

Connections

WINNER OF THE NATIONAL
PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION
COALITION'S GOLD AWARD

Bringing Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services employees closer together

March 2010
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3



What did this DHHS employee do to win praise from the Governor? See next page to find out.

Photo: Dennis Meyer, courtesy Norfolk Daily News

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DHHS now on

You can follow DHHS at <http://twitter.com/NebraskaDHHS>

DHHS in the News Update. . .

Here are a few headlines of news releases recently issued by Communications & Legislative Services about DHHS programs. You can read and subscribe to all DHHS news releases from the DHHS [Newsroom](#). You can also listen to [sound bites](#) issued with releases.

Go to [DHHS In The News](#) for links to Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star articles updated daily involving DHHS programs and services.

[Tell Us What Should be Considered for the Next DD State Plan](#) February 25, 2010

[DHHS Receives Grant for Reproductive Health Services](#) February 24, 2010

[Grand Island Vets' Home Recognized by Legislative Resolution](#) February 19, 2010

Have a story idea you think DHHS should be sharing with media? Contact Communications & Legislative Services at (402) 471-9108!

make the connection . . .

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DHHS Employee Web site: <http://www2.dhhs.ne.gov>

DHHS System Advocate: 1-800-254-4202, (402) 471-6035 in Lincoln, or via e-mail at diana.duran@nebraska.gov

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About the Cover: Walk THIS Way!



Photo: Dennis Meyer
Courtesy Norfolk Daily News

When Governor Dave Heineman challenged state employees to get moving with “Walk This Way”—part of the state’s employee wellness program—Renee Tichota, a Housekeeper at the Norfolk Veterans’ Home, did just that. Tichota rises at 5:00 a.m. each morning to walk more than 10 miles a day. Since July 2009, she’s walked four million steps!

Tichota was one of 3,000 state employees walking their way to better health—more than a quarter of all state employees. All who signed up were challenged to walk 360,000 steps by the end of March. Of those who signed up, 42% have already met that goal, 500 employees have walked beyond one million steps, 81 have walked more than two million steps, and seven have surpassed the three million step mark!

“What a great example for all of us, and then what a difference it makes in your life,” Heineman commented.

Heineman also made Tichota an admiral in the mythical Great Navy of Nebraska.

“We want to recognize her in a very special way,” he said. “We’re very proud of you.”

The Good Life:

A reminder of what we all share and hope to provide to our fellow Nebraskans



Kerry Winterer

Photo: Bill Wiley

By Kerry T. Winterer, CEO

Did you know that over 900 state laws direct DHHS activities? That's a huge number and represents a great deal of responsibility.

It underscores the importance of the work you do, every day, to help people live better lives.

From time to time, I'd like to recognize a DHHS team or workgroup that steps up to do

whatever it takes to get a job done – rising to the challenge, so to speak.

That was the case in February with Social Service workers and supervisors along with a number of Central Office staff.

The Department had learned from the federal Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services (CMS) that, for decades, the way we had been determining Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women was incorrect. They told us to develop a corrective action plan and make changes in how pregnant women become eligible for services.

I know that this has been a challenging experience for a number of reasons, both within and outside of the Department. Yet, employees recognized this as a priority and stepped up to the plate.

The Department's response took a concentrated effort from two DHHS divisions, Medicaid & Long-Term Care and Children & Family

Services, as well as help from support areas like Financial Services, Legal & Regulatory Services, Communications & Legislative Services, Information Systems & Technology, and others.

The most highly visible work occurred in the Service Areas.

You help each other. You pitch in to find solutions.

You help people live better lives.

During two weeks, from February 5 to February 19, Social Service workers and supervisors reviewed the eligibility for 6,321 Medicaid cases – all pregnant women – while also keeping up with their usual work.

The results of this rigorous review of the 6,321 cases were:

- 4,702 pregnant women continue to be eligible for Medicaid coverage in their own right.
- 752 pregnant women who are U.S. citizens and legal immigrants are no longer eligible. The reasons for their ineligibility include being over the income limit, sanctions in other public assistance programs, failure to provide necessary information, being incarcerated and moving out of state.
- 867 pregnant women are illegal immigrants and are not eligible for Medicaid coverage.

