



# On The LEVEL

June/July 2006

## Big Changes Slated at Mobility Options

Things -- they are a changing. And improving too. Mobility Options (MO), which is a subsidiary of the League of Human Dignity, is set to open its new location at 1720 'O' Street later this summer.

Mobility Options specializes in selling, customizing and servicing accessible vehicles and equipment for people with disabilities. Hopefully the new location right along O street will be easier for people to locate.

The front section, which you can see in the bottom right photo, will have two offices for Mobility Options staff. But the highlight of the new facility is the space for the showroom, something the current location does not have. MO will be able to show off and demonstrate the many

items it sells which range from wheelchairs and scooters to vehicle lifts, to all kinds of durable medical equipment. The new store should provide ample space for customers to try out the equipment.

The back section, the bottom left photo, will be turned into a nifty warehouse space and showroom. Mobility Options will be able to carry a larger inventory and customers will have a larger selection than ever before to look through.

The new store is adjacent to its current location and customers will still be able to park in League parking lot at 17th & P.

Watch for more details. We would love to see you at the opening later this summer.

The back of the "new/future" Mobility Options enters the first phase of construction in late April.



The view of the front of the "new/future" Mobility Options at 1720 O Street in Lincoln, Neb.



[www.leagueofhumandignity.com](http://www.leagueofhumandignity.com) & [www.mobility-options.com](http://www.mobility-options.com)

## ON THE LEVEL

*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 mission 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 shops in Lincoln and Omaha.*

*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.*

*To update support group listings (page 12); place classified ads for accessible equipment or supplies (page 15); or to provide news items and other related information contact:*

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### ON THE LEVEL STAFF

*Mike Schafer, CEO  
Michelle Martin, Editor*

## Message from the CEO

Developing, Emergent, Budding, Increasing, Upward, Mounting, Rising.....all of these words fit the atmosphere at the League in recent weeks and in future months. *We are definitely growing.*

If you've just read the front page of this newsletter you can see what I mean. Mobility Options is expanding. Mobility Options is growing, and that has us excited. When you or a loved one has a mobility need, we hope that you will stop in to our new store on O street and take a look around. Our showroom will finally allow people the opportunity to look around at all of our inventory. It will be easier to test out a scooter as we will have more space.

Another exhilarating change at the League is the opportunity to develop our Systems Change Program. The first of June, Richard Skerbitz will be joining our staff as the Systems Change Coordinator. He will help direct the League's advocacy activities on the local, state, and national level.

The number of consumers who receive services provided by our staff continue to grow as well.

Work has begun on the Lincoln Benefit Auction that will be held this fall on Thursday, September 21st. Auction attendance is steadily growing and we have decided to move to the Embassy Suites as a way to comfortably welcome all of our friends who attend the auction each year.

As you can see, we are growing. It is an exciting time to be a part of the League. Watch for these and other changes the next few months.



Mike Schafer  
Chief Executive Officer  
League Of Human Dignity

## New Disability Determination Process

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability-new-approach/>

[The following is excerpted from a message from Jo Anne B. Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security, regarding the new Disability Service Improvement.]

"For years, disability applicants, their families, advocates, and state and federal employees have done their very best in an outdated disability system with ever growing backlogs, processing problems and lengthy time delays in decisions. I'm proud to say that with the issuance of our final rule on Disability Service Improvement (DSI), we are taking another significant step forward in providing the quality service that the American public expects and deserves from our disability programs. As you may know, since the program's inception the number of disability beneficiaries has grown significantly. In January 2005, nearly eight million workers with disabilities and their dependents received benefits from Social Security. That is double the number of disability beneficiaries served in 1985. And almost six million adults and children received Supplemental Security Income or SSI disability payments last year an increase of 130 percent over 20 years ago.

