

# DSN Quarterly

## DSN Supporting Others in Getting a Life



Developmental  
Services of  
Nebraska, Inc.

### Congratulations New Supervisors:

- **Chad Kolbrek: SW 19th (Lincoln)**
- **Taylor Streeter: Central South (Kearney)**
- **Lisa Peper: Avenue C (Kearney)**
- **Jordan Mar (Case Manager) (KCMO)**
- **Scherone Clark: Lakeview (Omaha)**
- **Heather Gohr: West Gate (Omaha)**
- **Kama Kovacs: 82nd St. & N 74th Ave (Omaha)**

### Inside this issue:

Get a Life Continued	2
Safety	3
Wish List	3
DSN-Kearney	4
DSN-Omaha	6
Anniversaries	7
DSN-Lincoln	8
DSN-MO	9
Administrative Contacts	10

Many times a direct support person, supervisor, administrator, or even an agency may have to ask themselves; what is my job? Or what is DSN's job?

In struggling to answer this question myself, I realized that our collective job in supporting people with disabilities or treatment needs is to simply assist them in "Getting a Life!!"

Our field has so many rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and protocols that it becomes easy to get lost in them. As I was reviewing some regulations newly handed down from Nebraska, I began to look for specific regulations that would direct DSN to support someone in getting a life. I couldn't find one. I found many regulations on how to administer medications, keep financial records, and review incidents. After pouring through hundreds of pages, I could not find one regulation that required a direct support staff to smile when they greeted someone they supported. I could not find one regulation that asked a direct support professional to assist someone they support in gaining a relationship that has value to them.

It occurred to me that that if DSN is to fulfill its obligation to support people in getting a life that we had better not rely on the state of Nebraska to tell us to do so.

It will be up to US, each and every employee of DSN to accomplish this task. If the people we support are to have meaningful lives with value than it will take an entire agency effort. *All of our lives are measured by the meaningful relationships (not those that are paid) that we have.* In addition, our lives are measured by meaningful participation in our own lives and communities. It includes our hobbies, interests, faith, and activities we choose to engage in.

In the past, Nebraska was considered a leader in the deinstitutionalization of people with disabilities. As a state, we were on the forefront of moving people from these institutions to settings in the community. Even with all the progress that has been made in the recent past, we must always remember that an institution is not just a place; it is also a state of mind. Many times those in our field control others lives in ways that institutionalize. Voice tone, language, lack of age appropriate choices, the non-engagement of casual conversation and the absence of non-contingent touch all put people we support in institutions. In other words, people with disabilities can be living in institutions right in the middle of a community. It is up to US to remove these barriers to help them "get a life."

In order to help those we support to get a life, we must remember that our job is to "teach", not "do for." While it may be harder to teach than to "do for", it is important to recognize that DSN does not exist to "care for" people with disabilities. *We exist to "care about" people enough to teach them.* For example, it is very easy to "give" someone privacy when supporting them. but our job is to "teach" someone to take privacy.

# DSN Supporting Others in Getting a Life

Continued from page 1

Every single person DSN serves has the ability to be more involved in their lives than they currently are. Consider this statement: “Nothing about me without me.” As an agency, we have the ability to involve those we support even more. For example, when we complete the endless amount of paperwork, how about involving the person in the recording of the logs and data that are ABOUT THEM in the process? Tell them exactly what it is you are writing in a book that is ABOUT THEM. We should be consistently asking ourselves the question “Is this something that the person I am supporting can be doing with my help?” Meal preparation, cleaning, and shopping are all things that those we support can become even more involved in.

The question is not whether a person is ready to “get a life” the question is “How much support will this person need to get it?” The only way we can answer that question is by interacting and engaging with people, assuring opportunities and supporting their efforts to participate in all the activities of their lives, offering only as much support as they require and no more.

No one should have to prove themselves in order to have a life with value.

-Submitted by Senator Colby Coash, Director of Training and Development for Collaborative Industries



## **Did you know?**

- **DSN recently celebrated its 18th year of supporting people. The Governor of Nebraska wrote a proclamation for DSN’s birthday. There was a birthday celebration in each Area Program with all of the Administrative staff attending an all day seminar in Lincoln in September hosted by Collaborative Industries.**

View DSN’s Anniversary video here: [www.dsnonline.org](http://www.dsnonline.org)

- **The Area Directors of DSN’s programs have a combined 34 years experience at DSN. This includes Ralph Allen of Omaha 17 years, Tiffany Schnittker of Lincoln 11 years, Kristen Smith of Kearney 5 years and Glenna Love of DSN-MO at 1 year.**

*Please submit contributions for the “Did you know?” column to Sarah Kanter at [skanter@cii.us.com](mailto:skanter@cii.us.com).*

# Monthly Staff Meeting Enhancers: Safety Corner

## NOVEMBER: Gobble Gobble... Ready For The Winter Season?

Dress in warm layers to stay warm. Make sure your winter coat is ready for the season?

