



Márch*

March Activity/ Appreciation Days:

- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!
- Employee Appreciation Day- 3/7
- World Down Syndrome Day: 3/21
- St. Patricks Day- 3/17
- **CLOSED NOT SERVICES- 3/31**
(staff development training.)

Upcoming events

Hastings:

- Wear Orange Day!- 3/4
- Volunteer @ Freedom Factory
- Celebration Week!- 3/10-3/14
- Spring Festival @ Hastings E-Free Church- 3/21
- NO SERVICES- CLOSED- 3/31

Grand Island:

- Spirit Week- 3/10-3/14
- Cleaning up Parks!
- Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash!
- 1st BBQ of the season
- Goodwill Soup Luncheon
- NO SERVICES- CLOSED- 3/31

Kearney:

- Bingo
- Adaptive Art Class- Wed. @ YMCA
- Visit Museums
- Movie Fridays!
- NO SERVICES- CLOSED- 3/31





EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION !!

- My words can never be enough to praise all that you do for our individuals. I appreciate how much effort you put into everything you do! You all go above and beyond with your actions, words and attitudes. We do notice and we value you! Thank you!
-Shelli Calhoun
- Today we celebrate each and every one of you - your positive energy and talent are what make this team special.
-Pam Buckles
- To DSPS:
Thank you so much for everything you do each and every day. You make the choice to come in each day and support people to achieve their greatest potential. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.
-Kim Anderson
- Every day I'm told by someone how much they love working with this team, and it's easy to see why with your dedication, hard work, and creativity. Thank you for all of your efforts. It's a good day to reflect on how far our team has come and all that we have accomplished together.
Happy Employee Appreciation Day!
-Jenifer Phinney
- To our incredible staff, your dedication, hard work, and positive attitudes are the heart and soul of our team. We are truly grateful for each and every one of you, and we celebrate your invaluable contributions every day.
-Chelsie Blunt



DIRECTOR'S CORNER!

Dear Team,

I want to take a moment to personally thank each one of you for your incredible hard work, dedication, and passion. Your efforts truly make this team what it is, and I am constantly in awe of the talent and commitment!

It's not just about the work you do—it's about the unique qualities and strengths that you bring to our team. Your innovative ideas, teamwork, and relentless pursuit of excellence to support those in our services inspire me daily.

I deeply appreciate your unwavering commitment and collaboration. It is your dedication that makes Goodwill a great place to work.

Let's take this day to celebrate you and all that you do. I am excited about our future together and look forward to achieving great things as a team!

**With heartfelt appreciation,
Laura Schenk**

Disability Awareness Day

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

are the nation's largest minority group, and it is the only group that any of us can become a member of at any time.



1 IN 4 PEOPLE

65-69 years of age have a severe disability



56.7 MILLION PEOPLE

in the U.S. have some sort of disability

38.3 MILLION PEOPLE

have a severe disability such as, being deaf, blind, having physical impairments, etc.



30.6 MILLION

people in the U.S. have a physical disability that impacts their ability to walk



THE ELDERLY

are the largest demographic living with a disability



3.6 MILLION PEOPLE

in the U.S. use a wheelchair



AROUND 15%

of the world's population lives with disabilities



1/3 OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

require assistive technology in order to take care of themselves at home

March 2025

Developmental Disabilities



Celebrate by:

- wear orange
- Wear The Arc of Lincoln T-shirt
- Display DDAM Yard Sign
- share photos on The Arc of Lincoln FB
- #DDAM2025
- Attend The Arc of Lincoln Events
- www.advocacypartnership.org

Awareness Month
#DDAM2025

8 Ways to Celebrate National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month

1. Spread the news about the disability rights movement.
2. Celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities.
3. Invest in people-first training opportunities.
4. Provide employee training on invisible disabilities.
5. Commit to an inclusive work culture.
6. Attend a local adaptive sports event with co-workers.
7. Invite a service dog and trainer to the office.
8. Donate to a disability organization.

Developmental Disabilities

Overview: Chronic conditions from mental or physical impairments, arising up to age 22.

Causes: Genetic, environmental, and unknown factors; risks include prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs, infections, premature birth, and genetic mutations.

Signs and Diagnosis: Delays in speech, motor skills, social interactions; diagnosis via medical evaluations, genetic testing, assessments.

Support: Educational support, therapeutic interventions, family support.

DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
AWARENESS MONTH
— MARCH —



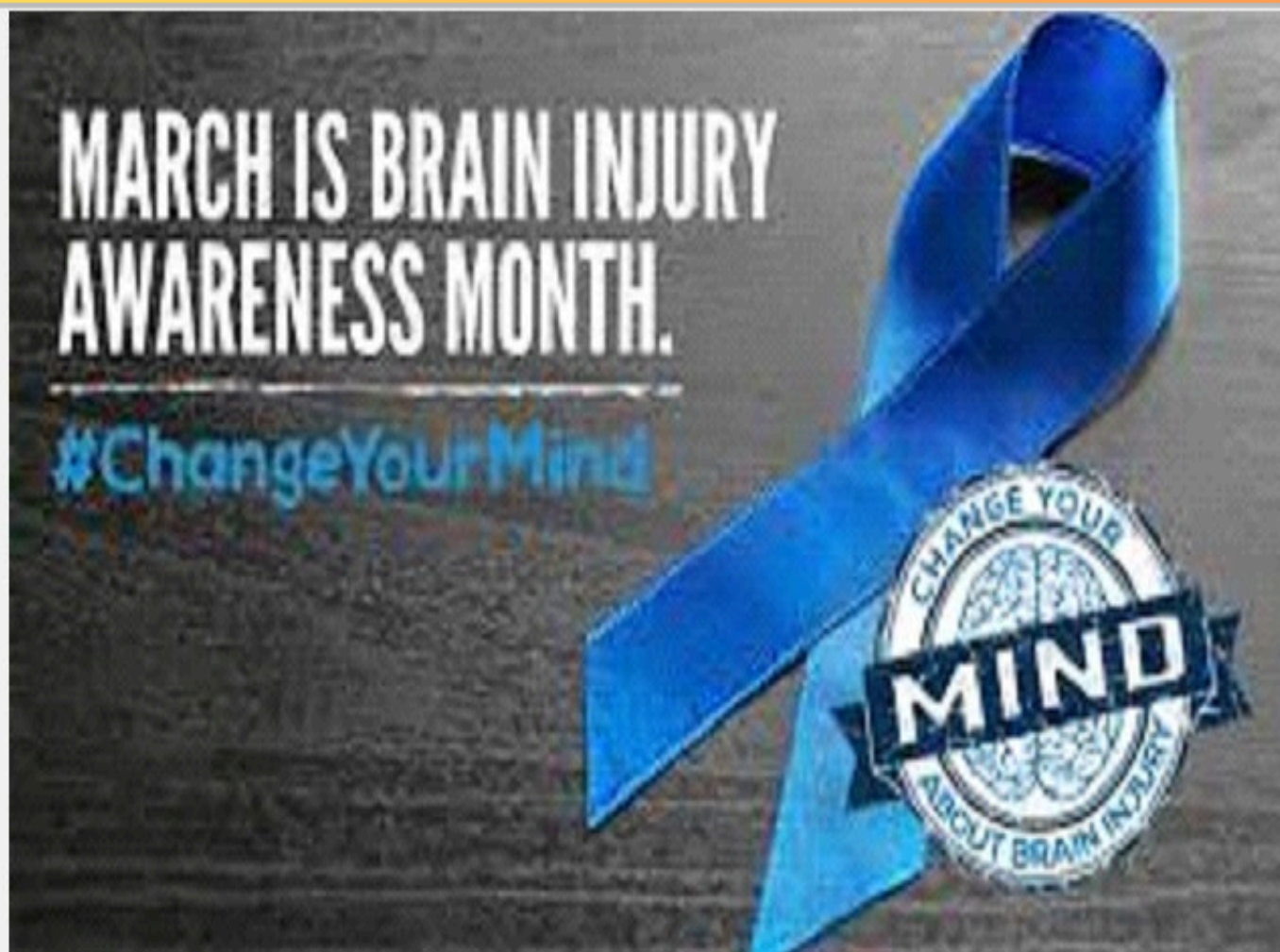
Brain Injury

Overview: Damage affecting physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioral functions; two types: traumatic and non-traumatic.

Causes: Falls, collisions, sports injuries; Non-TBI: Stroke, aneurysms, oxygen deprivation.

Symptoms and Diagnosis: Headaches, confusion, dizziness, memory problems, mood changes; diagnosis via neurological exams, imaging tests, cognitive assessments.

Treatment: Emergency care, surgery, medications, rehabilitation (physical, occupational, speech therapy, psychological support).





