

Fall 2011

## Special Interest Articles:

- A Champion with  
A Cause (1)
- Annual Meeting  
2011 (2)
- CQL 2011 (2)

## Individual Highlights:

Technology Topics	3
Training Levels	4
Just for Fun	5
Congratulations	6

*Together we can help*



A United Way Agency

## A Champion with a Cause

Last week we lost a long term Board member to a heart attack. Senator Tom Fischer first came on our Board in 1997 and was Chair of the Board of Directors from 2001-2003. During his years on the Board, Tom's compassion was always about the people we support. As a Board member, Tom did not deliver services, but he did something few of us can do and that was focusing a large portion of his legislative time on increasing wages for staff and improving the audit process. Tom nearly always got results for us. When the legislative sessions were over, I would send Tom a thank you note for all his efforts and Tom's routine after returning from Bismarck would be to stop in the business office and say, "Why did you send me a thank you card. I need to be thanking you for keeping me grounded in what really matters and that is for the services RRHSF provides."

Our deepest condolences go out to his wife, Margaret, and his son's Adam and Paul. Their husband/father had a profound impact on DD services across the State and on me. Thanks Senator Fischer for everything you did.



Sen. Tom Fischer

## New Group Home Moving Closer to Reality

In 2005, Governor Hoeven signed House Bill 1012 into law. Section 16 of this Bill required the Department of Human Services to transition people out of the Developmental Center in Grafton and into the communities. To meet the requirements of this legislation, the Department of Human Services established a Task Force to make the movement of people out of Grafton a reality. The Task Force was named the "Transition To Community Task Force" and the members of the Task Force included state staff, providers, family members and advocates. At the time the Task Force was assembled, 126 people lived at the Developmental Center.

Through many meetings and discussions, the Task Force decided a subcommittee was needed to focus on what was needed within the DD system to reduce the population in Grafton. A subcommittee was formed and dubbed "The Project Development Subcommittee" and their focus was to identify the barriers and opportunities to meet the goal of reducing the number of people served at the Developmental Center.

Earlier this year, RRHSF was the first provider to submit a formal proposal to the Project Development Committee for consideration. The proposal included the building of two homes – one for a group of men who are in their 40's to 60's and the other for a group of young ladies in their late teens. The proposal was reviewed and recommended for approval, but locating the funding was a hurdle for the state. Thanks to high level involvement by many people at the state level, the required funds were identified for one home.

Now the ball is in RRHSF's court and several RRHSF staff will be meeting in early December with regional DD staff, staff from Grafton and from the Central DD Office in Bismarck to discuss a number of issues related to the construction of a new home. Part of these discussions will help us decide which group we serve – the men or ladies. If all goes well and we receive final approval from our Board of Directors this winter, we may be able to break ground on a new home next spring.

~TOM NEWBERGER~

# **The Council on Quality and Leadership 2011**

Red River Human Services recently completed a three day visit with The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) to review accreditation requirements and compliance. CQL reviews services provided and satisfaction with results indicating compliance with high rigorous standards of quality in both residential and day programs. Red River was awarded a 4 year accreditation, which is the highest level awarded by The Council. Participants in the review included RRHSF Board of Directors, staff, people supported, family members, and community partners.

## **ANNUAL MEETING 2011**

The annual meeting of Red River Human Services Foundation was held 9/21/11. The new slate of officers for the Board of Directors are: Deanna Bakken – Chair, Representative Rick Holman – Vice Chair, Mike Sundquist – Treasurer, Marlys Hoeft – Secretary. RRHSF also recognized Senator Russell Thane, Wahpeton, for many years of service on the Board.



Newly elected chair, Deanna Bakken is shown receiving the gavel from outgoing President Brian Ingulsrud.

