

Consumers Work Daily to Reach their Full Potential



Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh proclaimed March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month during a ceremony March 6 and then took a moment for a quick photo with Vodec staff, consumers and members of the community.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan made the first proclamation that March should be recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to “increase public awareness of the needs and potential of Americans with developmental disabilities.”

On a local level, Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh visited Vodec March 6 to officially proclaim March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

During his time there, he witnessed what everyone

associated with people with disabilities already knows: like everyone else, they make daily contributions to the organization, their families and the community and strive for inclusion and acceptance every day.

“One of our goals is to bring together our community so we can all reach our full potential because we know that including consumers with developmental disabilities makes our community measurably stron-

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OMAHA GIVES!

powered by the Omaha Community Foundation

Please Support Vodec during Omaha Gives!

From May 1 through May 22, you can schedule your gifts and create cheer pages for Vodec at

www.omahagives.org.

Thank you for your continued support of Vodec!

We're All One Team at Vodec



Top left: IA Residential consumers are all-hands-in as they finish a cheer practice for Special Olympics Iowa's Mid-Winter Tournament in Iowa City in March. The Cheer Team took top honors, and Josh took fifth in the basketball competition.

Top right: David Reeve of the IA CARES program doesn't seem to mind (or notice) the tyrannosaurus rex creeping behind him during Lauritzen Gardens' Dinosaur Uproar in February. **Bottom right:** CI Day Hab consumers toured the Urbandale Police Headquarters in February and learned a lot about police procedures and activities. **Bottom left:** Vodec staff took part in the Polar Plunge at Lake Manawa March 23. The team raised \$1,776 for Special Olympics Iowa — and definitely got into the spirit of the annual event.

Vodec Entrance Criteria:

- ▶ Be at least 16 years old for any employment training program
- ▶ Have behavioral needs within Vodec's scope of service
- ▶ Have medical needs within Vodec's scope of service
- ▶ Have transportation needs within Vodec's capability to provide
- ▶ Have adequate funding in place (including service hours authorization or private payment in place) for services being requested
- ▶ For in-home service, an applicant's home must meet basic health and safety requirements

For more information, or to apply for Vodec services, contact Daryn Richardson at drichardson@vodec.org or call (712) 328-2638.

Vodec is certified by:

- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation Services



Vodec is affiliated with the following organizations:

- Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce (IA)
- Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)
- Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP)
- Iowa Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP)
- Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM)
- Omaha Chamber of Commerce (NE)
- Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce (NE)
- Urbandale Chamber of Commerce (IA)

Vodec is an authorized provider in the following:

- Iowa HealthLink networks:
- Amerigroup
- United Healthcare



ELM Program Undergoes Significant Renovation to Better Serve Consumers



Several months of painting and renovations replaced neutral walls and small rooms with the unveiling of a much more interactive, stimulating environment for ELM consumers this winter.

Bright colors, new stimuli and a better configuration of the space have made for better staff collaboration and care for years to come.

The open layout provides much more opportunity and space to move around for the individuals in ELM, especially those in wheelchairs and who need assistance.

"It has provided a sense of more freedom and openness for our individuals," said Day Services Supervisor Megan Davidson, who orchestrated the facelift. "The open layout has also provided better opportunity for large group, hands-on and engaging activities for the individuals in ELM, which is something we always encourage.

Thanks to everyone who made gifts and contributions to help this project happen.



From the CEO's Desk:

Like most businesses, we have a classic layered organizational structure.

Picture, if you will, a beautifully frosted layer cake. The top layer's ingredients include the volunteer members of our board of directors and me.

Our flavor (just humor me, please, as I create this tantalizing analogy) has hints of guidance and administration.

Next, we have the Directors layer. Here, we'll find leadership for each of our departments: finance, human resources, quality assurance, service development, production and services.

Directors, similar to maybe some M&Ms you'd find in a cake, have hard shells because of policies and procedures they are responsible for making sure get followed.

But inside is that soft, melty chocolate, because everything they do revolves around our consumers.

Managers and supervisors are the next layer's ingredients.

This layer is sort of spongy because directions from above and problems from all over are ab-



Steve Hodapp
Chief Executive Officer

sorbed. This layer sometimes gets flattened by layers above.

But because of its sponge-like quality, it also bounces back to its original shape. Can't you just see that sponge-cake layer getting pressed then inflating back out?

And then there is the bottom layer to this wonderful cake.

It is all the people who are direct support professionals. This is the foundation layer. I picture it as thick chocolate.

This is where cake hits the plate. This is where the work of the mission gets done. All the ingredients in this layer make sure each consumer has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential.

Every cake needs a solid foundation. This Vodec cake is lucky to have the ingredients for this foundation layer.

And I am lucky to have with me all the ingredients of each level.

The candies, the sponge cake, the chocolate and maybe even a few nuts make this the best cake I can imagine.

And I notice that without any layer, or any ingredient, this cake devolves into something less-than; it becomes a pile of crumbs.

So as individual ingredients we need to stick together or we'll fall apart.

Now, anyone know where I can get a side of ice cream?

Sincerely,

Steve Hodapp
CEO

Thank you!

*To all of our Valued Supporters**

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Jeremy Dunkirk
Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Council Bluffs

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**Mid-January to Mid-March 2019*



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Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

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Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh shakes hands with Vodec consumer Alexis Zuehlke during his March 6 visit. Alexis is a member of Vodec's Adult Transition Program (ATP).



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ger,” said Daryn Richardson, Vodec Services Development Director.

The goal of DD Awareness Month is to create awareness about developmental disabilities, teach the importance of inclusion within every

aspect of life and share the stories of consumers with a disability and show that a successful life is possible.

The proclamation encouraged members of the community to get to know someone with a disability.

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SPRING FLING DANCE

THE DANCE WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD, 2019

FROM 6PM TO 8PM

MID AMERICA CENTER
1 ARENA WAY IN COUNCIL BLUFFS

COST IS \$10 PER PERSON

ALL RSVP'S MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 16TH TO
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The Voice online at www.vodec.org or by
emailing Mike at mwatkins@vodec.org.