Change your furnace filter for clean indoor air and better efficiency.

Stay healthy during the holiday season with portion control.

Test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to verify they are working properly.

## DECEMBER: Christmas. . . Caution to Prevent Fires

Check your Christmas lights to make sure they aren't getting too hot.

Check and close storm windows so you don't let precious heat out.

Make an effort to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.

Apply ice-melt to slippery sidewalks and driveways

## JANUARY: Start fresh for the New Year . . .Without Mold & Mildew



Start the New Year off right by checking your home for any potential safety and health hazards, such as: mold, mildew, loose hand rails, frayed edges on flooring



BE SAFE, STAY WARM, and ENJOY THE SEASON!

## *Our Wish List*

**You can submit a tax  
deductible cash donation  
directly to DSN to Bryan Gunter  
at 5701 Thompson Creek Blvd,  
Suite 200, Lincoln, NE. 68516**

**Kitchen Supplies, pots, pans, dishes, silverware, towels,  
washcloths, and hand towels**

**DVD players, TV's, game systems**

**Household decorations, lamps, end tables, throws, couch pil-  
lows, book shelves, plants, inspirational pictures**

**Board games and card games**

**Gift Cards to restaurants**

**You may also remember DSN when doing estate planning**

*100% of your donations directly benefit those we support*

# What's Happening at DSN Kearney

## ACP Region II Award Winner!

Jessica Zobel, Vocational Manager, DSN-Kearney, has received the ACP Region III award for providing outstanding support to persons with developmental disabilities. Jessica has been employed with DSN since 2004.

The letter nominating Jessica for the award included the following accolades: "Over the past 7 and 1/2 years, Jessica has made certain that the people she supports benefit from the teachings provided. She challenges staff every single day to provide the highest quality of supports at the vocational setting she supervises and challenges the people receiving supports to push forward through difficult times and reach the goals they have set for themselves.

### Way to go Jessica!

The purpose of the Association of Community Professionals (ACP) is to support and promote the development of quality opportunities for all persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities in the least restrictive community alternative.



## Equestrian Show Medals

Eugene P. and Daniel E. competed in a Nebraska Equestrian Show in Grand Island on 9/11/11. They competed as part of the Kearney Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program, and brought home 3 Gold Medals and 1 Bronze!

After many hours spent with their horses and coach this summer, the men competed in Trail, Barrels, and Pole events at the State show and their hard work paid off!



"There is only one success-to spend your life in your own way."  
—Christopher Morley

## Bubbles for Iggy

It all began with an email one afternoon that described the situation of a cat being fostered by a local family involved with the Kearney Area Humane Society. The cat's name was Iggy; he had arrived at the Humane Society with 'special needs'—gastrointestinal problems and a paralyzed left leg. Iggy was not adoptable, but was being fostered by a Kearney family until a permanent home could be arranged. Linda Duffie, Kearney Area Humane Society volunteer coordinator, had sent the email about Iggy's circumstances and asked others to get the word out to the community about raising funds for him. Funds were needed so that Iggy could be transported to Utah to an animal sanctuary that would be his forever home.

As an agency, DSN-Kearney is very connected to community events and received Linda's e-mail. Upon hearing of Iggy's plight, those affiliated with the agency sprung into action. There was an air of excitement as ideas were shouted across the hall, listed in writing, and discussed in small groups. In the end, it was determined that a car wash was the best method to raise the money needed to help Iggy. Everyone involved was highly motivated; the enthusiasm was nearly toxic. Thirty flyers were printed off to be distributed to businesses around town; posters were painted; contacts were made with the local radio station and an article was submitted to the Kearney Hub newspaper.

