

LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY  
ON THE LEVEL

DECEMBER 2005/JANUARY 2006

(DESCRIPTIVE TEXT VERSION)

[WWW.LEAGUEOFHUMANDIGNITY.COM](http://WWW.LEAGUEOFHUMANDIGNITY.COM) & [WWW.MOBILITY-OPTIONS.COM](http://WWW.MOBILITY-OPTIONS.COM)

(The League of Human Dignity logo features the capital letter “H” (royal blue) with a larger size capital “D” (white) behind it. A thick white arrow pointing upward forms the center of the “H.” The words “League of Human Dignity” (black) appear to the left of the symbol.)

ON THE LEVEL is the bimonthly newsletter of the League of Human Dignity, Inc.

The League of Human Dignity is a consumer based nonprofit organization, whose purpose is to promote the full integration of persons with disabilities into society. To this end, we will advocate their needs and rights, while providing quality service to assist them in becoming and remaining independent citizens.

Established in 1971, the League now serves consumers in 62 counties throughout Nebraska and Southwest Iowa through our Centers for Independent Living in Lincoln, Norfolk, Omaha, and Council Bluffs; our Panhandle Medicaid Waiver Office in Scottsbluff; and our Mobility Options shop in Lincoln.

ON THE LEVEL is available in Braille and on audio cassette. To request these formats, contact the Public Information Office in Lincoln, or the League of Human Dignity in your area. For information on display advertising, please contact Public Information. Classified ads are also available.

To provide support group listings, news releases, or other information contact: Editor, ON THE LEVEL, League of Human Dignity, 1701 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508; (402) 441-7871 Voice/TDD; FAX: (402) 441-7650; or [info@leagueofhumandignity.com](mailto:info@leagueofhumandignity.com).

ON THE LEVEL STAFF

Mike Schafer, CEO and Michelle Martin, Editor

LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY

WHERE TO FIND US...

LINCOLN

1701 P Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 441-7871

NORFOLK

400 Elm Avenue  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-4475

OMAHA

5513 Center Street  
Omaha, NE 68106

(402) 595-1256

SOUTHWEST IOWA  
1520 Avenue M  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501  
(712) 323-6863

PANHANDLE  
Medicaid Waiver Office  
17 E 21 ST #2  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
(308) 632-0470

(pictured in the bottom left of the page is Christy Solomon talking to a group of children)  
At a training with elementary students, Southwest Iowa CIL Director Christy Solomon demonstrates a few of the assistive tools that people with disabilities use in their daily life.  
(pictured in the bottom right of the page is Norm Weverka speaking to a group)  
During another training, League volunteer Norm Weverka shares some of his life experiences, and answers questions about what his life is like with a disability.

#### HAVE YOU HAD YOUR TRAINING?

Like an athlete who needs to train for a competition, you and your colleagues might need to do a little tune-up of your own to put your best foot forward. There are many misconceptions swirling in the general public about what people with disabilities can and can't do. Maybe now is the time for you and your company or group to get the truth.

The League of Human Dignity provides Disability Awareness Training to create awareness about disability-related issues and to dispel myths.

"We do training for all age ranges, from children in a school setting all the way up to top executives at area businesses," said Mike Schafer, League CEO. "We feel like every age can benefit from this information."

There are numerous ways that a training can be presented to your group. We are happy to tailor a training to whatever issues your company most wants to learn about.

One way that seems to bring the most positive feedback from participants is a panel style of training. After a short informational presentation, two or three people with various disabilities take over. They share their personal stories of what life with a disability is like, and they answer questions.

Another aspect of a Disability Awareness Training is to share the Independent Living philosophy with groups who may not be aware of the history of the movement.

"We want to break down the misconceptions people have about people with disabilities and their abilities in the workplace and in every day life," Schafer said. "We want to educate individuals with correct terminology and facts."

Please call the League of Human Dignity closest to your location to set up a Disability Awareness Training (locations listed on page 9). There is a nominal fee. We have CIL's in Omaha, Lincoln, Norfolk and Council Bluffs.

Are you up to the challenge? Ready to dispel the myths and learn the truth? Give us a call.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The Holiday season makes one very aware of all of the blessings that fill our life. Just look around your office space or your house, and I am sure we can all find at least one or two things that we are thankful for.

When I look around our offices, I am so thankful for our dedicated volunteers. I am especially touched at all of the hard work and countless hours our Board of Directors put in each month helping the League of Human Dignity.

Each month, the League has a Board meeting to make decisions affecting the League's future. These decisions aren't always easy, and they have a very real impact on our employees, our policies, our programs and our consumers.

Our volunteer board members give their time unselfishly. They are advocates and spokespeople for the League, and they represent us well. They use their experiences in every day life to help shape our organization and make a positive impact. We are so appreciative for their help and determination.

I hope that you have a chance to stop for a moment this holiday season, to look around you, and to enjoy all that you are blessed with. We are thankful for you, and we wish you and yours a very happy holiday season and a wonderful 2006.

Mike Schafer

Chief Executive Office

League of Human Dignity

## MEDICARE RX UPDATES

### ONLINE MEDICARE RX DRUG PLAN COMPARISON TOOL NOT OPERATIONAL (OCT 21, 2005 – KAISER NETWORK)

CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) officials this week updated the Medicare Web site with information about prescription drug plans, but a "promised interactive tool to allow beneficiaries to comparison shop still is not operational," the Washington Post reports. The Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder — which CMS officials had said would begin on Monday after they delayed the launch of the tool last week because of the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur — appears on the Web site but does not allow users to input their medications to obtain cost comparisons of prescription drug plans.

