



**"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 of helping to write another chapter in the lives of these men. With continued work by the dedicated ASI team and the support of families, friends and case managers - we believe this chapter will have a very happy ending.*

**Sue Blakestad, CSC Specialist  
Guest Author**

# The Connector

*Choice ~ Respect ~ Participation ~ Presence*

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## AmeriServe International, Inc.

Making life better tomorrow because of what is done today.

### The Trip Across Iowa

Maintaining relationships with family and friends is something that is valued by most people in our society.



convenient, but Anna and Betsy knew it would be worth the effort to help make Jackie and Corrine's dreams come true.

Sometimes, however, there are certain circumstances that make it difficult for people to stay connected. Two clients, Jackie and Corrine, have family and close friends that live in eastern Iowa - a long way from their homes here in western Iowa. CSCs Anna and Betsy were aware of how much Jackie and Corrine longed to visit their families, so set about to

see what they could do to "make it happen."

After several weeks of planning, a trip was scheduled to see their families. The reality of the situation dictated that the trip would have to be completed in a day. That meant leaving before the crack of dawn to drive across the state and return home to Council Bluffs late that same night. It wouldn't be

The determined group began their trip across the state at 5:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning. With stops every couple of hours, the band of travelers arrived at their first destination, DeWitt, Iowa at 12:00 noon - a trip of about 310 miles. Corrine's friends, the Webers, whom she refers to as Mom and Dad, were anxiously awaiting her

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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

## The Trip Across Iowa (cont'd)

arrival. After a warm greeting they invited Corrine in for lunch and an afternoon of visiting.

After getting Corrine settled in with the Webers, Anna, Betsy and Jackie hit the road again. Their next destination was the city of Clinton, 20 miles east of DeWitt along the Mississippi river, and the home of Jackie's brothers, Billy and Bob. Jackie's excitement was hard to contain. At long last, this was the moment he had been waiting for!



Billy and Bob greeted the excited travelers and invited everyone into their home. Jackie immediately recog-

nized a picture of his mother that was displayed on their living room wall. Jackie presented gifts to his brothers, and, in turn, one of the brothers gave Jackie a gift he had made for him. Jackie would not put it down for the rest of the day.

The afternoon of visiting went by quickly, and soon it was time to leave. It was hard for Jackie and his brothers Jackie to say goodbye, and tears of joy and sadness were shed as the men parted.

Heavy fog spoiled the groups' plan to stop to see the mighty Mississippi river at Clinton, so they headed back to DeWitt to pick up Corrine and begin the long journey home. After a stop in Des Moines for something to eat, the weary

travelers returned to Council Bluffs after midnight. It had been a long day filled with many emotions.

"Making life better tomorrow because of what is done today" is not an empty slogan on a brochure. It is something we believe in. Anna and Betsy had gone the extra mile to make these reunions possible for Jackie and Corrine. Helping the people we serve accomplish their life goals is at the core of what we do at AmeriServe International.



## A New House Yields New Opportunities

For three gentlemen, a "new" house located in Council Bluffs will offer new opportunities. George, Ron and Mike will soon be moving to a home which they will share in Council Bluffs, with support services being provided by AmeriServe International. George and Ron currently reside at the Woodward Resource Center, while Mike lives at the Glenwood Resource Center.

Anyone who has made a change in their residence – moving from one community to another, and from one home to another – knows that it can

be a stressful life event. We leave the comfort and structure of community, home and routine to make our way in another community. Relationships and routines change as a result.

To help ensure the success of George, Ron and Mike's move to community-based living, a structured transition process has been put in place involving families, county Case Managers, Resource Center staff and personnel from

AmeriServe International. The resources of each of these entities have been tapped to ensure that essential information is shared and the appropriate supports and services are in place before the move is made.

George, Ron and Mike have each had the opportunity to visit the ASI program, including touring several of the homes and the day habilitation program. In turn,

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See Sign-up sheet  
at your work location.

## ASI Monthly Elective Education

Training provided by  
American Institute of Management.

### Basic Program Implementation

**Thursday, June 7th 3:30 - 6:30pm**  
**Monday, June 25th 12:00 - 3:00pm**

The support provided to our clients takes many forms. One method is through the implementation of Programs designed to enhance client participation and presence at home and in the community. Successful programs maintain connections with friends, family and associates as clients create and pursue lifestyles and relationships of their preference.

#### Objectives:

- Discover the three steps essential to developing meaningful plans
- Understand the multi-disciplinary approach
- Create goals and action steps
- Modify outcomes to meet diverse environments
- Explore the importance of communication and teamwork essential to the success of the program
- Link documentation and analysis to continuous improvement
- Review the closed-loop support system

### 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

## A New House Yields New Opportunities (cont'd)

AmeriServe staff have visited the men in their homes at the Resource Centers on several occasions. During these visits ASI staff have had the opportunity to observe the men in their current surroundings and gain valuable information about how best to support to them in their new living environment. Prior to moving to AmeriServe a formal Transition Planning meeting will be held at the state Resource Centers to review the client ISP and the transition activities that had been previously identified.

As with each new client we serve, we look forward to having George, Ron and Mike join the AmeriServe family. We are

excited about the opportunities for growth and development that await each of these men in their new home. **Welcome!**

### 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**



## AmeriServe International, Inc.

300 W. Broadway, Suite 20  
Council Bluffs, IA. 51503

Website: [www.ameriserveintl.com](http://www.ameriserveintl.com)

### How to Contact Us



#### By Phone

(712) 322-0272  
8am -5pm  
Mon-Fri



#### By Mail

AmeriServe  
International, Inc.  
300 W. Broadway,  
Suite 20  
Council Bluffs, IA.  
51503



#### By FAX

(712) 322-1411  
24 hours



#### By EMAIL

thoff@  
ameriserveintl.com



### 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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