



Spring 2015
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Here are the programs your contributions support:

- Essential Needs
- Children's Services
- Employment Services
- Critical Housing Needs
- Transportation
- Multiple Sclerosis Services

Thank you for your kind gifts.



You Are The Difference

In 2013, only 17.6% of persons with a disability were employed.¹

For persons served by EPI you helped countless persons with disabilities realize their dream to work in the community.

Because of you, John has earned a position working at a local plumbing business. In order for John to be ready to work, he needed training, a job coach, and transportation.

With your help, John received the services he needed to find a job. A place where he can belong and contribute. John's supervisor stated, "John's positive attitude enlightens other people's day."

Whether you donated to the Exceptional Persons Foundation, attended our More Than You See event, or donated to the Giving Tree, we cannot thank you enough. Your gifts touch the lives of many and make a significant difference.

The following services are **only** made possible because of **your** generosity.

- **Children's Services** - You've provided rest for caregivers and offered great services for children.
- **Employment Services** - You've made it possible for businesses to partner with EPI and provided meaningful employment opportunities to persons with disabilities.
- **Essential Needs Fund** - You've supplied groceries, medications, clothing, emergency child care, rent assistance, and much more to persons in need.

These services depend on people like you. Thank you for all you have done.

¹Source: www.bls.gov

Walking ▶▶▶
on Main Street in
Cedar Falls



Legislative Watch

Medicaid Managed Care in Iowa

Also Known As...

‘Managed Care,’
the system can
also be referred
to as ‘Medicaid
Managed Care’
or ‘High Quality
Health Care
Initiative.’

For more
information
including a
frequently asked
questions sheet,
visit dhs.iowa.gov

Last February, the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) released a Request for Proposals for Governor Branstad’s Medicaid Modernization. This plan aims to improve quality and access, achieve greater accountability of outcomes, and create more predictable Medicaid budgets.

Since February, the following updates have been reported.

- Iowa DHS has received 11 proposals from managed care organizations (MCOs).
- The Department estimates a Notice of Intent to Award will be published on or around August 7, 2015 - where 2 to 4 companies will be selected.
- After the companies are selected, families will have the opportunity to select the managed care company with which they would like to work.

What this Means for EPI

We know you and your family have a vested interest in Medicaid - we do too. It’s not just about dollars and cents lining up - it’s critical to someone you love.

Though EPI does not have influence over these Medicaid Modernization

initiative decisions, we do want to be a resource for you and share what we can as we learn alongside of you.

We do anticipate MCOs analyzing the following:

- Preventable health conditions (wellness checkups, body mass index, hypertension, etc.)
- Individual service needs - likely resulting in reduced staff support
- Large, congregate services

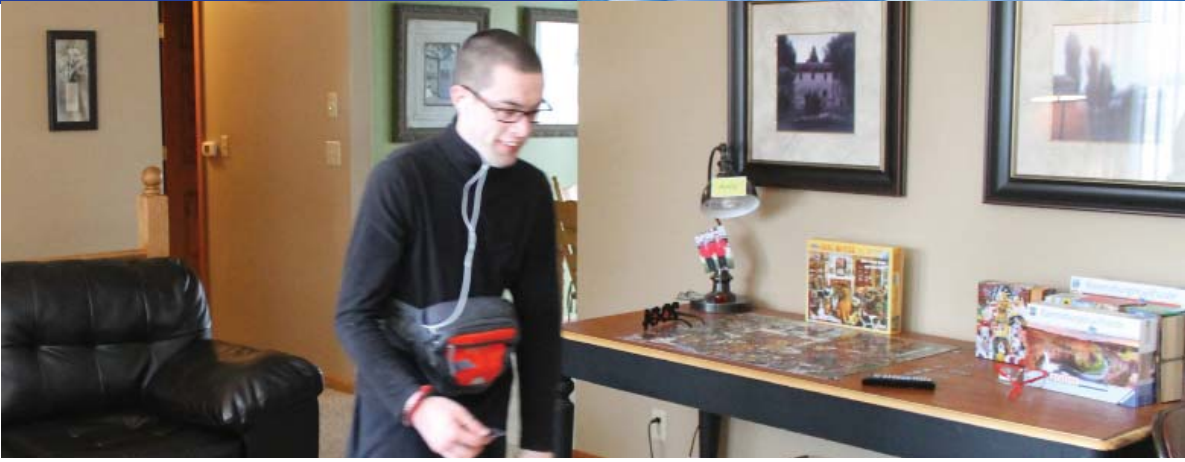
Further, we anticipate an emphasis on natural supports with the dual goal of improving community inclusion and quality of life while managing costs.