When the day of the Car Wash arrived everyone was anxious to begin the work that would benefit Iggy. Mother Nature, however, had alternative plans as she began to dump rain on our tiny soapy parade. As we all stood inside the building, watching the torrential downpour and hearing the crackle of thunder, questions began to fly like paper airplanes. "How are we going to have a car wash in the rain?" "Can we reschedule the car wash to a different day?" "Do you think the rain will stop and we can have it in the afternoon?" But most of all ..."How are we going to help Iggy?" Eventually, the rain stopped, the clouds cleared, and the sun was shining brightly. Everyone clamored to gather supplies and begin setting up the area where the car wash would take place. Everyone had an option to assist with all aspects of the event. Then we waited... And waited. Finally, a car pulled in. It was immediately attacked by 20 sets of hands with soap, sponges, towels and chamois. The result was the cleanest car ever to go through a fundraiser car wash and 20 smiling people covered in soap and water. The work continued throughout the day and the result was always the same; spraying water, soap flying, cries of people getting hit with the spray of the hose and many ear-to-ear smiles.

As the temperatures reached the 90's that afternoon, staff began to worry that the motivation would begin to waver. Thankfully, we were proven wrong and there continued to be shouts of excitement as cars arrived—one, two, or even three at a time. Everyone cooperated by rotating to go inside to cool off, use the restroom, get a drink or take turns holding the sign. By the time we were finished we had achieved SUCCESS.. Everyone was involved and EVERYONE was having a wonderful time. We even had a very special surprise visit from Iggy along with photo opportunities. The end results were minor sunburns, a couple small scrapes from over-zealous washing, and the pride of knowing that we had made a difference by earning over \$350 for Iggy. That night we all left to go home knowing that we had helped Iggy to get to his forever home in Utah. We had done so by working as a team, minds and hearts working together in an effort to benefit a small (furry) member of the community we all call home..

Hanna Quiring, DSP - LSK

# In The News at DSN Omaha

## Notable Events

Congratulations Yves Ouedraogo (2nd quarter) and Stephan Larson (3rd quarter) who were recognized as employees of the quarter during an All Team Meeting.

DSN Omaha held their annual picnic at Halleck Park on August 26th. Frank Z. DJ'd the event.

We'd like to thank the following for their donations:

- Arctic Glacier Ice - 60lbs of ice
- Sam's Club - \$25 gift card
- Baker's - Bellevue - \$20 gift card
- Super Saver - \$20 gift card
- Hy-Vee - Soda and water
- Rotella's - Hamburger and Hot Dog Buns
- Payless Office Products - DSN banner

In honor of DSN's 18th birthday, DSN Omaha held a block party and invited Service Coordinators, parents & guardians, community members, and other service providers.

We'd like to thank the following for their donations for the event:

- Baker's - 120<sup>th</sup> & Center - \$20 gift card
- Muzzy Ice - 120 lbs of ice
- Cookie Company (Westroads Mall) - 4 dozen cookies
- Cookie Company (Oakview Mall) - 8 dozen cookies
- Hy Vee - Papillion - \$25 gift card

The Willard's Band - William Ehrlich, a DSN employee, and his band donated their time and played for the anniversary celebration. Check out their website at:

<http://www.thewillardsband.com/>

Ruben J. was recognized as an outstanding volunteer with the Omaha Nighthawks and other community agencies during the All Team meeting on 7/28/11. He was presented with a certificate, and Nighthawks items.



*"The greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means and exercise of ordinary qualities. These may for the most part be summed in these two: common sense and perseverance."*

*Owen Feltham*

# Fourth Quarter Employee Anniversaries

## 1 Year:

### Omaha:

Tyler Andersen  
Olympe Hounnou  
John Potter  
Jennifer Smith

### Lincoln:

Tersen Arnold  
Timothy Bakkehaug  
April Barber  
Paige Copple  
Zachary Eisenmann  
Barbara Ellis  
Danielle Jenkins  
Alexis Larsen  
Tamisha Lee  
Tara Lorensen  
Kelly Meyers-Allen  
Angelyne Mutchler  
Mary Rison- Wedgewood  
Alexander Romero  
Caylen Shiffermiller  
Carter Spracklen  
Rachel Ward  
Sean Wetterberg  
  
Kearney:  
Tyler Kirchner  
Kyle Smidt  
Sara Holmes

## 1 Year Continued:

Sara Holmes  
Laura Ritterbush  
Victoria Kuhlman

## 2 Years:

### Omaha:

Tamera Gordon  
Jonathan Ikezue  
Cedric Medegan Fagla  
Darlene Turner  
Nyayual Tut

### Lincoln:

Jeffrey Bryant  
Seth Fager  
Charles Gieseke  
Rachel Gragert  
Stewart Hehn  
Karie Sintek