Key things to remember this month:

- **Orange is the color of Developmental Disability Awareness Month.**
 - **Please join us in wearing orange on March 4th to show your support!**
- **Blue is the color of Brain Injury Awareness Month**
 - **Please join us in wearing blue throughout the month!**
- **We will also be raising awareness for a couple of specific awareness days this month as a few individuals we support live with this diagnosis:**
 - **March 21 - Wear crazy socks for World Down Syndrome Day**
 - **March 25 - Wear green for National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day**
 - **March 26 - Wear purple for Epilepsy Awareness Day**

We are proud of the individuals we support and the achievements they make every day. Our direct care providers play a crucial role in helping them lead meaningful lives, and we are grateful for their dedication and hard work.

Thank you!

Get to know YOU



Hello! I'm Richie

I love coming to Goodwill Day stie

My favorite things

I love going out to the community.

I love watching movies

My Favorite Quote

"By helping yourself you can
help others more perfectly"



Goodwill

Industries of Greater Nebraska, Inc.



Get to know YOU



Hello! I'm Lucas

Program Mentor

This is not just a job; it's a passion for serving others.



My favorite things

When I am off work I love going fishing!

My Favorite Quote

"By helping yourself you can help others more perfectly"



Goodwill

Industries of Greater Nebraska, Inc.





NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Stakeholder Meetings

What is new in the Division of Developmental Disabilities?
Get updates from all DHHS Divisions!

Meetings are held on the first Monday* of every month.
Join us at 4:00 p.m., CT

We will provide updates
and give you the opportunity to ask questions.
Send questions or request topics ahead of time:
DHHS.DDDCommunityBasedServices@nebraska.gov.

Presented on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81170221250?pwd=ZXFrUHc0VhCUDBrWHpnVmdnakcrUT09>

Upcoming meeting dates on the Stakeholder webpage:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/HCBS-Stakeholder-Meetings.aspx>

Login information on the DDD calendar (bottom of the homepage):

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Developmental-Disabilities.aspx>

*Meeting will be held the second Monday when the first is a holiday.



Goodwill

Industries of Greater Nebraska, Inc.

Although Goodwill assists with monitoring certifications and licenses, it is YOUR responsibility to ensure you attend a training in the time scheduled before providing supports alone and in time so yours remains valid. Inability to attend may impact employment and/ or contract.

If you would like more information regarding these trainings, please notify your local program manager.

- Public comment page to get the heading with the information and hyperlink on where they have to register for sessions if they want to listen to the changes; the bottom has the link to actually submit comments:

- <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Public-Comment.aspx>

- Sessions to support families can be registered at:

- <https://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/developmental-disabilities.aspx>

goodwill

JOIN OUR TEAM



Are you someone who is passionate about empowering others? 🧑‍🦯 🦼

Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska is seeking dedicated individuals to join our team as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)
Locations: Grand Island, Kearney, and Hastings!
Great benefits package for full-time employees!

DSPs provide support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Monday – Friday, off by 5:00 p.m. and no weekends required!

Competitive Wages and Benefits!

Goodwill vehicles for providing transportation!

Newly renovated workspace!

JOIN WITH US!

Are you someone who is passionate about empowering others?

Goodwill is seeking dedicated individuals to join our team as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in Grand Island, Kearney, and Hastings! DSPs provide support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Duties may include:

- Assist participants in the community with fun activities such as bowling, fishing, and volunteering.
- Encourage participants to self-advocate, in order to live independent and fulfilling lives.
- Utilize Positive Support Programs to guide daily interactions.
- Provide person-centered support.

LEARN MORE

AND

APPLY AT

GOODWILLNE.ORG/JOIN-OUR-MISSION/CAREER



NASP Annual Conference 2025



INNOVATION GENERATION

Lincoln, NE March 24-25, 2025

GRAND ISLAND
1804 South Eddy Street
PO Box 1863
Grand Island, NE 68801

Phone: 308.384.7896
Fax: 308.384.9231

Program Manager:
Pam Buckles

Shared Living Manager
Tia Hayman

HASTINGS
835 South Burlingron
Plaza
Suite: 110,112
Hastings, NE 68901

Phone: 402.463.1467
Fax: 402.463.1445

Program Manager:
Jenifer Phinney

Shared Living Manager:
Tia Hayman

KEARNEY
4009 6th Avenue
Suite: 37, 45
Kearney, NE 68845-2386

Phone: 308.455.1400
Fax: 308.455.1402

Program Manager:
Kim Anderson

Shared Living Manager:
Tia Hayman



UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 55th Annual Senatorial Dinner



SENATORIAL EVENTS:

POLICY UPDATE 4PM
COCKTAIL HOUR 5PM
DINNER 6PM

This year, Arc of NE is partnering with the Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP). All are invited to celebrate an evening with Nebraska Senators!



TUESDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2025



Public Comment Period for Amendments

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. §441.304(f), the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is required to give public notice related to the state's plan to amend the 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities Services (NE.4154), the Developmental Disabilities Day Services Waiver for Adults (NE.0394), Family Support (NE 2366) and the Aged and Adult and Children with Disabilities (NE.0187) waivers. The 30-day public comment period is from January 13, 2025, through February 13, 2025.

Upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), these waiver amendments would go into effect July 1, 2025.

ENABLE ACCOUNT TRAINING SCHEDULE IN 2025

15

JAN 2025

**LEARN ABOUT THE ENABLE
ACCOUNT SAVING PLAN**

7-8:30 PM REGISTER TO GET ZOOM LINK

28

APRIL

**SAVE WITH THE
ENABLE ACCOUNT**

6-7:30 PM LOCATION TBA REGISTER

17

JULY

**PROTECT BENEFITS &
SAVE WITH ENABLE**

7-8:30 PM REGISTER TO GET ZOOM LINK

23

SEPT

**HAVE A DISABILITY? WANT
TO SAVE?**

6-7:30 PM LOCATION TBA REGISTER

FOR MORE INFO : WWW.TECTONICCHANGEINC.COM

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee's purpose is to advise, assist, and advocate in establishing, operating, and evaluating Goodwill's Developmental Disability Services (DDS) and Employment and Career Services (ECS) so we are providing the highest quality of services to our service area.

The Advisory Committee through Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska provides a window for our program into the community. Our member's knowledge and expertise assist with understanding the needs of those we serve. Making these connections with our industry partners opens the door for deep relationships that may lead to work-based learning opportunities, employment opportunities, volunteer opportunities or internships, and apprenticeships, new providers for Shared Living homes, new referrals for services, and new staffing opportunities

It is required that all Committee members are either:

- A person with developmental disabilities;
- A family member or legal guardian of persons with developmental disabilities; or
- A person who is an interested community member

Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled on a routine quarterly basis on the last Thursday of the quarterly month, except December. Meetings generally last one hour at noon and rotate between each of the Goodwill DDS/ECS sites. Members near that site are asked to join the meeting in person if able but there is a virtual option for all who cannot attend in person.

All members are expected to meet quarterly.

Members are a group of experts in a specific field who collaborate to oversee our services. Each member will advise in the development and operation of our services at Goodwill.

If you would be interested in helping Goodwill provide the best services we can, please contact us for more information on how to join our Advisory Committee!

A review will be provided by Goodwill prior to officially starting on the Committee.

We thank you for considering this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Name: Laura Schenk
Email: lschenk@goodwillne.org

Human Legal Rights Review Committee

A person with a developmental disability has the same legal, human, and civil rights and freedoms guaranteed to all citizens; they do not give up their rights when they accept services from DHHS-DD or GIGN.

The Human and Legal Rights (HLR) Review Committee through Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska (GIGN) is responsible for protecting those said rights by monitoring GIGN practices in accordance with federal and state requirements. A HLR practice is important to make sure individual rights are not limited or restricted without an appropriate reason and due process.

HLR Committee members contribute to the decision making regarding potentially restricting the rights of individuals served since they are familiar with people with disabilities and have relevant professional or personal experience.

The Committee membership will be persons free from conflict of interest and who will ensure the confidentiality of information related to individuals served. Membership may include interested community persons/professionals, family members and/or legal representatives.

Due to circumstances requiring immediate attention to maintain the participant's safety, all HLR Committee Members are expected to be available for phone calls and/or emails in order for GIGN to obtain reviews and approvals for proposed restrictions needing swift implementation. Additionally, regular HLR Committee Meetings are conducted on a routine bi-monthly basis to review new and ongoing restriction proposals.

If you would be interested in helping Goodwill protect the rights of individuals receiving services, please contact us for more information on how to join our HLR Committee!

Training will be provided by Goodwill prior to officially starting on the Committee.

We thank you for considering this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Name: Laura Schenk
Email: lschenk@goodwillne.org