

THE Independent

A Publication of Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.

JANUARY 2021

FYI

SAVE THE DATE:

Giving Hearts Day
February 11, 2021

FREEDOM IN ACTION:

All activities can be accessed through zoom or by phone.

Fargo
Call 701-478-0459 to register
for all Fargo events

Social Hour
January 14, 2021 2-3 pm

Virtual Bingo
February 11, 2021 1:30 – 3 pm

Fergus Falls
Call 218-998-1799 to register
for all Fergus Falls events

Disability Awareness Movie
January 15, 2021 1-3 pm

DIY Sock Gnomes
February 19, 2021 1-3 pm

What's Inside

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"Together We Stand"

Freedom Resource Center Celebrates Award Winners

We continue the tradition of publicly thanking and awarding amazing volunteers, people who stand up for disability rights, and employers who are supporters of employing people with disabilities. Although 2020 looked different than years past, we could not end the year without honoring these incredible people.

Congratulations to our award winners!



Brenda Neubauer

Advocate of the Year

An Advocate is an individual who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. When the coronavirus began to affect our community, vulnerable populations and at-risk individuals were forced to hunker down in their apartments and practice social distancing. In Brenda Neubauer's apartment building there were lapses in sanitation and cleaning routines when it was needed the most. Concerned for the wellbeing of her fellow tenants, Brenda took it upon herself to stand up and advocate for those who could not speak for themselves.



Kammie Bleu Fouquette

Youth Advocate of the Year

The Youth Advocate of the Year Award is presented to a youth age 22 and under in appreciation for their advocacy work in the field of independent living. A youth advocate is someone who stands up for their own rights and the rights of others living with disabilities, and through self-advocacy, they overcome barriers that exist in our society. Kammie Bleu Fouquette is someone who never allows the phrase "you can't" stop her. She has overcome many barriers in her fifteen years. At 15, she has learned the self-advocacy skills needed to push forward and conquer barriers she will face in her lifetime. As stated

by Independent Living Advocate Marie Fouquette, "I believe she has changed the minds of the staff on her team who may not have realized her full potential. Kammie Bleu will astound you!"

Distinguished Service



Nancy Voss

The Distinguished Service award is given to a group or individual for a significant contribution to the quality of life of

people with disabilities. Nancy is the Coordinator on Aging for Otter Tail County. She has made significant contributions to the quality of life of people with disabilities which include areas such as education, healthcare, recreation, civil rights, arts and culture, and community integration. Nancy's work greatly contributed to higher standards of independent living for all the people she serves.

Employer of the Year



Dr. Dawn's Pet Stop

The Employer of the Year Award is given in recognition of employers in the private and public sectors for outstanding

achievements in improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Dr. Dawn's Pet Stop of Jamestown, ND recognizes and demonstrates exemplary employment practices for people with disabilities. They have customized the clinic to accommodate people with disabilities, and they focus on employees' strengths and skills. For instance, one of the positions the clinic has established focuses on the employee's ability to perform the job while being part of a team. Dr. Dawn's Pet Stop gives people with disabilities the opportunity to provide a valuable service to their patients.

A Message from the Executive Director



Angie Bosch

Hi! My name is Angie Bosch. I was born in Watertown, SD and moved to Hawley, MN in 1976 where my Dad accepted a teaching position at Hawley High School. Soon after my birth, I was diagnosed with bilateral congenital hips – so I spent the first few years of life in and out of the hospital and getting body casts fitted to correct this. My parents, Bob & Dianne continue to reside in Hawley. I am the oldest of three children. My sister Erin lives in Hawley and works at MSUM. My brother, David, lives in Beaverton, OR where he is a Registered Nurse in an ER Department. In 2003 I married Paul Bosch. Paul works for the City of Fargo, Public Works Department. We have two beautiful daughters – Grace (15) and Bella (9) and two dogs, Scooby Doo & Maximus.

I attended Hawley Schools and graduated in 1993. Following high school, I attended Concordia College and then went on to work in the restaurant industry with Pizza Hut starting out as a server and eventually becoming a manager. In 2000 I joined Service Oil/Green Mill in Fargo where my job duties included all things financial – auditor, controller, accountant.

My paternal grandparents were Morgan & Florence Haugen and through them I learned how graciously and patiently a family lives with a disability. My Grandpa Morgan had a birthmark on his spine that ruptured and slowly caused paralysis in his legs. Through programs that were available from the VA, they were able to make their home wheelchair accessible. In my lifetime, I only knew that Grandpa Morgan always needed a wheelchair to get around – but that did not stop him from continuing to be an active community member. Grandpa was a shining example of sheer determination no matter the circumstance.

In 2007, I joined Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living. I was the Office Manager and worked very closely with our late Executive Director, Nate Aalgaard, all those years. Most recently I served as the Acting Executive Director.

I am both honored and humbled to follow in Nate's footsteps. I look forward to spending the next many years of my career honoring his legacy.

Volunteer of the Year

Generous with their time and talents, volunteers bring light and life to many community endeavors, significantly contributing to the quality of life of people with disabilities. This award recognizes and honors Fix It Forward Ministry for their hard work and commitment to providing free auto repairs and distributing reconditioned donated cars to members of the Fargo-Moorhead community who are facing transportation barriers. In their mission Fix it Forward recognizes that “without reliable transportation, it is difficult to get or maintain a job, and without a job, it is hard to maintain your independence and dignity.”



Fix It Forward Ministry

Larry Chial Leadership Award



Paulette Wood

Freedom Resource Center is honored to present the Larry Chial Memorial Leadership award to Paulette Wood. Paulette's persona exudes peace and joy. She has a warm heart, is always thinking of other people and comes up with creative ways to help people experience life. Paulette's integrity and tenacity knows no bounds. Paulette is a natural leader. She was a valuable team member for 15 years at Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Fargo. To Paulette, person-centered planning is more than words on the paper, it is who she is, what she believes in and how she touches so many lives and impacts people the way she does. She has worked with the state and local agency teams to develop new and innovative programs, and advocates for people with disabilities at the local and state level. She educates as she leads, while promoting the next generation of self-advocates.

Accessibility Award

The Accessibility Award recognizes people and organizations who have made significant contributions to accessibility by constructing barrier-free environments and/or removing physical barriers. This award recognizes the collaborative effort between the Jamestown Park and Recreation Dept., Chamber Beautification Committee, Anne Carlsen Center, Freedom Resource Center, Master Gardener, and City of Jamestown Forestry Dept. The Garden is designed to be accessible for wheelchairs, walkers, and for people who are visually impaired. The park has been listed on a national visually impaired registry. The goal is to ensure people with all disabilities are able to enjoy the peace and serenity of the park. The Sensory Garden is located in Solien Denault Park, Jamestown ND.



Jamestown Sensory Garden

Meet Our Staff



Jana Lefor

Freedom Resource Center is excited to announce Jana Lefor has taken on the role of Assistant Director. Jana started her career at Freedom in 2015 as Transition Coordinator, assisting individuals out of the nursing home back into the community. Prior to Assistant Director, Jana was working as an Independent Living Advocate,

helping people with significant disabilities achieve their goals. Jana is an advocate to the core and will continue to provide services and training that further the mission of Freedom Resource Center.

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Together, we can
do our part on
February 11, 2021.