### **25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**Five employees were recognized at the 2011 RRHSF Annual Meeting celebrating 25 years of service. Congratulations on 25 years and many more!**

L to R: Pam Erlandson, Wahpeton Community Services Director, Wayne Braaten, DSP-Wahpeton, Tom Newberger, CEO, Phyllis Briss, Activity Center Director, Jim O'Meara, Maintenance-Wahpeton



Repeat Boutique volunteer, Marlys Schmidt, was honored for her endless hours of dedication. Marlys averaged over 50 hours a week doing a variety of tasks for Repeat Boutique. Marlys was recently hired as a part time associated. Thanks for all your hard work Marlys!!

# TECHNOLOGY TOPICS

## Talking photo albums

A lot cheaper than the Iphone or Ipad and much easier to use. Each plastic sleeve can hold a photo. Press the bottom of each page to record a personalized message and each page can hold 10 seconds of recorded time. These can be used for an individualized schedule, social stories, making choices, or remembering the steps of a task with verbal prompts. Decrease the use of prompts by leaving some pictures blank. It can be changed easily for other uses and is under \$50.

Submitted by Ruth Soderstrom, Training Director



## NEW WEBSITE!!

Special thanks to Ruth Soderstrom, RRHSF Training Director, on her endless hours of hard work. Now available at your fingertips...open positions, employee resources, Activity Center's event calendar, family resources, and much more. Check it out!!

[www.rrhsf.org](http://www.rrhsf.org)

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION!!

Thrifty Horizon's website is under construction. Information will include sales and promotions, store and donation hours, and volunteer opportunities. More information will be coming soon.

[www.thriftyhorizons.com](http://www.thriftyhorizons.com)

**Training Levels Achieved**

Below are staff who have achieved the next level of training at RRHSF.

Congratulations and keep up the hard work!

**Level III**

Randy Boatright, DSP, ISLA-Wahpeton, 9/22/11  
Sue Gertz, DSP, 348 Wahpeton 10/28/11

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

RRHSF offices will be closed  
November 24 & 25<sup>th</sup> in  
recognition of the  
Thanksgiving holiday.



**\$\$**

**FINDERS FEE!!**

**\$\$**

**Dustin Boatright (821) for referring Theresa Stockford (348)**  
**Cari Gebro (821) for referring Evan McCall (812/SVEE )**  
**Jacqui Mauch (1348) for referring Jamie Richels (1348)**  
**Venessa Koziol (608) for referring Tiffany January (ISLA)**

Employees receive \$50 for each referral hired  
and employed after 6 months.

**WORDS OF WISDOM**

- You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.**
- You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.**
- You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.**
- You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down.**
- You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.**
- You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence.**
- You cannot help people permanently by doing for them, what they could and should do for themselves.**

.... *Abraham Lincoln*

# Just for Fun!

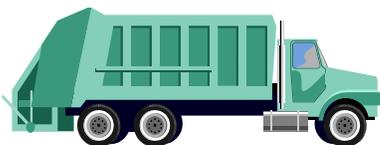
## BEWARE OF GARBAGE TRUCKS by David J. Pollay

How often do you let other people's nonsense change your mood? Do you let a bad driver, rude waiter, curt boss, or an insensitive employee ruin your day? Unless you're the Terminator, for an instant, you're probably set back on your heels. However, the mark of a successful person is how quickly she can get back her focus on what's important.

Sixteen years ago I learned this lesson. I learned it in the back of a New York City taxi cab. Here's what happened...I hopped in a taxi, and we took off for Grand Central Station. We were driving in the right lane when, all of a sudden, a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his breaks, skidded, and missed the other car's back end by just inches! The driver of the other car, the guy who almost cased a big accident, whipped his head around and he started yelling bad words at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy, and I mean, he was friendly. So, I said, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!" And this is when the taxi driver told me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck." Many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it. And if you let them, they'll dump it on you. When someone wants to dump on you, don't take it personally. You just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. You'll be happy you did. So this was it: The "Law of the Garbage Truck." I started thinking, how often do I let Garbage Trucks run right over me? And how often do I take their garbage and spread it to other people: at work, at home, on the streets? It was that day I said, "I'm not going to do it anymore."