## 3 Years:

### Omaha:

Heather Gohr  
Jessica Thomsen  
  
Lincoln:  
Jennifer Erpelding  
Saul Gieseke

Tammy Hesse

Brian Joe  
Jeffrey Maldaner  
Isaiah Spang

## 4 Years:

### Omaha:

Jennifer Bernady

### Lincoln:

Nick Clark  
Denise Denevi  
Sarah Jennings  
Amanda Waggoner

## 5 Years:

### Lincoln:

Brittany Krugman  
Richard Neuhaus  
Aaron Palik  
Lincoln Witt

## 6 Years:

### Lincoln:

Devon McCave  
Rebecca Redden

## 7 Years:

### Omaha:

Jamie Kabourek  
Ruth Molefe

### Lincoln:

Cole Dillow

## 8 Years:

### Lincoln:

Judy Funkey

## 10 Years:

### Lincoln:

Britt Sommer  
Thomas Taylor  
Brian Vanlaningham

## 11 Years:

### Omaha:

James Bankhead  
Barry Burt  
Ron Van Dyke

## 17 Years:

### Lincoln:

Shawn Ayotte

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."  
—Robert Collier

# Successes at DSN-Lincoln

## DSN Made Me Happy

I was moved to the Hastings Regional Center and told that I would never return to the life that I was accustomed to in the "real world." DSN worked diligently with the State to have me return to receive services from their agency where I live in an apartment with a housemate. Moving from the institution was scary and many times challenged me to think for myself rather than being told what to do. I became independent in many different areas and feared what might become of me if I were to make a mistake.

My return to *DSN "made me happy"* said James, "it gave me freedom such as being able to access the community, going to Friendship Club, cooking, having my own bathroom, and being able to make my own choices of what I wanted to eat." When James was asked what makes him the happiest about getting supports from DSN, he said, "being able to see everyone from the past, being able to do my own laundry, having individual therapy rather than group therapy, being able to watch television on the channel I want." James smiles constantly when discussing his return to receiving DSN supports where he is making a life for himself. When asked what he can do today that he might not have thought he would be able to do five years ago, James said, "Five years ago staff told me what to do; *today I do what I want with staff support.*" When James was asked, "What is the best about getting DSN supports?" he answered, "There are staff that I care about and they care about me. I have freedom that I never had in the past."

When James began receiving DSN supports he was very quiet followed his old institutional rules. He seemed to be someone who did as he was told and was somewhat isolated. After three years with DSN support, James has learned to appreciate the freedom of taking part in community events, including going to Nebraska football games, attending social club, going to movies and car shows, and just going out to eat. James has also moved up in the world of work, first doing contract work, then establishing himself as an industrious worker at Speedway Motors workstation. With his earnings, James has been able to choose and purchase furniture for his apartment, including a bed, a dresser, and a recliner. James loves to shop for clothing with his earnings, too, and has become something of a clothes-hound.

James had a recent discussion with this reporter and declared that he looks forward to learning the skills he needs to become more independent and further improve his quality of life. James thinks there is still room for him to grow and move beyond the institutional life he once knew. James would like to thank DSN, particularly the CheeverView Team, DSN Clinical Team, and his peers for the support, guidance, and supervision that allows him to be who he is today. —  
By James, as related to Ron Hamouz

## Congratulations TEAM 200!

Congratulations to Labor Solutions Team 200 for their dedicated and tenacious efforts. Quality and On Time Delivery was the key to being recognized by Li-Cor Biosciences. In August, two representatives from Li-Cor, Ron Robinson, Director of Marketing and Mary Jones, Manager of Marketing, presented a plaque to the team of individuals from Suite #200, and to Dennis Ward, Contract Procurement Specialist, Cheryl Buckmaster and Dylan Chapman, Direct Support Specialists. The plaque recognizes the work team as an "Outstanding Supplier." Throughout the past 18 months the vocational department has **increased subcontract orders by 65%!**

GREAT WORK, TEAM 200: Ken B., Nate F., Dennis H., Josh H., Tim M., Stacy R., Ron S., and Rick W.



# What's to Know at DSN-MO?



DSN  
Missouri

On October 1st, the DSN-MO administrative office moved to 1215 A Swift Avenue, NKC, MO 64116.