Some extra work continues on these cases; for example, workers are using more cumbersome computer “work arounds” while Central Office employees make system changes in N-FOCUS.

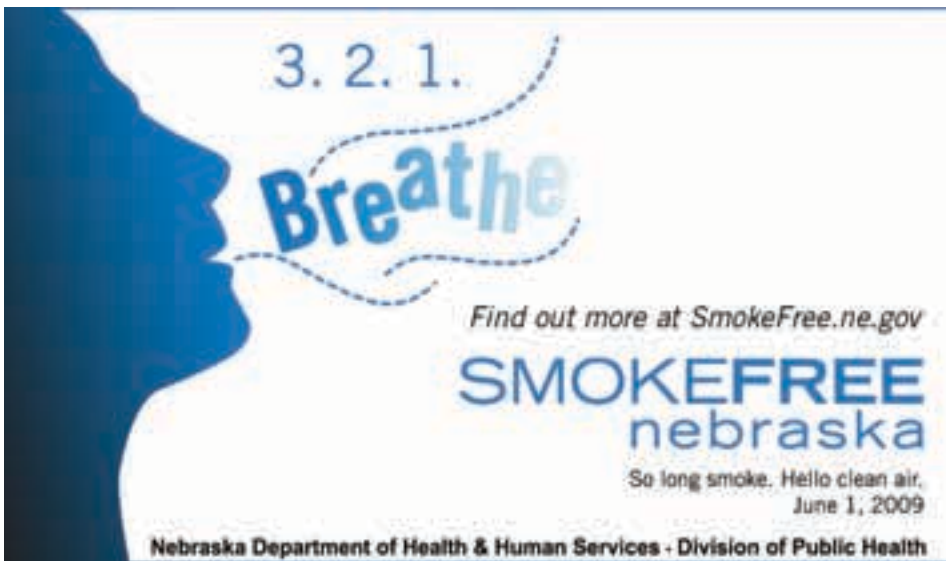
Department efforts, across the board, were incredible, and to all who have been involved: Your hard work is appreciated!

While this effort was unique, I think it's also reflective of the dedication I hear about

from across the agency. Employees do what needs to be done. You meet deadlines; you respond to emergencies; you help businesses, consumers and clients. You help each other. You pitch in to find solutions.

You help people live better lives.

Chief Medical Officer says Smoke-Free Law a success



By Marla Augustine and Bill Wiley

Nebraskans widely support the statewide smoke-free air law, according to a new survey commissioned by DHHS. The report is titled “Six Months of Smoke Free Air: The Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act” and is on the DHHS Web site at www.dhhs.ne.gov.

Over 80% of Nebraskans surveyed say they believe it is important to have a law prohibiting smoking inside most public buildings, including restaurants and bars. Over 85% agreed those establishments are now healthier for employees and customers as a result of the smoke-free air law and say they still frequent those places as much as they did before the law went into effect.

“Nebraskans have entered a new era of better health and wellness because smoking is no longer

allowed in public places,” said **Dr. Joann Schaefer**, Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Division of Public Health. “Breathing secondhand smoke is harmful to everyone and contributes to diseases like lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Nebraskans recognize this and support the new law.”

On June 1, 2009, Nebraska became the 16th state to implement a law prohibiting smoking in workplaces, restaurants, bars and gaming establishments. The only exceptions are some hotel rooms, tobacco-only retailers, cigar bars, research facilities and private residences that are not being used as a child care program.

Prior to implementation, the DHHS Tobacco Free Nebraska Program and Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Program partnered with local health departments, the Nebraska Restaurant Association,

Dr. Joann Schaefer

Big Red Keno, Inc., the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission and many others to educate the business community and the general public about the new law. A toll-free information line and e-mail address were created to respond to questions.

“The groundwork that DHHS and its partners did before the law went into effect helped businesses and the general public learn about it and what’s required,” Dr. Schaefer said. “That helped keep the number of complaints low.”

A total of 108 complaints were reported during the first six months of the law, with the majority relating to bars or bar-restaurants. Most of the complaints occurred during the first month.

