

New Beginnings News



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Winter is gone, Summer is here. Not much of a Spring. This is my 5th Spring with New Beginnings. I can always tell Spring has arrived when the Starlings start making their nest above the drop ceiling above my desk. Somehow the metal flashing outside leaves them enough room to get in and start their nest. Things can get pretty loud once those hungry babies get going.

KanCare officially started for the I/DD world February 1st. We had significant concerns that we wouldn't get paid in a timely fashion. Well, so far that isn't the case and we have been getting paid. We have had problems with one MCO setting up electronic payments. It also takes more administrative oversight in keeping track of the billing and payments for 3 separate entities.

The reason we are getting paid on time and in full is the "Continuity of Care" which guarantees by legislation full and timely 100% payment from January 1-June 30, 2014. After June 30th, we are aware that the 3 MCO's will be turning on the "edits" embedded in their billing process to kick-out claims they feel are not "clean". We expect this "edit" rollout to be gradual, but substantial nonetheless. We will continue to monitor this situation closely in July and August.

The NBE Board would like to welcome 2 new members: Kylee Beck and Annie Blankinship. Kylee represents Wilson County and Annie Chautauqua County. I would like to say thank you to all our Board Members for donating their time and talents to the NBE Board and the great work it does. We still have 2 openings on the 12 member Board and would be interested in additional representation from Wilson and Chautauqua Counties. Please call me at 620-325-3333 ext. 231 if you are interested.

*From the desk of: Joe O'Rourke,
President/CEO*



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Spring has arrived!! But, it has not been an easy transition. We've gone from a day of 80 to the next chilly night of 28!! From heat to AC to heat in less than 48 hours. But, in the end, the tulips will blossom and the song birds return amidst the green grass.

There are times when our days at NBE are like this and the transition is very difficult. To work in our field is providing services that can be one of the most difficult yet meaningful experiences in one's life. There are many ups and downs, but in the end the satisfaction of having been a part of someone's life equals the coming of spring.

The other day I came across a quote that seems most appropriate. "The things that matter most in our lives are not fantastic or grand. They are the moments when we touch one another, when we are there in the most attentive or caring way" - Jack Kornfield

Thank you to all the staff who work so closely with the individuals we serve. And thank you to those individuals for allowing us to be a part of their life. I hope the tulips are blooming where you are.

I was surprised when we were once again asked for new letter articles. Seemed like yesterday we did the end of the year newsletter. Time at New Beginnings is flying past.

Our Work Activity Centers, geared up for some extra work beginning in January, Dwayne and Melissa Small, owners of Winklemans hired two crews, one from Moline and one from Neodesha. The individuals along with job coaches, Josh Allen and Caitlin Moore enjoy being part of the growing process.

Winter seems to be clinging to us and won't let go. Despite that, we were determined to enjoy each holiday and found ways to make the dreary winter pass fast,

National Chicken noodle soup day was a big hit in Neodesha. Everyone was asked to bring a can of soup for the pot and was enjoyed at lunch time. National chip and dip day was a great time to look for receipt hunting to make some delicious dips.

"The carnival "was a laughter filled day. Neodesha has face painting, musical chairs, and laughter to fill the building. All agree it might become an annual party to host.

Moline WAC is never without some kind of fun, like our oodles of noodles, our kitchen looked like a noodle explosion. We are blessed with fresh hen eggs and given some flour and lots of man power, well you can only guess...

National Popcorn day was observed by making some flavored popcorn using red hots, jello, or whatever flavor we can come up with. It is always a great day to smell fresh popped corn. Also that day was made brighter by having pillow cases made by one of our local volunteers, Pearl.

One of our largest attended parties was the going away party given by staff and friends of Angela Allen. Angela had worked with us 19 years and we turned it into a memory making, storytelling, laughter filled day. As we said goodbye to our friend we were introduced to a new friend. Tara took Angela's position. We welcome her into our WAC family.

Neodesha hosted the St. Patrick's Day celebration. The entire dining area turned green, games were played and the most awesome Irish foods were prepared by the staff and cooking class.

Always looking for way to "poke" our boss, National Joe day is always fun. We become word masters at trying to name everyone something starting with Jo. One of our staff Jolee doesn't have to work hard on her's, but creativity is in our DNA, so names like Joe Dirt, Joe Bean, Jo-momma, José, just to name a few.

The latest cooking class didn't start out with a name, but pasta has a way of growing when cooked so we named that class "pasta for days and days and days".

