

# CONNECT WITH US



Exceptional Persons, Inc.



Scan below to visit us online at  
[www.episervice.org](http://www.episervice.org)



Give us a call at **319-232-6671**



Find us at 760 Ansborough Avenue  
Waterloo, IA 50701



Join us June 18, for dueling pianos at EPI's  
*More Than You See* in Cedar Falls!



Give a gift today - scan here to visit  
[www.episervice.org](http://www.episervice.org) or find us on  
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Connecting People. Creating Opportunities. Nurturing Growth.

Exceptional Persons, Inc.  
760 Ansborough Ave.  
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Waterloo, IA 50704 - 4090

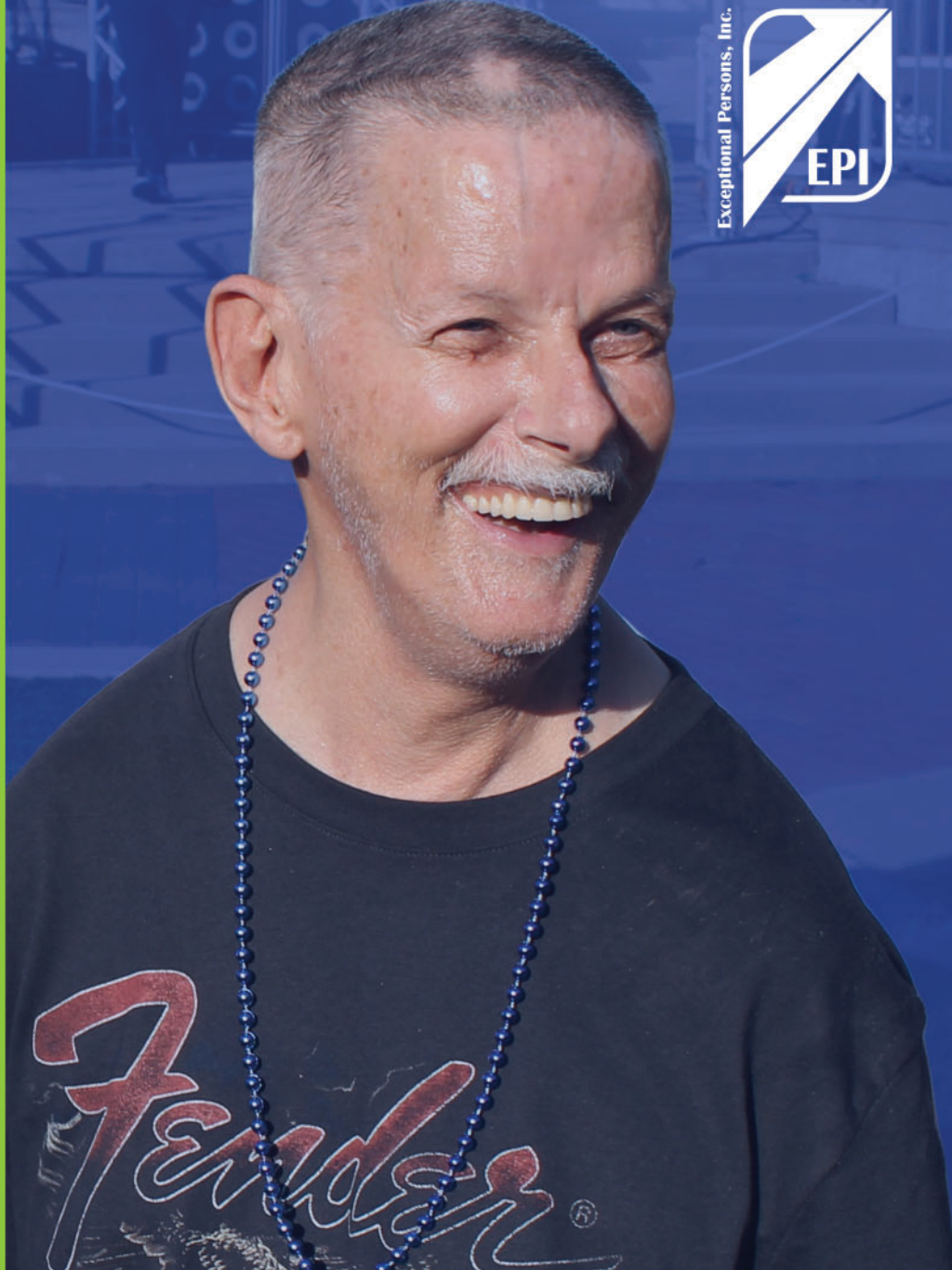
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MAY 2026