Recognizing these challenges and others, I made a commitment to look at issues related to the disability determination process. I believe that the changes in the final rule will result in substantial improvements that will enable claimants to receive more accurate, consistent, timely and fair decisions. I also believe that this rule ensures a decision-making process that is consistent with due process and provides claimants a meaningful opportunity to be heard.

In the summer of 2006, we plan to begin implementation in the Boston Region. This is one of our smaller regions and is comprised of the six states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont." According to the Disability Service Improvement website, the final rule provides for:

- A quick disability determination process for those who obviously have a disability. Favorable decisions would be made in such cases within 20 days after the claim is received by the state disability determination agency.
- A new Medical-Vocational Expert System (MVES) to enhance the expertise needed to make accurate and timely decisions.
- A new position — the Federal Reviewing

Official — that will review state agency determinations upon the request of the claimant. This will eliminate the reconsideration step of the current appeals process.

- Retention of the right to request a de novo hearing and decision from an Administrative Law Judge if the claimant disagrees with the decision of the Federal Reviewing Official.
- Closing the record after the Administrative Law Judge issues a decision, with provision for certain good cause exceptions to this rule.
- A new body — the Decision Review Board — to review and correct decisional errors and ensure consistent adjudication at all levels of the disability determination process. The current Appeals Council will be phased out gradually.

## Work At Home/Telework as a Reasonable Accommodation

<http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/telework.html>

Many employers have discovered the benefits of allowing employees to work at home through telework (also known as telecommuting) programs. Telework has allowed employers to attract and retain valuable workers by boosting employee morale and productivity. Technological advancements have also helped increase telework options. President George W. Bush's New Freedom Initiative emphasizes the important role telework can have for expanding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

In its 1999 Enforcement Guidance on Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (revised 10/17/02), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said that allowing an individual with a disability to work at home may be a form of reasonable accommodation. The ADA requires employers with 15 or more employees to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified applicants and employees with disabilities. Reasonable accommodation is any change in the work environment or in the way things are customarily done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform a job, or gain equal access to the benefits and privileges of a job. The ADA does not require an employer to provide a specific accommodation if it causes undue hardship, i.e., significant difficulty or expense.

For more information, use the address listed above.

# Department of Justice *Updates*

## USE OF "SEGWAYS" ON TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

This guidance document concerns the question of whether transportation entities (e.g., transit authorities, Amtrak) should permit the "Segway" personal transportation device to be used on transportation vehicles when used as a mobility device by people with disabilities.

The Segway is a two-wheeled, gyroscopically stabilized, battery-powered personal transportation device. The Segway is not designed primarily for use by individuals with disabilities, nor is it used primarily by such individuals. However, some individuals with disabilities may use a Segway as a personal mobility aid, in lieu of more traditional devices like a wheelchair or scooter.

The Department's ADA rule (49 CFR Part 37, §37.3) defines a "wheelchair" as "a mobility aid belonging to any class of three or four-wheeled vehicles, designed for and used by individuals with mobility impairments..." (emphasis added). By this definition, a Segway is not a wheelchair. However, a Segway, when used by a person with a disability as a mobility device, is part of the broad class of mobility aids that Part 37 intends will be accommodated (see for instance §§37.5 and 37.165). In this way, a Segway occupies a legal position analogous to canes, walkers, etc.

Because a Segway is not a wheelchair, the ADA regulation's provisions for lift and securement use specific to wheelchairs §37.165(a) (e)) do not apply to Segways and their users. However, §37.165(g) requires transit providers to "permit individuals with disabilities who do not use wheelchairs" to use a vehicle's lift or ramp to enter the vehicle. Individuals who do not use wheelchairs commonly use the lift together with their non-wheelchair mobility devices, such as canes, crutches or walkers. Under this provision, an individual with a disability who uses a Segway as a mobility device must be permitted to use the lift.