For more information about the smoke-free air law, go to www.SmokeFree.ne.gov.

Well grout study gains widespread attention

By Marla Augustine

For eight years, the Water Well Standards Program has conducted a literally ground breaking project that will help ensure that water is safe to drink. The study has generated national and even international interest.

A total of 168 water wells with transparent casings were drilled in order to observe the characteristics of the well excavation above the water table. The purpose of drilling wells with transparent casings was to observe what happens over time to the grout column that lines the well.



Photo: David Sizer

A drill crew installs a well made of clear plastic casing for the grout research project at the Pilger Recreation Area near Pilger, Nebraska.

Grout is the sealing that is found between the well and the excavated ground. Grouts stabilize the well and provide a seal that keeps contaminants out of the water. If the grout deteriorates, contaminants can potentially reach the groundwater.

Over 800 hours of video were shot to document the progression of the sealing properties of all types of well grouts over 16 months.

The program found that the physical makeup of the surrounding soils adversely affected grouts. Most grout types leaked when placed in an absorbent environment.

The study looked at bentonite slurry grouts which are comprised of 80% water- 20% bentonite clay; non-slurry bentonite, which is a dry, raw bentonite clay; and various cement grout slurries that incorporated sand, water and other additives.

What they found was that when placed in a dry, absorbent soil, cement grout maintains structure to stabilize the well, but develops cracks and fissures over time. Bentonite slurries (water and bentonite) lose the ability to provide a seal. However, dry bentonite holds its form, providing stability to the well and creating a seal. Consequently, a well grouted with dry bentonite in the part of the borehole above the water table has the best chance of protecting the groundwater we drink.

Using bentonite with wet sand above and a cement cover is the best way to protect a well, said **Jack Daniel**, Administrator of the Office of Drinking Water and Environmental Health.

“This is a significant finding that will impact what grout well drillers will use in the future,” he said.

The study was presented at the Nebraska Well Drillers national grout conference in October. Present at the conference were regulators from other states, engineers, planners and water well contractors, among others.

Water Well Standards program manager **Tom Christopherson**, who was involved in the study, has been asked to present the findings to national conferences in the future.

The study was a joint project of DHHS, the Nebraska Well Drillers Association, the Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division, Baroid, Cetco, Wyo-ben Drilling Products, and Design Water Technologies.

Front Liners

There are thousands of stories to be told about DHHS employees who deliver direct customer services that *help people live better lives*. This is only one of them.



Dr. Michael Judson

Photo: Corinne Jensen

By Jerry Crisp

Dr. Michael Judson, a clinical psychologist at the Hastings Regional Center (HRC), joined DHHS in 1998 and was given increasing responsibility as Supervising Practitioner and Program Director for the Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency Program (HJCDP) in 2002. The HJCDP provides recovery-oriented residential services to about 120 adolescent males directly referred annually by the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center in Kearney (about 20% of the YRTC's total yearly admissions).

"My ideal day is one that matches the schedule on my Outlook Calendar and offers an even balance between team processes, client interaction, and blocks of time to create programming and complete clinical reports," says Dr. Judson. "I cherish the dream of an empty in-box, a clean desktop, starting every meeting on time, and marking off every item on my To Do List."

But Dr. Judson has no delusions about the distinction between the ideal and the real.

"The reality," he readily admits, "is that each day looks very much like a tossed salad, and I constantly re-prioritize as I move from one person, project and request to the next."

As he labors daily to make the ideal become real, Dr. Judson says clients come first, followed by group processes and clinical documentation, knowing all the while that all three are a must.

"For me, a growing edge is to improve my communication with employees to match the quality and complexity of my work with clients and their families," he says.

The main challenge Dr. Judson faces is simply to meet the HJCDP mission of redirecting lifestyles of the young men in his care in order to help them live substance-free and successful lives. That effort includes using evidence-based clinical approaches, coaching youth to become active participants in their rehabilitation, giving hope to youth and their families who might have lost all hope.

