitment of providing high quality services. CQL is the leader in the field of establishing standards of supports for people with disabilities and people with mental illness.

“Mosaic has provided national leadership in demonstrating a commitment and accountability to the people and their families receiving services and supports,” said James F. Gardner, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of CQL.

“Mosaic has established a new standard of accountability for agencies in its national network. On behalf of CQL, I offer my congratulations to the board and staff throughout the Mosaic network for their priorities and performance.”

Linda Timmons, Mosaic president and chief executive officer is passionate about providing the highest quality services to people with disabilities. “This certification is validation that our efforts to promote individualized service to support people to live a full life of their choosing have been successful,” said Timmons. “We are determined to remain focused on our promise to serve and advocate on behalf of those with disabilities.”

CQL visited and evaluated 14 Mosaic agencies that provide services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Cathy Yadamec, CQL project manager, led the Mosaic review process. “The individual agencies CQL visited as part of our review were empowered to act responsibly and responsibly to the people supported. Guided by the

Mosaic vision and values, each agency demonstrated accountability and commitment to learning through the implementation of their Basic Assurances monitoring systems,” said Yadamec.



The Council on Quality
and Leadership

Tri-Cities Summer Program Gears Up

The summer recreation program for the school age individuals is in the planning stage for this summer.

Our mission statement: Provide an alternate outlet during the summer for school age individuals offering an entertaining and educational experience through community involvement, arts and crafts, social learning, educational programs, and life skills. All will be provided within a positive, Christian atmosphere.

The summer's wish list is as follows: close faced fishing reels with rods, games and puzzles for indoors and outdoors, sidewalk chalk, all sizes of pots for outside flowers and plants, plants and flowers, craft and bead items, Nebraska State Park Stickers, or admission passes to the Children's Zoo, Happy Jack's Mine Tour, Edgerton Explorit Center, Archway Museum, Pioneer Village, Bowling, or Hastings and Stuhr Museums. Of course, any additional recreational item or financial help would also be appreciated.

For additional information, please contact Traci Dusatko at 308.381.1690 x211 or Pete Mackie at 402.984.1915.

Special Olympics News from Grand Island

What a busy year already! The Special Olympics season started once again in September and we have been on the run with activities. We have several events that individuals are participating in including: skating, bowling, swimming, basketball, and track and field (that will begin on Monday, March 2). Thirty-five people just from Mosaic in Grand Island alone participate. Our upcoming area meets are Feb. 13 for bowling in Kearney and Feb. 21 for basketball in Minden.

Christmas Tea in Grand Island

The Grand Island Christmas Tea, an annual event similar to an open house, was held in December and had a nice turn-out of families, friends and individuals served by Mosaic. It was a way for us to show appreciation to our supporters. Thank you to all who attended. We look forward to the 2009 Christmas Tea.

A Few Words About People First Language *by Kathie Snow*

Visit www.disabilityisnatural.com to see the original, full-length article.

People with disabilities constitute our nation's largest minority group. It's also the most inclusive: all ages, genders, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic levels are represented. Yet the only thing people with disabilities have in common is being on the receiving end of societal misunderstanding, prejudice, and discrimination. And this largest minority group is the only one which anyone can join, at any time: at birth, in the split second of an accident, through illness, or during the aging process. If and when it happens to you, how will you want to be described?

Words matter! Old and inaccurate descriptors perpetuate negative stereotypes and reinforce an incredibly powerful attitudinal barrier, which is the greatest obstacle facing individuals with disabilities. A disability is, first and foremost, a medical diagnosis, and when we define people by their diagnoses, we devalue and disrespect them as individuals. Do you want to be known primarily by your psoriasis, gynecological history, or the warts on your behind? Using medical diagnoses incorrectly—as a measure of a person's abilities or potential—can ruin people's lives.

Embrace a new paradigm: "Disability is a natural part of the human experience..." (U.S. Developmental Disabilities/ Bill of Rights Act). Yes, disability is natural, and it can be redefined as a "body part that works differently." A person with spina bifida has legs that work differently, a person with Down syndrome learns differently, and so forth. People can no more be defined by their medical diagnoses than others can be defined by gender, ethnicity, religion, or other traits!

A diagnosis may also become a sociopolitical passport for services, entitlements, or legal protections. Thus, medical, educational, legal, or

similar settings are the only places where the use of a diagnosis is relevant.

People First Language puts the person before the disability, and describes what a person has, not who a person is. Are you "cancerous" or do you have cancer? Is a person "handicapped/disabled" or does she "have a disability?" Using a diagnosis as a defining characteristic rejects prejudice, and also robs the person of the opportunity to define himself.

Let's reframe "problems" and into "needs." Instead of, "He has behavior problems," we can say, "He needs behavior supports." Instead of, "She has reading problems," we can say, "She needs large print." "Low-functioning" or "high-functioning" are

pejorative and harmful. Machines "function;" people live! And let's eliminate the "special needs" descriptor—it generates pity and low expectations!

A person's self-image is tied to the words used about him. People First Language rejects good manners, not "political correctness," and it was started by individuals who said, "We are not our disabilities!" We can create a new paradigm of disability and change the world in the process. Using People First Language is right—just do it, now!

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.

— Mark Twain

A Few Examples of People First Language

SAY:

Children/adults with disabilities.
He has a cognitive disability.
She has autism.
He has Down syndrome.
She has a learning disability.
He has a physical disability.
She uses a wheelchair.
He receives special ed services.
People without disabilities.
Communicates with her eyes/device/etc.
Congenital disability/Brain injury
Accessible parking, hotel room, etc.

INSTEAD OF:

Handicapped, disabled, special needs.
He's mentally retarded.
She's autistic.
He's Down's/mongoloid.
She's learning disabled.
He's a quadriplegic/crippled.
She's confined to/wheelchair bound.
He's in special ed; a special ed kid.
Normal or healthy people.
Is non-verbal.
Birth defect/Brain damaged
Handicapped parking, hotel room, etc.

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