



Celebrate Life

“We empower people to maximize their independence”

G & G Living Centers, Inc.

Fall 2008

G & G Living Centers, Inc. Completes Community Assessments Surveys for Communities of Garnavillo & Guttenberg



As part of our ongoing partnership with The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL), G & G Living Centers, Inc. recently completed community assessment surveys on the communities of Garnavillo and Guttenberg, IA. The surveys were conducted in partnership with both cities and the Clayton County Development Group. Surveys were sent to local residents earlier this summer asking them to answer questions on the following six areas- housing, employment, transportation, education, healthcare, and recreation and leisure activities. Residents were asked to complete the survey and return them to city hall. The surveys were then collected by Lisa Marie Bischoff, Community Relations & Development Director and Regina Shafer, Manager of Quality Assurance for G & G Living Centers, Inc. and entered into a database created for each community.

The process actually began almost a year before the surveys were completed. “Regina and I attended the CQL LENS conference in Fall 2007, during which we completed a community assessment survey for the city of Des Moines, IA. During the conference, we looked at issues that affect all citizens that live in Des Moines, not just individuals with disabilities. On the four hour drive home, we decided that it would be very beneficial for G & G as an agency to complete a similar survey in the communities we operate in,” explains Bischoff.

Shafer and Bischoff then set out to gain information on the six areas for the communities of Garnavillo, Guttenberg, and Edgewood. They conducted interviews, researched available services in each community, met with city officials, and gathered census and demographic data. The cities of Garnavillo and Guttenberg agreed to distribute a community assessment survey to its citizens to gather information and feedback on the six areas. (The city of Edgewood had conducted a similar survey in spring of 2008 and decided to not distribute another survey as that time.)

The results were compiled and reports were generated for city officials in Garnavillo and Guttenberg and the Clayton County Development Group. Findings from the surveys were recently presented to guests from the community and to CQL representative Jeff Shoemaker. See page 2 for complete survey results.

The work doesn't end there. In fact, it is just the beginning. Based on the survey findings, G & G has created several partnerships to address needs in the communities in which we operate in. The city of Garnavillo is applying for housing rehabilitation funding, which will include data from the community assessment survey. Many residents of Garnavillo also expressed support for the Garnavillo Library. G & G Living Centers, Inc. has committed funds toward a new handicap accessible door for the library and has assisted the library in applying for grants for the project. The city of Guttenberg has enlisted G & G's help in the Hazardous Mitigation Planning process for the city. We hope that these partnerships are just the beginning.

City of Garnavillo

Survey Responses: 111

Demographic Information

Sex: Male 37% Female 55 % No Answer 8%

Age: 0-18 years 2% 19-24 years 0% 25-34 years 12% 35-49 years 16% 50-64 years 28%
65-75 years 22% 76+ years 20% No Answer 1%

Ethnicity: White/Caucasian 97% Hispanic/ Latina 1% No Answer 2%

Head of Household: Single 41% Roommates 1% Married Couple 33%
Married Couple w/ Children 15% Non-Married Couple 2% Non-Married Couple w/ Children 3%
Family with Male Head of Household only 1% Family with Female Head of Household only 3%
Family with Dependent Children 1% No Answer 1%

Employment Status: Student 2% Unemployed 1% Part-Time 4% Full-Time 53% Retired 39%
No Answer 2%

Education Level: High School Graduate 52% 2 Year College Graduate 19% 4 Year College Graduate 14%
Masters Degree or Higher 3% Other 5% No Answer 6%

Household Income: Less than \$15,000 12% \$15,000-\$24,999 18% \$25,000-\$34,999 14%
\$35,000-\$49,999 15% \$50,000-\$74,999 16% \$75,000-\$99,999 5% \$100,000-\$149,999 3%
\$150,000 or more 1% No Answer 17%

Housing

House Status: Own Your Home 89% Rent Your Home 3% Apartment 1% Mobile Home 4%
No Answer 4%

Do you feel that your community has a strong sense of belonging? Yes 79% No 14% No Answer 7%

Do you feel safe in your community? Yes 100% No 0% No Answer 0%

In your opinion, is the cost of living in your community too high? Yes 38% No 59% No Answer 4%

In your opinion, is there quality, affordable housing available in your community? Yes 61% No 28%
No Answer 11%

Are you able to purchase all or most of the goods and services (food, clothing, utilities, services, etc.) you need
in the community you live in? Yes 23% No 76% No Answer 2%

Do you currently have any of the following housing needs? Please check any that apply.

Buying a House 5% Building a House 1% Repairs & Maintenance 37% No Answer 58%

Employment

In your opinion, do the jobs available in your community pay competitive wages and salaries?

Yes 29% No 53% No Answer 18%

Do you work in the community you live in?

Yes 29% No 54% No Answer 17%

What county do you currently work in?

Clayton 57% Delaware 0% Allamakee 1% Dubuque 3% Fayette 0% Crawford, WI 4%
No Answer 33% Other 3%

How many miles do you commute to work (one way)?