"I see behavioral health program development as similar to ice sculpting," Judson says. "The aim is to produce a work of excellence in a very short time that's always threatening to melt away. Our best hope for success is to give 100%, continuously building our skills and broadening our horizons, and always analyzing the value and sustainability of our work."

The main rewards of such an all-out effort are learning about progress and accomplishments of young adults in community newspapers, graduation lists, recognition for service in the armed forces and the like.

Dr. Judson cites two guiding influences in his work—the principles of Person and Family-Centered Practices and **Bill Gibson**, CEO of the three regional centers in Hastings, Norfolk and Lincoln.

"Mr. Gibson expected the management and professional staff at the regional centers to move toward a leadership team and used team-building experiences to do it," Judson says. "I have been greatly influenced by his introduction of strategic planning and showing us how to act as a mission and principle-driven organization. I have used this as a guide to help bring about positive change for adolescents."

That success has not gone unrecognized.

"Dr. Judson works on multiple levels to provide the best service possible by providing training to front line staff, meeting with professionals regarding individual clients, and working with the management team to address program concerns," says Facility Operating Officer **Marj Colburn**. "He constantly strives to produce positive outcomes for the youth."

"Dr. Judson seems to me to be the right guy in the right place at the right time for those boys at the Hastings Regional Center," says Gibson. "He has really shaped the success of the program over the years."

Campus apartments ready BSDC residents for community life



Now living in a transitional apartment on the BSDC campus, **Arlys Butler** prepares something to eat—one of many skills that will help her succeed in the community. *Photo: Jerry Crisp*

By Jerry Crisp

Apartments on the south edge of the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC) help individuals polish skills they'll need for community living.

Four people moved into those apartments in January. As individuals move into the community, another will take their place in the apartments.

"The apartments are four bedrooms with a central coed area," says **Pam Spier-Edmond**, Assistant

Administrator for Neighborhood Services at BSDC. "Direct care staff and their teams have done a superb job of preparing these individuals, teaching skills and encouraging folks to have confidence in their futures."

Hourly meetings are also held five nights each week to help the apartment dwellers share concerns and find answers to questions they have about their new lives in the community.

"Be proud of yourselves," Spier-Edmond tells them. "You've accomplished a lot, and you're blazing a trail for others to follow!"

"When individuals ask who will do their cooking, housekeeping and laundry," she adds, "I tell them you will. They're bound to have some hesitancy about this major change in their lives, but they all have a desire to move, and that's important."

Spier-Edmond was almost moved to tears when one of the individuals told her, "When they told me I would be moving, I knew I would have some problems to deal with, but I also knew that God had answered my prayers. I just need to remember what staff have taught me and use my skills."

"Successful community transitions are of paramount importance to both the people who are making them and to BSDC," says BSDC CEO **Dan Howell**. "By creating and supporting an environment that allows people to transition into receiving services from other providers, we enhance their possibility of success. In the end, this is how we will measure our success."

Good Things Are Happening!

The DHHS Radon Program sent out nearly 3,000 radon test kits to homeowners in the first three months of 2010 as a result of publicity related to Radon Action Month in January. This represents the first step in reducing the risk of lung cancer among non-smokers, and the second step is taking

appropriate action if the radon levels are high.

Contact Program Manager Sara Morgan at (402) 471-8320 with any questions.

Another example of helping people to live safer, healthier lives!

April Observances

Alcohol Abuse Prevention Month

When people think of alcohol abusers, they often picture teenagers sneaking drinks or at unsupervised parties. However, a wide array of people may abuse alcohol, including:

- College students who binge drink at local bars;
- Pregnant women who drink and put their babies at risk for fetal alcohol syndrome;
- Professionals who drink after a long day of work; or
- Senior citizen who drink out of loneliness.

Recognizing the symptoms can raise awareness about alcohol abuse. If you answer “yes” to any of the following questions, you might have a problem with alcohol:

- Do you drink alone when you feel angry or sad?
- Does your drinking ever make you late for work?
- Does your drinking worry your family?
- Do you ever drink after telling yourself you won't?
- Do you ever forget what you did while drinking?
- Do you get headaches or have a hangover after drinking?

