

LifeWorks for Jay

(This was relayed by Ed Johnson, Jay's brother, during a testimonial speech. LifeWorks thanks him for his honesty and his kind words.)

I felt that my Father would like to have my brother Jay work, he had worked with my father on doing deliveries, cards that my father had sold on the road. Jay had been a part of that, had been very helpful and took direction well. So I contacted LifeWorks in 2004. They were very enthusiastic about working with Jay and very quick to respond. They quickly got him involved. Within a year or so, LifeWorks contacted my father and said they thought Jay would benefit from moving [into a house with roommates]. My father agreed to it and was pretty enthusiastic. It worked out really pretty well. It wasn't without any problems. It was with the help of LifeWorks and their coaching, their guidance, their teaching and their support that Jay and my father got through it. Jay would spend the weekend with my father and then the rest of the week at the house. Unfortunately, a couple years later my Father passed away. I then became Jay's guardian. That wasn't without its difficulties. So, did he fumble? Yes. Was LifeWorks there to catch him? Completely. They communicated with me fully, we made plans, and they supported Jay through all of it. It was really a pretty amazing experience. A few years later they talked to me about Jay moving into his own apartment. He had grown quite a bit, and they felt he was ready to live on his own with the help of LifeWorks staff. This was very concerning for me. I didn't know about him cooking, if people would take advantage of him, and all of the things I think people go through when having a relative move to an apartment who has a disability. I've got to tell you, I was wrong. They were 100% right, Jay was ready. It didn't go without issues. The firemen came when a baked potato got burned. But, that was a learning lesson and he never burned another baked potato. It was great all because of LifeWorks, their support, guidance, teaching and the calm and professional way of dealing with individuals. That has been very satisfying for me. I've got to tell you Jay is my best friend, and I talk to him every night. He talked to my Father every night before my Father passed, and after my Father passed we took up the ritual of talking every night. I've got to tell you it's one of the most satisfying relationships I've ever had, to see Jay grow and continue to grow. To get through this whole virus thing with the aid, support and guidance from LifeWorks has been humbling and incredibly enriching.



LifeWorks' Mission:

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

Vocational Programs

Navigating Non-Residential Services Through COVID-19

The past year and a half have been unusual times to say the least. The world is experiencing something we have never experienced before: a global pandemic. Our "new normal" has been different and challenging. As we navigate through this global pandemic, we continually try and determine what is the safest way to provide day habilitation and employment services. What we

have learned is that individuals served and their families have been very understating. Many times during the past 18 months, we have had to switch directions due the unexpected nature of COVID – 19. This has been very challenging and confusing.

As we gradually increase Day Habilitation services and try and get back to where we were before the pandemic, we are experiencing another crisis: a labor shortage. This has been a barrier we have experienced in our industry before, but this time

it's more severe. We encourage all individuals involved, and their families, to continue to have patience. We are making progress. Effective July 1st, we increased our starting wage. We have also implemented a \$1000 sign-bonus. We hope to get fully staffed, to provide the services individuals want and need as soon as we can. Until that time, your continued understanding is most appreciated. While frustrating, we can say the situation as a whole is better today than one year ago.



Vocational Director Curt Duffield

- Participated in Day Habilitation: 108
- Worked on a crew: 26
- Received supported employment: 31



FY21 Foundation Accomplishments

- Pivoted from an in-person event to a virtual fundraiser. Raised over \$26,000.
- Contributed dollars to convert part of the former sheltered workshop to a Day Habilitation space at the Fort Dodge vocational site
- Contributed funds, to replace air conditioning units at South Taft Villa
- Established an Investment Committee
- Netted over \$85,000 through investments




Join us for an hour, to learn how LifeWorks impacts the lives of individuals with disabilities in our area.

Bid on a silent auction item, participate in a drawing, learn about us, listen to a testimonial speaker, and enjoy the night from home.

A Virtual Night for LifeWorks

Thursday, November 4, 2021
From 7pm to 8pm
on the LifeWorks Facebook Page



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Check us out!
www.lifeworkscommunityservices.org

Non-Profit
US POSTAGE
PAID
Fort Dodge, IA
Permit No. 100

Current Resident OR

Vocational Site:
1303 A Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Phone: 515-576-2126
Fax: 515-576-2251



Key Dates in LifeWorks History

- 1965**....Began and was named “North Central Rehabilitation Center,” in Fort Dodge
- 1974**....Moved vocational services to the current building in Fort Dodge
- 1982**....Gained responsibility of the Fort Dodge Group Home, a Residential Care Facility (RCF) for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- 1983**....Began serving individuals living in their own apartments
- 1990**....Started Oak Estate. Expanded services to include supporting people with mental illness living in apartments.
- 1995**....Approved as a provider of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). Began Maple Estate.
- 1997**....Converted 12 bed site from serving individuals with intellectual disabilities to one serving persons with mental illness. Opened two HCBS homes, Cedar and Willow Estates.
- 1998**....Began Ashford Estate
- 2001**....Opened a new HCBS home named Marigold
- 2004**....Opened a new HCBS home named Floral Circle
- 2005**....Began offering Work Crew services
- 2007**....Converted 12-bed Fort Dodge Group Home to five-bed Aspen Estate. Moved all residential offices to one site.
- 2008**....Changed the name we do business as to “LifeWorks Community Services.” Launched website.
- 2009**....The LifeWorks Charitable Foundation was incorporated
- 2010**.... Began providing grant-funded services to the residents of the Wahkonsa Manor
- 2011**....Opened a new HCBS home named Sequoia. The LifeWorks Charitable Foundation held its first fundraising event. Northwoods Products and Services (now known as One Vision) co-located at LifeWorks’ vocational site.
- 2012**....Converted two five-person homes licensed by the State (Ashford and Aspen Estates) from Residential Care Facilities to Home and Community Based Service sites
- 2015**....Began piloting community-based Day Habilitation groups
- 2016**....Contracted with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to provide services
- 2017**....Expanded services into the Humboldt area. This included the addition of: 24-hour teams at South Taft Villa, 9th Street, three Humboldt Site buildings, and a building in Dakota City; hourly Supported Community Living; Day Habilitation; Work Crews; and Supported Employment. Began providing business support services to Freedom Pointe of Greater Webster County.
- 2018**....Leased space at the vocational site to Freedom Pointe of Greater Webster County. Ended Prevocational Training on the last working day of December 2018.
- 2019**....Purchased properties at 302 9th Street North and 401 South Taft Street, both in Humboldt
- 2021**....LifeWorks’ home mental health region changed to Central Iowa Community Services

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