*“There are two things to aim at in life: First to get what you want, and after that to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind has achieved the second.”*

*—Logan Pearsall Smith*

**At the DSN-MO program, five people are supported by sixteen committed and caring staff. The program looks forward to growing and making an impact on the lives of additional Missourians. For more information on DSN-MO, visit their website at [www.dsnmo.org](http://www.dsnmo.org).**

## Administrative Contacts



### Developmental Services of Nebraska, Inc.

Lincoln Area Office  
201 SW 25th Street  
Lincoln, NE. 68522  
www.dsonline.org  
Phone: 402-325-8555  
Fax: 402-325-8575

General Information: [inquiry@dsonline.org](mailto:inquiry@dsonline.org)

Omaha Area Office  
10425 J Street  
Omaha, NE. 68127  
www.dsonline.org  
Phone: 402-827-7652  
Fax: 402-827-7654

Kearney Area Office  
1709 w 39th Street Suite 1  
Kearney, NE. 68845  
www.dsonline.org  
Phone: 308-234-6834  
Fax: 308-237-9085

**Tiffany Schnittker, Lincoln Area Director**

Extension 2004 Email: [tschnittker@dsonline.org](mailto:tschnittker@dsonline.org)

**Michelle Johnson, Residential Coordinator**

Extension 2006, Email: [mjohnson@dsonline.org](mailto:mjohnson@dsonline.org)

**Denise Denevi, Residential Coordinator**

Extension 2005, Email: [ddenevi@dsonline.org](mailto:ddenevi@dsonline.org)

**Deb Rupe, Residential Coordinator**

Extension 2008, Email: [drupe@dsonline.org](mailto:drupe@dsonline.org)

**Devon McCave, Residential Coordinator**

Extension 2010, Email: [dmccave@dsonline.org](mailto:dmccave@dsonline.org)

**Brad Fuchs, Human Resource Coordinator**

Extension 2003, Email: [bfuchs@dsonline.org](mailto:bfuchs@dsonline.org)

**Ande Graterol Medical Records Assistant**

Extension 2007, Email: [agraterol@dsonline.org](mailto:agraterol@dsonline.org)

**Angelyne Mutchler, Human Resource Assistant**

Extension 2002, Email [amutchler@dsonline.org](mailto:amutchler@dsonline.org)

**Ralph Allen, Omaha Area Director**

Extension 4007, Email: [rallen@dsonline.org](mailto:rallen@dsonline.org)

**Jaclyn Svendgard, Residential Coordinator**

Extension 4006, Email: [jsvendgard@dsonline.org](mailto:jsvendgard@dsonline.org)

**Heather Kelley Residential Coordinator**

Extension 4014, Email: [hkelley@dsonline.org](mailto:hkelley@dsonline.org)

**Allegra Guzman-Weaver-Outpatient Therapist**

Extension 4004, Email: [aweaver@dsonline.org](mailto:aweaver@dsonline.org)

**Christina Albertson, Human Resource Coordinator**

Extension 4008, Email: [calbertson@dsonline.org](mailto:calbertson@dsonline.org)

**Melissa Wey, Human Resource Assistant**

Extension 4002, Email [mwey@dsonline.org](mailto:mwey@dsonline.org)

**Kristen Smith, Kearney Area Director**

Extension 3001, Email:

[ksmith@dsonline.org](mailto:ksmith@dsonline.org)

**Mikki Schoone, Program Coordinator**

Extension 3002, Email:

[mschoone@dsonline.org](mailto:mschoone@dsonline.org)

**Jamie Bentz, Human Resource Manager**

Extension 3000, Email:

[jbentz@dsonline.org](mailto:jbentz@dsonline.org)



Labor Solutions  
<http://dsonline.org/ls/DSNLS/Home.html>

**Laurie ChisholmLock, Vocational Director-Lincoln**

Email: [lchisholmlock@dsonline.org](mailto:lchisholmlock@dsonline.org)

**Jace Smrcka, Vocational Coordinator-Omaha**

Extension 4005, Email: [jsmrcka@dsonline.org](mailto:jsmrcka@dsonline.org)

**Jessica Zobel, Vocational Manager-Kearney**

Email: [jzobel@dsonline.org](mailto:jzobel@dsonline.org)



### DSN Missouri

DSN-MO Area Office  
1215 Swift Ave Suite A  
North Kansas City, MO. 64116  
www.dsnmo.org  
General Information: [inquiry@dsonline.org](mailto:inquiry@dsonline.org)

**Glenna Love, DSN-MO Area Director**

Email: [gdllove@dsonline.org](mailto:gdllove@dsonline.org)

**Lori Norris, Program Coordinator, QDDP**

Email: [lnorris@dsonline.org](mailto:lnorris@dsonline.org)

**Jordan Mar, Front Line Supervisor**

Email: [jmar@dsonline.org](mailto:jmar@dsonline.org)