

Developmental Disability Services June Newsletter

Celebrate with Us!

- 06/01 - National Heimlich Maneuver Day
- 06/07 - World Caring Day
- 06/18 - Autistic Pride Day
- 06/21 - Father's Day, First Day of Summer

Events at a Glance

HASTINGS:

- Summer movies start!
- 6/19 - Father's Day BBQ!

GRAND ISLAND:

- New Arc events!
- Fishing starts back up!

KEARNEY:

- Summer movies start!
- Excited to start fishing again!



Want to help out?

Impact Initiatives

Interested in making a positive impact?
Support Quality Services & Champion the Rights of Those We Serve!



Join Our **Advisory Committee**



Join Our **Human Legal Rights Review Committee**



Connect with your local manager to learn more!

Make a Difference | Be a Voice | Stand for Justice

Seeking Community Connections

Building partnerships with other agencies, school systems, and community organizations.
Let's work together to provide wrap around support for those in need of resources and services!



We are actively seeking community spaces in Grand Island, Hastings, or Kearney to host curriculum-based activities such as:

Craft Groups | Cooking Classes | Financial Guidance



If you know of an ideal location for these groups, clubs, or classes, please contact the Associate Director—we would love to build partnerships in our community!



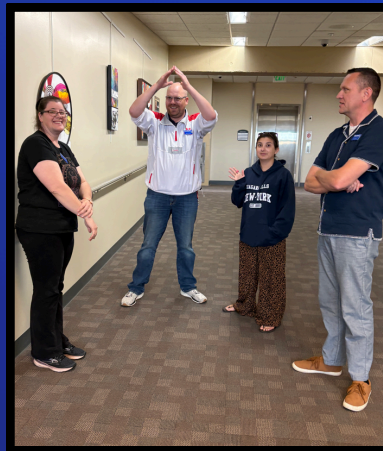
DDS Strong: A Day of Learning, Connection, and Celebration

In May, our DDS team came together for an impactful day at our annual retreat and awards celebration. Hosted at the Kearney Public Library, the day was thoughtfully designed to bring our team together for learning, reflection, connection, and recognition.



The retreat included:

- Team-building activities and interactive games
- Training and a guest speaker session
- Group discussions focused on our future direction and goals



A strong emphasis on our shared purpose: empowering individuals to achieve meaningful, independent lives through growth and skill development

It was a day centered on our theme of “**DDS Strong – One Team. One Why. One Future**”.



DDS Strong: A Day of Learning, Connection, and Celebration



Celebrating Our Award Winners
We were proud to recognize staff across our sites whose work truly exemplifies our values and strengthens our organization:

- **Teamwork Award**
 - Grand Island: Shaelyn Larsen
 - Hastings: Joslin McCoy
 - Kearney: Brad Driml
- **Quality Award**
 - Grand Island: David Killion
 - Hastings: Courtney Thiel
 - Kearney: Amy Jensen
- **Impact Award**
 - Grand Island: BJ Cavitt
 - Hastings: Melissa Ward
 - Kearney: Jessica Rains
- **Pillar Award**
 - Emma Meyer
 - Lisa George



We also celebrated **Years of Service** milestones:

- Brad Driml – 5 years
- Amanda Godding – 5 years
- Kira Darling – 5 years
- Chelsie Blunt – 10 years
- Joslin McCoy – 10 years



And **Employee of the Quarter**:

- Kurtis Gierhan - 2025





The retreat and awards served as a reminder of the strength of our team—not just in what we accomplish, but in how we show up for one another every day.

Thank you to every member of our DDS team for your commitment, compassion, and professionalism. The work you do makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the individuals we support and in the communities we serve.

We are proud of everything you do and grateful to be part of such an incredible team.
Together, we are truly DDS Strong.

Thank you!



What is Disability Pride?

Join Us to Celebrate!

Disability Pride is a movement that celebrates the unique identities, strengths, and contributions of individuals with disabilities. It is a time to recognize that disability is a natural and valuable part of human diversity—something to be respected, embraced, and celebrated.

We are excited to host our second annual Celebrating Differences event as part of Disability Pride! This event is an opportunity to come together as a community to honor inclusion, promote understanding, and recognize the incredible individuals we serve and support every day.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate differences, build community, and honor the value each person brings.



To learn more about Disability Pride month, visit:

- [The Arc Website](https://www.thearc.org)

Celebrating Differences

Disability Pride 2026

The World Works Better With Us



HASTINGS ELKS CLUB
3050 E SOUTH ST

10AM to 2PM
July 21, 2026

10:00 am Welcome and Awards Ceremony
11:00 am - 1:00 pm Lunch
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Games & Activity Stations



Please RSVP to Marketing@goodwillne.org or 308-267-4447 by Friday July 17

Resource Roundup

Join Our Team of Contracted Nurses!

Empower Your Nursing Career as a
DDS Nurse Consultant

Seeking Registered Nurses!

Make a Difference with Goodwill!

Role Overview	On-Call Rotation	Support & Safety	Flexible & Rewarding
Guide Medical Care & Provide Training	Be Part of Our On-Call Support Team	Work with Trained Medication Aides	Competitive Pay & Monthly Invoicing

- ✓ Collaborative Environment
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Impactful & Rewarding Work

Interested in Becoming a Nurse Consultant?

Contact **Laura Schenk** for More Information!

- ✉ Laura Schenk
- ✉ Email: lschenk@goodwillne.org

UPCOMING TRAININGS

- 6/2 - CPR Refresher
- 6/11 - Mandt Refresher
- 6/11 - Med Aide Refresher
- 6/15 - New Hire Orientation
- 6/17 - CPR Initial
- 6/18 - Med Aide Initial

Employee Updates

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Bre Bednarz - Grand Island DSP

Deanna Wintermute - Hastings & Grand Island DSP

Amanda Snell - Hastings DSP

DEPARTURES

Dawn Wright - Hastings DSP

Melissa Ward - Hastings DSP

DDS Leadership

Associate Director

- Chelsie Blunt
- 402-831-7149

Director

- Laura Schenk
- 402-984-2566

Program Manager - Grand Island

- Vacant (Contact Chelsie)

Program Manager - Hastings

- Dacia Wright
- 402-705-8269

Program Manager - Kearney

- Kim Anderson
- 308-830-2015

Shared Living Manager

- **Vacant (Laura)**
- 308-380-1071