

From the Executive Director's Desk

The English words "The pen is mightier than the sword" were first written by novelist and playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839. Back then, they knew words were powerful. They still are today. Sometimes, words can hurt. Hurtful and offensive words can damage relationships. Words can also edify a person and do a great deal of good. This newsletter contains information about words, specific to the disability community. What words hurt? What should be said instead? Once we understand what hurts and what could be better, we can apply the knowledge and show our respect. —Teresa Naughton



Staff Anniversaries

20 Years or More

Lorraine Ackerson
Pam DeWald
Jill Matthes
Julie Miller
Kristie Miller
Dee Moser
Teresa Naughton
Sharon Phillips

15 Years or More

Lynne Doherty
Diane Doolittle
Terri Friesth
Carrie Fritz
Angie Gibbs
Deb Hanson
Beth Lind
Joan Olson
Richard Scisco

10 Years or More

Nancy Burnett
Curt Duffield
Jane Erpelding
Kelly Krug
Wayne Nilles
Jeff Oatman
Patreasha Presswood
Sandi Vaughn

5 Years or More

Sally Ackerson
Angie Bradwell
Angel Carr
Rebecca Evans
Heather Fetters
Heather Hiesterman
Nancy Hilpipre
Laurie Lagerstrom
Jackie Leith
Deb Lewis
Mellissa Naeve
Joe Perry
Dani Rogers
Pam Smith
Michelle Syferd
Aundre Whitfield
Rhyan Wing
Kathy Zimmermann

(as of 4/25/18)

Honoring the Givers

LifeWorks is pleased to honor an individual and an organization who have given time, talent, and treasure to enhance the lives of individuals served. We are blessed by their philanthropy.

2018 Individual Donor of the Year

John Sersland



John Sersland has stepped up in a number of ways to the benefit of people served by LifeWorks. In 2013,

John was one of the testimonial speakers at the LifeWorks Charitable Foundation's fundraiser. He courageously shared his personal story about how LifeWorks has helped his son and his family. John has donated of his financial resources consistently over the years. He was also instrumental in St. Olaf giving its financial support to the LifeWorks Charitable Foundation during its endowment campaign. John has stepped up when there has been a need, and LifeWorks is deeply grateful for his advocacy. It is for these reasons that John has been named the 2018 Individual Donor of the Year.

2018 Organizational Donor of the Year

Fort Dodge Civitan Club



As part of the weekly Civitan meetings, the Civitan Creed is read aloud. Part of that creed is, "I am Civitan, as

old as life, as young as the rainbow, as endless as time. My hands do the work of the world and reach out in service to others....My hope is for a better world through Civitan." The Fort Dodge club works hard to fulfill their creed. They host multiple events throughout the year, to provide joy to individuals with disabilities. At these events participants may play BINGO and win prizes the club has acquired, they might dance, they enjoy snacks, and they get to know one another. The club has also supported the LifeWorks Charitable Foundation's annual fundraiser for the past several years. Because the club has given so much for the benefit of individuals with disabilities, it has been named the 2018 Organizational Donor of the Year.

Checking Out Careers

How can a person know what they don't know?

In short, they can't.

There's no good way to help people who've only worked in a sheltered workshop setting to understand and consider careers. That's where Career Exploration comes in.

Career Exploration activities are designed to develop an individual career plan and facilitate the person's transition to individual employment in the community. LifeWorks has been offering Career Exploration since October 2016. Twenty-five people have been enrolled in the program, and 22 have completed it.

There have been some unexpected outcomes of Career Exploration. Some individuals were so impressive that employers hired them! Also, there were some individuals who learned they did not want to pursue community based employment at this time.

LifeWorks is grateful to the 48 businesses who've allowed us to tour their places of business, educate individuals on the various jobs available, and share what job expectations might be. If you want to learn more about this or other employment programs, contact Vocational Director Curt Duffield at 515-576-2126.





Check us out at:
www.lifeworkscommunityservices.org

Non-Profit
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 Fort Dodge, IA
 Permit No. 838

Return service requested

Vocational Site:
 1303 A St.
 Fort Dodge, IA 50501
 Phone: 515-576-2126
 Fax: 515-576-2251

Saving Through IABLE

Did you know?

- In 2015, Iowa passed legislation to offer tax-free savings accounts for people with disabilities and their families.
- Through "IAble," people with disabilities and their families can save for disability-related expenses without losing their eligibility for certain assistance programs, like SSI and Medicaid.
- IABLE accounts can be used for short-term saving or long-term investing, whatever best meets the needs of the account owner.
- Earnings on IABLE investments are federally tax-deferred and tax-free, if used for qualified disability expenses.



For more detailed information, forms, resources, or to open an account, go online to www.iable.gov

The Mission of LifeWorks Community Services

To provide opportunities for growth and achievement for persons with disabilities who face barriers to independence and integration in employment and daily living.

What Words Have You Been Using?	Words to Lose	Words to Live By
<p>It is common for people without disabilities to be confused about acceptable words and language, relating to disability. What are respectful words? Check out these words, and better alternatives!</p>	Handicap	Disability
	The disabled, the blind	Person with a disability, people who are blind
	Intellectually disabled person	Person with an intellectual disability
	Handicapped parking, handicapped seating	Accessible parking, accessible seating
	Insane, crazy, cray, psycho	Psychiatric disability
	A schizophrenic	A person with schizophrenia
	Differently abled, handicapable	(Avoid trendy or cute terms)
	Suffers from Down Syndrome	Has Down Syndrome