This is not to say that transportation providers are required to allow all Segway users to bring their devices on board a bus or train. Transportation

providers may establish their own general policies regarding Segways and other devices, just as they do with respect to pets or bicycles. However, when a device is being used as a mobility device by a person with a mobility-related disability, then the transportation provider must permit the person and his or her device onto the vehicle. This is similar to the situation in which a transportation provider that has a general policy which does not permit pets to enter, but must permit a person with a disability to bring a service animal into a vehicle.

Also, a transportation provider is not required to permit anyone — including a person with a disability — to bring a device onto a vehicle that is too big or that is determined to pose a 'direct threat' to the safety of others. With respect to size, a non-wheelchair mobility device that exceeds the size and weight standards for a "common wheelchair" (i.e., 30 x 48 inches, measured two inches above the ground, and not exceeding 600 pounds, including the user) can reasonably be considered too large. The direct threat standard is intentionally stringent (i.e., requiring a determination that there is a significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by modification of policies, procedures, practices, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services). A transportation provider seeking to exclude a mobility device on 'direct threat' grounds should first consult with the appropriate Department of Transportation operating administration for guidance.

We note that this analysis would apply to other situations. For example, a Federal Highway Administration-assisted recreational trail that normally cannot permit use by motorized vehicles should accommodate Segways when used as a mobility device by someone with a mobility-related disability.

Please direct any questions to [john.benison@ost.dot.gov](mailto:john.benison@ost.dot.gov). Information provided by the Department of Justice.

# Thank You For Your Donations!

March 16, 2006 - May 8, 2006

## Builder (\$500 and above)

Borg Warner Inc.

## In Honor of Nancy Larimer

from Cheryl Larson

## Believer (\$50 - \$99)

Marcia S. Rost, Frederick Schlingman

## In Memory of Lillie Young

Frances Young

*who's*

## Saying Hello...

Richard Skerbitz,  
Systems Change Coordinator,  
Lincoln

Andrea Welch,  
Medicaid Waiver Services  
Coordinator, Lincoln

Gayle Callahan-Wolfing,  
Administrative Assistant, Lincoln

## Saying Goodbye...

Sandra Dresser,  
Education & Quality Assurance  
Manager, Lincoln

Melissa Snyder,  
Medicaid Waiver Services  
Coordinator, Lincoln



A Fond Farewell to

*Robert Allington*

9-18-1935 to 3-26-2006

In recent months, the League of Human Dignity, along with the community, lost a true inspiration and friend when Robert Allington died.

Allington made his mark on the world in many ways. His accomplishments are so abundant and varied we couldn't even begin to list them all here.

He had an early interest in chemistry and electronics and built his first radio when he was 13 years old. He started at the University of Nebraska when he was just 16. As a 20-year old lab intern at MIT, he contracted Polio. In that time, having a disability brought about doubts.....doubts about his recovery, his capabilities and his future success.

But no one should have doubted Allington. After being drastically affected by Polio, Allington fought through a difficult rehabilitation. He overcame great obstacles and achieved enormous success.

In 1958, Allington used his talents and helped start the company Isco. Isco concentrated on creating and manufacturing a broad range of measuring instruments in two basic divisions, separation instruments and environmental instruments. In 1961, he completed his master's degree.

Over the years he garnered many prestigious awards and honors and earned over 200 patents. By 2000, Isco had grown into a \$60 million global enterprise and later would become part of Teledyne Technologies, a world leader in analytical instrument technology.

Allington served for a long-time as a member of the League's Board of Directors and even donated a farm to the League at one time to help create income for our agency. He had a tremendous impact on those around him and we at the League were fortunate to have been included in his circle of friends.

# Stars & Strides 2006

What a night! Over the years I have learned a great many things about attending benefit auctions for the League of Human Dignity. Let me take a moment to share these insights from our recent auction in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

#1. The tables were filled to the brink with an amazing selection of items. This past auction had oil changes, jewelry, movie passes, jazzercise memberships, socket sets, massage gift certificates, and so much more. AND that was just the first table.

