



"The People Company"

Serving Persons with Special Needs Since 1998

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From the Director's Desk ~

ASI Iowa is growing! In just a few days we will be ready to serve three adult men in our ninth home. What a flurry of activity opening a new home generates! To borrow a theme from Hillary Clinton's book, "It Takes a Village," it also takes a village of ASI staff to complete the preparations needed to open a new location. There is staff to hire and train, transition meetings to attend, phone calls to make and e-mails to send. There are furnishings to buy, utilities to arrange, and cleaning to be done. The experience is like getting ready for company - magnified tenfold! But, we are excited! Excited at the prospect chap

The Connector

Choice ~ Respect ~ Participation ~ Presence

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AmeriServe International, Inc.

Making life better tomorrow because of what is done today.

Summertime U.S.A.!

"Everybody's gone surfin', surfin' U.S.A."

These few words, sung by everybody's favorite group from the '60's, The Beach Boys, is all it takes to elicit a happy grin and gleeful laughter from Cindy, one of the ladies served by ASI! While the state of Iowa may not be geographically suited for surfing, it does provide many opportunities for fun in the sun. Swimming, fishing, visiting area parks, playing Buddy Baseball and enjoying the local Music in the Park concert series are just a few of the many summer activities in which the men and women

receiving supports from AmeriServe can participate.

According to Client Services Coordinator, Jame Dixon, Cindy and her roommate, Nancy, love spending time at the swimming pool of their apartment complex. Cindy has found that sitting by the pool is a great place to meet new people, while Nancy likes to relax and take a cat nap! Sounds great, doesn't it? And, it is. The beauty of it all is the ability of these young women to spend their leisure time doing what



Cindy

thousands of young women choose to do all summer long. Chill out by the pool!

Use of the swimming pool is an option available to all tenants of the apartment complex, and relaxing by the pool is an activity that Cindy and Nancy choose to do. In doing so, with

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What We Do

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Habilitation, Respite, Consumer Directed Attendant Care, Group homes

Day Treatment

Adult Day Habilitation and Community Integration Services

Residential Support

Supported Community Living, Specialized Living Arrangements

Summertime U.S.A.! (cont'd)

their regular presence at the pool, they are becoming known to others in their apartment complex as people with whom they have something in common - a common interest upon which friendships can be developed.

So, while Cindy gets "tickled pink" over the songs of The Beach

Boys, we're "tickled pink" that Cindy

and Nancy choose to take advantage of the opportunity to be active participants in their apartment community.



Nancy

Choices

For two women served by AmeriServe, the opportunity to move into an apartment one year ago was an easy choice to make. At the time, each had been receiving supports in her respective communities, but each was experiencing her own challenges.

Now, one year later, they have made another decision. The two ladies decided they want to move from the apartment into a house. Jill Cassell, Client Services Coordinator, stated "These ladies want to find a third roommate so they can afford to rent a home, to have a yard, and their own neighborhood. And, we are going to make it happen!"

Moving into their own home is a dream they had not believed to be possible. Yet, here they are on the verge of moving into a house which will identify them as members of a neighborhood, and members of a community. It has been a privilege for employees of AmeriServe to have the opportunity to assist them in this endeavor, and a pleasure for us, as well, to celebrate their success.

News From The Planning Center

We have found several new opportunities for volunteering in the community that we're excited about. One new opportunity is helping at the animal shelter where clients take turns, two at a time, assisting in feeding and watering the animals and shredding materials to use as bedding. We are just getting started with this venture and will plan to share some pictures with you in future newsletters.

Council Bluffs has a wonderful Senior Center where three of our men have volunteered to clear tables after the noon lunch. The Center offers a wide variety of activities and as soon as we become comfortable there we will spread our wings and try some other things. We are always looking for new ways to serve our community as volunteers and look forward to the relationships

that will come about as a result of our participation at the animal shelter and at the Senior Center.

Finally, we have welcomed four new people to the Planning Center in recent weeks. In early June we welcomed James from Des Moines. James is receiving residential supports from ASI and is currently attending the Planning Center. He will attend school in the fall. George, Ron and Mike all moved to Council Bluffs on June 25th, moving to a home they share in the northern part of the city. George and Ron previously lived at the Woodward Resource Center while Mike resided at the Glenwood Resource Center. Like patches of a quilt, each new person adds interest and dimension to the fabric of the Planning Center.

See Sign-up sheet
at your work location.

ASI Monthly Elective Education

Training provided by
American Institute of Management.

Options for Community Awareness

Thursday, July 12th 3:30 - 6:30pm
Monday, July 30th 12:00 - 3:00pm

One of AmeriServe International's core beliefs is that individuals need to develop relationships with others to live full and productive lives. Persons assisted by AmeriServe move about the community making new connections with people in work, recreation, service to others and leisure associations. Meaningful interactions are guided by the AmeriServe International, Inc. to enhance quality of life and impact choice.

Attend the session to:

- Learn the purpose of a meaningful, directed community experience
- Create action plans to improve interactions
- Develop creative options to get out of a repetitive cycle
- Review available resources
- Discuss how professionalism by AmeriServe staff persons can impact the outcome
- Practice ways to introduce Clients and the company to others

Decision Making and Problem Solving

Thursday, August 2nd 3:30 - 6:30pm
Friday, August 24th 12:00 - 3:00pm

In this workshop we'll look methods to make decisions and solving problems understanding they can often follow the same systematic process. You'll gain further insight into decision making by learning the six basic steps that lead to making good decisions. Participants will also learn how to get to the root of a problem and stop focusing on the symptoms. This will assist in creating a plan with lasting results.

Attend the session to:

- Identify how the value of a positive attitude helps to turn problems into opportunities.
- State the benefits of problem solving by individuals and by teams.
- Identify the steps used in problem solving.
- Demonstrate skills used to identify the real problem vs. the symptom.

Buddy Baseball

*Don't miss the last two
games of the season!!*

July 19th - 7:15pm start

Field #1 - Rockets VS **Hitters**

Field #2 - Stingers VS **Knights**

July 26th - 7:15pm start

Banquet at Shelter from 6:00-

7:00pm

Field #1 - **Knights** VS Rockets

Field #2 - **Hitters** VS Pirates

Bahnsen Park/1720 Ave L.

Council Bluffs

Support Options

1. In-home Support—training to increase self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills within the home and community.
2. Day Treatment— specialized sensory-motor, cognitive, communicative, social, interaction and behavioral support.
3. Residential— designed to maximize consumer successes through the use of habilitative therapies, special developmental skills, participative enhancement, and sensory-motor development in the group home or specialized living setting.

Call for more information today!

AmeriServe International, Inc. ~ 712-322-0272



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Making a Difference

AmeriServe International, Inc. carefully selects all personnel to ensure that they possess beliefs, experiences, skills, and knowledge that will assist persons with special needs in exercising a quality of life of their choice. If you or someone you know is interested in doing the right things, in the right way, for the right reasons, at the right times, we are looking for the right people.

Please call **712-322-0272** to find out how you can make a difference.



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of
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Training provided by the
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