

Celebrating 16 Years of Employment

Staff Anniversaries

25 Years or More

Lorraine Ackerson
Pam DeWald
Jill Matthes
Julie Miller
Damaris Moser
Teresa Naughton

20 Years or More

Diane Doolittle
Terri Friesth
Carrie Fritz
Angela Gibbs
Elizabeth Lind
Kristie Miller
Sharon Phillips
Richard Scisco

15 Years or More

Nancy Burnett
Lynne Doherty
Jeff Oatman
Joan Olson
Sandra Vaughn

10 Years or More

Sally Ackerson
Curt Duffield
Chris Eslick
Mary Evans
Heather Fetters
Heather Hiesterman
Laurie Lagerstrom
Wayne Nilles
Patreasha Presswood
Michelle Syferd
Aundre Whitfield
Rhyan Wing
Kathy Zimmermann

5 Years or More

Susan Anderson
Sally Andrews
Dan Brown
Angel Carr
Dawn Fedkenheuer
Heather Fetters
Jennifer Gottschalk
Ashley Harms
Heather Hiesterman
Jenni Kallenbach
Deb Lewis
Laura McLaughlin
Kelly Miller
Melissa Naeve
Desirae Parmalee
Joe Perry
Drew Ruby
Pam Smith

(as of 2/18/2021)



With the help of the LifeWorks Supported Employment program, Judy Jones was hired by McDonalds as a dining room attendant and dishwasher in 2005. In 2020, Judy received an award for working there 15 years. "I've seen a lot of changes over years and met a lot of nice people." Changes included the dishwashing equipment and the dining room closing due to COVID-19. Judy said she "likes everything about her job." Her manager states, "She is a wonderful worker. She is confident and calm under pressure and always does a good job with a smile on her face." LifeWorks thanks McDonalds for giving Judy this opportunity. It has positively impacted her life for the past 16 years.

If you are interested in employing someone through our Supported Employment program, or know of someone with an employment barrier needing help finding a job, please contact us at 515-576-2126.

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.

COVID-19 VACCINE

It appears that we may soon be able to enjoy our favorite activities again as the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available. As each of us consider the pros and cons of taking the vaccine, or as we assist our loved ones that need help making that big decision, here is information from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention that may be helpful.

MYTHS

Can the vaccine make me sick with COVID-19? No the vaccine does not contain the live virus.

If I already had COVID-19 do I still need the vaccine? Yes, you should still get the vaccine as it is not known how long you are immune after recovering from the disease.

Will the vaccine prevent me from getting sick? Yes, the vaccine teaches your body how to identify and fight the illness.

You can see answers to more questions at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html

DID YOU KNOW?

After you receive your vaccine you can use "V-safe", which is a text messaging system to provide personalized health check-ins? In the first week you will get daily texts to see how you are doing. After the first week the messages will arrive weekly. The system will also remind you to get your second dose if you need one. Sign up at:

<https://vsafe.cdc.gov/en/>



Thank you Knights of Columbus! LifeWorks received combined donations of \$4,252.26 from Fort Dodge, Humboldt and St. Joseph.





Check us out at:
www.lifeworkscommunityservices.org



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Say

- A person is 'living with' or 'has a diagnosis of' a mental illness
- A person 'has a diagnosis of,' or 'is being treated for' schizophrenia, anorexia
- Accurate terminology (like 'antidepressants,' 'psychiatrists,' 'hospital')
- 'Seek help,' 'find resources or services'

Language matters!

Use this guide to know what to say, and what not to say, about mental illness



Don't Say

- Stigmatizing terms such as 'psycho,' 'lunatic,' 'crazy'
- A person 'is schizophrenic' or 'an anorexic', since it is a label
- Words such as 'happy pills,' 'shrinks', 'looney bin'
- Language that trivializes mental illness like 'weak' or 'snap out of it'

Having Hybrid Fun

Mark your calendars! The LifeWorks Charitable Foundation will hold a hybrid fundraiser on **Thursday November 4th**.

What the heck is a "hybrid" event anyway? Unlike past events that were on one night at one location, and unlike last year's virtual event, the hybrid event will combine all the best of worlds. A person can watch virtually from any place, be present at Fort Frenzy, or at a "pod". A pod is a satellite location, where smaller groups of people can participate (think "watch party!"). This will allow people to choose their comfort level, keep people safe, and still allow for a great time. Keep your eyes open for more details!



Highlights for 2021

- **Individuals living at the Dakota City site moved to the Humboldt Site February 1.** The landlord felt the building in Dakota City was better suited for families, since it had three bedroom units with two bathrooms. Tenants were not offered renewal leases, but were given new leases at the Humboldt Site instead.
- **LifeWorks achieved goals from the last strategic plan!** All overall stakeholder satisfaction was maintained above 80%. Billing efficiencies were realized. Compensation to Direct Support Professionals increased. The Supported Employment Program grew. A new three-year plan was written. **New goals** include continuing to increase Direct Support Professional wages; growing non-residential services; increasing the use of technology, in both services and in the business office; and maintaining satisfaction above 80% for all stakeholders.
- In response to the pandemic and growing Day Habilitation referrals, **LifeWorks remodeled some former workshop space in Fort Dodge.**
- LifeWorks leased space to One Vision at the Fort Dodge vocational site. Services and rules have changed in the meanwhile, so One Vision (OV) does not need the space they once did. **OV made the decision to move offices to a different location effective June 1, but continue leasing warehouse space.** LifeWorks will continue leasing space to Freedom Pointe of Greater Webster County.
- On July 1, **LifeWorks' home Mental Health/Disability Services Region will change from County Social Services to Central Iowa Community Services.**
- **Reviews, audits and certifications for 2021** include the Department of Human Services' Home and Community Based Services certification occurring now, Social Security's audit of the payee program, the annual business office audit to transpire in the late summer, and a CARF review anticipated for this fall.