

NOVEMBER 2020

# OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

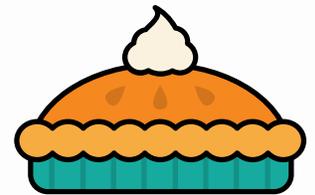


empowering people with developmental disabilities

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



I AM *thankful* FOR...



Four clients share what they are most thankful for.

### MY JOB

*"I'm most thankful for the job that I have at Hy-Vee. I am also thankful for my family and the help I've been getting from CSP."*  
- Shadow

### MY APARTMENT

*"I'm thankful for my new apartment. I'm also thankful for my two younger sisters."*  
- Kevin

### FAMILY & STAFF

*"I am most thankful for my family and the staff at Opportunity House."*  
- Samantha

### OH WORKSHOP

*"I am thankful to be able to work in the workshop."*  
- Frank

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Joe  
11/2



Mark  
11/5



Samantha  
11/7



Jason  
11/14



Johnny  
11/15



Emily  
11/16



Larry  
11/29



Lisa  
11/29

*Have a very happy birthday!*

# HALLOWEEN



CSP Case Manager, Jill as Super Grover.



Jen, Bri and Alexis celebrating at Center Cross.



Liz, wearing her awesome costume!



Happy Halloween from the Linden home!

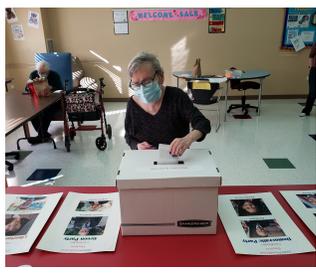


The Recreation department had fun creating spooky mummies and pumpkins for Halloween.

## ELECTIONS



Richard from the CSP program, voting early.



Community Day Services held a mock election on November 2nd.

# NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Last month, workers with disabilities were celebrated and employers were reminded of the importance of inclusive hiring practices. You might have seen our clients working hard at Jewel, Hy-Vee, Meijer, and other businesses in the community. Thank you to all of the businesses and organizations that employ our clients within the local community.



Danny had previously worked at DSI for 5 years. He is currently an employee at McDonalds.

"I work in maintenance where my job is to clean and wash dishes. I enjoy the friendships I make while at work." - Danny



Shadow has been an employee at Hy-Vee for 3 years. He works in the courtesy department where his job is to bag groceries.

"My favorite part about work is my coworkers. They are awesome to work with and they became my friends. Kim helped me apply for the job and get an interview. It's been a great experience so far." -Shadow

"Everyone in the Voc department sees day in and day out that the client's strive to be a great employee for the companies they work for and the pride they feel when they obtain a job. I enjoy seeing the excitement on client's faces when they get a job offer or an offer for an interview."

-Kim, Vocational Coordinator

# EMPLOYEE WALK OF FAME

**JAMES  
JACKSON**



James is a 2010 Northern Illinois University alumni. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree of Science in General Studies and minor in African American Studies.

James is the Founder of Delta Phi Delta Dance Fraternity, Inc. Theta Chapter at NIU. Delta Phi Delta, Inc. is a national dance fraternity based on improving the community and the quality of life through dance.

The dance fraternity provides individuals with an outlet to use their talents beyond the stage to enhance their community through service, fundraisers, youth outreach, and activities.

James also enjoys writing poems, singing Gospel and R&B music, and dancing. His style of dance includes hip hop, jazz and lyrical.

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## OPPORTUNITY HOUSE ELECTS DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

New Directors and Officers were elected at the Annual Meeting held on October 29, 2020. Two new directors, Jeanne Isabel and Lorna Bemis, were elected to a 3-year term. Elected officers are: Jim Dombek, Chair, Ben Swedberg, Vice-Chair, Helen Traglia, Secretary, Christy Kyler, Treasurer and Kevin Poorten, Past Chair.

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS



NAPA Auto Care Centers of DeKalb County held an Oil Change for Charity fundraiser. Each month, NAPA Auto Care selected a different organization to raise funds for. They selected to fundraise for Opportunity House throughout the month of August. The eight Auto Care Centers contributed \$1.00 for every oil change they performed. On October 21, NAPA Auto Care Centers of DeKalb County donated \$500 to Opportunity House. Thank you NAPA Auto Care for choosing to raise funds for OH!

## DONORS

Frank DiNatale  
Mary Eddings  
Mr. & Mrs. Al Gismondo  
Ann Prestegaard  
Tamey Trier  
3D Auto Repair  
Archer Alignment  
Barb City Automotive

Bockman's Auto Care  
Bockman's Truck & Fleet  
DeKalb County NAPA Auto Care  
First Midwest  
Kishwaukee United Way  
PC Net Consulting, Inc.  
The Motor Works of DeKalb  
University Shell

## ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

B. Johnson  
Cohen Barnes  
Deanna Blanco  
Catherine Brunson  
Tim Conklin  
Jennifer & Bill Cummings  
Darya Gorlova  
Anna Hostetler  
Gil & Alice Larimer

Craig & Nanette Maercker  
Jeff McMaster  
Roberta Morgan  
Latisha Newman  
Barb & Jeff Parness  
Rebecca Shortridge  
Benjamin Swedberg  
Glidden Hill Grill & Catering  
Meijer  
ServiceMaster Restoration

# TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



For 33 years, assisted living was never a consideration for Kevin. His mother always believed that the best place for Kevin was at home with his family. She provided him with the care and safety that he needed. Unfortunately, Kevin's mother became very ill and was placed into a nursing home. Kevin was left alone without supervision, employment, or social activities.

*Imagine you are Kevin.*

You have the biggest heart and you always have the brightest smile on your face. It's difficult for many to understand the loving and joyous person you are because you're not able to speak. Your dream is to have a job, socialize with friends and live life to the fullest, but your disabilities make that impossible without support. You spend your days alone wandering the neighborhood and waiting for your father to return home from work.

*Now, imagine how Opportunity House has changed Kevin's life.*

For six years, Opportunity House has helped Kevin live a fulfilled life. He works at OH Industries and earns the money needed to socialize with his friends. He lives in a home providing the around-the-clock support he needs. Kevin's family knows he's safe, well-cared for and surrounded by friends. Opportunity House is his home.

Please consider a gift to Opportunity House that will support the programs and services that meet the housing, vocational and social needs of Kevin and others. Your support is needed now more than ever as we deal with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Any gift, large or small, will help adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities lead happy, healthy, and productive lives.

## ABOUT US

OH is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization providing services to disabled adults since 1963.

Our mission is: *"To help people with developmental disabilities work, live in homes of their choice, and enjoy community life."*

We offer a wide variety of services including residential, day programs, supported employment, recreation, and Special Olympics.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Day  
Opportunity House Closed  
Thursday, November 26, 2020

Day After Thanksgiving  
Opportunity House Closed  
Friday, November 27, 2020

## SPONSORS



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

#### CHAIR

Jim Dombek

#### VICE CHAIR

Ben Swedberg

#### SECRETARY

Helen Traglia

#### TREASURER

Christie Kyler

#### PAST CHAIR

Kevin Poorten

### DIRECTORS

Lorna Bemis

Tim Conklin

Jennifer Darlinger

Landon Faivre

Jeanne Isabel

Karen Kuppler

Tom Matya

Dr. Rebecca

Shortridge

Karen Simmons

Tom Weaver