

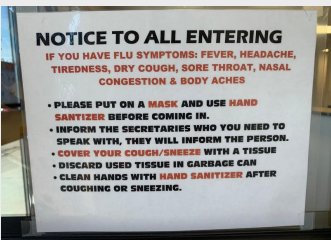


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CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS ON COVID

In the beauty of this summer season, we are excited to be slowly re-entering community activities, spending time with family and enjoying the outdoors. While doing so, we encourage people to continue using safe practices of physical distancing, mask wearing, monitoring for & reporting signs of illness. Screening practices continue for all who enter our

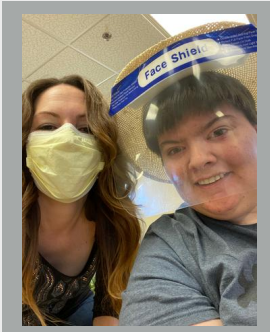
office buildings and residential sites. We celebrate all that our teams have done thus far to keep people healthy and safe! Changing routines and practicing safety measures can be challenging at times.



We celebrate our community partners who have supported us in finding solutions to challenges we have faced.

United Way filled a need by donating cloth masks with plastic screens so one of our employees could read lips when communicating with her coworkers. The Arc of Dickinson provided face shields for those who have difficulty with wearing masks. People have even gotten creative by attaching shields to their favorite hats!

ABLE, Inc. has fabric masks with ties or elastic ear loops on hand for employees and people we support. Many styles and patterns continue to be available. Stop by the office to pick up more if needed.



Pictured left: Matt Mueller. Above: Janelle Stoneking and Julia Anderson

Resources

Southwest District Health Unit
701-483-0717

Weekly COVID testing free to the public
Pre-register at <https://testreg.nd.gov>
ABLE, Inc. employees will be paid one hour of time for COVID testing.

Dickinson - 938 2nd Ave W

Tuesday, August 4th 8:30-11:30am

Wednesday, August 5th 8:30-11:30am

Continuing every Tuesday in August.

Medora - 604 E River Rd S

Thursday, August 6th 8:30-11am

Continuing every Thursday in August.

ND Dept. of Health
<https://www.health.nd.gov/>
Public Hotline 1-866-207-2880

ABLE THRIFT CENTER HAS FABRIC MASKS FOR SALE

ADULT AND CHILD SIZES
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

1571 WEST VILLARD
MON - FRI 10-5 & SAT 10-3



EXCITING ADJUSTMENTS TO OUR WORK PROGRAMS

A Note from our Executive Director

Within the last three years, public policy in the United States has changed for people with intellectual disabilities. One of the changes involves employment. The policy decisions are driven by a national goal that people with intellectual disabilities have jobs within the community at minimum wage.

While ABLE, Inc. applauds and supports this goal, we believe that there are many people we support who need creative and modified employment to realize the benefits that employment offers; structure, meaning, socialization and income.

ABLE, Inc. remains committed to preserving and creating job opportunities and yet follow national policies.

One of our efforts to keep jobs and still meet the new rules was to move the employment program in Dickinson to the T-Rex Plaza and to develop a social/recreational program at the 1951 1st Street W Building.

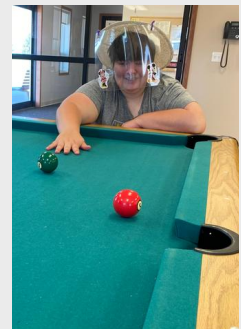
Ultimately, we aspire that people we support have the opportunity of a mixture of a social recreation day program and employment if this is what they desire. -Mary Anderson, Executive Director



The North Dakota Department of Developmental Disabilities program definitions:

- Day Habilitation- focuses on daily schedule activities, training and supports provided in a non-residential setting that promotes community participation, development of self-help skills, and improved sensory-motor, cognitive, communication and social interaction skills
- Prevocational Services- support that helps prepare people for paid employment in the community. Teaches general work skills and concepts and may include training on effective communication, workplace conduct and attire, following directions, attending to tasks and workplace safety.
- Small Group Employment Support- Support is provided to small groups of 2 to 8 people to assist with paid employment in the community.
- Individual Employment Support- Provides long-term ongoing support to assist individuals to perform in a work setting. Includes on- or off-the-job employment-related support to help people obtain or maintain employment in the community.

A LOOK at our updated DAY HAB SERVICES



At our Dickinson main office building, you will see a fresh look for our Day Habilitation Services focusing on social & recreational activities. The air is filled with laughter as people enjoy a menu of planned activities, 5 days a week, including the pool table and air hockey table. Nancy Ferderer stated "it has been an adjustment as people were used to a faster pace but everyone seems to be really enjoying the activities."

Pictured from left to right: Nancy Ferderer, Austin Anderson (adapting use of the pool cue), Josie Copenhaver, Matt Steinbach enjoying art, Julia Anderson



Pictured above: Carissa Hibi
Pictured below: Lori Friesz



WHAT I FOUND *At the* T-REX PLAZA

by: Janelle Stoneking

ABLE, Inc. acquired new space for small group employment opportunities at the T-Rex Plaza so I went over to see the changes. People were enjoying working at Wash 'n Go Laundry and doing other cleaning jobs in and around the building. I asked Pat Renner what he liked most about the work changes and he stated "keeping things nice here!" In walking through and talking to people, it was evident that people are finding pride in their work and in the plaza.