Less than 10 miles 23% 10-25 miles 28% 26-50 miles 6% 51-100 miles 3% 100 miles or more 2%
No Answer 38%

Survey Results Continued on page 3...

“We empower people to maximize their independence”

Garnavillo Continued

Transportation:

Is there public transportation available in your community? Yes 24% No 65% No Answer 11%
Do you utilize public transportation within your community? Yes 1% No 86% No Answer 14%
Is the transportation system (roads, sidewalks, etc.) sufficient to get you where you wish to go in your community? Yes 78% No 13% No Answer 9%
Are you able to walk to stores, restaurants, and businesses in your community? Yes 90% No 7%
No Answer 3%
If you answered yes, are there sidewalks to those locations? Yes 68% No 18% No Answer 14%

Education:

In your opinion, does the school(s) in your community offer their students a high quality education? Yes 86% No 5% No Answer 9%
In your opinion, does the school(s) in your community prepare their students to enter the work force? Yes 70% No 13% No Answer 17%
In your opinion, does the school(s) in your community offer the classes necessary for students to be successful in college? Yes 74% No 8% No Answer 18%
In your opinion, do you feel that there is an adequate number of extra curricular activities (art, music, sports, clubs and organizations) offered for students that attend school(s) in your community? Yes 82% No 6% No Answer 12%

Healthcare:

Do you have access to quality health care in your community? Yes 68% No 25% No Answer 7%
In your opinion, is there adequate access to wellness programming in your community (ie: workout facilities, fitness classes, yoga, massage therapy services, etc)? Yes 23% No 68% No Answer 8%
In your opinion, does your community have adequate emergency health services (ie: ambulance and EMT)? Yes 86% No 7% No Answer 7%

Recreation and Leisure:

In your opinion, is there a variety of leisure and recreational activities available in your community? Yes 24% No 65% No Answer 11%
Do you belong to any local groups, organizations, or clubs in your community? Yes 41% No 57% No Answer 2%
Would you like to see more recreational and leisure activities available in your community? Yes 58% No 24% No Answer 18%
Are you planning a summer vacation? Yes 36% No 53% No Answer 11%
If so, how far are you planning to travel (one way)?
0-50 miles 7% 51-100miles 4% 101-250 miles 11% 251 miles or more 26% No Answer 52%
Do you have a pet(s)? Yes 41% No 52% No Answer 6%
If you answered yes, are there adequate resources and activities for you to do with your pet in your community? Yes 23% No 14% No Answer 63%

Thank you to Denise Schneider, Garnavillo City Administrator/Clerk, and the citizens of Garnavillo for your help in completing the Garnavillo Community Assessment Survey.

City of Guttenberg

Survey Responses: 161

Demographic Information

Sex: Male 44% Female 50% No Answer 6%

Age: 0-18 years 1% 19-24 years 1% 25-34 years 4% 35-49 years 19% 50-64 years 31%
65-75 years 23% 76+ years 17% No Answer 4%

Ethnicity: White/Caucasian 97% Hispanic/ Latina 1% No Answer 2%

Head of Household: Single 25% Roommates 1% Married Couple 44%
Married Couple w/ Children 16% Non-Married Couple 1% Non-Married Couple w/ Children 4%
Family with Male Head of Household only 0% Family with Female Head of Household only 6%
Family with Dependent Children 1% No Answer 3%

Employment Status: Student 1% Unemployed 2% Part-Time 9% Full-Time 41% Retired 46%
No Answer 1%

Education Level: High School Graduate 56% 2 Year College Graduate 7% 4 Year College Graduate 21%
Masters Degree or Higher 7% Other 2% No Answer 7%

Household Income: Less than \$15,000 12% \$15,000-\$24,999 11% \$25,000-\$34,999 14%
\$35,000-\$49,999 12% \$50,000-\$74,999 15% \$75,000-\$99,999 9% \$100,000-\$149,999 2%
\$150,000 or more 2% No Answer 22%

Housing

House Status: Own Your Home 87% Rent Your Home 3% Apartment 5% Mobile Home 1%
No Answer 4%

Do you feel that your community has a strong sense of belonging? Yes 68% No 23% No Answer 9%

Do you feel safe in your community? Yes 94% No 2% No Answer 4%

In your opinion, is the cost of living in your community too high? Yes 53% No 39% No Answer 8%

In your opinion, is there quality, affordable housing available in your community? Yes 54% No 34%
No Answer 12%

Are you able to purchase all or most of the goods and services (food, clothing, utilities, services, etc.) you need
in the community you live in? Yes 59% No 37% No Answer 4%

Do you currently have any of the following housing needs? Please check any that apply.

Buying a House 2% Building a House 2% Repairs & Maintenance 40% No Answer 56%

Employment

In your opinion, do the jobs available in your community pay competitive wages and salaries?

Yes 20% No 56% No Answer 24%

Do you work in the community you live in?

Yes 42% No 32% No Answer 26%

What county do you currently work in?