According to a message on the Web site, "Some data necessary for the full use of this innovative tool are not yet complete and some drug pricing data are being updated." CMS Administrator Mark McClellan this week said that the tool should become operational before Nov. 15, the date when Medicare beneficiaries can begin to enroll in the prescription drug benefit, with coverage scheduled to begin on Jan. 1, 2006.

McClellan said that CMS on Monday posted some information about Medicare prescription drug plans on the Web site to allow about 10,000 local partners to become more familiar with the material they will use to advise beneficiaries. However, "the critical ingredient to make this tool useful is not there yet," Deane Beebe of the Medicare Rights Center said, adding, "This doesn't mean anything in terms of: 'How much am I going to pay for my Lipitor?' That's what people want to know" (Lee, Washington Post, 10/21).

### ON FIRST DAY OF ENROLLMENT, MANY MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES CONFUSED BY CHOICES FOR NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE (NOV 16, 2005 – KAISER NETWORK)

[Nov 16, 2005 -- Kaiser Network]

Enrollment in the new Medicare prescription drug benefit began on Nov. 15th, and there are “early indications that many [beneficiaries] will need an antidote for the outbreak of confusion and frustration that accompanied it,” the Washington Post reports (Lee, Washington Post, 11/16).

According to the New York Times, many beneficiaries said they “needed more time, more information and more advice before they could decide whether to sign up” (Pear, New York Times, 11/16). Robert Hayes, president of the Medicare Rights Center, said his organization received many calls on Tuesday the 15th about the new benefit.

“At this point, we’re urging calm and just wait a few weeks to give yourself time to sort things out,” he said. Hayes added that the drug plan finder tool on Medicare’s Web site can be inaccessible and can provide conflicting information as plan providers change prices and terms (Washington Post, 11/16).

Families USA Executive Director Ron Pollack said many seniors have never been online and will be confused by the tool (CQ HealthBeat, 11/15).

CMS spokesperson Gary Karr said officials are working to expand the capacity of the Web site to prevent delays.

CMS Administrator Mark McClellan said, “You’ve got plenty of time to make a decision, and we have plenty of help available.”

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt said enrolling Medicare beneficiaries in the new benefit will be a “monumental challenge” but added that the benefit will be worth the difficulties (Washington Post, 11/16).

Karen Ignagni, president and CEO of America’s Health Insurance Plans, said, “When Medicare reform was signed into law, no one would have predicted that just two years later premiums for prescription drug plans would be significantly lower than expected and that most beneficiaries would have access to zero-premium and zero-deductible plans” (CQ HealthBeat, 11/15). She added that health plans are trying to improve toll-free hotlines, and running public service announcements to help beneficiaries make a decision (CongressDaily, 11/15).

## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SETTLES DISABILITY CASE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Washington, D.C. - The Justice Department today announced that it has reached an agreement with a continuing-care retirement community for persons 65 or older in Bucks County, Pennsylvania that restricted residents’ use of manual wheelchairs and motorized chairs and scooters within its complex, resolving a lawsuit that alleged disability-related housing discrimination.

“Persons with disabilities who choose to make their homes in retirement communities do not forfeit the protections of the Fair Housing Act,” said Bradley J. Schlozman, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. “Wheelchairs and motorized scooters assist individuals to live and move about independently. A person can lose the right to that aid only if he or she operates it in a way that poses a significant risk of harm.”

According to the government’s complaint, Twining Services Corporation (TSC), which owns the Twining Village retirement community, banned manual wheelchairs and scooters from those rooms and other public and common use areas. It also allegedly required persons who use scooters to indemnify TSC and to submit to an evaluation and training program annually, regardless of their “driving record.”

The agreement, which has been approved by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, dismantles those policies. Residents of Twining Village who have

physical disabilities may use mobility aids throughout the entire Twining Village Complex, without requirement for indemnification of annual evaluations. TSC will pay a resident injured by the former ban on manual wheelchairs \$17,500 in damages, establish a \$67,500 settlement fund for others who may have been injured by TSC's policies, and pay the government a \$7,500 civil penalty. The proposed consent order calls for employee training, record keeping, and monitoring through the use of testers, if necessary.

"The many continuing-care retirement communities in Pennsylvania should take note today," said Patrick L. Meehan, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. "Legitimate concern for the safety of all residents must be balanced with due regard for federal civil rights."

Since January 2001, the Civil Rights Division has filed 172 lawsuits alleging discrimination in housing, including 78 based on disability discrimination.

#### GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

Barrier Removal Grants are now available to qualified renters or homeowners who experience a mobility limitation (or have someone in their family who does). The program is offered in Lincoln/Lancaster County, Omaha and Council Bluffs, and is open to people who have low to moderate incomes and need funds to remove or modify barriers in their homes.

A few modifications that may be considered eligible under the program include: outside ramps and lifts, grab bars, handrails, wider doorways, accessible tubs and showers, and reachable sinks and counters.

Applications for the grants are available at the Lincoln, Omaha, and Council Bluffs Centers for Independent Living.

