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*EPI Executive Directors
Pictured (left to right): Chris
Sparks (1998 - Current),
Gary Mattson (1983-1997),
Bill Brown (1957- 1983)*



Major Milestones Bill Brown Made Possible

- 1960 - Worked to establish Goodwill Industries in NE Iowa to provide vocational skills to those with disabilities.
- 1961 - Made transportation services for children and adults with disabilities possible.
- 1967 - Played a key role in developing River Hills School, a learning center for students with disabilities.
- 1969 - Learning from European visits, developed the first group home for men with disabilities.
- 1974 - Helps establish Key VII, which later becomes Adults Care, Inc., which later becomes Adults, Inc., which is now North Star Community Services.
- 1976 - Child Care Resource and Referral services started.

Remembering a Pioneer, William E. "Bill" Brown (1920-2010)

Nearly 53 years ago several community leaders in the Cedar Valley were facing the daunting task of creating an organization focused on developing community services for people with disabilities – and more specifically choosing the right person to provide leadership to such an agency.

One individual remembered vividly coming across an obviously talented and bright social worker named William E. "Bill" Brown at a conference and suggested he would be a good fit. A short time later Exceptional Persons, Inc. was incorporated and, just as importantly, Bill Brown was hired as the founding Executive Director.

Bill Brown was a true visionary and pioneer in the field of disability services. Bill and others involved with EPI were literally trail blazing as there were no models or established paths to follow. Armed with a passionate belief all people with disabilities had the right and ability to a productive life in the community, and an uncanny ability to read and motivate people, Bill created

services for children and adults with disabilities from the ground up.

If you speak to people who had the opportunity to work directly with Bill you hear descriptors like brilliant, perceptive, politically astute and selfless. Bill was a master motivator who worked very hard, and was guided by the credo - generally attributed to Harry S. Truman - *"it is amazing what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit."*

Organizations, like so many things in life, have a tendency to grow and flourish when built upon a solid foundation. Bill Brown was that strong foundation for EPI and his fearless vision of community inclusion has had immeasurable positive impacts upon countless people with disabilities and their families.

Grateful for the legacy Bill Brown left, we are inspired by the standards he established.

Sign up for our eNewsletter at www.episervice.org.

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Planned giving provides all-around benefits

Guest Columnist, Larry K. Fox, CFP®, CLU®, ChFC® of *Larry K. Fox and Associates Ameriprise Financial, Inc.*

A little planning can make charitable donations go a long way. Planned giving, usually arranged with the benefit of financial and legal experts, refers to strategies that can help you maximize your giving in a way that can be financially beneficial to everyone involved — including you, the donor.

When you think through and compare various options for charitable contributions, it's easy to see how planning can lead to more profitable giving.

If you have large stock holdings and want to continue to benefit from your investments — but also want to share your wealth with your favorite charity — there are a number of ways to go.

You can simply send the charity of your choice a check once a year and take the deduction on your taxes (subject to AGI limitations).

You can also make provisions in your will to leave a portion of your assets to the charity.

There are other options available that a financial and legal advisor can help you explore that may allow you to give more to your favorite charity while you are still living.

For example, by placing your assets in a charitable remainder trust, you receive income for the remaining years of your life or for a specified length of time of 20 years or less. If you select a charitable remainder unitrust, the amount you receive will adjust to reflect changes in your trust asset balance.

As an irrevocable gift (meaning it cannot be changed), you can claim an immediate charitable income tax deduction for the value of the charity's remainder interest (again, subject to AGI limitations). Any amount exceeding the AGI limitation can be carried forward up to five years.

Because the trust is essentially removed from the estate, it may reduce estate taxes.

This form of giving also provides the added benefit of enabling you to enjoy the personal satisfaction of giving while you're alive. And, the charity benefits by being the recipient of whatever remains in the trust at the end of the term.

Talk to your financial advisor to discuss how your giving goals fit within your overall financial plan and explore strategies for planned giving. With proper advice, it's easier to be a good steward of your resources as you support organizations you value.

Financial planning services and investments offered through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA & SIPC.

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult with your legal and tax advisors regarding your individual situation.



EPI Employee Receives National Honors

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) has awarded EPI employee, Barb Edsill, the distinction as Iowa's Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the Year.

Barb, pictured above (right) with Stacey Winter, has worked in EPI's CHOICE Day Habilitation program for nine years. She was nominated by her co-workers for continuously going above and beyond, creating memorable experiences and always putting those she

serves first. Barb was selected from 238 nominations and was one of 40 state winners.

The DSP Recognition Award program was started by ANCOR in 2007 to acknowledge the commitment and courage of the DSPs who work to ensure community inclusion and full participation for hundreds of thousands of Americans with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities. Vignettes showcasing the individual stories of all winners will be posted at www.youneedtoknowme.org.