We are always looking for great ways to learn, love, and laugh.

Spring is finally here; wait for next newsletter to see what we are up to next..... Lena Ouellet



By Martha Heffron
Director of Services

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Terry Cunningham	1-Apr
Marilou Fry	3-Apr
Pat Sanderson	11-Apr
Susan Galbraith	11-Apr
Michelle Jarvis	20-Apr
Pan Paget	22-Apr
Bonnie Fitzhugh	24-Apr
Stoney Sherman	25-Apr
Joe O'Rourke	26-Apr
Elizabeth Graham	29-Apr
Jim Hogan	7-May
Leah Ostroe Arnold	12-May
Jamie Newman	18-May
Jeanette Jenkins	18-May
Mary Mills	19-May
Stephanie Riley	27-May
Terry Perkins	27-May
Charles Bredehoft	15-Jun
Elden Ruddle	18-Jun
Leann Wells	23-Jun
Timothy Weller	24-Jun
Sharla Miller	27-Jun
Tara Cunningham	27-Jun

Anniversaries

Angela Clark	4-Apr
Jennifer Thimesch	24-Apr
Terry Cunningham	28-Apr
Susan Porter	30-Apr
Stephanie Riley	13-May
Donna Schoonover	14-May
Susan Galbraith	18-May
Kimberly Gooch	11-Jun
Danyeale Payne	12-Jun
Michael Edwards	17-Jun
Leah Ostroe Arnold	23-Jun

Employees of the Month



JANUARY
Leann Wells
Eureka

Presented by Martha Heffron, Director of Services



FEBRUARY

Bonnie Fitzhugh &
Melissa Gillenwater
Neodesha



Presented by Joe O'Rourke, President/CEO



Presented by Angela Clark, Area Program Manager (not pictured)

MARCH

Joshua Allen
Moline



ABOVE AND BEYOND

NEODESHA



SILENT AUCTION



ST. PATTY'S DAY PARTY

Activities we put together for the months of January, February, and March include:

- *We started January off with a lazy Friday. We enjoyed pizza, movies, and pop to Celebrate National Nothing Day.
- *Our Spaghetti Dinner and Baked Potato Bar were big hits to the administrative staff. Even though we burnt the spaghetti the staff still enjoyed the meals and we raised a lot of money.
- *We started the new year with new resolutions to live healthier so we began going to Get Fit once a week. Pat and Tj have been working on their guns. Stephanie and Pan have about run out of their tennis shoes on the treadmill.
- *We started going to Winkleman's to work in the greenhouse. Pan and Ramona have really enjoyed getting their hands dirty to make some extra money.
- *We had the Neodesha Select Choir come surprise our work activity center for Valentine's Day with a special serenade of "Aint no Mountain High Enough".
- *Stephanie brought her chinchilla in to visit for National Love Your Pet Day.
- *National Carnival Day was blast had by all with musical chairs, pop-corn, face paintings, balloons, bean bag toss, tic-tac-toe, and lots of prizes. Our laughter was heard throughout the building.
- *The Saint Patty's Day Party was a huge success. Good food and fun was had by all. Even the leprechauns were jealous.
- *We ended march with a National Joe Day Silent Auction. We auctioned off several popular items including "Joe Time". Martha was the big winner scoring 30 minutes of Joe for ONLY a \$1.

MOLINE



Melissa and Joe, self appointed Valentine King and Queen



How about popcorn on National Popcorn Day?



Fun and games on St. Patrick's Day.



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EUREKA



Eureka helps with the Meals on Wheels every Monday and Tuesday. It gives us a chance to get out in the community. The elderly love seeing their faces at the door.



Eureka Dayhab takes advantage of the Recreation Center out by the High School. We can just walk the gym when it's cold or raining outside. Some days we play basketball just to be inside where it's cooler. We have activities inside and outside just depends on the weather.



Walking across Kansas has become a challenge for two teams in Eureka. Diana has a team and Michael has a team. They have put bets on the table. If Diana team wins they get to throw pies in Michaels teams face. But if the Mighty Michael team wins then Diana team will have to be servants to the winning team. So hold on to your hats it's going to be a wild ride.

It takes only a single idea, a single action, to move the world — Anonymous



Eureka has a walking trail. YIPPIE! Dayhab uses it every chance we can. Here we are walking the trail on a beautiful day. The trail is new and makes for a smooth walk. A lot of people use the walking trail.