#### LINCOLN

Center for Independent Living  
1701 P Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 441-7871

#### SOUTHWEST IOWA

Center for Independent Living  
1520 Avenue M  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501  
(712) 323-6863

#### OMAHA

Center for Independent Living  
5513 Center Street  
Omaha, NE 68106  
(402) 595-1256

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

SEPTEMBER 14, 2005 – NOVEMBER 15, 2005

#### IN MEMORY OF PAUL MOORE

James Haase, Loyal Park, Jerry Trimble, New Creation Crown & Bridge Dental Lab

#### IN MEMORY OF RONALD SHAW

Doris Rohrer

OTHER

Gordon Selters

FRIEND (\$25 – 49)

Denise Weimer

CENTURY (\$100 – 249)

Ronald Coulter, First Luther Church, J. Paul McIntosh

## NEW CMS RULE SLOWS POWER WHEELCHAIR DELIVERIES NEW REGULATIONS HAVE HEAVY IMPACT ON MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES AND INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON-Controversial new regulations implemented by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) last week are devastating the manufacturers and suppliers of power mobility equipment, while indefinitely delaying the delivery of power wheelchairs and scooters to qualified Medicare beneficiaries.

Suppliers, in particular, are hit hard by CMS' Interim Final Rule, which establishes new procedures for determining and documenting medical necessity for mobility equipment, and thrust physicians into significantly expanded roles in the process. Several suppliers experienced lay-offs last week, and more are expected. CMS implemented the rule despite stern warnings from Congress, the industry and other stakeholders that it should be delayed so there could be a smooth transition.

“On October 25 when CMS implemented this rule, the power mobility industry slowed to a crawl, ” said Mal Mixon, Chairman and CEO of Invacare Corp. “This is irresponsible. There are senior citizens and people with disabilities across the country, who had qualified to receive power wheelchairs, who now must start the process over again and it will take months before they get their equipment. At suppliers and manufacturers, good working people are losing their jobs because CMS essentially stopped the processing of mobility equipment, and many companies won't survive.”

Angry suppliers say that their sales are at a “flat line” because deliveries can not be made to Medicare beneficiaries who were qualified before October 25, but had not received their equipment. This has abruptly left the companies without any cash flow. Moreover, it is estimated that the suppliers will need a significant amount of time to educate physicians under the new regulations because CMS did not take the time and effort to properly inform physicians of the new process, and now that burden falls on suppliers.

“Beneficiaries who had previously met all the requirements to establish medical need for power mobility equipment will now begin the process over when and if their doctors agree to resume the process,” said John Ward, CEO of Mobility Products. “We are already experiencing physician refusals due to the confusing instructions they have received regarding the coverage criteria and documentation requirements.”

Mr. Ward said the process for obtaining power mobility equipment has been shut down, and “there is no guarantee that suppliers will be here down the road once everyone understands the new regulations.”

Michael Hammes, Chairman and CEO of Sunrise Medical, said the situation could have easily been avoided if CMS had responded to recommendations from stakeholders, such as suppliers, manufacturers, physicians, clinicians and organizations representing senior citizens and Americans with disabilities.

“This is extremely unfortunate,” Mr. Hammes said. “This would not be happening if CMS had planned a proper transition and delayed implementing the rule until physicians,

clinicians and the industry were prepared. We are concerned that senior citizens and people with disabilities who were expecting to receive mobility equipment will now have an indefinite wait. CMS' decisions are causing the mobility deficits of the people who need assistance the most to go unmet.”

Dan Meuser, President of Pride USA, urged CMS to change its course “before it is too late” and suspend the rule.

“It is clear that after less than a week, the interim final rule is having an impact that CMS did not anticipate – beneficiaries aren't getting equipment, suppliers are laying off workers, companies may soon be going out of business,” Mr. Meuser said. “I don't think the intention of CMS was to deny access to medically necessary mobility equipment for people with disabilities due to an insufficient timeframe for providers and physicians to adapt to the changes outlined in the interim final rule. However, that is exactly what is occurring, and CMS needs to act accordingly.” (from RAMP)

## NATURE'S MOSAIC

If you are bored or just need a change of scenery for a day, travel to Axtell, Nebraska and check out Nature's Mosaic. This collaborative effort has led to a beautiful, accessible setting to enjoy the outdoors.

Nature's Mosaic, a wetlands and wildlife conservation project, is designed as a community-based initiative to ensure children and adults of all abilities will have meaningful opportunities to learn and interact within their natural environment.

All project components are wheelchair-accessible and provide a broad scope of outdoor activities, which include the following:

1. Wetland restoration and wheelchair-accessible outdoor classrooms, which will provide a natural habitat for birds and wildlife as well as an outdoor educational setting with wildlife viewing areas that have paved wheelchair platforms, park benches, and spotting scopes.
2. 2-acre fishing pond and wheelchair-accessible fishing deck, which will allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the sport of fishing and watching waterfowl.
3. Nature trails, which will provide concrete pathways for walking, jogging, and wheelchairs connecting the various educational opportunities around the wetlands, wildlife viewing stations, fishing pond, and picnic area.
4. Picnic pavilion and learning center facility, which will provide a covered shelter for large gatherings, as well as a facility with wheelchair-accessible restrooms that will be equipped with changing tables. Also, the facility will include a learning center/classroom and storage area for spotting scopes, binoculars, educational materials and fishing equipment.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Nature's Mosaic project is designed for public use and is located on an 80-acre tract of property owned by Mosaic at Bethphage Village near Kearney, Nebraska.

