Link Associates changes lives!

Since its founding in 1956, Link Associates has worked tirelessly to champion the cause for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. We take our mission seriously "Providing Opportunities For Persons with Intellectual Disabilities to Achieve their Personal Goals".

Unlike 58 years ago, full inclusion in all areas of community and social life was a far off dream. Each year we stretch, and will continue the work to ensure there are full community integration opportunities for those we serve.

For decades we have worked with numerous partners across the county, across the state and across the country on behalf of individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. Again this year, Link Associates assisted a record number of people. In many ways the year seems like a blur. When we are moving that fast, it is hard to find the time to fully comprehend the significance of all we've achieved. Instead, we are already focusing on the next goals. Years from now, when we have time to reminisce and reflect, we will realize our actions and perseverance helped to keep the service provision industry moving ahead. New challenges constantly inspires us to dig deeper and identify unique and creative solutions to real problems.

The Link Associates Board of Directors believes that this agency has a strong and supportive culture and we honour that culture. We have an incredible leadership team and the most exceptional direct support professional staff, who are excited by the challenges that lie ahead of us. We look forward to the celebrations that come as we work together to accomplish our shared vision for fully integrated community living. We will embrace the challenges ahead as we move forward and continue to build on a solid foundation established by those who came before us.

Linda Dunshee, Executive Director
To enhance the success of this program, Link Associates is still aggressively attempting to raise funds to add an exterior door directly into the Link General Store, along with a coffee bar/lunch patio overhanging our pond. This project will:

- Make the existing gazebo wheelchair accessible
- Provide a handicapped accessible patio and safe walk way
- Create a retaining wall and backfill to prevent erosion around the pond
- Provide an exterior coffee/lunch space for consumers, staff and guests
- Provide guests with a direct entrance to the store, avoiding main hallways which are congested at lunch times
- Provide additional training opportunities, including things like: order taking, table bussing and customer service.
- Provide a reverse integration opportunity for neighboring businesses to eat, relax and engage with those served in a positive manner.

Link Associates is so proud of all of our dedicated team members. Link Associates is an outstanding organization changing the lives of people each day. The major reason we are so successful is because of the quality and dedication of our staff that play a vital role in the lives of the people they work with. Their duties include assisting individuals with a wide range of daily living, home care, health coordination and social activities. However, on a much broader scale, the interaction develops consumer’s connection to people, resources and experiences necessary to live a full and safe life. A debt of gratitude is owed to each and every one of them. To care for someone you need patience, kindness, and a sense of humor. Our staff have all three and we are very proud of our team!

This is my 19th year with Link Associates and as always, I look back and am so thankful for:

- The families who entrust us with the care and support of their loved one.
- The dedicated employees who, despite the low wages and difficult work, remain committed to the Mission, Vision and Values of Link Associates.
- The elected officials who visit and learn about the work we do, the people we support and advocate for better funding for the staff we employ.
- The members of our board who give so much of their time and talent to lead Link Associates.
- The communities that embrace us and make each person we serve an active and engaged community member.
• The volunteers who provide the quality of life for those served beyond what funded dollars can give

• And most of all – for the consumers we have the honor to work with and remind us each and every day how to recognize the simple pleasures life can bring and the beauty of truth and innocence.

Link Associates will continue setting new and aggressive goals, but we can’t reach these goals alone. I invite each of you, as a family member, business or friend, to make a commitment to help us improve the services we offer. This support can be in many forms such as offering feedback and suggestions, volunteering, nominating quality members to our board of directors, financial contributions, and remembering us in your planned giving. At Link Associates, we take very seriously the responsibility entrusted to us and we are excited to share with you the impact of your support in this annual report. I look forward to sharing another wonderful year at Link Associates with you!

Linda Dunshee, Executive Director
FINANCIAL RESULTS
JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

FUNDING

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits
Supplies
Occupancy
Equipment/Repair/Maintenance
Transportation
Recruiting
Other
Every fall, Link Associates publishes an Annual Report especially to thank the people who generously donated to the organization during the previous fiscal year.

What Link Associates accomplishes each year with these gifts is immense, and we are thankful in equal measure for the generosity of each and every donor and business partner. We are achieving great things, and it’s thanks to you. For years I have struggled to discover a way to thank everyone and never fail come up short on finding a way to recognize each and every gift.

We are blessed with:
* monetary gifts that are large to small
* donated items that are expensive to economical, and
* a flood of donations that come in the form of thoughts, prayers, and advocacy.

Each and every donation matters greatly to Link Associates. We have the deepest and most genuine respect for each and every donor, because without all of you what we do would be impossible.

This year Link Associates was blessed to be selected for the third time by the O'Donnell and Friends Open as the recipient of their annual golf tournament. Working together, in a one-day event they earned $91,027 for Link - AMAZING!! It is impossible to fathom the hours they spent planning, preparing, soliciting and fundraising. It is literally immeasurable. The O'Donnell’s are one family ~ with 9 children ~ who have put their hearts and souls into making the world a better place for all. This family, along with some special friends, invented this event and as of this year has raised almost 1 million dollars – solely to give away to places like Link.

Their kindness and generosity left us all speechless. The money they raised is astounding and life changing for those we serve. This gift will allow us to do things we could have never dreamed of before the O'Donnell and Friends Open.

You can't walk away from an event like the O'Donnell Open, nor can you open envelopes containing hard earned donations without understanding the impact individual people can have on the world around them.

To all of you who gave so generously thank you so very much.
2013/14

LINK ASSOCIATES FOUNDATION

STEVE SCHMIDT, BEARENCE
PRESIDENT

HAROLD TEMPLEMAN
RETIRED
SECRETARY

RUSSELL JENSEN
JENSEN
CONSULTING
VICE PRESIDENT

TIM GEHM
BANKERS TRUST
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

JIM SHAFFER
RETIRED

JIM LANGIN
MUTUAL OF OMAHA BANK

LORINDA PETERS
SECURITY SNAPSHOT LLC.
TREASURER

CHRIS HAVILAND
GROUP BENEFITS, LTD.
Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.

MARGARET MEAD
MISSION, VISION, VALUES

MISSION
PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL GOALS

VISION
LINK ASSOCIATES WILL BE THE RECOGNIZED LEADER IN PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

VALUES
DIGNITY AND RESPECT
QUALITY SERVICES
CARING ENVIRONMENTS
PERSONAL CHOICE
LONG TERM COMMITMENT