To the delight of many, the Live auction featured tickets to several NASCAR events in Kansas City. Apparently I wasn't the only one interested in that.....those tickets went fast and furiously. Can't wait to try and get in on the bidding next year.

You can bet the unique items like the uncut two dollar bills that Warren Buffett autographed will go fast every time. This item will be at the Lincoln

auction in September along with a number of other distinguished decorative items from local artists.

#2. The food is always great. Ameristar Casino prepared a scrumptious buffet.

#3. The entertainment is all around. Just glance around at the other tables and you will see all kinds of hi-jinks. Raffle tickets and balloons were being sold, and sold quick. I've included a photo of our Cash Raffle Winner. She bought a \$10 raffle ticket and went home with \$250!! Talk about lady luck.

#4. The best reason to go to one of these auctions is to help people with disabilities continue to make strides. The money from the items you buy and the tickets you purchase all go to help the League with its mission of helping people with disabilities integrate into society. You are a star when you help the League make strides.



As the Omaha-Council Bluffs auction is set to begin, patrons patiently wait to get their hands on their bid numbers.



There are always a lot of great items to check out on the three silent auction tables.



The Immanuel Lifeline Corporate Table enjoys the party!



League of Human Dignity CEO Mike Schafer and Master of Ceremonies Jana Murrell, from KETV, announce the winning number of the Cash Raffle.



Look at all of this great stuff!!

**A Big Thank You to our Corporate Tables:**  
 AFSCME Local 299,  
 Aquila, Inc.,  
 Genesis Stained & Etched Glass/Global Travel,  
 Great Plains Auto Body,  
 Immanuel Lifeline,  
 Jenco,  
 Lozier Corporation, and  
 Underwood Construction Management.

**And THANKS SO MUCH**  
 to our favorite Auctioneer  
 Shayne Fili.



Jane McKlem has the winning Cash Raffle number and is more than happy to accept the prize of \$250 cold hard cash! Congratulations Jane!



# A Chronology of the Disability Rights Movement

The League has been sharing the path of the Disability Rights Movement.  
This issue brings us up to 1972.

## 1972 -

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, in *Mills v. Board of Education*, rules that the District of Columbia cannot exclude children with disabilities from the public schools. Similarly, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in *PARC v. Pennsylvania*, strikes down various state laws used to exclude children with disabilities from the public schools. These decisions will be cited by advocates during the public hearings leading to the passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975. *PARC* in particular sparks numerous other right-to-education lawsuits and inspires advocates to look to the courts for the expansion of disability rights.

**The Center for Independent Living (CIL) is founded in Berkeley, California. Generally recognized as the world's first independent living center, the CIL sparks the worldwide independent living movement.**

Passage of the Social Security Amendments of 1972 creates the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The law relieves families of the financial responsibility of caring for their adult children with disabilities. It consolidates existing federal programs for people with disabilities but not eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance.

The Houston Cooperative Living Residential Project is established in Houston, Texas, becoming a model, along with the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley, for subsequent independent living programs.

The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is founded in Washington, D.C., to provide legal representation and to advocate for the rights of people with mental illness.

The Legal Action Center, with offices in Washington, D.C., and New York City, is founded to advocate for the interests of people who are alcohol or drug dependent. Today, it also works on behalf of people with HIV/AIDS.

Paralyzed Veterans of America, the National Paraplegia Foundation, and Richard Hedding file suit to force the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to incorporate access into their design for a new, multibillion-dollar subway system in Washington, D.C. Their eventual victory becomes a landmark in the struggle for accessible public mass transit.

Wolf Wolfensberger et al. publish *The Principle of Normalization in Human Services*, expanding the theory of normalization and bringing it to a wider American audience.

The Network Against Psychiatric Assault is organized in San Francisco. The parents of residents at the Willow Brook State School in Staten Island, New York, file suit (*New York ARC v. Rockefeller*) to end the appalling conditions at that institution. A television broadcast from the facility outrages the general public, which sees the inhumane treatment endured by people with developmental disabilities. This press exposure, together with the lawsuit and other advocacy, eventually moves thousands of people from the institution into community-based living arrangements.