Initial conversations between Mosaic at Bethphage Village in Axtell, Nebraska, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Resource Conservation Service led to the discovery and then later the restoration of Mosaic's farmland back to its natural functions. Working together to help make this project a reality, Shanda Weber, Resource Conservationist at the U.S.D.A.-Natural Resource Conservation Service, suggested seeking out a partnership with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture.

The project began to take shape when Mosaic followed Weber's suggestion and established a relationship with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. As an umbrella organization,

securing their commitment to the project allowed Mosaic to more easily garner support from key conservation and wildlife groups on this collaboration. The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture's core partners include:

National Park Service, South Central Resource, Conservation & Development,"  
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, U.S.D.A.–Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S.  
Fish & Wildlife Service

The future of our communities depends upon the value placed upon our resources both human and natural. For when a community develops an awareness and understanding of the intrinsic value of each human being, along with an appreciation for nature and our connection to both, the quality of life is truly improved for all. The Nature's Mosaic Outdoor Recreation, Education, and Wildlife Habitat Community Project is a step in that direction. It is an opportunity to create experiences for children and adults of all abilities that will promote meaningful interactions within our natural environment.

#### THE LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY RURAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Is now taking applications for a 1-bedroom apartment in Columbus or Norfolk.

The units come with a Section 8 certificate, and rent is based on income.

Eligible persons must qualify under income guidelines as established by the U.S. Dept. of HUD. Applicants must have a disability to qualify.

Contact Paula Shufeldt at 1 (888) 508-4758 voice/TDD [pshufeldt@leagueofhumandignity.com](mailto:pshufeldt@leagueofhumandignity.com)

#### A CHRONOLOGY OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

1951 - Howard Rusk opens the Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine at New York University Medical Center. Staff at the Institute, including people with disabilities, begin work on such innovations as electric typewriters, mouth sticks, and improved prosthetics, as adaptive aids for people with severe disabilities.

1952 - The President's Committee on National Employ People with Disabilities Week becomes the Presidents' Committee on Employment of those with Physical Disabilities, a permanent organization reporting to the President and Congress.

Henry Vicardi takes out a personal loan to found Abilities, Inc., a job training and placement program for people with disabilities.

1954 - The U.S. Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, rules that separate schools for black and white children are inherently unequal and unconstitutional. This pivotal decision becomes a catalyst for the African-American civil rights movement, which in turn becomes a major inspiration to the disability-rights movement.

Congress passes the Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments, authorizing federal grants to expand programs available to people with physical disabilities.

Mary Switzer, Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, uses this authority to fund more than 100 university-based rehabilitation related programs.

The Social Security Act of 1935 is amended by Pub. Law 83-761, which includes a "freeze" provision for workers who are forced by disability to leave the work force. This protects their benefits when they retire by not counting the years between the time they cease working and their retirement, thus freezing their retirement benefits at their pre-disability level.

1955 - Harold Wilke becomes the founder and first executive director of the Commission on Religion and Health within the United Church of Christ General Synod in New York. In this

capacity he works to open religious life and the ministry to women and people with disabilities.

1956 - Congress passes the Social Security Amendments of 1956, which creates a Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program for workers with disabilities aged 50 to 64.

Accent on Living begins publication.

1957 - The first National Wheelchair Games in the United States are held at Adelphi College in Garden City, New York.

Little People of American is founded in Reno, Nevada, to advocate on behalf of dwarfs or little people. Gunnar Dybwad is named executive of the Association for Retarded Children.

1958 - Congress passes the Social Security Amendments of 1958, extending Social Security Disability Insurance benefits to the dependents of workers with disabilities.

Gini Laurie becomes editor of the Toomeyville Gazette at the Toomey Pavilion Polio Rehabilitation Center. Eventually renamed the Rehabilitation Gazette, this grassroots publications becomes an early voice for disability rights, independent living and cross-disability organizing, and it features articles by writers with disabilities on all aspects of the disability experience.

The American Federation of the Physically Handicapped is dissolved at a convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Participants organize the National Association of the Physically Handicapped, Inc. to take its place.

1960 - The first Paralympic Games, under the auspices of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) are held in Rome, Italy.

Congress passes the Social Security Amendments of 1960, eliminating the restriction that workers with disabilities receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits be age 50 or older.

In the next issue we will tackle the next ten years in the Disability-Rights Movement.

SEASONS GREETINGS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From your friends at the League of Human Dignity & Mobility Options

PAUL MOORE (2/28/1937 - 10/22/2005)

It is with great sadness that we share the news of Paul Moore's death. Paul was a member of the League of Human Dignity since its inception in 1971 and was always very active. Paul served as President of the membership group and was a long-time member of the Board of Directors. Paul will be greatly missed. His wife Laura continues to be a member of the League and will still serve on our Board of Directors.

(pictured in the upper left of the page is a group of volunteers sitting around a conference table)

When: October 5th, 2005

What: The York Chapter of the League of Human Dignity recognized 22 volunteers at its luncheon.

Where: York, Neb.

Who: Several York volunteers enjoy the program that Stan Dinkelman prepared.

(pictured in the lower right of the page is Bob Gomez, Violet Gladfelter, and Tracy Curtis)

When: October 6th, 2005

What: The Omaha Center for Independent Living recognized six volunteers at its luncheon.

Where: Omaha, Neb.

Who: Pictured are CIL Director Bob Gomez, Volunteer-of-the-Year Violet Gladfelter, and

League Secretary Tracy Curtis.