Exceptional Bargains Closing, Makes Way for New Opportunities

After five years of successfully running monthly sales at our retail store, Exceptional Bargains, it has now become necessary for the store to close and make way for new opportunities.

This wasn't an easy decision to make, however necessary it was given today's economic condition, because we know how very special it is to so many.

Exceptional Bargains has always been, first and foremost, a training and employment site for persons with disabilities to gain skills needed to work in the

community. Proceeds from the store's sales went directly toward assisting individuals with disabilities to find employment opportunities.

Unfortunately, the economy has changed and proceeds have become a thing of the past as the quality and quantity of the merchandise has dramatically declined while the cost to purchase has increased.

The closing of Exceptional Bargains provides the opportunity to focus on the fundamental mission of our Employment Services program. We can train a

broader range of skills - better equipping each individual to find and be successful in an EPI Employment Services crew or in a competitive work setting.

This isn't the last you'll hear of Exceptional Bargains. We'll also be taking this time to focus on researching and developing a bigger and better store for the future.

Thank you for the support you've shown to Exceptional Bargains and EPI over the years. We hope to have your support once again with a new store in the future.

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Where does the money raised go?

Funds raised from the 2009 Annual Appeal exceeded \$80,000 and benefit Children's, Employment and Multiple Sclerosis Services.

In this issue learn how your gift will touch the lives of persons utilizing Employment Services.

Individuals with developmental disabilities want and need community jobs like everyone else. Having a job leads to independence, the making of new friends and feelings of self worth.

About 10%, a growing number, of the U.S. population has disabilities; however, only 22% with developmental disabilities are employed. Doing the math for Black Hawk County, that's approximately 9,828 individuals with developmental disabilities who are unemployed.

EPI's Employment Services program works daily to lower the unemployed number helping individuals find jobs of their choosing.

Thanks to your investment, we're able to help more individuals by finding community partners and providing more training.

Job assessments done at EPI give the individual the ability to "try on" or shadow a business and perform a job.

As with anything you evaluate, the individual then knows if he/she would like this work and if it fits with his/her abilities. This job shadow opportunity ultimately leads to the successfulness of his/her future job.

Securing that job in the community is always important - but sometimes it's even urgent. Without the support EPI provides, some individuals would be forced from their homes. As was the case with Kenny...

Kenny lives with three roommates in a home rented from a community landlord. He was struggling to keep up financially. Money for rent, food and other necessities didn't match his income.

Kenny desperately needed a job or he would have likely needed to move away from the house and roommates he had chosen.

The EPI Employment Services team got right to work and helped Kenny secure a job at Hy-Vee working in their recycling department.

Through the investment you've made the Employment Services program is not only able to find persons crew and community jobs but also to support each person throughout the entire process.

The career curriculum used within this program teaches personal, career and life management skills. As Kenny starts earning a paycheck, he'll also have the skills to maintain his job and budget his money.

Your investment supports all of this and so much more. Thank you!

Seeking 5K Run, Walk & Roll Event Sponsors

Our 5K Run, Walk and Roll will be Saturday, September 18 this year.

While we invite you to come out and join us, we also want to invite any businesses or organization to become an event sponsor. For more information contact, Katie Slade at (319) 232-6671 or katie.slade@episervice.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome and depend on great volunteers to make our services the best they can be.

We invite you to come volunteer with us and make new friendships while you're at it.

To find out more about volunteer opportunities with EPI or take the next steps towards becoming a volunteer visit us online or give us a call.

Past Issues of EPI News

For past issues of EPI News, visit us online. It's a great place to direct friends or family members to share EPI news.



Our Mission

Exceptional Persons, Inc. (EPI) makes a positive difference for people living with disabilities, enhances community child care and strengthens families.

EPI's Wish List

- Wii Physical Fitness games
- Hand held weights
- Car models (simple to somewhat difficult)
- Music CDs and tapes
- Sorry Card Revenge game
- Family Feud board game
- Flat screen TVs to mount on the wall
- Mini-plant potting sets
- Candy Land Castle game
- Uno Attack/Uno game
- Floor scooters
- Signing Time with Alex & Leah DVDs
- Outdoor bubble machine

Visit us at www.episervice.org to see our complete wish list. Bring donated items to our central office at 760 Ansborough Avenue in Waterloo. Gift-in-kind donation form/receipt can be found online and at the central office.

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars: 5th Annual 5K Run, Walk & Roll

Saturday, September 18 at George Wyth State Park

Online Donations Now Accepted

To make a donation to Exceptional Persons Foundation anytime with your credit card, simply visit www.episervice.org and click on 'Donate Now'. We appreciate your support!

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