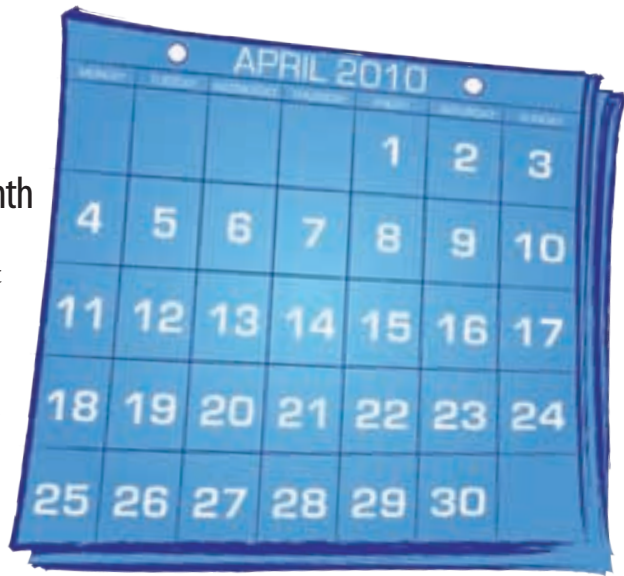
Information about alcohol treatment, a library of over 30,000 pages, a resource directory and other relevant Web sites can be found by going to www.dhhs.ne.gov/networkofcare.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Think of four women you know. Really think of them – what they mean to you, how your life would be different without them. Statistically, at least one of these four women will be the victim of a completed act of sexual violence by the time they've reached the age of 25. The same is true for one in seven men in your life.

The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise awareness about sexual violence and educate people on how to prevent it. Through local and national events and campaigns, Sexual Assault Awareness Month highlights sexual violence as a preventable problem.

The 2010 effort will focus on ending sexual violence on our nation's campuses. By working together and pooling our resources during the



month of April, we can draw attention to sexual violence as a major public health issue and reinforce the need for prevention efforts.

To become involved or for more information on this topic, visit the National Sexual Violence Resource Center at www.nsvrc.org or the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition at www.ndvsac.org.

Volunteer Appreciation Month



During times when state agencies have been asked to do more with less, volunteers who give of their time and talents are genuinely appreciated. During fiscal year 2007-08, through a combination of contributed goods, in-kind services and money, DHHS received \$307,973 in donations, with a total benefit in volunteer time and donations equal to \$1,189,493.

(continued on page 9)



Infant Immunization Week

National Infant Immunization Week: April 25 - May 2

National Infant Immunization Week is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities.

The observance serves as a call to action for parents, caregivers, and health care providers to ensure that infants are fully immunized against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases.

If you have questions about whether your child is fully immunized, contact the DHHS Immunization Program at (402) 471-6423.

Volunteers: (continued from page 8)

Examples of activities volunteers are involved in include general office work and coverage, recreational activities and outings, mentoring, tutoring, meal delivery and transportation. Volunteers were also involved in music programs, special event luncheons and parties, yard and garden work, snow removal and yard maintenance for clients who are elderly or disabled, regular phone contact with housebound individuals, and one-to-one personal assistance and support.

Volunteers come to DHHS from schools and colleges, churches, Veteran organizations, community groups and the public. A well-managed volunteer program contributes to enhanced quality and quantity of services, and a coordination team made up of representatives from the five Service Areas, ten 24-hour facilities and central office helps DHHS volunteers do precisely that.

Contributions of volunteers are truly appreciated, both by DHHS employees and by the customers and clients they help to live better lives.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child Abuse Prevention Month is a reminder to rethink your reactions.

Some days, being a parent is as frustrating as being in a traffic jam, but there are positive ways to keep stress from getting the better of you.

Start by rethinking your reaction in stressful situations. Good parenting means knowing when it's time to slow down and take a breather. Think about who you can ask for support. Teachers, doctors,

other parents and family members can be a great resource. In many cases, they're just a phone call away.

Laughing, talking together and asking for help can make all the difference. They're great ways to build a stronger family, too.

(Observances continued on page 10)

April Observances: (continued from page 9)

Public Health Month

If everyone pitches in, the United States can become the healthiest nation in the world in one generation, according to the American Public Health Association.