(pictured in the upper left of the page is Nancy Brt, Howard Kling, Molly Nordberg, and Marlene Brondel)

When: October 18th, 2005

What: The Lincoln Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held and the League honored 46 volunteers from the past year.

Where: Lincoln, Neb.

Who: Deaf Services Specialist Nancy Brt, Volunteer-of-the-Year Howard Kling, Lincoln Secretary Molly Nordberg and Lincoln CIL Director Marlene Brondel.

(pictured in the lower right of the page is Mike Schafer, Roger Gorn, and Christy Solomon)

When: October 19th, 2005

What: The Southwest Iowa Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held and the League honored 29 volunteers.

Where: Council Bluffs, Iowa

Who: League CEO Mike Schafer, Volunteer-of-the-Year Roger Gorn, and CIL Director Christy Solomon.

#### ASSOCIATIONS AND SUPPORT GROUPS YOU CAN COUNT ON WHEN YOU NEED SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS

The information listed here has been shared with the League of Human Dignity by individuals and organizations involved in local, regional and national associations and support groups.

Please let us know if you would like to add a listing.

PLEASE HELP KEEP US UPDATED: For corrections, additions or special announcements, contact Michelle in Public Information, League of Human Dignity, 1701 P St, Lincoln, NE 68508; 402- 441-7871 (V/TDD); FAX 441-7650; [mmartin@leagueofhumandignity.com](mailto:mmartin@leagueofhumandignity.com)

#### ADVOCACY

EAD-Equal Access for the Disabled, meets 1st Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the Council Bluffs, IA, 6th St & 9th Ave. Contact Pat Butler, President (712-323-1894) or Gloria, Secretary (712-323-3438).

#### ALS

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) (Lou Gehrig's Disease) Support Group (MDA), Omaha, 7602 Pacific St., Suite 200, 68114 Jessi Thomsen,(402) 390-2914.

Nebraska Office, Shaker Place, 10730 Pacific, Ste 228, Omaha, NE 68114, 402-991-8788, 1-866-762-6361; FAX: 402-991-3691, Keith Worthington Chapter; 8340 Mission Rd., Ste B4, Prairie Village, Kansas 66206, 913-648-2062

#### ALZHEIMERS

Cass Co. Iowa, 2nd Thursday, call Alan & Kathy Teel, 712-243-9835.

Alzheimers Association of Lincoln/Great Plains Chapter, regular meeting is the 1st Monday of each mo. at 7 pm, Karen (402) 420-2540, Toll-Free 1-800-487-2585.

Omaha/Eastern Nebraska/SW Iowa (402) 572-3010, 1-800-309-2112.

Fremont Co. in Sidney, IA, 4th Monday each mo. at 7pm, Sidney presbyterian Church, 1000 Illinois St, call Faye at 712-374-2433.

Harrison Co., Missouri Valley, last Tues of each mo. at 3 pm, Longview Home, call Evonne at 712-642-2264.

Page Co. in Clarinda, 3rd Thursday of each mo. at 2:30 pm, Goldenrod Facility, call Linda at

712-542-5621.

Scottsbluff 1st Thursday of each mo., Beverly Healthcare, 111 W. 36 St, Stacy Rotherham (308) 635-2019.

Council Bluffs, last Tuesday of each mo. at 6:30 pm at Bethany Lutheran Home, 712-572-3059.  
Shelby Co. in Harlan, 3rd Wednesday each mo. at 6:30 pm at Harlan Senior Center, call Alice at 712-755-2757.

Council Bluffs, last Tuesday of each mo. at 6:30 pm at Bethany Lutheran Home, 712-572-3059.  
Shelby Co. in Harlan, 3rd Wednesday each mo. at 6:30 pm at Harlan Senior Center, call Alice at 712-755-2757.

#### AMPUTEE

United Support for Amputees, Omaha Emmanuel Hospital Rehabilitation Center, 3rd Tuesday of each month, Maxine, (712) 644-2955, after 7 pm.

Beyond Limbloss, Lincoln, Kenny, (402) 466-0268, cell 540-0748

#### ARTHRITIS

Arthritis Foundation, Nebraska Chapter 402-330-6130 (within Omaha) and 800-642-5292 (outside Omaha) FAX: 402-330-6167

The web site remains the same ([www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)).

Arthritis Foundation Iowa Chapter, Des Moines, meets monthly, 515-278-0636; FAX: 515-278-2636; [Info.ia@arthritis.org](mailto:Info.ia@arthritis.org); [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)

#### ATHLETICS

Cornhusker Wheelchair Athletics Ass'n Lincoln Ian (402) 486-8449, [www.cwaane.org](http://www.cwaane.org)

Eastern Nebraska Wheelchair Athletic Association, Omaha, Greg (402) 289-3521.

Junior Wheelchair Basketball Team, Omaha, Mike (402) 554-2539; Rita (402) 551-4598.

#### AUTISM

Autism Society of Nebraska, Jean McDermott (402) 431-0166

Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT) of Nebraska, Mark Hirschfeld (402) 955-1780

Unlocking Autism, Connie Shockley (402) 933-2565

#### BLIND/VISUALLY IMPAIRED

C-Big (Council Bluffs Blind Information Group) Chuck Dietz (712) 323-4817.

United Blind of Omaha, Gary 402-455-4116, Sherry 556-4156.

