



SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Spring 2026

Staff Anniversaries

35 years or more

Jill Matthes

30 years or more

Julie Miller

Damaris Moser

Teresa Naughton

25 years or more

Carrie Fritz

Angela Gibbs

Elizabeth Lind

Kristie Miller

Sharon Phillips

20 years or more

Nancy Burnett

Jeff Oatman

Joan Olson

15 years or more

Sally Ackerson

Curt Duffield

Chris Eslick

Heather Fetters

Heather Hiesterman

Patreasha Presswood

Michelle Syferd

Aundre Whitfield

Rhyan Wing

Ten years or more

Angel Carr

Jennifer Gottschalk

Ashley Hoogenakker

Pamela Smith

Five years or more

Nicole Athens

Susan Anderson

Donnie Barnes

Josh Beske

Lisa Boyd

Margaret Brady

Brittany Coronado

Jessie Dencklau

Stacy Erpelding

Ashley Faiferlick

Lori Fortner

Ann Halbur

Jenni Kallenbach

Jackie Leith

Sunshine Loftsgard

Laura McLaughlin

Melissa Nielsen

Tressa Niles

Jessica Pickett

Janice Rees

Angela Saathoff

Jeff Sanford

Madison Trevis

Shellane Williams

From the Executive Director's Desk

LifeWorks was founded by advocates and parents who wondered, "What now?", once individuals with disabilities left high school. Sheltered work was the first service offered, in 1966. Advocates were proud, seeing the sheltered workshop as a protective environment offering productive activity.

In 1982, when LifeWorks first provided a residential service, it was a 12-bed residential care facility with house parents.

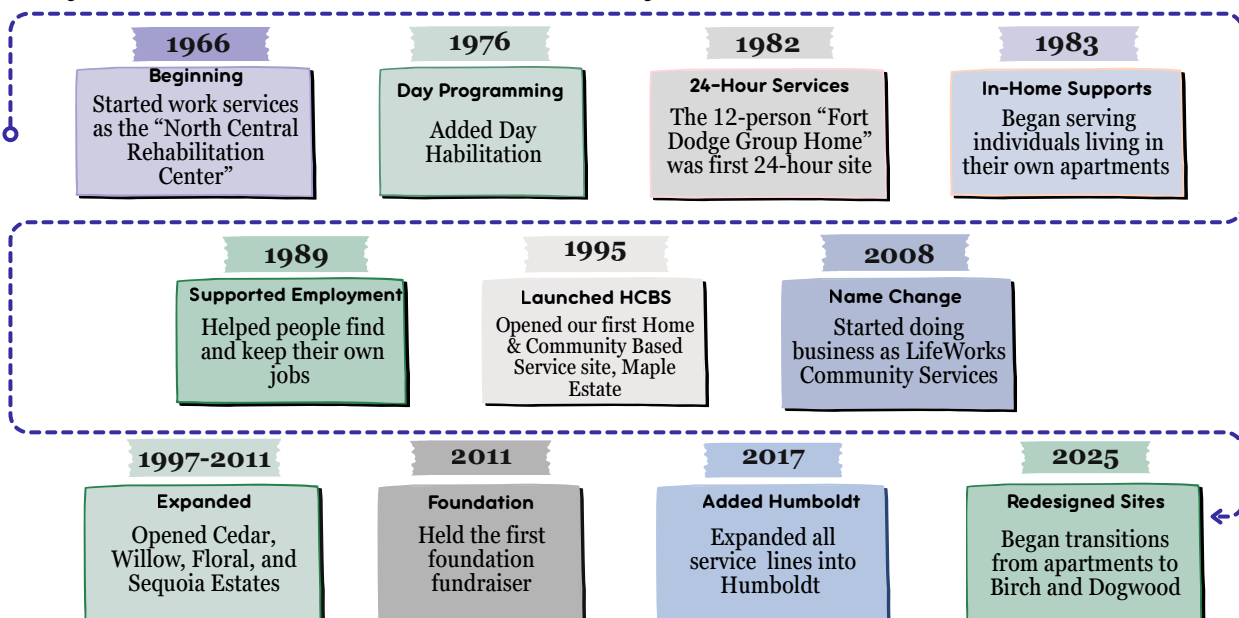
Society has changed a great deal since those times. Sheltered workshops are considered segregated settings, and 12-bed residential care facilities are no longer built. Landmark legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act, court decisions like *Olmstead v. L.C.*, and parents wanting better opportunities for their children have all moved the needle. Disability rights have shifted the focus from institutional care to community inclusion, allowing people with disabilities to live, work, and participate in daily life independently.

LifeWorks Community Services has changed with the times over the past 60 years. People served live where they want, have neighbors, hold jobs, buy groceries, go out to eat, and spend time with friends. Rights are not restricted without due process.

What will happen over the next 60 years? It's impossible to know. Together, I hope we build a community that values dignity before limitation, a handshake over exclusion, and mutual respect over misunderstanding. -- Teresa Naughton

Check out our staff longevity! Sixty (60) percent of employees have been with LifeWorks five or more years. Awesome! We are proud of these loyal people. Thank you!

Key Dates In LifeWorks History





1303 A Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

515-576-2126
www.lifeworkscommunityservices.org

Addressee or current resident at:



**Next
Foundation
Fundraiser**
Thursday,
November 5,
2026 at Fort
Frenzy's Cardiff
Center

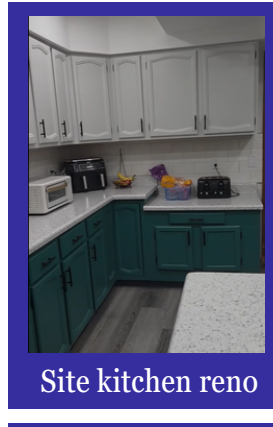
The Foundation Works for LifeWorks

These are just some of the projects the LifeWorks Charitable Foundation has helped fund.

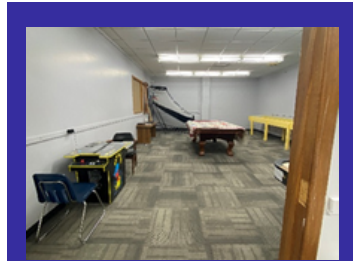
Do you want this work to continue?

Give generously!

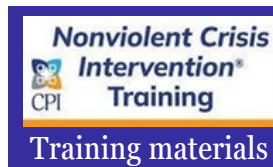
You can donate on our website, send a check, attend our annual fundraiser, or more!



Site kitchen reno



FD Day hab remodel



Training materials



Iowa HHS' HOME Project

Iowa launched the "Hope and Opportunities in Many Environments" (HOME) project in 2022. The goal is to help Iowans get the support they need while staying close to family and friends. Iowa partnered with Mathematica to study Iowa's Home and Community Based Services system, and then set goals to improve it.

To increase access to services based on individual needs, Iowa will change from seven diagnosis-based waivers to three aged-based ones; Children and Youth (CY), Adults with Disabilities (AD), and Elderly.

During phase I, Iowa will transition these waivers into the three new ones: the Children's Mental Health (CMH); Health and Disability (HD); AIDS/HIV; and Physical Disability (PD). In Phase II, the Intellectual Disabilities and the Brain Injury waivers will be transitioned.

Detailed information can be found here:
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid/about-medicaid/medicaid-projects/home>