Public health has seen dramatic progress achieved through a century of public health advancements — the elimination of polio, vaccination for many childhood diseases, the fluoridation of drinking water and seat belt laws. But there is more work to be done, according to **Dr. Joann Schaefer**, Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Division of Public Health.

“By building on the successes of the past, we can improve Nebraskans’ health,” she said. “Progress can be made by creating safe communities that enable people to make healthy choices for themselves and their families.”



Minority Health Month

The Division of Public Health’s Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity works to equalize health outcomes and eliminate health disparities in Nebraska. The theme for this year is “Man Up for Your Health! Healthy Men Carry Our Communications Forward.”

The Office’s priority populations are: racial/ethnic minorities, Native Americans, refugees and newly arrived immigrants. Priority issues of the Office are:

- Improve access to health services for racial/ethnic minorities;
- Improve data collection strategies;
- Increase racial/ethnic minority representation in science and health professions;
- Develop a relevant and comprehensive research agenda; and
- Expand community-based health promotion and disease prevention outreach efforts.

The central office is in Lincoln, and satellite offices are in Omaha, Grand Island, and Gering.



Celebrating Social Workers



In 1984, Ronald Reagan officially established the National Professional Social Worker's Month. From the first celebration to the current year, March serves as a time to remember the important community roles filled by social workers. Under the leadership of the National Association of Social Workers, March has served the purpose

of promoting social issues and the profession.

Social Workers have provided a variety of services to individuals and families. These can be preventative or treatment-based. Preventative services include helping families find safety away from an abusive adult and avoid future injury or possible death. Services focused on treatment can be assisting

individuals with chronic illnesses or helping people with substance abuse issues.

Social workers usually focus their attention on a specific area in order to gain a greater understanding of the need and become better equipped to help those individuals. School, family, and child social workers assist children and their families. Mental and public health social workers focus their efforts on assisting individuals with chronic illnesses.

Mental health and substance abuse social workers provide services for individuals with mental illness or dealing with substance abuse issues. Social workers not listed in specific areas might not directly contact individuals but work on improving programs and policies for individuals in need.

The National Association of Social Workers states that the primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people with particular attention to the needs of those who are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty.

National Walk@Lunch Day Coming April 28, 2010

Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies will once again host lunchtime walking events across the county on April 28, 2010, as part of the fourth annual National Walk@Lunch Day. Each Blue company will work with local employers to participate in walking events during lunch, and will work with local employers to engage their workforces in lunchtime walks as well.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association created National Walk@Lunch Day to encourage Americans to increase their level of daily physical activity by simply incorporating a brisk walk into their daily lunch break at work. The hope is that National

Walk@Lunch Day will prompt many participants to make lunchtime walks a regular habit.



Last year, the 39 independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies held walking events in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Tens of thousands of Blue employees, customers and community leaders took a half hour out of their workday to go for a walk.

For more information or to find a National Walk@Lunch Day activity in your community, go to <http://www.bcbs.com/innovations/walkingworks/national-walklunch-day.html>.

In their own words

Letters to DHHS employees who are *helping people live better lives*

Dear **Darcy Thege** (Children & Family Services Supervisor, DHHS Wahoo office):

I had many fears, having heard all the "horror stories" about DHHS involvement with families. Happily, NONE of them have been true in our case. I have nothing but respect and appreciation for the way our case has been handled and the assistance that DHHS has been to my family.

From the Judge of the County Court, to the County Attorney, and especially to **Heather Yenney** (Children & Family Services Specialist, DHHS Plattsmouth office) and the rest of the DHHS people involved in this case, all have been caring and very interested in providing the help we needed. Now that this case is moving to the next phase (relative foster care) and then toward reunification, I thought it appropriate to let you know how much we appreciate the way DHHS has handled our case.

A Satisfied Customer

Dear **Vicki Faulkner** (Social Service Worker, DHHS Omaha 73rd Street office):

Thanks again for your dedication to working with these special needs adults, Vicki. We appreciate everything you have done for our daughter over the years.