Support Groups for the Visually Impaired Albion, Center, Columbus, Norfolk, Tekamah, Westpoint, John/Glen 402- 370-3436.

Support Groups for the Visually Impaired in Iowa, Iowa Department for the Blind  
1-800-362-2587

VIPS Support Groups for visually impaired; over 1000 members throughout Nebraska; to find your group, contact: President Howard Simons, Isanders Group, 324 W 13 St, Grand Island, NE 68801; 308-381-8003.

#### CANCER

American Cancer Society, Heartland Division (Omaha Office) 402-393-5800; 1-800-642-8116

PLEASE CALL FOR SUPPORT GROUPS IN OMAHA AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Lincoln, Thursdays, 6-7:30 pm Nebraska Union Rm 338. Call Yasmin (402) 472-7450.

Lincoln; Corporate Building, 7441 O St., Suite 301. "Breast Cancer Support Group" and "Look Good Feel Good" meetings will be held on 1st or 2nd Wednesday of the month. Call Mary at 402-486-7258.

Montgomery Co. in Red Oak, Breast Cancer group, meet monthly at Montgomery County Memorial Hospital, 4th Monday of mo at 6:30 pm, call Carla at 712-623-7215.

Shelby Co. in Harlan, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital, 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 pm, call Cheryl at 712-755-5161.

#### CHRONIC PAIN

Lincoln Chapter, American Chronic Pain Association, 1st & 3rd Tues each month, 7-8:30 pm, 1st Step Recovery & Wellness Center, 2231 Winthrop Rd. Call Chapter President Terrance Dukes (402) 423-9405.

#### DEAF

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) 4600 Valley Rd, Ste 420; 402-471-3593 or 1-800-545-6244.

Communication Service for Deaf of Iowa, employment services (712) 322-1489.

Deaf Services Commission of Iowa. 1-888-221-3724 V/TTY.

#### DEPRESSION

Manic Depressive and Depressive Association, Lincoln, (402) 483-8886.

Greater Omaha Depression & Manic Depression Association, Omaha, Kate (402) 551-3275.

Depression/Bipolar Support Alliance-Lincoln, 1st Tues each month, 7 p.m., call 402-481-5320.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The ARC of Lincoln/Lancaster County; Individual & Family Support Services; Dads Groups; Sibshops; Family Gatherings; Vacation Program; Group Residences; 1101 Arapahoe, Suite 5, (402) 421-8866; [www.lincolnne.com/nonporofit/arc](http://www.lincolnne.com/nonporofit/arc)

Easter Seal Nebraska provides services to children & adults with disabilities & other special needs, as well as support to their families. Call 800-650-9880/ [www.ne.easterseals.com](http://www.ne.easterseals.com).

Mosaic at Bethpage Village, 1044 23rd Rd, PO Box 67, Axtell, NE 68924, (308) 743-2401, [Mosaic\\_Axtell@mosaicinfo.org](mailto:Mosaic_Axtell@mosaicinfo.org).

#### DIABETES

American Diabetes Association  
(800) 342-2383.

Cass Co, 2nd Wednesday every other mo. at 6:30 pm, call Marcia at 712-243-3250.

Lincoln Diabetes Center: (402) 481-3055.

Page Co., 4th Monday at 6:30 pm, call Elaine at 712-542-2176.

Pottawattamie Co., 3rd Tues. at 5:30 pm, call Cheryl 712-755-4316.

Shelby Co., 3rd Monday at 1:30 pm, March - Nov, call Jan at 712-755-4316.

#### DOWN SYNDROME

Omaha Nat'l Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) Neb. Affiliate; Contact 402-553-5335 or [nebuddywalk@cox.net](mailto:nebuddywalk@cox.net)

Lincoln, NE Parent and family group; meetings, holiday events, Buddy Walk, parent packets, Call: Deb Safarik: 402-466-7641

Lincoln Early Devel. Services Coordination 402-441-6710

Early Development Network in Lancaster County; ESU #6, 1-800-327-0091

National Down Syndrome Society 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, 1-800-221-4602, [info@ndss.org](mailto:info@ndss.org)

Council Bluffs Down Syndrome Parent Group, Kyla Alba at 712-366-0503 x257 or 712-322-9391.

#### DYSLEXIA

Nebraska Branch International Dyslexia Association, "Smart Kids: School Problems" Grand Island, Brenda (308) 381-8943.

Lincoln, Irene (402 )327-0751.

## EPILEPSY

Epilepsy Association of Nebraska, Omaha (402) 553-6567.

Epilepsy Support Group, meets third Tuesday each month in Omaha, Wittson Hall on the UNMC campus, Room 3010.

## FIBROMYALGIA

Omaha, Arthritis Foundation (402) 572-3040.

Gordon area, meets in various pla

Humbolt, IA area, call Judy at 515-332-3376 (9 am-9 pm); [bjmerris@goldfieldaccess.net](mailto:bjmerris@goldfieldaccess.net)

Mercy Medical Center, New Hampton, IA area, meets monthly, call Judy 641-394-3106 ext 189.

Page Co., 2nd Monday at 5:00 p.m. Call Shelly at 712-542-2176.

Shenandoah, IA area, meets four times a year or when requested, call Della 712-246-3244;

[delsta@netins.net](mailto:delsta@netins.net)

## FMS-CF SYNDROME

Support Group, Council Bluffs. Call (712) 323-9448.

