

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE CORNER

I - R E A C H 2 I n c .

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We're on the web!  
www.ireach2.org.

Like us on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/ireach2lifestyles>



2013 Working for PRIDE winners:

Kelly McNally (Supported Employment Team Lead)

Mai Kou Thao (Job Coach/Direct Care Professional)



**Employee Anniversaries**  
January through March

Heather Nielsen 5 years  
Kathy Poellot 7 years

**Amazing Participant Volunteers!**

Tawnie, Julie, Michael, Rhonda, Kelly, Todd—Life Care  
Cheryl, Kris, Roger—Habitat for Humanity  
Chris —YMCA and Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies  
Robert—Meals on Wheels

**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!**

*We would like to give a big shout out to the following companies and individuals for their hard work in getting our heating systems back up and running following the "Great Flood of 2013"!*

- Casper Fire Department
- Mountain Sheet Metal
- Tim Stirrett
- High Country Crane Service
- ServPro
- Rocky Mountain Fire Systems
- Bret and Angela Mundell



# IR2 News for You!

*Our mission is to provide high quality, innovative, individualized, therapeutic services to adults with developmental disabilities or brain injuries.*

## IT'S TIME TO SPEAK UP!

Arc of Natrona County, Eagle Ability Services, I-REACH 2 and NOWCAP Services cordially invite you to a **Legislative Action Briefing** to learn how to advocate for yourself, your family member or ward during the 2014 Budget Session of the Wyoming Legislature.

There are two dates for your convenience

### Tuesday, January 28th

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Parkway Plaza Grand Ballroom

Casper, Wyoming

### Saturday, February 1st

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm NOWCAP Services Theatre

345 North Walsh Drive Casper, Wyoming

### The Issues

Conflict Free Case Management and Loss of Choice

Reductions in Individualized Budgeted Amounts

Loss of All Providers to Choose From Caps and Limitations on Respite Care

Funding of the Waiting List

*The entire Natrona and Converse County Legislative delegation, Governor Mead's office and the Wyoming Department of Health will be invited to attend these events.*

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#### IMPORTANT DATES:

- February 1 and 2—Special O area games

- February 4,5,6 Special O state games—Jackson

- February 24—Advocacy Day—Cheyenne

- March 6th— Stage III benefit

- March 21—Jackalope Jump

- March 29—Disability Walk

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## I-REACH 2 STAFF COMPLETE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Beginning on May 29, 2013, IREACH 2 Inc. had 21 employees embark upon a 6 month training course with the Peregrine Leadership Institute. We will conclude our training program and present our final projects on Thursday, January 23, 2014. The course lessons and activities encompassed a personality test, communication skills, change, conflict, and teamwork. We were encouraged to observe and record examples of exceptional customer service; internally and in the community. We worked through possible changes our organization may face with the waiver redesign and the implementation of our new electronic documentation system, THERAP. We discussed consequences of each event and we developed solutions to address each stakeholder response.

Each training session was conducted offsite, with the sessions lasting from 60-90 minutes depending upon how lively the discussions were. There were two groups which were comprised of a mixture of direct care staff, management and administrative members. The Executive Director and Service Coordinator often attended both sessions to learn more about the employee perspective of I-REACH 2 Inc.

The training has brought our organization closer as we have an improved understanding of one another through the personality tests and conflict exercises. In addition, we had time to discuss the mission of our organization, how we demonstrate I-REACH 2 Inc. values each day and how we can improve our service delivery through teamwork and communication. The training has benefited all of our stakeholders in some form. We look forward to perfecting our skills in the new year!

*"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."*  
~unknown~

## I-REACH 2 CELEBRATES EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY!



On behalf of the I-REACH 2 Inc. Board of Directors, Thank you for your service and working for PRIDE!

## WYOMING EMPLOYMENT FIRST SUMMIT

The Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities invites you to attend the Wyoming Employment 1st Summit on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at Little America in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Guest speakers for the day include Governor Matt Mead, Director of Workforce Services, Joan Evans,

Employment 1st Policy Speaker, Allan I. Bergman and many other representatives from agencies serving the disability community in Wyoming.

**What is Employment 1st?** Employment First is employment in the general workforce as the first and preferred outcome in the provision of publicly funded

services for all working age citizens with disabilities, regardless of level of disability. Space is limited so please RSVP to the Council at 307-777-7230 or via email at [wgcdd@wyo.gov](mailto:wgcdd@wyo.gov) by Monday, February 3.



### Rally to the Capital for DD Waiver February 14 in Cheyenne

A new parent organization, Wyoming Parents Empowering Parents (WYOPEP) has grown over the pressing issues of the DD Waiver waiting list and redesign.

In his latest budget, Governor Mead has graciously added \$10.1 million dollars to fund the waiting list for Medicaid Waiver programs. To show support and commitment to funding the waiting list, WYOPEP is putting on a rally with a "meet and greet" for legislators.

The rally is from 8am to 10am and will begin in front of the capital building and finish inside the capital. The meet and greet (2014 Legislative Reception) will be held on February 13th from 5-9pm at the Little American Hotel. For more info contact: [wyo pep@yahoo.com](mailto:wyo pep@yahoo.com)

## STAGE III BENEFIT PERFORMANCE COMING IN MARCH

I-REACH 2 has again been selected as a recipient of a Stage III benefit performance.

Stage III is a non-profit, all-volunteer community theater that has produced over 100 shows since its start in 1980.

Here is a summary of the performance for the evening:

**The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940**

by John Bishop

*After a Broadway flop in which 3 chorus girls were murdered by the mysterious "Stage Door Slasher," the creative team reassembles at a Westchester estate, only to encounter the Slasher again. Replete with sliding panels, secret passageways, a bumbling inspector, and plenty of irreverent wit.*

Tickets are \$15.00 and are available at the following locations: Felgoodies in the Dick Cheney Federal Building, online at [www.ireach2.org/upcoming/fundraisers](http://www.ireach2.org/upcoming/fundraisers) or by calling 265-8086. Proceeds from the performance will be used to furnish all the lunches for the 2014 Disability Awareness Walk on March 29th 2014!