# EPI NEWS

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



# OUR STORY

## Mission

Connecting people, creating opportunities, and nurturing growth - since 1957.

## Vision

Working together we will realize a future where all people are recognized and valued – encouraged and supported to live, work, and grow – in their communities.

## Leadership

### **Maghan Bowman**

Executive Operations Director

### **Mary Janssen**

Children & Family Services Director

### **Bonnie Kipper**

Community Services Director

### **Katie Slade**

Executive Director

### *Kristin Snyder*

Controller

## Board of Directors

Scan the QR code to view a full listing of our Board of Directors online at [www.episervice.org](http://www.episervice.org).

## Values

### *People*

Respecting each other's inherent worth. Committed to inclusion and building relationships. Recognizing every interaction matters.

### *Stewardship*

Delivering valued results. Continuously evolving. Being responsive and responsible.

### *Creative Cooperation*

Solutions focused. Practicing humility. Combining our strengths to create something greater.

### *Integrity*

Doing what's right. Fearlessly communicating. Worthy of trust.



## GREETINGS

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we step into spring, I'm reminded that this season is about growth, new beginnings, and *opportunity*. At EPI, that sense of forward momentum is present every day in the ways we support people, families, and communities across Iowa.

In our Community Services, we continue to focus on what matters most: **connection**. Whether it's helping someone find meaningful work, build relationships, or live more independently, our goal remains the same - ensuring all people feel supported, valued, and included.

We're also continuing to evolve how support is delivered. Through tech-enabled services like virtual direct support professionals and remote supports, we're expanding opportunities for independence while maintaining the personal connections that make our work meaningful.

Advocacy remains a critical part of our work. From conversations at the Capitol to everyday discussions in our communities, we're committed to protecting the systems that make quality care possible. These efforts ensure people with differing abilities, children, families, and providers have the resources they need to succeed.

Our Child Care Resource & Referral team plays an essential role in strengthening early beginnings, connecting families to quality care and supporting child care professionals across the state. By helping families find trusted information and providers build sustainable programs, we're supporting both today's needs and tomorrow's workforce.

Thank you for believing in the exceptional people who make this work possible, and for helping share the exceptional stories unfolding at EPI every day.

*Katie Slade*



# ADVOCACY EFFORTS



EPI advocates at both the federal and state levels to strengthen disability services, support the direct care workforce, improve access to mental health services, and ensure families have the child care they need.



## Community Services Update from Maghan Bowman

This spring, discussions around Medicaid and home- and community-based services (HCBS) have taken on renewed urgency. HCBS allows people with disabilities to live safely in their homes and communities while using public resources responsibly. Community-based care costs significantly less than institutional care and supports independence, stability, and dignity.

EPI continues to advocate for policies that protect access to HCBS, sustain the workforce delivering these essential services, and reflect growing community need—ensuring oversight strengthens services rather than disrupts them.

## Children & Family Services Update from Mary Janssen

April marked encouraging progress for Iowa families and the child care workforce. Lawmakers advanced legislation to make permanent a child care assistance program supporting child care workers, a step that strengthens workforce stability and access to statewide quality care.



This progress reflects what child care providers and families have long emphasized: when the workforce is supported, children, families, and communities all benefit.