## GRIEF RESOLUTION

First Thurs. of each mo., Wyuka in Lincoln, (402) 474-3600

## HARD OF HEARING

S.H.H.H. – Lincoln, 7 P.M. New Covenant Church, 3rd Thursday of each month, call (402) 471-3593.

## HEAD INJURY

Head Injury Support Group, Lincoln, Jan Lingren, 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm, First United Methodist Church (402) 488-1916.

Head Injury Survivors Group, 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Goodwill Industries, Lincoln (402) 231-1933.

Head Injury Support Group, Omaha, Gail Kerwin (402) 571-5651.

Head Injury Support Group, Norfolk, 1st Monday, Faith Regional Health Services.

## HYDRANENCEPHALY

Omaha Local contact: Lynne (402) 485-2229 or [rtrease@nntc.net](mailto:rtrease@nntc.net); Internet support also available (please call for more information)

## LEARNING DISABILITIES

Learning Disabilities Association of Nebraska, Sharon, Omaha (402) 571-7771.

## LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA

Lincoln Family Support Group for adult patients and family members with leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, myeloma or myelodysplastic syndromes. Call The L & L Society, 402-344-2242 in Omaha, 402-438-2242 in Lincoln. Omaha-area group meets 2nd Tuesday of the month and Lincoln-area group meets 2nd Monday of the month. Call for more info.

Lincoln Telephone Support Group for adult Myeloma, Lymphoma and Leukemia patients and family members; Mondays 10-11am; talk with support group from home; free service of Nebraska Chapter, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Call Tonya: 402-344-2242 or 1-888-847-4974.

## MDA

MDA Duchene Parents Support Group, Omaha/Papillion, meets quarterly Sat., 1-3; Papillion/LaVista High School, 420 S Washington St; Jessi Thomsen 402-390-2914

## MENTAL ILLNESS

Page Co Serious & Persistent Mental Illness, 3rd Wed. at 1:30 p.m., call Jennifer 1-712-542-2388.

Nebraska Family Support Network an advocacy organization for families of children & youth with mental illness, supporting Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy & Washington counties. 3568 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68131, (402) 345-0791.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill(NAMI)<http://www.nami.org/sites/ne>. For questions, please call Dan Jackson at NAMI Nebraska, 1941 S. 42nd St., Suite 517, Omaha, NE 68105 Phone: 1-877-463-6264;

Mental Health Association of Nebraska 1-800-422-6691 or [www.MHA-NE.org](http://www.MHA-NE.org)

Council Bluffs, NAMI meets 1st Thurs of mo., call Laura at 1-712-242-0050.

Grand Island 877-463-6264; or Carole Denton (308) 382-8604; [jdenton@navix.net](mailto:jdenton@navix.net)

Hastings NAMI Hastings, Kevin Ehly (402) 462-8657;

Juniata/Hastings NAMI - FORSE, Cindy Scott (402) 751-2226, [hs35558@navix.net](mailto:hs35558@navix.net); Hastings

NAMI CARE (Consumers Advocating Recovery Through Empowerment) Linda Shaw (402) 463-6354.

Kearney NAMI Central Nebraska, Linda Jensen (308) 865-8729 or Cindy Mayer (308) 234-3212.

Lincoln NAMI Lincoln, Susan Krome (402) 484-8653; Tami Walden (402) 471-4515; Mental Health Lincoln Support Group, Tuesdays 3-4 pm Bennet Martin Library.

McCook NAMI Of SW Nebraska, Sandy Graves (308) 345-3013.

Norfolk/Hartington NAMI Northeast Nebraska, Tom Barr (402) 371-7175.

North Platte NAMI Platte Valley, Margaret Baker (308) 535-7434.

Oakland NAMI Greater Burt County Nebraska, Wayne Jarvill, (402) 685-6857.

Scottsbluff NAMI Western Nebraska, Shirley McLaughlin (308) 635-2239, [shirley@prairie.web.com](mailto:shirley@prairie.web.com)

Sutherland NAMI Trails West Nebraska, Margaret Baker (308) 284-4078, [bakerm@gpcom.net](mailto:bakerm@gpcom.net)

#### MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY

MCS Information Exchange, 2 Oakland St, Brunswick, ME 04011 [conceptmed.com](http://conceptmed.com)

#### MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Omaha, (402) 572-3190 or 1-800-755-3959

Lincoln, contact Karen Olson (402) 486-1885

Norfolk, (402) 648-7906

Council Bluffs, meets 3rd Thursday every month, 7 pm, Bruce (712) 482-3412

#### MYOSITIS

Support Group, Lincoln, Contact Mac Warren, (402) 438-5183. Online, [www.myositis.org](http://www.myositis.org)

#### PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Parent Training and Information (PTI) for Families of Children with Disabilities 3135 N 93 St, Omaha, phone & fax: (402) 346-0525; 1-800-284-8520; [kheinen@pti-nebraska.org](mailto:kheinen@pti-nebraska.org)

#### PARKINSON

Lincoln Support Group meets 4th Sunday each month (except December); 2:00 pm; Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 5401 South St (52nd St entrance); Contact: Jill 402-486-8164 or Lori, 402-486-9040. Call for schedule of topics.

Fremont (402) 478-4853

Panhandle Area meets 4th Wed each month; Northfield Villa-Bldg 6, Vista Dining Rm, 1:30 pm; Contact: Maurice Wheeler (308) 623-2508

Clarinda, IHS, 600 Manor Dr., 2 pm, 3rd Thursday of each month. Connie (712) 542-5161

#### PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Lincoln Support Group meets at Bryan Medical Plaza, 1600 S. 48 St; 2nd Floor; Room 3; Call

Sandy (402) 483-4908.

