



Partners in Human Growth

April-June 2013

**SPREAD THE WORD
TO END THE WORD**



Autism Rate increases to 1 in 50 Children



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The federal government is increasing the incidence of autism indicating that the developmental disorder affects 1 in 50 children. The latest estimate released March, 2013 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is based on data from a national telephone survey of nearly 100,000 parents conducted in 2011 and 2012.

In the survey, parents were asked several questions about their children

including whether their child had an autism spectrum disorder. The results indicate that autism is occurring in 2 percent of school-age children.

Just last year in March 2012, the CDC released numbers showing that the autism rate was at 1 in 88 American children. The earlier data came from the study of health and education records collected on 8 year-olds. This new estimate includes children ages 6-17 and because it is

parent reported it may be considered less reliable.

Federal officials say the increase is largely due to better diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders in older children and in minority populations that have gone previously undiagnosed. As with earlier studies boys are four times more likely to have the disorder than girls.



Finding the Artist in all of Us: Art Classes at DHI a Great Success

Since February on alternating Tuesdays, Social Worker and Artist Melissa Lima leads art classes for our clients and the community at the Development Homes Office. Each week Melissa chooses a theme and a medium of art for the aspiring artists to explore their creativity. The classes are so successful that often more than 40 people attend the sessions.

The classes recognize the

artistic nature in all of us and nurture the belief that art can bridge the gap between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities. Persons with disabilities may not have had the opportunity to explore their creativity or express themselves artistically. These classes tap into that unexplored nature. The art classes are designed with persons with disabilities in mind but are open to the

entire community. In this way, the classes create vibrant connections in the community through the arts.

To make the art classes even more exciting, the classes received a grant from the City of Grand Forks through the North Valley Arts Council to invite guest professional artists to the classes to experiment with new mediums. The grant will

help DHI pay the artists for their instruction and for the art supplies.

There will be many opportunities for our artists to show off their work throughout the year.

For more information about the classes and upcoming art showings please contact Michelle at (701) 335-4089.



Tommy Brings Home Gold!

In January 2013, Tommy Mikkelsen, 21 a Grand Forks Native and Development Homes ACEs employee represented Team USA Special Olympics at PyeongChang, South Korea in Alpine Skiing Events taking home the Gold medal in the Alpine Novice Super G, the Bronze Medal in the Alpine Novice Slalom and 8th place in the Alpine Ski Novice Giant Slalom. Before traveling to South Korea, he participated in a 5-day training camp, traveling to Lake Placid, NY. There, his team prepared for their long trip and trained in skiing.

Tommy has a lifelong love of sports and began participating in Special Olympics Grand Forks at age 12. He participates in sports year round, including soccer, basketball, bowling, swimming, track and field, along with the winter sport of skiing. In 2010 he represented Special Olympics-North Dakota on the basketball team that went to Special Olympics National Competition in Lincoln, NE.

Upon his return from the PyeongChang Competition, he represented Special Olympics throughout Grand Forks, Speaking about SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD at several local schools. He spoke at RRHS, CHS, South Middle school, West Elementary, along with representing the movement on the local radio station. He delivered a speech which explained why using the "R" word in everyday speech is painful and should be stopped. Many students took the pledge to end the "R" word.

North Dakota Senator Heidi Heitkamp presented Tommy with an American Flag that she had had flown over the Capitol in his honor while competing. Congratulations Tommy!



1st Annual Development Homes Autism Awareness Walk & Community Celebration!



With the instances of Autism increasing, Development Homes, in collaboration with providers around the community, sponsored the 1st Annual Autism Awareness Walk and Celebration. The event was held on Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 9:30 – 11:30 am at UND Wellness Center. The event was well attended and a great morning of family fun, face painting, games, activities mixed with valuable information and resources.

Several local organizations including Anne Carlsen Cente, The Arc, Easter Seals, Support Systems, the Listen Center and Pathfinder Parent Center participated to make this a great event! If you missed it this year-mark your calendars for next years event. Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges.



A Word from our CEO

On February 11th, Development Homes sponsored a premiere showing of the new documentary called “I am a Person” at the Empire Arts Theater. “I am a Person” was produced by Prairie Public TV, in conjunction with the North Dakota Association of Community Providers. It tells about the real lives of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities in North Dakota, in their own words. The stories are compelling and profound. They go a long ways towards dispelling myths that are commonly held about people with disabilities.

There are stories that need to be told. They are stories of ordinary and extraordinary lives, stories of resilience and unimaginable fortitude. They are stories of nightmares and dreams. The horrors of what we have done to an entire segment of our society will astound and humble the observer. And they are stories of those who created and nurtured the opportunities for dreams to be realized. They are stories of liberation.

In 1980, a class action lawsuit was initiated by a group of parents on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities in North Dakota, ARC v. ND. At the time, North Dakota had more people institutionalized per capita than any other state in the country, and spent the least on their care. Monumental changes in the service delivery system in the state have resulted in a service delivery system that is truly exemplary.

Development Homes stepped up to the plate and grew from one children’s group home, developed in 1974, to its current array of 7 group homes housing 45 people, around 80 people supported in their own apartments, a family support program, and an employment and community services day support program that largely focuses on providing real, minimum wage or better employment for people with disabilities.

It has been exciting for DHI’s board and staff to be at the forefront of quality services for almost 40 years. We truly appreciate our many partners in the community who have helped to enhance the lives of those who have been disenfranchised by society. You help to create and sustain an abundant quality of life that is demonstrated every day in the lives of some very remarkable people.

“I am a Person” was funded in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities. It will be periodically aired throughout the region on Prairie Public TV. In addition, it can be viewed by going to www.prairiepublic.org.



Sandi Marshall, CEO

“It is our desire that the people we support live meaningful lives filled with family, friends, opportunities, and choices. They are not defined by their limitations and labels.”

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Development Homes Annual Golf Tournament

July 18th at the Grand Forks Country Club

For more information please contact mrydz@developmenthomes.org



Give a gift, and get a 40% Tax Credit

By making a gift to Development Homes, Inc. you can receive a 40% tax credit. Individuals and businesses are eligible to qualify for a state income tax credit of 40%, up to \$10,000 for businesses and \$20,000 for couples filing jointly on gifts of \$5,000 or more. For example, individuals in the 25% federal tax bracket may realize savings, such as:

Gift Amount	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
Federal tax savings	-\$1,250	-\$1,250	-\$6,250
ND Income tax savings	-\$2,000	-\$4,000	-\$10,000
Net Cost of Gift	\$1,750	\$ 3,500	\$8,750

All proceeds from individual donations go to support our social capital program to help make dreams come true.



DEVELOPMENT HOMES, INC.

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