Demonstrations are held by activists with disabilities in Washington, D.C., to protest the veto of what will become the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 by President Richard M. Nixon. Among those organizing demonstrations in Washington and elsewhere, are Disabled in Action, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the National Paraplegia Foundation, and other groups.

Madness Network News begins publication in San Francisco.

## 1973 -

The first handicap parking stickers are introduced in Washington, D.C.

For more information on what happened in 1973, check out our next issue.

## Where to find us....

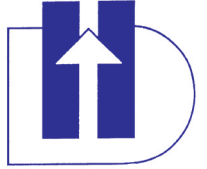
### OMAHA

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

### LINCOLN

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

LEAGUE  
OF  
HUMAN  
DIGNITY



### SOUTHWEST IOWA

Center for Independent Living  
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

### NORFOLK

Center for Independent Living  
400 Elm Avenue  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-4475

# League Lands Another Grant

The Iowa West Foundation, headquartered in Council Bluffs, Iowa, has announced \$4.6 million in grants for the first quarter of 2006. The grants will be used to assist 28 nonprofit organizations and governmental entities with funding for 32 projects and programs.

Once again, the League of Human Dignity's Center for Independent Living in Council Bluffs has been awarded a grant. An award totalling \$30,782 was given to the League for an improved parking lot and new landscaping projects.

"This grant will allow us to do several things," commented League CEO Mike Schafer. "We will repave the parking lot. That is our primary goal. We are also working with a company in Council Bluffs to do some landscaping to improve the appearance of our office."

The League wants to help beautify the Council Bluffs location and continue 'to be a good neighbor.'

"This is the last phase of moving into our new location last summer," Schafer said. "It should end up being very appealing."



A grant from the Iowa West Foundation will improve the looks of this gravel parking lot and make for easier accessibility.

# Wheelchair Unbound

by Harriet McBryde Johnson

from New York Times Magazine, April 23, 2006

I'm at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, touring an exhibition: "Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race." Tomorrow evening I will be interviewed onstage by a museum official. In a sense, that will make me a temporary display, an object of interpretation, a body in a wheelchair, a body so pared down and twisted up by a genetic neuromuscular disability that it doesn't need a nearby Nazi to get a reaction. In another sense, I will be an interpreter, talking from experience as a disability rights lawyer and activist.

The exhibit tells of an eugenics movement that sought to apply principles from Darwin and animal husbandry to humans. In Germany, it proceeded step by step from voluntary "healthy baby" campaigns to forced sterilization and the murder of some 200,000 disabled children and adults.

Looking at the photos of doomed children, I see my old crowd. They could be us. In "special" schools and camps for children with physical and mental disabilities, we grew up knowing we were a category of person that the world did not want. Most of us had a story of some doctor advising our parents to put us away or to let us die. We owed our survival to parents who had irrationally bonded with us, who held old-fashioned notions of right and wrong. We knew we were lucky and hoped our luck would hold. To increase the odds, we tended to be charming. We developed thick skins.

My skin is thick enough now to let me wind through the exhibit without weeping, almost without trembling. I roll onto the tile floor meant to resemble those in the gas chambers that the Nazis designed for the "humane" killing of disabled patients. I see a photo of a girl who was once held dear by someone who put a bow in her hair but could not protect her.

Then I see the wheelchair. It's similar to other prewar wheelchairs I've seen, but there's something unusual about the frame. Is this a tilting mechanism? A fancy suspension system? Looks like fine German engineering. I like vintage wheelchairs. An obsolete Everest & Jennings drive belt hangs in my office as a bit of nostalgia, like an old wagon wheel in a barbecue shack. I have an urge to jostle the chair, to see what that frame does.

