



Partners in Human Growth

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

A Word from our CEO: Why Inclusion Matters

This month, you will see stories about two individuals served by Development Homes, whose lives exemplify the best of integration and inclusion into our community. Both women have lived in Grand Forks for over 40 years, and during that time, have made multitudes of friends. They both have been vocal, articulate advocates for the respectful treatment of people with disabilities.

As a society, we realized a long time ago that living in an integrated community setting is just the start of a journey to true inclusion. So what do we mean by these words? Integration is about people being able to live in normal community homes and apartments of their choosing, scattered throughout the community. People are not segregated, but live side-by-side with neighbors of all walks of life.

For many decades, people with intellectual disabilities did not have opportunities to receive public education or supports in community settings, resulting in hundreds of people living in isolated state institutions. Planned deinstitutionalization started in the 60's and 70's on a small scale, but options were limited. In 1980 a class action lawsuit was filed by the Arc of ND against the state, which resulted in most of those individuals being able to move to communities, and to receive services from organizations such as Development Homes, Inc.

We also talk about independence as the goal. But, as they say, "no man is an island", and we all need people in our lives we can count on. So we talk about "interdependence" instead. We all need to rely on our circle of family and friends, and this is the same for people with disabilities.

Here's where you come in. Even though integrated, people can still be segregated to lives insulated from real relationships with their neighbors and co-workers. Here at DHI, we are constantly working to help people to participate in clubs, churches, gyms, and all types of social opportunities. We are also working to support people to work in integrated businesses, and to do volunteer work. These are some of the best ways people like our readers can get to know a person with disabilities one-on-one, as the unique person they are.

Please join us in befriending a person with disabilities and including them in your life. You and your family will be richly rewarded!



Sandi Marshall, CEO

“There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more.” - Robert M. Hensel

I had the opportunity to sit down with Rhonda Anderson this morning as she told me about the few days she spent in Bismarck, ND for Disability Awareness Day. Rhonda is a remarkable advocate for herself and her community. She has also been a Team Leader for S.A.S (Self Advocacy Solutions) for 5 years. Rhonda speaks at many events throughout the year to advocate for herself and others.

Disability Awareness Day took place on February 16th and 17th in Bismarck, ND. It is hosted by the North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium. During the course of these days, those who attend were able to sit down to listen and speak with the legislators of our state, take tours of historic areas, enjoy food and entertainment, and check out educational booths from different agencies. Rhonda was able to advocate with state legislators about continued and strengthened funding for those with disabilities. She also spoke with them about her history of living in North Dakota and why this is so important to her.

Rhonda and her friends also took part in sharing her talents with Performing for Change, a group from Cavalier High School that is made up of about 300 students and who are advocates of ending the use of the “R-Word”. They performed on Wednesday, February 15th in the opening ceremony for the days to follow.



Rhonda in a group picture with the other members of S.A.S.



Rhonda and Helen at the S.A.S. conference

Rhonda will be also be speaking in Chicago, IL. July 21st -22nd for Disability Pride Day. She is extremely excited about this. She will share her story about growing up in Grafton, ND at the state school and moving to Grand Forks, ND, where she is able to live in her own apartment. She also said that she will be playing her harmonica at the event.

Rhonda has been very busy this year advocating for herself and others, but is excited to take a much deserved vacation after her speaking engagement in Chicago. She will be vacationing in Nashville, TN. with her friends and hoping to see some of her favorite country artist, which she states is all of them!

Save the Date

8th Annual Innes/DHI Golf Tournament

Thursday, July 20th at the

Grand Forks Country Club



**To register or for more information contact Amelia at
701-335-4028 or aindvik@developmenthomes.org**

Coming Together Is A Beginning; Keeping Together is Progress; Working Together Is Success.—Henry Ford

Today we celebrated Roberta Middagh and her 45th year of being a member of the Grand Forks community. Normally, 45 years of living in the same community doesn't seem like something you would celebrate, but for Roberta it is a significant milestone. You see, when she was just 3 years old she and her twin brother Robert were moved out of their home in Montana to go and live at the Grafton State School in North Dakota. When they moved in they became separated for the first time in their lives, made to sleep in cribs, and given no privacy.

While growing up at the state school Roberta was put to work, not paid work but volunteer work. She did janitorial duties, worked in the dining services and cared for the younger patients at the school, some as young as 5 months old. She would help feed, change, and play with the children.

Roberta states she was one of the lucky ones who was able to attend classes while living there. She enjoyed taking classes, especially math. A few of her favorite teachers were Mrs. Hagen and Mrs. Asheburner. She also met some of her life-long friends while living in Grafton. She stays in touch with most of them today, either through correspondence or visiting and playing cards with them on a daily basis.

Roberta was moved out of Grafton in 1972 and moved into a foster home in which she lived for 3 years. She then moved into two different group homes, both supported by Grand Forks County Social Services. In 1986 Roberta moved into Oakwood group home supported by Development Homes, Inc. She switched service providers due to the fact her brother Robert was moved out of Grafton in 1985 and came to live in a group home supported by Development Homes, Inc. Roberta lived in the group home until she moved into her own apartment. She lived in that apartment until the flood of 1997 which resulted in the evacuation of Grand Forks. During the evacuation she was moved to the Air Force Base and then to Jamestown to the state hospital. She was able to move back to Grand Forks and moved in with a roommate at 2300 Library Lane. From there she moved to 1712 Continental Drive where she lived for 17 years. Two years ago Roberta moved to 110 Cherry where she can often be seen socializing with her friends and other residents of the building.

Roberta is 1 of 10 siblings and friends to many others that she would call family. She will always make sure you are taken care of and never left out of the group. She has unfortunately had to say goodbye to many of her friends and recently lost a brother in 2013. You can assure that you will never be forgotten when you have someone like Roberta in your life. You can often find Roberta at many community events and is a strong advocate for her community. I feel lucky to have met such a wonderful, strong woman and encourage you if you get a chance to meet her to stop for a minute and chat.

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.

**SPREAD THE WORD
TO END THE WORD**



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 aindvik@developmenthomes.org; or call 701-335-4028 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 | Ron Gibbens | Mac Schneider | Bob Hoffert |
| Tori Johnson | Dr. Lee Lipp, Ph. D | Judy L. DeMers | Dennis Johnson | Tricia Lee | Dave Homstad |