

Providing residential, therapeutic, and employment support to persons with disabilities in Grand Forks for over 40 years.

Happenings at Development Homes: ACES Gets New Digs!

ACES – Accessing Community Employment Solutions– is moving from a small room into spacious new surroundings on the second floor of the Development Homes office on Columbia Rd. As Sandi Marshall explains on the next page, persons with disabilities fulfill an important need in our tight labor market. By growing our employment support programming we are able to move persons with disabilities closer to full inclusion in our community and fill much needed job vacancies in Grand Forks.

When Development Homes, built the new addition a few years ago we left an unfinished second floor anticipating possible growth of our programming.

We soon began to realize that there was increasing demand for employees with disabilities supported by ACES.

The ACES program offers employment skill building focus, with pre-employment skills training in our technology and career center. The pre-employment skill building topics are

work related, and cover issuers relevant to employment. Such topics may include, work readiness (attire, hygiene), work place safety (OSHA, forklift safety, harassment), task completion, social etiquette, handling frustrations at work and with co-workers, job seeking (Interview skills, resume writing, completing applications etc.).

The new training center will give persons with disabilities exciting new possibilities in the community.



At left the new space is taking shape.

At right ACES hard at work.



**SPREAD THE WORD
TO END THE WORD**



Thank you for your support of the Innes/DHI 7th Annual Golf Tournament

We had a tremendous day at the Grand Forks Country Club— a full day full of golf and fun while raising money for the ACES employment program and their new technology and career center. This year’s tournament was our most successful with capacity golfers and record funds raised. The proceeds have already been put to good use. The on-going success of this tournament was, in part, because of Scott Sygman one of our founding committee members. Scott’s passion for golf and support of Development Homes was un -paralleled. He always kept the committee focused on how to make a great tournament for the golfers which in turn would make a great event for the people that we support. This year Development Homes and the Grand Forks community lost Scott to cancer. We will miss him.



Scott Sygman, 2014 Innes/DHI golf tournament.

Our Vision

We envision a community built on mutual reciprocity for everyone, driven by progressive leadership, an inspired workforce, strong community connections, and wise use of technology.

Our Mission:

Development Homes, Inc is committed to the provision of quality community based support services to persons with disabilities which will enable them to maximize their individual potential and fulfill their personal dreams.

A Word from our CEO: Solving a Workforce Crisis

Development Homes continues to be on the forefront of finding great solutions for problems within our community! With a very low unemployment rate in Grand Forks, businesses continue to clamor for workers, particularly in the service and entry-level sectors. Just drive down any commercial street and you will see signs on most businesses seeking applicants.

It is also known that people with disabilities remain one of the most under-employed populations. So, what better idea than to train people up and provide the support they need to take their rightful place in the workforce! At DHI, we are gearing up to expand our employment supports to more people, and to consequently fill more of the community need.

The benefits of employment to the individual are limitless. While many people we serve have their very basic needs met by public-funded programs like Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Medical Assistance, the additional income from a job can make all the difference. It can lift a person out of total financial dependence, and allow a better quality of life and the ability to take part in community activities.

But it is the pride of working that is the biggest benefit. A job can give a person a valued role in society; it gives meaning to us and helps us define ourselves to the world. A job gives purpose to our days, and a chance to be respected for our contributions. Those contributions include the value of the work itself to the employer, plus the value of becoming a taxpayer. Additionally, wages and benefits can reduce or even eliminate the need to access financial assistance.

And, a job that is in an integrated community setting provides greater opportunities to develop friendships with co-workers and supervisors, and even customers. The value of having these kinds of informal supports is important in all of our lives!

DHI is currently in the process of remodeling the vacant second floor of the new addition to our corporate office at 3880 S. Columbia Road. We plan to move our ACES employment and community supports program there this fall, from the current cramped quarters in our building. More people can be served, and that means more people will be available to work on small crews and individually at businesses throughout the community. DHI provides the job training and placement, as well as the ongoing "job coaching" supports.

A huge thank you goes out to all the people who donated to refurbishing the new work area through participating in our 7th Annual DHI Golf Tournament in July, and to those who donated to the cause through our direct mailing. And I would be remiss to not recognize and thank all of our partner employers who do are so welcoming. You are giving people with disabilities a chance to live a full life as equal participants in our community!



Sandi Marshall, CEO

"The benefits of employment to the individual are limitless. While many people we serve have their very basic needs met by public-funded programs like Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Medical Assistance, the additional income from a job can make all the difference. It can lift a person out of total financial dependence, and allow a better quality of life and the ability to take part in community activities."

Yes! I want to make a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities.

I believe that inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of everyday life, enriches our quality of life, our community and our humanity. Therefore, I will:

- _____ Arrange a time for the members of the Speakers' Bureau to speak at my club/church.
- _____ Volunteer and participate in one of DHI's social capital events (Art, Speakers' Bureau, drumming)
- _____ Participate in an advisory group to help connect persons with disabilities to our community.
- _____ I cannot volunteer right now, but please accept my donation.

Please email mrydz@developmenthomes.org; or call 701-335-4089 or mail/stop by 3880 Columbia Rd. S.



DEVELOPMENT HOMES, INC.

3880 S Columbia Rd
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 701.335-4000 Phone
www.developmenthomes.org

Board of Directors

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Irene Dybwad | Dave Braaten | Kraig Rygg | George Hastings | Margaret Williams | Dave Putbrese |
| Tori Johnson | Dr. Lee Lipp, Ph. D | Judy L. DeMers | Dennis Johnson | Tricia Lee | Dave Homstad |