As a company, we have spent the last few years getting ready for the expectations of the managed care organizations such as preventable health conditions, community integration, and natural supports to name a few.

EPI has taken multiple steps to prepare for medicaid modernization, so you can count on us to be here.

Contact with
Newsletter
Questions:

BETHANY THOMAS
Communications &
Development Specialist



◀◀◀ Blake in the living room of his home

Inside Blake's World

Blake, a graduate of West High School, native Waterloo resident, recently moved from his childhood home into a home he shares with three housemates. His journey is much like many other 22 year olds – full of twists, turns, and new experiences from which to learn.

When Blake was young, he was diagnosed with Autism. For Blake that means his senses are intensified – his sight and hearing for example. While some of these experiences bring him joy (like looking at links or prisms) others bring him great discomfort (such as dogs barking or the garbage disposal).

If you would have asked Jan and Randy, Blake's parents, a couple of years ago if they thought Blake would someday live on his own, they would have stated

without hesitation, "No." Then, life happened and persons close to Jan and Randy suddenly passed away.

They began thinking differently, "What if that was us? What would happen to Blake?" Jan said it felt like they would be setting Blake up for failure and causing him to have to suddenly move to a new home where he didn't know anyone. So, they asked EPI for help and began to see how, with EPI's help, Blake could live successfully in a place of his own.

"EPI was open to our ideas and genuinely looked for solutions."

The family was part of choosing the home (one they would be comfortable living in themselves), finding compatible housemates, furnishing the home, and

adjusting the time frame to move into the home.

Jan holds the EPI Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in very high regard stating, **"They are very special people to me. This is a life they do not have to be a part of, but they chose to make a difference in Blake's life."** Through the partnership with EPI they can trust the persons working with their son have all had background checks, training and continuous learning, and the reliability of someone being there even if one person gets sick. "It feels like family," Jan says of her son's home.

Since the move, Blake has started to value time with his own family – staying at the dinner table longer and spending more time with his parents.

New Business Partners

- EdgeCore
- Fareway
- Ferguson
- Kohl's
- Pepper's Grill & Sports Pub
- Popcorn Heaven
- Ruby Gymnastics Academy
- Western Home Communities

Direct Course Award winner, Brian Brandau



Brandau Awarded Direct Course Award

EPI Direct Support Professional (DSP), Brian Brandau, was recently selected by the Drive by Values, Honored by You: Direct Support Professional Awards 2015.

This award honors excellence in the demonstration of “Participant Empowerment.” Direct Course, along with the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), gives these awards to DSPs for encouraging persons served to lead a self-determining life by providing the support and information necessary to build self-esteem and assertiveness.

Brian is one of only seven DSPs honored with this award. Congratulations to Brian Brandau!

NEI3A Walk on Main Street

On May 21 EPI’s CHOICE program joined our friends from Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A) for their sixth annual Older Americans Month one mile walk!

The walk promotes strength and vitality of Older Americans while encouraging healthy lifestyles. Values that we too find important to instill in our daily lives.

Just Briefly

Here’s what you might have missed between the issues.

CHOICE Donates Blankets

EPI’s CHOICE program spends much of their time in the community, often donating handmade items. Our friends at Allen Hospital Birthing Center sent us a picture and a wonderful thank you note for the items they recently received. The note reads:

“Thank you so much to those of you who made the blankets for the babies at Allen Hospital Birthday Center... you warmed our hearts with your generosity. Thank you for being amazing.”

Remembering Dianne Haley
(1949 - 2015)

Dianne Haley of Cedar Falls will forever be remembered by EPI as a fun, loving woman.

We are deeply saddened by her passing and want to pass on our condolences to her many friends and family. She will be missed by all of us at EPI.

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Foundation

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BH County Supervisor

CLARK PORTER
Porter Family Farms

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◀◀◀ Giving
away helmets at
My Waterloo Days

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Roskamp Leasing

FLOYD WINTER
Volunteer

A Safer Summer

Summer brings warm weather, sunshine, and for many, sports. If your summer is full of outdoor activities, be prepared to protect your head.

Our community based rehabilitation program for persons with an acquired brain injury focuses on recovery. **We want you to focus on prevention.**

In partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health **we were able to give away helmets to a total of 100 kids** at the My Waterloo Days and Sturgis Falls festivals.

Though sometimes considered a mild injury, concussions can become very

serious. Watch for the following signs when someone takes a hard hit.

- Headache/pressure
- Vomiting
- Clumsiness/dizziness
- Blurred vision
- Sensitivity to light/noise
- Concentration/memory problems
- Confusion/delayed answers
- Changes in mood, personality or behavior

If you spot any of the above symptoms, it is best to seek medical attention immediately. It's important to us that you stay safe this summer!