**Advocacy remains essential as policies continue to take shape.** If you're interested in staying informed or getting involved, we invite you to learn more and lend your voice alongside ours. Scan the QR code above to learn more about how you can get involved.

# TECHNOLOGY THAT SUPPORTS INDEPENDENCE, CONNECTION, AND CARE

**"I feel safe here,"** shared Justin, who receives tech-enabled remote supports within his home. For Justin and his guardian, Makeba, that feeling of safety is central to his goal of living independently.

**"His main goal has been to live independently,"** Makeba shared. **"Remote support gives him the choice to stay home alone."**

For the people EPI serves, technology is simply another way to stay connected to people who care. Whether it's a quick check-in during their workday through telehealth services or overnight support at home with smart technology enhancements, tech-enabled services mean knowing someone is always there when help is needed—and meeting people where they are.

For Jessica, who receives telehealth supports, ease and reliability matter most. **"If I have a problem, I can always call, and they can jump right on there with me,"** she said.

For Mannal, remote supports provide reassurance and trust. **"I can tell people care. And they give you your privacy,"** she shared.

These services aren't about screens or devices, they're about building skills and confidence with the safety net of knowing you're not alone.

Scan the QR code to hear directly from Justin, Jessica, and Mannal and learn if technology support is right for you or your loved one.



SAVE THE DATE

# MORE THAN YOU SEE DUELING PIANOS

| 06



Exceptional Persons, Inc. is excited to welcome back their annual *More Than You See (MTYS)* event on Thursday, June 18, 2026, from 6:00–9:30 p.m. at the River Place Plaza in downtown Cedar Falls.

This outdoor summer evening has become a cherished community event, bringing people of all abilities (and ages!) together to celebrate inclusion, connection, and belonging. We invite you to join us for a fun night under the summer sky.



*"I hope you'll join EPI leadership for a great night of supporting our mission. Your participation helps strengthen the work we do together,"* shared Kristin Snyder.

This year's event will feature How2Go Dueling Pianos, offering a high-energy, interactive performance that invites participation and fun for all ages. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and their families for a relaxed night under the summer sky, with local food trucks available on site.

EPI is grateful to returning Presenting Sponsor Dan Deery Toyota for their continued support. Proceeds from the event benefit EPI's mission of connecting people, creating opportunities, and nurturing growth.



**Attend. Support. Make a Difference.**

Scan the QR code on this page to:

- Plan your night at MTYS
- Make a gift that supports a more inclusive community
- Learn more about our sponsorship opportunities



*Should we need it, a rain date is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24.*

SUPPORTED COMMUNITY LIVING (SCL)

# COMMUNITY DRIVEN



*SCL Update from Bonnie Kipper*

**For persons served by EPI, community isn't just a place—it's where life happens.** To us, being community-driven means creating meaningful opportunities for people to live, work, and grow in ways that reflect who they are, what they choose, and what their communities support.

## How are People Living in Their Community?

Through *My Life, My Way*, a supported community living service enhancement, EPI has reimaged traditional day habilitation into a person-led approach. Days, evenings, and weekends are intentionally built around what matters most to each person. Whether that's hiking a favorite trail, attending church, enjoying local music, or volunteering in the community. These everyday choices strengthen relationships, independence, and confidence, while ensuring supports are provided appropriately and responsibly.

## Where are Persons Served Working?

We believe employment is another key pathway to community inclusion. Through EPI's employment services, 149 individuals currently hold jobs earning at or above minimum wage. Each month, we're seeking out new businesses eager to meet an untapped workforce full of real people, ready to work and contribute.

## How are Persons Served Thriving?

Thriving means more than participation. It's building relationships, earning independence, and reaching milestones like a first apartment or even graduating from services.

Community inclusion, when done thoughtfully and with purpose, creates opportunity that lasts—and it remains at the heart of everything we do.