#### POLIO

Nebr Polio Survivors Assoc., Omaha 402-341-0710.

Lincoln/Lancaster County, Vera (402) 467-5650.

#### RESPIRATORY

Better Breathers, 4th Monday at 4 pm, call Sharon at 712-328-5479.

The American Lung Association of Nebraska offers programs & services to prevent lung disease & promote lung health education, research & advocacy. For more information call 1-800-586-4872.

#### SCHIZOPHRENICS ANONYMOUS

Lincoln Group meets Fridays 7-9pm; First Plymouth, 20th & D St.

#### SCLERODERMA

Lincoln meets at Roper & Son Resource Ctr, 4400 S 70 St; Leader: Terry Christensen (308) 384-4017; terry058@webtv.net

Omaha meets 2nd Tues. every other month, 7-9 pm at Methodist Cancer Center; 8303 Dodge St; lower lobby; Leader: Barb Heenan (402) 291-7670; omahassg@aol.com

Grand Island meets at St. Francis Hospital, 2620 Faidley Ave, Conf. Rm 3A; Support Leader: Terry Christensen (308) 384-4017; terry058@webtv.net

South Sioux City meets at S. Sioux City Library Annex every other month, 6:30 p.m. Call Jane (402) 494-4532 for more information.

#### SPINA BIFIDA

Spina Bifida Ass'n of the Star City, Lincoln, Jerry (402) 434-3000.

Spina Bifida Support Group, Omaha, meets 1st Wednesday each month 7 pm, Quality Living East Campus, Cabana Room; Call Jolene (402) 894-2070.

#### SPINAL CORD INJURY/DISEASE

E. Nebr./W. Iowa Spinal Cord Injury Assoc. meets bimonthly various Omaha locations. Call Brian at (402) 573-6904, enwiscia@cox.net or www.nebraskascia.org

Spinal Cord Injury Peers (SCIP) (Nebraska Panhandle) meets monthly; Regional West Medical Ctr, Scottsbluff. Call (308) 635-7901; 630-1070; or Cheryl 436-1060.

Central NE Spinal Cord Injury Group, Hastings. Call Darla McAllister H: 402-463-5926 or W: 461-5161, bamadarla@alltel.net

#### STROKE

SE Nebr. Stroke Club, Lincoln (402) 483-9594

"Come Back Club", Lincoln 1-888-808-5678.

Cass Co., 3rd Wednesday at 3 pm at 1501 E 10th St, Atlantic, IA. Barb, 712-243-3250.

#### TOURETTE SYNDROME

Lincoln Nebr. Assoc. for Tourette Syndrome Group (402) 467-9077

#### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE: Access Elevator Stair-Glide Excel Stair Climber. Purchased in 2003, 300 lb weight limit, chair folds up. Please call 402-934-6511, leave message if no answer. (Omaha)

FOR SALE: Pace Saver Scooter, excellent condition, hardly used, pd \$3000, asking \$1800 OBO. Please call Mary Ann at (402) 991-7037. (Bellevue)

FOR SALE: 245 Rascal 3-wheel electric scooter, built-in charger, seat elevates, basket, snaps apart for easy travel, brand new wheels, needs batteries. \$350 Please call Vivian at (402) 476-7122.

FOR SALE: Ford van, extended full size, 38k original miles with Braun lift. External controls, interior in excellent shape. Please call Michael at (402) 202-5627. (Lincoln)

FOR SALE: Victory XL-4 (4-wheel scooter), just two years old, used very little, new batteries, paid \$3561, asking \$2800 OBO. Please call John at (308) 278-2165.

FOR SALE: Two new HealthCraft Super Pole with super bar systems, \$150 each. Golden Alante' power chair, like new, \$2600. Call Arlyn at (402) 488-8859. (Lincoln)

FOR SALE: Pride Legend 3-wheel scooter, very good condition with brand new batteries, \$695 OBO. Please call Roger at (402) 464-1300 or (402) 540-6087. (Lincoln)

FOR SALE: Invacare patient bed, electric foot & head riser, heavy duty mattress, dual rail, used 1 year, \$800. Quickie TS Small wheel wheelchair, 17" wide adjustable calf & foot supports, seat belt, 1 year old, paid \$7000, asking \$1500. G5 Flemfighter chest percussion unit, variable speed w/ additional pads, 1 year old, \$250. Please call Wilber at (308) 631-5595 or write W.E. Clemons, 2317 Highland Dr., Scottsbluff, NE 69361.

FOR SALE: Pride lift chair, large size with heat and vibration, in good condition, asking \$250. Please call Trudy at (402) 423-7908. (Lincoln)

FOR SALE: 1993 GMC Vandura 2500 van with only 6,410 miles, white custom paint with mauve interior, side door lift with tie-downs for two wheelchairs, asking \$15,000. Please call C.L. at (402) 331-9461. (LaVista, not home MWF until 3:30 pm)

FOR SALE: Scooter lift for Dodge or Chrysler mini-van. Please call Mike at (402) 423-2998. (Lincoln)

FOR SALE: Three-wheel scooter, blue, practically new, asking \$1200 OBO. Please call Mac at (402) 438-5183. (Lincoln)

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