I began to see garbage trucks. Like in the movie "The Sixth Sense," the little boy said, "I see dead people." Well, now "I see Garbage Trucks." I see the load they're carrying. I see them coming to drop it off. And like my taxi driver, I don't make it a personal thing; I just smile, wave, wish them well, and I move on. One of my favorite football players of all time, Walter Payton, did this every day on the football field. He would jump up as quickly as he hit the ground after being tackled. He never dwelled on a hit. Payton was ready to make the next play his best.

Good leaders know they have to be ready for their next meeting. Good parents know that they have to welcome their children home from school with hugs and kisses. Leaders and parents know that they have to be fully present, and at their best for the people they care about. The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. What about you? What would happen in your life, starting today, if you let more garbage trucks pass you by? Here's my bet. You'll be happier. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so...Love the people who treat you right. Forget about the one's who don't. Believe that everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, TAKE IT! If it changes your life, LET IT! Nobody said it would be easy....They just promised it would be worth it!



## Red River Human Services Foundation

### Main Office

2506 35<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Fargo ND 58104  
701-235-0971

### Day Service Facility

701 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wahpeton ND 58075  
701-642-2442

### Svee Home Office

1689 6<sup>th</sup> St. W.  
West Fargo, ND  
58078  
701-478-3111

### Svee ISLA/SLA/FSS and Activity Center

1104 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S  
Fargo ND 58103  
701-237-6365 (ISLA)  
701-235-2444 (AC)

### E-mail us!

[fargo@rrhsf.org](mailto:fargo@rrhsf.org)

(general)

[wkahler@rrhsf.org](mailto:wkahler@rrhsf.org)

(editor)

### Board of Directors

Deanna Bakken, Chair  
Rep. Richard Holman, Vice Chair  
Michael J. Sundquist, Treasurer  
Marlys Hoeft, Secretary  
Sen. Tom Fischer  
Jeanette Plummer  
Stephen Dawson  
Brian Ingulsrud  
Roger Richels  
Steve Skauge  
Alice Haugen  
Craig Cayler

### Chief Executive Officer

Thomas R. Newberger, CPA

# CONGRATULATIONS!

JENNIE HANTEN, DSP-FARGO, & BLAKE had a baby boy on August 30<sup>th</sup>. NOAH RANDALL weighed 6 ½ lbs and 19 inches long.

NADINE CORRODY, DS-DSP WAHPETON & BOBBY, had a baby boy on September 8<sup>th</sup>. NOAH JACOB weighed 4 lbs 15 oz. and 17 inches long. Noah is welcomed home by big brothers, R.J. and David.

HEATHER OACHS, ISLA CASE MANAGER, FARGO & MATTHEW had a baby girl on September 11<sup>th</sup>. BROOKLYN RAEANN weighed 8 ½ lbs. and 21 inches long.

## GRANDPARENT GOSSIP!

**CHERYL DEWALD, SVEE FARGO, on the birth of her new grandson!! BENTLEY JAMES CARMICHAEL, was born on September 11<sup>th</sup>, weighing 7lbs 12 oz. and 21 ½" long.**

**TWYLLA AND DENNY CONNER on the birth of their 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild. EMILY ANNE was born on October 18<sup>th</sup>, weighing 7 lbs 15 oz. Emily is welcomed home by big sisters Charli Kay and Olivia Rayne. Twylla is the Administrative Assistant in the Fargo Business office.**

**GARY AND SHELLEY EICHHORN on the birth of their new granddaughter! Cheyenne was born on 8/11/11 weighing 7 lbs. Cheyenne was welcomed home by big brother Tristan and big sister Nevaeh. Gary is the Building Engineer and Shelley is CC-DS Supervisor, both Wahpeton.**



HATS/JEANS COOKBOOKS  
FOR SALE!!!

\$10.00

PROCEEDS BENEFIT PEOPLE WITH  
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES  
SUPPORTED IN RRHSF PROGRAMS.



*We are dedicated to affirming human worth, rights, and dignity by providing services to people with disabilities which enhance the quality of their lives, and enable them to live, work, and develop relationships within their communities.*