Another major change is the addition of clothing processing for the thrift center in a store space next to Decades. When entering that area, I felt right away that efficiency was the focus. People we support work side by side with their staff processing and inspecting bags of donated clothing. The clothing items are moved in an assembly line fashion to be priced, folded, and shelved. People we support stated they are really liking the new layout and that there is less distractions when working here. Some people who work shorter shifts stop by throughout the day to fold clothing or shred paper. People are happy to be back to work after being quarantined in March, April, and May due to COVID-19!



Pictured upper from left to right: Beverly Bogner, Pat Renner.
Pictured left: Shirley Lund & Jenna Hildebrand. Pictured right: Matt Mueller, Charee Gawryluk, and Rachel Sorenson.



SHOP OUR
STORAGE AREA

NEXT TO DECADES
IN THE
T-REX PLAZA



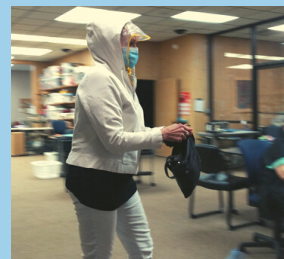
STORE HOURS
10A-5P MON-FRI
10A-3P SAT

ADJUSTING TO THE TIMES *at the* REPEAT OUTLET

Through the COVID-19 quarantine, the Repeat Outlet in Bowman, ND had been running a skeleton crew to maintain operations and diligently sew fabric masks to keep their community safe. They are thrilled that the rest of their team is now back to work and have been creative in modifying their space. Faye Sarsland needs to take off her mask periodically so her sewing machine area now has a protective barrier with one side that can be removed as needed for when staff work alongside her. This team is proud to serve their community and love what they do. Just ask George Armbrust who recently celebrated his 86th birthday and isn't ready to retire yet!



Shawn Orcutt: "I'm happy to be back at work and doing cans again!"



Pictured left to right: Faye working at her sewing station. Carolynne masked up & headed out. George celebrating his birthday.



SINCE MARCH 2020
1,321
FABRIC MASKS HAVE BEEN DONATED
BY REPEAT OUTLET EMPLOYEES TO
BENEFIT THEIR COMMUNITY.



Kay Fletcher cutting fabric for masks.

THE POWER of WORK

"Let's put it this way, I have two families: ABLE, Inc and Jefferson Elementary. That's how I look at it.

This is my 6th year as a dishwasher at the school and I'm the custodian for ABLE, Inc. I am glad to be back to work. When we were quarantined for about 2 1/2 months, I thought I would go crazy not seeing everybody. And my jobs pay the bills. My life is better because I love my work. I wouldn't have it any other way." -Richard Susa



"Work is important to me. The best thing that can happen is to have someone recognize how hard I work, especially when I'm doing the heavy lifting.

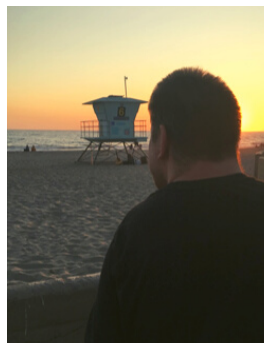
It matters a lot. When I was gone during the quarantine, I couldn't work and missed it. I'm happy to be back working at The Rock, knowing that they need me. I hope to start at the movie theater again soon." -Lando Crawford



TAKE ME BACK - A TRIP TO REMEMBER

When friends move away, it can be challenging to stay in touch. Former employee Amanda (Aldrich) Vibbart, is now residing in California. From the moment that Amanda became engaged, Danielle and I knew that Tyler had to get to the wedding since they were close friends. Unsure if he could navigate an airplane and transfer into the seat, we considered other options such as converting a bus and driving. Sarah Carlson came across an opportunity for him to trial getting onto a plane through the Wings for All program in Minot, ND and BOOM! we knew the sky was the limit!

Last September, Tyler Gress, John Vaughn, Danielle Salo and I headed to the Sunshine state. The trip included attending Amanda's wedding as well as visiting with 4 other past employees! We rented an Airbnb so we could stay near the beach and we spent a day in the sand, basking in the beautiful California sun. It feels good to reminisce as we cannot currently travel due to COVID-19. We look forward to future adventures! -Kayla Weber



To my friends at ABLE, Inc:

Having Tyler and John at my wedding was one of the biggest highlights of the entire day! Although it's been over 5 years since I worked with both of them at ABLE, it felt like no time at all had passed. Tyler and I would often discuss the possibility of him visiting me in California after I moved.

It seemed like a distant dream as there were many challenges Tyler would need to overcome in order to travel by airplane. If there's one thing Tyler has proven again and again, it's that he is up for the challenge. (He loves proving people wrong with a smile on his face 😊).

Some of the most precious memories from my wedding were seeing my family meeting Tyler and some of my long time best friends jamming out with John on the dance floor.

The staff at ABLE are amazing for working so hard to make the trip a reality. Their endless dedication in assisting Tyler and John to prepare was so appreciated. It doesn't take a special person to work with people who have disabilities, but they have proven again and again that they are indeed special people.

I miss John and Tyler every day and feel so incredibly blessed that they were part of the most important day of my life! Thank you for supporting people in such meaningful and impactful ways.

-Amanda

Pictured on front header: Tracy Messer and Pat Renner working in Wash 'n Go Laundry, T-Rex Mall.



We are open with the following guidelines in place:

- Masks are required
- Practice physical distancing while shopping
- ABLE Thrift Center's public restroom and dressing rooms are closed at this time

Thank you for keeping our employees and other community members safe!

-The teams at ABLE Thrift Center, Decades, and Repeat Outlet



Watch for ABLE Thrift Center's special end of season sale at the T-Rex Corridor. Details out soon!