



Opportunity Living
1890 E. Main St.
Lake City, IA 51449

opportunity

A Newsletter Published by Opportunity Living

OPPORTUNITY LIVING NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT



Opportunity Living is a not for profit corporation serving the Lake City, Rockwell City, and Carroll area of Iowa, whose purpose is to offer housing and lifestyle choices for adult clients/consumers with developmental disabilities or brain injuries and is licensed or certified by the Dept. of Inspections and Appeals Health Facilities Division or the Department of Human Services. Opportunity Living does not discriminate in the admission of clients/consumers based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disabilities. Opportunity Living offers equal employment opportunities to all employees and applications for employment, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disabilities, genetic predisposition, or pregnancy. This includes, but is not limited to, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.

SHARING
KINDNESS



Volunteers

TOUCHING
LIVES



April is National Volunteer Month. We want to send a big shout-out to all of our Volunteers at Opportunity Living who help us achieve our mission every day. We are always seeking more volunteers and have many unique opportunities to make a difference in the lives of the clients we serve. Please call Jayne at 712-464-8961 or email jwilhelm@opportunityliving.org for more information.



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT NEW SOS2 REGISTRY (PG.12) AND T-SHIRT (PG.13) ORDER!



Pictured: From left to right: Carl Legore: County Board of Supervisor, Scott Becker: County Board of Supervisor, Shannon Mahannah: CEO of Opportunity Living, Jayne Wilhelm: Community Relations and Development Director of Opportunity Living, Robin Batz: Calhoun County Auditor, Scott Jacobs: County Board of Supervisor

Calhoun County Board of Supervisors and Opportunity Living Announce CDBG Grant Award of \$600,000!

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) has awarded Calhoun County and Sub Recipient Opportunity Living a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$600,000! Midas Council of Governments will assist in the management of the grant.

The grant will assist with costs for new windows, exterior doors, and roofs on the 8-bedroom group homes located in Lake City and Rockwell City. "We are beyond excited to work alongside the Calhoun County Board of Supervisors to implement this grant, and make very necessary repairs to the group homes. Our clients deserve the very best homes to live their daily lives," says Shannon Mahannah, CEO of Opportunity Living.



Follow us on Facebook - www.facebook/opportunityliving

Shannon's Sentiments

Maya Angelo once said, "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud," as I reflect over the last two years of this pandemic –I am reminded of all the rainbows cast in our direction! I continue to be impressed by our clients, staff, and guardians, who have adapted with us as we navigated through the hard times. When things got tough, the rainbows kept coming, never wavering. We had to make some hard decisions the past couple of years. Closing the homes and center to the public was extremely tough. However, we still had rainbows cast in our direction through it all. Thankfully, we now see the light at the end of the tunnel and cannot be more grateful for all the kind deeds done for Opportunity Living in the wake of this pandemic. It made those stressful days tolerable and brought light to our sad days. We have officially opened, and we cannot wait to see all of you; we have missed you.

- Shannon

Anonymous Donor Makes a Splash by Donating Stock to Operation SOS2 Campaign

Danielle loves to make a splash in the pool at Opportunity Living. The swimming pool is therapeutic (always at 89-92 degrees). She can transfer into the water in a wheelchair to access the swimming pool using the ramp. Once in the water, she becomes free of the wheelchair. Danielle loves to splash, giggle and laugh while she is swimming. She can also get a great

range of motion and exercise at the same time. The smiles and laughter are enough to melt your heart! It will bring a tear to your eyes every time!

The "Friends of Danielle" came together as a family and discussed supporting her. They know her love for the water and decided to focus on that area. "We talked about the various projects we have going on at Opportunity Living, and Operation SOS2 was the greatest desire for the family", said Jayne Wilhelm, Community Relations and Development Director. They knew that it would be good for Danielle, the other clients, and community members. It will also allow them to enjoy time with her in the pool."

"We knew we wanted to make a difference in Danielle's life, and stock giving was a wonderful option for us. Opportunity Living assisted us through the process. We think everyone should know that with their help, we were able to complete the transaction quickly and without a problem. We hope many will consider doing the same for worthwhile projects such as this. It's a win-win for everyone. We also get the satisfaction of knowing Danielle will get to truly enjoy something that we all take for granted – having the ability to get in and out of a pool without problems. It warms our heart to contribute to this project for not only her but all of the folks who enjoy the Opportunity Living Pool," says the anonymous donor.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!

