



The Connector

OCTOBER 2009

IOWA

**SERVING
PERSONS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
SINCE 1998**

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Making Memories at Pumpkin Ranch

At the AmeriServe Planning Center we take pride in providing habilitation and community integration, but sometimes we just like to have fun! Thanks to the owner Ed and his team, we were able to spend a fun-filled day at Bellevue Berry & Pumpkin Ranch. While at the ranch clients were able to participate in a variety of new and exciting experiences.

Upon arrival each class was greeted at the Harvest Barn and given a map of the ranch. From there it was up to them to decide what they wanted to explore. Some classes dared to enter the Ranch of Terror, Ghost Town, and the Cave of No Return. While others decided on the Lazy Horse Corral, the Lost Soul's Corn Maze, and the Camp Fire Area.

After finding their way through the caves, screaming in the haunted house,

mastering the maze, and petting the farm animals in the corral it was time for a relaxing lunch back at the Harvest Barn. After lunch, all clients and staff rode together on a haunted hayride through the Forsaken Cemetery, Axeman Village of the Three Goblins. We ended the day by picking out pumpkins and thanking the staff at Bellevue Berry & Pumpkin Ranch for their generosity.

Here's what people had to say about the day:

Cameron: "Pick a pumpkin, you'll be fine... fun, fun, fun...best of times."

Bryan S: "The cave of no return was real dark, some of it was so darn skinny, it was kind of hard for me and Mike to get through, but we made it by holding hands."

Heather: "I picked a pumpkin for my buddy

Terrance; we are all going to decorate it for him."

Brian W: "They really know how to make that haunted house dark, they had lots of scary looking stuff. I'm thankful the staff was nice."

Kathleen: "I got a pumpkin and tried to pet a pig but he didn't come to the fence."

Rob: "I got my picture taken with the owner Ed. He was nice to let us come."

Rich: "The hayrack ride was pretty good, the decorations they did were cool looking."

James: "I got to go through the corn maze and haunted house."

Cindy: "They had cows and pumpkins."

George: "Chickens and lunch, go home a little later."

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From the Director's Desk

I Should Have My Own Show!!!

Fall is the air and so is national health care. The impact of the current proposals on services to people with disabilities is uncertain at best. While AmeriServe neither endorses nor condones national health care reform, we are fairly certain that there will be one. Form and substance of such reforms are the nature of the current debate on the "hill."

The impact of National Health care reform on services and funding

for people with disabilities is not a topic of discussion in any of the news media. Little is known about what service will remain in existence after all the political pundits have moved on to different topics.

Medicaid was created by law in 1965 and was expanded in 1981 to include services under the waiver. The waiver funds many different programs that are provided in community based settings. It funds many valuable support services that enable people to have lives of purpose, value, and

choice. Medicaid has been the primary payer for services such as those provided by AmeriServe.

People with disabilities have always had to struggle to obtain adequate funds for services. In spite of all the shortcomings Medicaid and Medicare have been there to ensure their basic health care needs. As the process moves forward I hope they do not throw that baby out with the bathwater. Healthcare funded by Medicaid and Medicare will continue in some form or another. Availability and access

to services that are currently funded may be the larger, but unasked, question.

A society will be judged by history in a number of ways. One of which is how it treated its fellow man and, in particular, how it treated those who were less fortunate. Let us hope that, after all the debate and rumor-mongering, our society will be judged positively by history as being one that cared for its citizens in a manner that sets a standard for others to follow.

Thanks for listening.

*Tom Hoff,
Director of Marketing & Business Development*

AmeriServe International Continuing Education Options

Positive Teaching Techniques

Friday, October 16th—12:00-2:00pm
Thursday, October 22nd—3:30-5:30pm

This session focuses again on the skills needed to reward, refine, and shape behavior to enhance personal satisfaction, and home and community interaction. Practical, hands-on instruction will reinforce the concepts behind the learning, making the results useful immediately after the conference.

- State four values of positive teaching and positive behavior support
- Understand how your attitudes and values shape the nature of your interactions with persons you support
- Demonstrate understanding of the Ignore/Interrupt; Redirect; Reward process

Incident Prevention

Friday, November 13th—12:00-2:00pm
Wednesday, November 18th—3:30-5:30pm

The best way to address an incident is not to have one in the first place! Learn the steps, tips, and techniques necessary to increase opportunities to prevent incidents.

- Understand the link between communication, relationships, and environment
- Review the stages of the behavior cycle
- Understand 5 steps related to behavior
- Establish proactive strategies
- Link the information to actions used to support specific clients

Making Memories at Pumpkin Ranch, *cont.*

Continued from page 1

John: "I liked it, I loved it, it was really awesome."

Billy: "They had girls there!"

Jackie: "It was too darn cold!"

Dusty: "Rope."

Alicia: "It was fun to take my class on the hayrack ride. I think they enjoyed the experience."

Katie: "It was nice to celebrate with a special event."

Dorothy: "Jackie and Billy were screaming all the way through the haunted house. I couldn't help but smile and laugh the whole time."

Jim: "I enjoyed the corn maze and watching everyone have so much

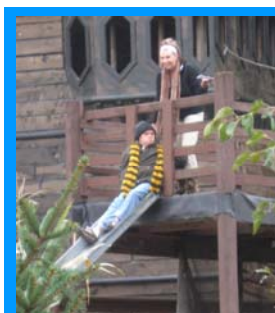
fun."

Anna: "During the zip line it was inspiring to see everyone cheering each other on."

See pictures below

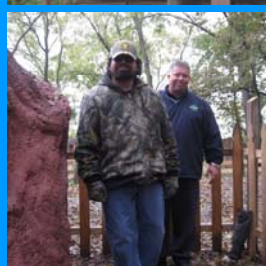
Top—From Left to Right:

1. Anne encourages Doug to slide!
2. With encouragement from Corey, Brian bravely tries the zip line!
3. Becky, Rob, Brian, & the staff at Pumpkin Ranch!



Bottom—From Left to Right:

1. Bryan and Mike make it safely through the cave!
2. Mike, Cindy, and Justin enjoy the hay rack ride!
3. Billy and Amber enjoying the day!



A Tribute to Terrance

and Dustin. Terry will be remembered fondly by those who provided support to him in

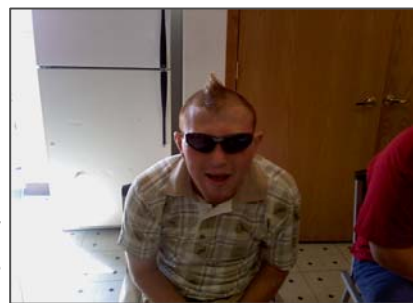
It is with sadness we report the sudden passing of our friend, Terrance, on October 14, 2009. Terry joined the ASI family in November of 2008 and enjoyed sharing a home with friends Ben

his home and at the Planning Center.

Terry's smile was contagious, and when he laughed it brought laughter to those around him. He loved to help others

whenever he could. Terry had recently begun speech therapy services and was working on

saying new words. He loved to walk the dogs at the animal shelter and was a great bowler. Terry recently decided he wanted to wear his hair in a Mohawk cut and, as the pictures attest, was





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What We Do

Residential Support

Supported
Community
Living, Specialized
Living Arrangements

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Habilitation, Respite,
Consumer Directed
Attendant Care,
Group Homes

Day Treatment

Adult Day
Habilitation
And Community
Integration Services

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, communication, 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.



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