A Grateful Family

Dear **Christy Wagner** (Social Service Worker, DHHS Center office):

Thank you, Christy, for being so helpful and kind. Nice to know there are still kind people in this world.

An Appreciative Client

In their own words

Letters to DHHS employees who are *helping people live better lives*

Dear **JerriAnn Layton** (Eligibility Technician, DHHS North Platte office):

I wanted to personally thank you for being so kind. The past months haven't been easy on my daughter and me, but when I swallowed my pride and reached out for medical help for her, things got better for us. I'm back home with my family, and their support has been sensational.

I know we have never met, but this program through Kids' Connection has eased my worries to get proper medical care for my sweet child. Thank you for working with me. I am forever grateful.

A Satisfied Mother

Dear **Ron Cox** (Psychologist Associate, Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney):

Thank you for your understanding and letting my son go out on furlough to see his grandfather and for letting him stay for the funeral. Thank you for the kindness and talks with me. Your staff are wonderful, and you have all been good for my son.

Mother of a YRTC-K Youth

Dear **Mike Wolverton** and **Florine Calim** (Accountants II, Economic Assistance, 220 Bldg., Lincoln):

Just a quick note to both of you for helping out so much with the situations that have come up lately. You guys are absolutely great!

You are always willing to give me good direction, and most of all, follow through with what you say you are going to do. Thanks for everything that you do!

Diane K. Thress

Child Support Enforcement Worker
Platte County Attorney's Office
Columbus, Nebraska

Please send letters from satisfied customers via any method listed in our editorial box on page 2, and we'll publish as many as space allows.

HRC Chapel now does double duty



(Left) HRC Maintenance crew covered windows along the Chapel wall to protect stained-glass windows.

(Bottom left) A barrier net protects the altar so that the area can serve a dual function.

Photos: Corinne Jensen

The Chapel at the Hastings Regional Center now can be used for two things, serving both as a place of worship and an indoor recreational area. This “conversion” was done in order to provide needed space so that youth in the Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency Program (HJCDP) would have another outlet for their energies without the cost of additional construction.

“All of the Chapel artifacts were carefully safeguarded so that the space can still be used for services as needed,” explains Facility Operating Officer **Marj Colburn**. “Most of the youth now prefer to attend church with their families while they are out on pass or attend a church of their denomination in Hastings.”

According to Colburn, Facility Maintenance Supervisors **Jim Schuyler** and **Gary Peisiger** spearheaded the work and did an excellent job of keeping HJCDP leadership advised. The Maintenance crew installed a basketball hoop and new lights, and Housekeepers cleaned and polished everything to a bright shine.

The project was accomplished using HRC funds and came in under projected costs.



Good Things Are Happening!

According to the 2009 Behavioral Health Consumer Survey, people are generally satisfied with services they receive from mental health or substance abuse providers across the state. More than 79.8% expressed satisfaction with their level of involvement in treatment planning, 87.8%

responded positively to questions related to quality and appropriateness of services, and 82.1% thought services were accessible.

Another example of DHHS services that help people live better lives!

BSDC efforts aid Haiti earthquake victims

HELPING HAITI

Individuals who call BSDC home packed kits to aid victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. At far right, Gary Inlow places towels into a plastic bag. Adding other donated items like soap, nail clippers, combs and toothbrushes are (left to right) Linda Free, Susan Falgione and David Courtney. "I set boxes around campus with lists of items needed and BSDC employees did the rest," says Human Services Treatment Specialist Sonja Horst. "I took 30 kits to the Centenary United Methodist Church, where a total of more than 600 kits were soon on a plane ride to Haiti."

*Photo: Patrick Ethridge
of the Beatrice Daily Sun*



What's cookin'?



Employees in the Omaha State Office Building (OSOB) enjoyed a chili cook-off on February 24, organized by the OSOB Building Improvement Committee. Eight people brought their favorite home-made chili, close to 60 people tantalized their taste buds, and one contributed hot dogs for "chili dogs."

Taking top honors with the "Best All Around Award" was Personnel Assistant Mary White. According to Mary, roasting the peppers she puts into it is what gives her chili its winning flavor.

Photo: Mary Eledge