The Activity Center got a new look back in October! It was out with the old as we had the bus barn removed after being damaged by a tornado that wreaked havoc in Lake City on July 14th. It was bittersweet to see the bus barn go, but we can not wait to see what this new change has in store for us, our clients, our Activity Center, and our community! #OPPSTRONG  



Passing the torch of the Easter Egg-Stravaganza Egg Hunt

Opportunity Living has enjoyed hosting this event for so many years and has a lot of special memories that have been created. Opportunity Living would like to thank our community, families, and friends for the many years of support. We have decided that we will now pass the torch. The Lake City Betterment Committee will now conduct the Easter Egg Hunt. Opportunity Living will continue to have a basket auction, instead, during the November / Christmas holiday season as we have the last two years. (We want to respect the other businesses that are conducting spring fundraisers with baskets as an option, as well), AND - we haven't forgotten about an event involving kids and families. We will instead host a children-focused community activity in the later summer months. A Back to School Bash event will be held in our trail area at the Activity Center on August 7th. Watch our Facebook and website for details of that event, as well as other events, as the date gets closer!

2021-2022 Memorial Donors

Bill Sinkula	Dorothy Rothfus	Kelly Feldman	Ronald Wetter
Carl Heldt	Frances Marcella	Larry Skinner	Scott Nepple
David Ahlrichs	Grant Ranninger	Nancy Seavert	Sheila Janssen
Donald Dean Ellis	Harriet Gidel	Roger Glasnapp	Twyla Kleen
Dorothy Pitstick	Judy Ellis	Ron Bergman	

Thank you to all that continue to honor their loved ones with memorial donations to Opportunity Living. We are so thankful that their spirit lives on and continues to make an impact on the lives of the clients and members of Opportunity Living.

FOOD WAREHOUSE OPEN HOUSE

Opportunity Living is beyond grateful to the many people and agencies who have made the Food Warehouse a reality. Bob and Peggy Scanlan generously donated the old supermarket building to Opportunity Living. The building was storage and maintenance for Opportunity Living for years. We then decided to use the space for a food warehouse. We received two grants from DNR for a walk-in cooler and walk-in freezer along with shelving. We also received a grant from the Iowa Food Bank Association. The renovation project then began! And, just in time. The project was close to completion when a tornado hit the storage area at the activity center. The inventory at that location moved immediately. (Thank you, SCC football team, for your help!)

Partners, local city officials, government offices, Board of Directors, and Opportunity Living recently gathered to showcase the newly remodeled food warehouse.



Jim Oberhelman – Regional Director Congressman Randy Feenstra, Jean Blum – Opportunity Living Board Member, Jerry Blum, Shannon Mahannah – CEO, Taylor McCombs – Food Bank of Iowa, Bob Scanlan, Peggy Scanlan, Tom Anderson – Iowa DNR, Jill Westcott – CFO, Brook Mikkelsen – HR Director, Jayne Wilhelm – Community Relations/ Development Director, Kolby DeWitt – Regional Director, United States Senator Joni K. Ernst

CITIZENSHIP IN OUR COMMUNITY



We were thrilled to receive a very special gift from 4-H member, Samantha Tilley, representing the Stratford Spirit 4-H Club. Samantha chose this project for the Citizenship and Civic Engagement Project. Samantha spearheaded the project by researching, training, and working with her local 4-H Club to make 32 blankets! Opportunity Living was one of the recipients of 15 of those blankets! Thank you, Samantha and Stratford 4-H Club for sharing your kindness, hard work, and talent with us. Our clients will love their new blankets!

FROM THE WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY LIVING

Be sure to check out Opportunity Living's new monthly article in the Lake City Graphic Advocate. We will share little tid bits about what's happening From The World of Opportunity Living every month!

Opportunity Living Receives \$10,000 grant for Operation SOS2

Opportunity Living is proud to announce that The Calhoun County Community Foundation has approved a County Endowment grant of \$10,000 to the Opportunity Living for the Operation SOS2 Flooring project. The funds will assist in completely renovating the decking area of the therapeutic swimming pool and hallways to the locker rooms. The swimming pool is located at the Opportunity Living Activity Center in Lake City. We are very grateful to the Calhoun County Community Foundation for their support of this project!

WE ARE OPEN! UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

The pandemic started two years ago and we have had to make many adjustments along the way to keep our clients, staff, and community members safe. We had to make hard decisions to close our group homes to visitors and our activity center on several occasions. We are excited to announce that we are fully opening our Group Homes and Activity Center!

MARCH 9TH

water aerobics: every wed @1pm

pool opens: mon - fri 11-12:30 & sun (pool & gym) 1 - 4

MARCH 13TH

MARCH 19TH

lifeguard class: 10 am - 6 pm

lifeguard class: 10 am - 3 pm

call janice if interested in becoming certified

MARCH 20TH

AUG 7TH

back to school bash:

@ opportunity living trail area

youth triathlon: 8:00 am

SEPT 10TH

NOV 18TH - DEC 3RD

virtual silent auction

swim with santa:

1:30 at opportunity living pool

DEC 18TH

WATCH FACEBOOK, OUR WEBSITE, AND THE NEWSPAPER FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS AT OPPORTUNITY LIVING. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL OPPORTUNITY LIVING AT 712-464-8961 OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.OPPORTUNITYLIVING.ORG FOR UPDATES!