The sign mentions a German institution. So, no single owner. But even in institutions, people manage to bond with chairs. A state-owned chair may be

occupied by the same person every day, parked beside that person's bed at night. Maybe the chair was used by someone with cerebral palsy until he died, then someone with a stroke until he died, and on down the line, until . . . until they all died?

The people who used this wood-and-metal survivor probably loved it, liked to move about even as they were sucked into the nightmare. The nightmare began when the state removed them from their families, concentrated them in institutions. The same state provided them with beautifully engineered chairs and then killed them for eating up the resources of the "fit."

I pull myself away and try to absorb the rest of the exhibit. It tells how the eugenics dragnet widened, of the way concentration strategies, gas-chamber technology and sterilization techniques first designed for disabled people were applied against whole populations defined as genetically undesirable.

By the time I roll onto the stage the next night, I've thought a lot about there and here, then and now. When the first question comes, I tell them about my fascination with the wheelchair, and somehow it sounds funny, and laughter fills the room. We shuttle between the tragedy of Germany then to the comedy of here now, from the horror of bureaucratic killing to a funny confession that I, too, tend to stare at disabled people on the street. Before I know it, I'm giving them a real show.

What has come over me? Part of it is surely the tendency to compartmentalize. But there's more. In this room, people with disabilities in thrilling variety make me feel at home. It's like the disability ghetto of my childhood, but so much better. That was a community of exclusion, created by nondisabled people who considered us unfit. This is a community of inclusion. Here people, disabled and not, are gathered by choice.

I haven't forgotten that two million people remain in U.S. disability institutions, that some disabled children still cannot attend mainstream schools, that too many of us live in poverty. But I can't hold onto anger and sorrow in this room. It is too full of life. Behind the laughs I keep getting, I feel a shared sense of possibility, a drive for a world that will embrace both the fit and the unfit and hold them so dear that the categories die.

## Barrier Removal Program

Barrier Removal Grants are 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.

### **SOUTHWEST IOWA**

#### **Center for Independent Living**

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

### **LINCOLN**

#### **Center for Independent Living**

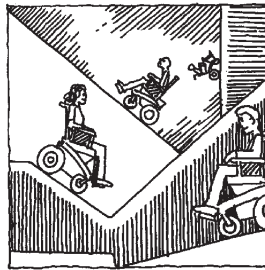
1701 P Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 441-7871

### **OMAHA**

#### **Center for Independent Living**

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

*we can help*



## 'Community for All' Toolkit Information

This tool kit was developed at the request of volunteers, advocates, self-advocates, and professionals concerned that the remarkable progress made towards the inclusion of people with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities (our constituents) into the fabric and mainstream of community life in America was at risk.

In some places in the United States there are those who would not only continue to deny people currently in public and private institutions freedom and opportunity through continued institutionalization but who also want to expand the role of institutions in the lives of our constituents.

This tool kit is the product of collaboration between the following organizations: American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR), The Arc of the United States, The Center on Human Policy, The Council on Quality and Leadership, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), The University of Minnesota's Research and Training Center on Community Living, and TASH.

Please use the following URL to use the toolkit:  
<http://thechp.syr.edu/toolkit/>

## LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY RURAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Is now taking applications for a 2-bedroom apartment in York, a 1-bedroom apartment in Columbus, a 1-bedroom apartment in Hastings and a 2-bedroom apartment in Norfolk. All have a roll-in shower.

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)

## 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

### 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 Tuesday 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.

### 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
- 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.
- Mosaic: at Bethpage Village, 1044 23rd Rd, PO Box 67, **Axtell, NE** 68924, (308) 743-2401, Mosaic\_Axtell@mosaicinfo.org; 722 S. 12th; Box 607; **Beatrice**, NE 68310; (402) 223-4066.