ADA Celebrates 25 Years

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed 25 years ago to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities.

To celebrate a successful 25 years we are partnering with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) to hold an awareness walk. The walk will take place Tuesday, July 28 from 4 to 5 pm. We will be meeting on campus at the Multicultural Center and walking a mile.

Lace up your comfy shoes, grab a friend, and join us. See you there!



*Current
Career
Openings*

Direct Support
Professional

Group Leader

Job Coach

Program
Manager

Service
Coordinator

*Agency
Leadership
Team*

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Children & Family
Services Director

DEB JUNGLING
Business Director

LISA PATERNO
Human Resource
Director

SUSAN SEEHASE
Services Director

KATIE SLADE
Communications &
Development Director

CHRIS SPARKS
Executive Director



MS Services Program Celebrates 35th Anniversary

**by Diane Holmes,
LISW**

The year was 1979, China and the U.S. began diplomatic relations, The Village People sold 150,000 copies of their hit record, “Y.M.C.A.” in one day, photos from the US Voyager I revealed rings around Jupiter, and Sony introduced the Walkman.

In the Cedar Valley a group of people who saw the need for local services for people affected by Multiple Sclerosis (MS) were launching the Area VII MS Service League in partnership with Exceptional Persons, Inc. (EPI).

The founders of the Area VII MS Service League understood how devastating Multiple Sclerosis was to the people diagnosed with the disease and those who cared about them. In those days treatment was limited. The Area VII MS Service League became the spark of hope for many by providing equipment, information, and support.

At the organization’s 25th anniversary celebration the name was changed to the Multiple Sclerosis Service League.

Around this time people with MS began to experience better health and reduced symptom severity.

With time, funding from outside sources declined. With the focus on continuing services, the Board of Directors voted to dissolve and asked EPI to continue the needed services.

In 2013, EPI became partners with the Cedar Falls Counseling Associates and continued offering MS services including meetings funded by the MS Endowment, now administered by the Exceptional Persons Foundation.

Hundreds of people deserve deep gratitude for their support during the 35 year life span of the Multiple Sclerosis Services program. Since the MS Endowment fund is only the funding source for the Multiple Sclerosis Services Program, financial support continues to be vital to sustaining services from people affected by MS. May those services continue until MS is but a distant memory.

2005 MS Services 25 Years



Support Group Meeting Schedule

July

- Tama, 7/29 - 9:30 am

August

- Waverly, 8/12 - 10:30 am
- Waterloo, 8/19 - 11:00 am
- Tama, 8/26 - 9:30 am

September

- Waverly, 9/9, 10:30 am
- Waterloo, 9/16 - 11:00 am
- Tama, 9/30 - 9:30 am

October

- Waverly, 10/14 - 10:30 am
- Waterloo, 10/21 - 11:00 am
- Tama, 10/28 - 9:30 am

November

- Waverly, 11/11 - 10:30 am
- Waterloo, 11/18 - 11:00 am
- Tama, 11/25 - 9:30 am

2007 Baskets & Blooms



MS Support Group Meeting Locations

Bremer/Butler

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2001 W Bremer, Waverly
(2nd Wednesday)

Waterloo

EPI, 760 Ansborough Ave, Waterloo
(3rd Wednesday)

Tama

Senior Center Community Building,
103 S. Church, Toledo
(Last Wednesday)

2008 Run, Walk, Roll Event





760 Ansborough Ave
PO Box 4090
Waterloo, IA 50704-4090

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 1778
Waterloo, IA

Cornerstone Giving

Please include the Exceptional Persons Foundation in your will and estate planning to ensure EPI services will live on forever.



Our Mission

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



Wish List

- Canvas & oil pants
- Tickets to local entertainment
- Gardening tools
- Gas grill
- Towels
- Patio pots
- Pots & pans

A complete wish list can be found online. Remember other items can be donated through EPI's account at Stuff, Etc. in Waterloo. Proceeds from these sales are passed on to persons served to shop for essential needs. Bring items to Stuff, Etc. in Waterloo, no need to make an appointment.

Want to Make a Donation?

Your generosity means so much - thank you. Donations allow us to fulfill our mission when other funding runs short. We accept cash donations anytime. Scan the

QR code to the left or visit our website at www.episervice.org and click "donate now."

Mark Your Calendar

July 18 Zsavooz Sports Lounge and Grill in Cedar Falls is hosting an event for EPI from 1:00 to 3:00. Come out and enjoy a walk and kids activities. Come hungry because 15% of all food sales will be donated to EPI!

July 28 A walk celebrating 25 years of the Americans Disability Act (ADA) will be held at University of Northern Iowa from 4:00 to 5:00.

Spring 2016 will be the NEW date for More Than You See.