Feast with Friends 💙💚

Our hearts were so full after hosting "Feast with Friends" in September! Clients, staff, and members got to enjoy delicious food, great music, and fun activities including a fun fall photo booth, fishing, petting zoo, minnow races, pumpkin painting, "turkey target practice" with nerf guns, pumpkin bowling, corn hole, and so much more! It felt so great to see everyone spend some fun quality time together and enjoy a beautiful fall day! Thank you again to everyone that took the time to put this event together! We took so many fun photos; we hope you all enjoy all of the smiling faces just as much as we did!



Miscellaneous

Nancy Anderson
 Jami Baas
 Torey Baugh
 Jerry & Jean Blum
 Bradley Carlson
 Sherry Cates
 Kay Crabb
 Dorthy Daugard
 Emily Erickson
 Sharon Grote
 Ryan Hagge
 Bill & Sheri Hanks
 Harold & Kristy Hare
 Revocable Trust
 Angie Hawkins
 Dina Hawkins
 James & Linda Hint
 Bruce & Mary Hockett
 Tim & Marti Huser
 Kathie Jackson
 Sonia Kerns
 Kay Kordik
 Frances Lawson
 John & Rita Light
 Bill & Frances Nutter
 Don Nyren
 Scott O'Tool
 Parkside Flowers & Gifts
 Joan Pearson
 Mardel & Meredith Stream
 Libby Towers
 Dennis Van Roekel
 Margaret Vermillion
 Bill & Judy Vote
 Raymond & Sharon Vought
 Steve & Amy Whiting

Basket Donors

Alicia Gutzemeyer - Pampered Pantry
 Anonymous
 Auen Distributing
 Bittersweet Cupcakes
 Black Hawk Recreation Rentals
 Bomgaars - Carroll
 Boone Scenic Valley Railroad
 Boulder Beach Mini Golf
 Brock Adams Visuals
 C&S Custom Designs
 Calhoun County Expo
 Calhoun County Public Health
 Camp Crescent
 Carnegie Bistro & Ale House
 Carroll Country Club
 Carrollton Inn
 CEC Theatre
 Champion Chrysler Center Inc.
 Donna Westcott
 Darcy Dougherty Malsby
 Dariette
 DMACC
 Dolly's Destiny
 Don & Shannon Mahannah
 Earl & Carmen Ludwig
 Edge Salon
 Mary Sporleder
 Emily Erickson - Mary Kay
 Family Quilt Shop
 Feed Shack
 Form Salon
 Fridley Theatres
 Giftique
 Goodness from the Goats
 Handmadeiowa
 Heart Strings Gift Shoppe
 Hildreth Co., Inc.
 Homespun Collection/P48
 Hometown Heros
 Hy Vee - Carroll
 Indigo Frog
 Iowa Central Community College
 Iowa State University Basketball
 Iowa Wild
 Jalisco



Jean Lampe
 Jeremy & Teresa Irwin
 Jerry & Jean Blum
 Lake City Capri Theatre
 Lake City Flowers
 Larita's Cakes 'N More
 Lavishly Candid Boutique
 Little Green Truck Coffee
 Macke Motors, Inc
 Merle Norman
 Mid Iowa Insurance
 Midwest Treasures
 Mikkelsen Family
 Milton's on Main
 Mineral City Mill and Grill
 Molly & You
 Opportunity Living Rec Department
 Paisley Jo Boutique
 Phil Fanning & Jayne Wilhelm
 Pole Position Raceway
 Rhonda Sommerfeld
 Rides Bar & Grill
 Roger & Barb Hart
 Rustic River Winery & Vineyard
 Sara's Cupcakes
 Scentsy - Sara Rodman
 Sharyl Kaufmann
 Spare Change Lanes
 Spring Lake Golf & Country Club
 Strange Addiction Garage & Customs
 Sue Bergman
 Sweet Things
 The Cornerstone Suites
 Tracee Dierenfield - Doterra
 Wicked Hair by Chelsea

THANK YOU!

SOS² A Great Big THANK YOU

SAVE OUR SWIMMING POOL

To our donors and basket winners!

