



"The People Company"

Serving Persons with Special Needs Since 1998

In this Issue:

**"A Day to Remember" . . .
For the Super Bowl
Enthusiasts**
pg 1, 3

**AmeriServe International
Volunteer Team of the Year**
pg 2

Special Olympics 2007
pg 3

From the Director's Desk ~

AmeriServe International has locations in Iowa and Arizona and currently employs approximately 90 people who provide support to 55 clients. Our goal is to support persons with special needs using the Quality Life Principles of Choice, Respect, Presence, and Participation in a process of lifestyle development. Community connections are an important part of the service provided and the volunteer effort is one way to give back to the community while creating opportunity to meet new people, form connections and build relationships.

Tom Hoff

The Connector

Choice ~ Respect ~ Participation ~ Presence

Volume I, Issue XXIV-IA May 2007

AmeriServe International, Inc.

Making life better tomorrow because of what is done today.

"A Day to Remember" . . . For the Super Bowl Enthusiasts

It started out like any other day. I was going to drop the ladies off at Iowa School for the Deaf instead of the day habilitation center. That was no big deal. I knew that I would be leaving there to head back to the house to catch up on some paperwork. Today was the Special Olympics and one of the ladies, Ellen, was entered in the softball throw. I had no interest in staying and participating. I am anything but a sports fan, unless it is college or NFL football. Every other sport to me is like watching grass grow.

It was soon time to walk the ladies onto the field to find out the time of Ellen's event so I could return in the

reluctantly volunteered to stay because Jackie was participating in the softball throw, as was Ellen. So,

here I was. Standing there watching the grass grow and trying to figure out when and where our event was being held. After stopping several people to ask for time and directions, I realized that all the people



afternoon to watch. To my surprise, one of our staff members was unable to stay and help her client due to a prior engagement with her own child. This client, Jackie, happens to be someone I just love. I

in the softball throw had to walk about a half mile to their event. It was a very chilly, windy day, but thankfully the sun was shining. That seemed to be the

[Continued on Page 2](#)

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

"A Day to Remember" . . . For the Super Bowl Enthusiasts (cont'd)

excitement of my morning.

I helped collect all our softball throw contenders, along with assistance from other staff, and Jackie, his walker, and the rest of the crew headed for the long walk – with Jackie complaining all the while, "My arm hurts!" Finally we arrived at our destination. We were surrounded by one hundred other contestants and one hundred fans.

We learned that we would have to wait to have our ladies and gentlemen's names announced to throw the ball. After a long wait I heard Bryan's name announced. I could feel my excitement mounting as I ran onto the field with each of our AmeriServe contestants, took pictures, cheered and yelled for them. I found the spirit, not of the NFL, but of my contestants.

I found myself jumping up and down as they competed, many of whom took first place. We laughed, cried and hugged as each person received their ribbons and medals. It was the proudest moment of my life watching the people I care about achieving a high like no other. Our final contestant, Jackie, who had repeatedly complained about his arm over the long walk to the field, threw the ball like Nolan Ryan and took first place! I can only imagine how far he would have thrown the ball if his arm weren't hurting! Jackie smiled at me with his first place ribbon. I snapped the picture and hugged him so hard that he started complaining, "You're hurting me!" Sorry, Jackie. I

could not prevent the feeling of pride and joy from bursting within me.

After the event was over, we all enjoyed the company of each other and some new friends we made along the way. I realized that I would never miss such a special day again. I look forward to the state Special Olympics meet which is to be held in mid-May for our gold medalists. In the NFL you have winners and losers. **In the Special Olympics, EVERYONE is a winner!**

**Jill Cassell
CSC**

Birthday news: Bryan S. and Ellen A. celebrated their birthday at Lake Manawa. They were joined by all their friends for a fun filled cookout. There was a great turnout. A great time was had by all.

AmeriServe International Volunteer Team of the Year

April 23, 2007 – AmeriServe International, the innovative leader in providing support to persons with special needs at all points in life, was recognized as a nominee for Volunteer Team of the Year, 2006. Tom Hanafan, Mayor of Council Bluffs Iowa awarded a certificate of appreciation from Volunteer Council Bluffs to AmeriServe International in recognition of valuable contributions to the City of Council Bluffs and Surrounding areas. The certificate of recognition was awarded by a program of the Loess Hills chapter of the American Red Cross.

Collectively, AmeriServe Iowa volunteers contributed about 4000 hours of service over the last year across the Council Bluffs community. The organization provides a range of community support including the Red Cross Meals on Wheels Program, the Local food bank, Lions Club, Mohm's thrift store, the

YMCA and Parks and Recreation. They have also provided service to the VNA and the Micah House.

According to Catherine Yopp, AmeriServe employee; "Volunteering provides many opportunities for our clients and our program. It gives us the opportunity to apply many of the skills that we work on daily at the Center, such as social skills, personal appearance as well as the skills required to complete the volunteer activities. It teaches responsibility and what it means to be dependable and to make a contribution. The community begins to recognize the people in AmeriServe as valued individuals. They create connections that may assist them in other parts of their lives. Finally, a big plus of

volunteering is the chance to meet many nice people in the process."

Volunteers recognized for their extensive community service include: John Craighill., Steven Armstrong, Steven Wendl, Jackie Bousman, Doug Moser, Frank Hansen, Terry Allen, Cindy Pose, Nancy Allen, Ellen Allison, Gretchen Salzman, Corrine Ambruster, Billy Allen, Todd Gordon, Bryan Schonhoff and Justin Criswell.

These people are supported by a loyal and energetic team of employees: Catherine Yopp, Brenda Case, Kathy Docken, Keira Richards and the coordinator of the program, Andrea Hansen

SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2007

AmeriServe Contestants: **Softball Throws** - Bryan Schonhoff, Ellen Allison, Jackie Bousman, Steve Wendl, Terry Allen , and Justin Criswell. **25 meter walk** - Justin Criswell, Nancy Allen.

25 meter wheel chair race - Cindy Pose

Our gold medalists that are going to the State Championship: Bryan Schonhoff, Ellen Allison, Jackie Bousman, Nancy Allen, and Cindy Pose. **Congratulations to all who participated!**



Friends, fun, and a little rest for next year.



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

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.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE
of
MANAGEMENT
INCORPORATED

Training provided by the
American Institute of Management Inc.