Clayton 52% Delaware 1% Allamakee 0% Dubuque 7% Fayette 0% Crawford, WI 1% No Answer 39%

How many miles do you commute to work (one way)?

Less than 10 miles 40% 10-25 miles 9% 26-50 miles 6% 51-100 miles 0% 100 miles or more 0%
No Answer 45%

Survey Results Continued on page 5...

“We empower people to maximize their independence”

Guttenberg Continued

Transportation:

Is there public transportation available in your community? Yes 40% No 50% No Answer 10%
Do you utilize public transportation within your community? Yes 4% No 81% No Answer 15%
Is the transportation system (roads, sidewalks, etc.) sufficient to get you where you wish to go in your community? Yes 80% No 13% No Answer 7%
Are you able to walk to stores, restaurants, and businesses in your community? Yes 67% No 29% No Answer 4%
If you answered yes, are there sidewalks to those locations? Yes 48% No 22% No Answer 30%

Education:

In your opinion, does the school(s) in your community offer their students a high quality education? Yes 84% No 8% No Answer 8%
In your opinion, does the school(s) in your community prepare their students to enter the work force? Yes 69% No 19% No Answer 13%
In your opinion, does the school(s) in your community offer the classes necessary for students to be successful in college? Yes 73% No 10% No Answer 17%
In your opinion, do you feel that there is an adequate number of extra curricular activities (art, music, sports, clubs and organizations) offered for students that attend school(s) in your community? Yes 80% No 7% No Answer 13%

Healthcare:

Do you have access to quality health care in your community? Yes 96% No 2% No Answer 2%
In your opinion, is there adequate access to wellness programming in your community (ie: workout facilities, fitness classes, yoga, massage therapy services, etc)? Yes 76% No 21% No Answer 3%
In your opinion, does your community have adequate emergency health services (ie: ambulance and EMT)? Yes 97% No 1% No Answer 2%

Recreation and Leisure:

In your opinion, is there a variety of leisure and recreational activities available in your community? Yes 56% No 35% No Answer 10%
Do you belong to any local groups, organizations, or clubs in your community? Yes 48% No 44% No Answer 8%
Would you like to see more recreational and leisure activities available in your community? Yes 54% No 26% No Answer 20%
Are you planning a summer vacation? Yes 30% No 55% No Answer 15%
If so, how far are you planning to travel (one way)? 0-50 miles 5% 51-100miles 2% 101-250 miles 10% 251 miles or more 24% No Answer 59%
Do you have a pet(s)? Yes 43% No 53% No Answer 4%
If you answered yes, are there adequate resources and activities for you to do with your pet in your community? Yes 33% No 12% No Answer 56%

Thank you to Barry Dykhuizen, Guttenberg City Manager, and the citizens of Guttenberg for your help in completing the Guttenberg Community Assessment Survey.

“We empower people to maximize their independence”

Eric Walters is Freezin’ for Special Olympics



G & G Special Olympics Coach and Living Support Staff, Eric Walters, will be Freezin’ For a Reason on November 15, 2008 at the Dubuque Polar Plunge, which will benefit Special Olympics of Iowa. Eric will plunge into freezing cold water to raise money to support Special Olympics athletes, their families, coaches, and communities in which they live. To support Eric and the G & G Special Olympics Team, log on to the Polar Plunge website or mail your donation today!

To make a donation for the Polar Plunge, log on to
<http://www.firstgiving.com/shariegreve>
or mail your donation to

Polar Plunge, c/o G & G Foundation, P.O. Box 967, Guttenberg, IA



G & G Living Centers, Inc.

would like to thank the following companies and individuals who have made donations to G & G Living Centers, Inc. and the G & G Foundation in the last quarter.



- Lisa Bischoff
- Natisha Burmeister
- Peggy Burns
- Dollar General
- Josh Dudley
- Elizabeth Dullin
- Darlene Everett
- Coralie Heller Estate
- Lisa Kimball
- Mark Kisting
- Kim Moser
- Irene Schroeder



Thank you for your support!



G & G Holiday Extravaganza

Sunday, November 30, 2008

Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Guttenberg Municipal Building



Bring your list and
check it twice,
because you can find
something for everyone on
your list.

Vendors Include:

Avon

Beijo Purses

Tastefully Simple

Princess House

and

Many More!!!

If you or someone you know has a home based business and is interested in being a vendor at the Holiday Extravaganza, please contact Lisa Marie Bischoff at lbischoff@gandgliving.org or (563) 252-3811 ext. 18

“We empower people to maximize their independence.”

G & G Vision:

To provide opportunities in communities that will enable all people to maximize their independence, reach their fullest potential, and attain the highest quality of life with dignity and purpose.

G & G Values:

- Dignity and worth of all people
- Building bridges within communities
- One person, one outcome at a time

“We empower people to maximize their independence”



To:

G& G Living Center, Inc.

602 Kosciusko Street

P.O. Box 967

Guttenberg, IA 52052

Phone: 563-252-3811

Fax: 563-252-3812

celebratelife@gandgliving.org

www.gandgliving.org