

IR2 News 4 You



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Develop an attitude of gratitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better than your current situation.

~Brian Tracy~

This seemed a fitting quote as I sat down to compose this edition of the IR2 summer newsletter. I recently celebrated my one year anniversary with IR2 and it has been one of the most fulfilling years of my life. I am surrounded by an amazing group of participants, staff and board of directors and am truly grateful for each and every one of you!

Beginning with this newsletter, we will add two new sections devoted to “an attitude of gratitude”. We will be recognizing staff anniversaries, participant achievements, and all of those who go above and beyond to represent IR2 with P.R.I.D.E. In addition, we will be recognizing program donors, volunteers and community partners in each edition. Without a doubt the people we serve are at the heart of everything we do but we certainly could not do those things without a dedicated staff and supportive community partners.

We recently completed our triennial CARF survey, and while I can't announce the accreditation results at this time, our surveyors had many positive things to say about our program. Specifically they provided commentary on how many things we had accomplished in the last three years and that how a renewed commitment to our Mission, Vision, and Core Values are evident throughout all levels of our program.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to complete our satisfaction survey, they can be accessed through the following links:

http://www.ireach2.org/participant_related_surveys0.aspx

<http://www.ireach2.org/employee0.aspx>

http://www.ireach2.org/participant_surveys0.aspx

Your responses are anonymous and we encourage and welcome your feedback.

~Tina Conley, Executive Director~

Upcoming Events

- July 1—Duck Derby
Tickets go on sale
- July 10th—Parade Day and Barbeque
- July 19th—Parent Advisory and Advocacy Group Meeting
- Aug. 6th—Special O Golf

Supported Employment News

Katie Romine, Supported Employment Manager

“He has made great progress and we hope he enjoys the job as much as we enjoy him”....

Casper area employer via our online satisfaction survey

As the Supported Employment Manager, I have the opportunity to work with several employers in the Casper Community. Each business that employs one of I-REACH’s participants really makes a difference in our community. They are examples for all employers to create a diversified workforce. They make a difference in the lives of our participants by offering the opportunity for independence and growth. In each quarterly edition of IR2 news I will be highlighting a business

that employs an I-REACH participant.

Lisa Burridge and Associates Real Estate is the newest local employer to make a difference in the life of an individual with a disability. They have hired Robert to assist them in converting their paper documents into electronic archives. During a recent site visit, Sarah O’Connor, Director of Operations, stated “It’s been great thus far! I am excited to have Robert on our team!

Thank you Lisa Burridge and Associates!!!

Personal and Social Development (PSD) News

Jaime Bordeaux, Service Coordinator

With the onset of warmer weather our facility has been pretty quiet during the day. Staff and participants have been doing a large variety of outdoor and community activities. For example, we have went on multiple river walks to encourage health and wellness. We have had picnics and games at Edness Wilkins, hiked to the Falls on the mountain. While we are out and

about some of us are talking about the varying weather conditions and how to prepare for them and others are using a pedometer to track how many steps we have taken. We will be unveiling the results in our fall newsletter.

Another development on the PSD side involves designation of Jolene Cummings as the PSD building lead. Jolene is assisting with

coordinating activities, planning, and staff supervision. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please feel free to contact Jolene. Her regularly scheduled hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30 to 3:30 and her email address is: jolene@ireach2.org.

Felgoodies

Donna Madsen, Site Manager

The Felgoodies crew is busy as usual.

We have catered two events in during the month of June. The first event was the “Tear It Up For Special O” on June 9th and second was the Push American “Journey of Hope” event held at NOWCAP services on June 21st. Both of these meals were wonderful and the provided the crew with

more opportunities to enhance their food service skills.

You can view our monthly menu on the I-REACH 2 Inc. Facebook page as well as on our web site. As an added convenience we also offer delivery service and are available to cater your next luncheon or event.

I-REACH 2 has been

accepted into the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) this year and will be hosting a kick-off party for Federal staff in the fall. We can't say thank you enough to the GSA for their ongoing support of our operation.

Parent/Guardian Advisory and Advocacy Group.

We firmly believe that you are the expert on your loved one who attends our services and we want to hear from you on an ongoing, face-face basis. We hope to discuss matters that are important to you and your son/daughter/program participant.

Please join us on July 19th at 5:30 The meeting will be held at I-REACH and a light dinner will be served.

Please call or email Jaime to confirm your attendance or to receive further information.

psd@ireach2.org/ 265-8086

Our tentative agenda items are:

- CARF survey recommendations
- Creation of development/fundraising committee
- Potential state budget cuts

If you have additional agenda items please email or call.

Residential News

Heather Nielson, Residential Manager

The residential sites have been busy sprucing up our homes. All residents have assisted in getting our lawns and flower beds in shape for the summer and John has planted a small garden. In addition, we have been working hard to taking in a large variety of community activities. We have attended Calvary games, the Special O Rodeo, Summer Games in Laramie, and Stage III community theatre performances to name a few. We have made some changes in supervision on the residential side as well. Heather Nielson (former Harmony House manager) is providing front-line supervision of all three homes, with Jaime Bordeaux providing additional administrative support. Heather works a variety of hours to ensure she is available during all scheduled shifts. Heather's email is heather@ireach2.org and her office is located at Harmony House.

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE CORNER.....

Employee Anniversaries

January through June

Robert Ali—7 years
Rob Arrowood—3 years
Jaime Bordeaux—12 years
Durk Brown—3 years
Bri Carpenter—2 years
Tina Conley—1 year
Jolene Cummings—2 years
Frankee Foley—2 years
Brandi Matheri—4 years
Heather Nielson—3 years
Kathy Poellot—5 years
Katie Romine—3 years
Derek Soltis—2 years
Amber Strzesak—
Bob Wilcox—4 years

Amazing Participant

Volunteers!

Chris K—Nic Fest, Food Bank, Special O, Push America, and Platte River Clean-up.
John M—Push America, Special O, Nic Fest
Rhonda T—Nic Fest
Liz D—Nic Fest
Tawnie G.- Nic Fest
Sheryl D.- Nic Fest
Meghen B.- Nic Fest

Amazing Donors

Thank you to the Thorsen Foundation for the donation of 8 Generation III i-Pads. These are already in use in our PSD groups to increase our access to technology and support Individual program goals.



Amazing Community Volunteers!

Missy England- Food Bank
Brandon Roth- Events Center, group home repair
Rachel Muhlbeier- Events Center
Courtney Conley- Events Center
Kassidy Conley- Food Bank
Kelsey Conley-Platte River Clean-up

Working for P.R.I.D.E

Allen—newly appointed Chief Maintenance Officer ☺
Durk—sprucing up Mike's "office"
Kayla—waking at the crack of dawn for the Casper Marathon and Special O 5k
Jolene—Working Nic Fest
Donna—the queen of catering
Amber C.— Working Nic Fest

I-REACH 2 Inc. Board of Directors

Did you know that I-REACH 2 Inc. is one of only a small handful of disability service providers in Natrona County who operate as a nonprofit organization? Our Board of Directors take their volunteer service very seriously and we are grateful for their commitment and service..

Our current board members are:

Beth Opitz—Chair
Tim Stirrett—Vice-Chair
Carmen Dolen—Treasurer
Heather Huber—Secretary
Gayle Schnorenberg—Member
Ethan Dexter—Member
Valerie Kulhavy—Member

If you would like to submit an application to sit on our Board of Directors, please email Tina at admin@ireach2.org or call 265-8086