### Diabetes

- American Diabetes Association 1-800-342-2383.
- **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); Contact (402) 553-5335 or 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
- **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
- **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

### FMS-CF Syndrome

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

### Grief Resolution

- With Horizon Hospice, Monday evenings, (402) 474-3600. **Lincoln**

### 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; 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; Maggie Phillips (402) 390-2914

## Mental Illness

■ **Page Co Serious & Persistent Mental Illness**, 3rd Wed. at 1:30 p.m., call Jennifer (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 (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, 3 Larrabee Farm Road, 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, Jerry Ebsen (712) 366-9569.

## Myositis

■ Support Group, **Lincoln**, call Mac Warren (402) 438-5183.

■ **Online**, [www.myositis.org](http://www.myositis.org)

■ Support Group, **Bennington**, call Laura at (402) 238-3261.

## 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; [khein@ptinebraska.org](mailto:khein@ptinebraska.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

■ ENWISCIA: Please call Brian Richardson, (402) 573-6904 for information or e-mail at [ENWISCIA@cox.net](mailto:ENWISCIA@cox.net). No regular meetings at this time.

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

■ Central NE Spinal Cord Injury Group, **Hastings**. Call Darla McAllister (402) 461-5124 or, [bamadarla@alltel.net](mailto:bamadarla@alltel.net)

## Stroke

■ 4th Thurs./month @ 1pm @ Madonna ProActive, 7111 Stephanie Lane, **Lincoln**, (402) 483-9590.

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

■ **Cass Co.**, 3rd Wednesday at 3 pm at 1501 E 10th St, Atlantic, IA. Rita, (712) 243-7480.

## Tourette Syndrome

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

# Classified Advertisements

**For Sale:** 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan, easy ramped rear wheelchair entry, sliding side doors, 19k, excellent condition. Please call Margaret at (402) 571-4605 or (712) 829-2353. (Omaha)

**For Sale:** 1993 GMC Vandura 2500 van with only 6,446 miles, side-door lift with tie-downs for two wheelchairs, asking \$12,000. Please call C.L. at (402) 331-9461. (LaVista)

**For Sale:** 2005 "Guardian Aspire" rechargable motorized wheelchair. Really nice, used 8 months. Must sell, \$3200 OBO. Please call Barb at (402) 989-6195. (Clatonia)

**For Sale:** Manual Quickie Tilt'n Space wheelchair with gelseat, headrest, used only four months, \$750 OBO. Please call Marvene at (402) 334-9253. (Omaha)

**For Sale:** Pridejet 2 HD electric wheelchair, headrest, reclining back, lh controls, used 6 months. Two porta pottys, two manual wheelchairs, make offer. Please call Shirley at (402) 571-7920. (Omaha)

**For Sale:** Hoveround, less than 3 years old. Needs two new batteries and a battery charger. Asking \$5000 OBO. Please call Patricia at (402) 208-7198. (Omaha)

**For Sale:** Pride lift chair-recliner, soft beige in color, has 4 zipper pillow back, been used very little, will deliver within 50 miles. Priced new at \$1200 but will sell for \$600. Please call Joan at (402) 362-2571. (York)

**For Sale:** 1988 Ford 150 conversion van with wheelchair lift. \$1000. Please call Eugene at (402) 421-1274. (Lincoln)

**For Sale:** Jazzy electric wheelchair, model 1113, new batteries, like new, make offer. Please call Don at (402) 466-0822. (Lincoln)

**For Sale:** Hospital bed, adjustable (electric) both head & foot, almost new mattress, \$900; Hospital Table, adjustable, wheels, \$90. Both in very good condition. Please call Bill at (402) 489-0439. (Lincoln)

**For Sale:** Jazzy 1120 electric wheelchair, excellent condition, \$1500 OBO. Please call Roy at (402) 328-0502. (Lincoln)

**For Sale:** Bruno motor scooter with attachable basket, excellent condition, \$750. Golden Atlante Power Chair with swivel seat, rear wheel drive, mint condition, \$2,250. Will negotiate on both. Please call Beverly at (402) 476-3814. (Lincoln)

**TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE:**  
7003 S. 156 Ave. Cir., Omaha  
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