 **Life Preserver \$2500**
Anonymous

 **Whale \$1000**
Donald Becker
Donald Dunlop

Drees Heating & Plumbing
Paul & Maxine Bettin Family
Paul Janssen
Rockwell City Chamber
& Development
United Bank of Iowa

 **Shark \$500**
Kent & Jody Eubank

Family 1st Dental of Lake City
Phil Fanning & Jayne Wilhelm
James & Pam Feld

**Gronewold Bell Kyhnn & Co
Hildreth Co., Inc.**

**Iowa Savings Charitable Foundation
Lake View Family Chiropractic**
Don & Shannon Mahannah

 **Dolphin \$250**
American Legion Post #31
James & Norene Bauman
Christian Women's Fellowship

Larry & Lisa Findley
Roger & Barb Hart
Donny & Shannon Hobbs
Grace Hucka
Jeremy & Teresa Irwin

Lake City Drive In
Dennis & Sharon Johnson
Knights of Columbus
Lake City Union Church
Jeff & Jean Lampe

Lidderdale Country Store
Melissa Meister

 **Dolphin \$250 (continued)**
Amanda Miller
Robert & Peggy Scanlan
Susie Scharn

Security Savings Bank
Steve & Patty Sharkey
Jennifer Strandberg
Webster-Calhoun Cooperative
Telephone Association
Jamie & Jill Westcott
Andrew & Nicole Winter
Woodlawn Christian Church
Merle & Cheryl Wuebker

 **Sea Turtle \$100**
Mark & Deb Adams
Elizabeth Altmeier

Bernard & Connie Bellcock
Rachel Berg
Joe & Sheila Berger
Ronald & Sue Bergman
Christy Bergren
Nitaya Blades
Brawley & Erin Blair
Mike & Rebecca Carstensen
Max & Frances Chudy
Dawn Donnelly
Edward Jones
Tamela Green
Jason & Jessica Hawkins
Dennis & Barbara Hedin
Jill Johnson
Scott & Kimberly Kelly
Cale & Cynthia Kistler
Chad & Crissy Krukow
Earl & Carmen Ludwig
Allison McCarville
Cody & Haley McDonough

***Virtual Auction Sponsors**

 **Sea Turtle \$100 (continued)**

Kelly & Hillaree Meyer
Mikkelsen Family
Arlene & Dale Mueggenberg
Murphy Property Management
Harold & Virginia Olson
Janelle Pieters
Michael & Sharon Powers
Marleta Smith
Gary & Kay Streeter
Holly Walker
Shelby Weber
Lisa Wiederin
Kent & Karen Willis

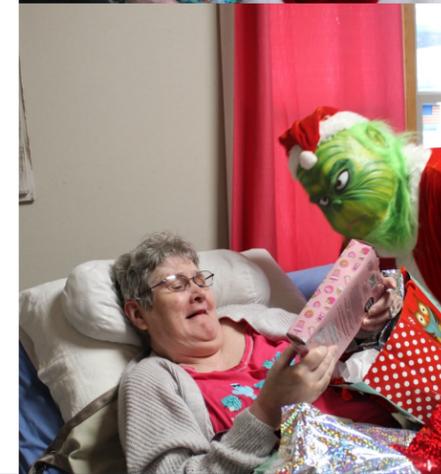
 **Starfish \$50**

Amy Dales
Andy & Deanne Grantham
Becky Coder
Clark & Merilee Pennings
Core-Mark Midcontinent
Darlene Nicholson
Daryl & Dorothy Bean
David & Kathleen Cumings
Duane & Darcy Murley
First United Church - Farnhamville
Gerald & Kris Shafrath
James Wesenberg
Jane Blackford
Jim & Donna Brown
Ryan & Julie Wheelock
Karen Hansen
Linda M Schmitt LLC
Mary Helmbrecht
Mike & Joyce Babbitt
Odebolt United
Methodist Church
Shirlee Ashbaugh
Terry & Bev Watters
Troy & Denice Whipkey



Santa Claus is Coming To Town!

WOW! What a fun holiday season we had this year! It was filled with love, laughter, and holiday cheer! Our clients had the best surprise as Santa and the Grinch arrived with golf cartloads of gifts! Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to our clients this year! You helped to make their season brighter! We really could not do any of this without you!



We had so much fun selecting pumpkins from Mohr's Market



What's Happening

Enjoying the Turkey Trot put on by our friends at Calhoun Co. Conservation



Waiting for the movie to start at the Lake City Capri Theater



At Opportunity Living

We had so much fun snow shoeing with Stephanie this Winter



Visiting our furry friends at the Rainbow Raccoon Ranch



Darcy showing off all of our hard work with this year's bountiful harvest.



Rockwell City clients making Valentine's Day cards for Shady Oaks

Donut Delivery during DSP (Direct Support Professionals) week



Penny enjoying some chips and salsa during DSP (Direct Support Professionals) week.



Fun making sensory bottles with our new Art Activity Support Professional, Mary



We had so much fun exploring the Sac City Halloween house



Delivering hand-made Valentine's to Shady Oaks



We enjoyed fun Zoo visits during the fall



Enjoying a Valentine's Day treat



Working on a "Thank You" card for Calhoun Co. Conservation



Fun decorating Christmas cookies