



Volume: 2 Issue: 1

Spring 2008

G & G Living Centers, Inc.

# Celebrate Life

**April is Autism Awareness Month**

G & G Living Centers, Inc.

602 Kosciusko Street

P.O. Box 967

Guttenberg, IA

52052-0967

Phone: (563)252-3811

Fax: (563)252-3812

[celebratelife@](mailto:celebratelife@gandgiving.org)

[gandgiving.org](http://gandgiving.org)



The autism activity and work area at the G & G Living Centers, Inc. Activity Center in Guttenberg is specially designed to meet the unique needs of individuals with autism.

**4th Annual  
G & G Living Centers, Inc.**

**Golf Tournament**

**Friday, June 13th**

**Tee Times Begin**

**At 8:30 a.m.**

**18 Holes**

**4 Person**

**Best Shot Format**

**Register by May 15th**

**\$35.00**

**Register After May 15th**

**\$40.00**

**Call Lisa Marie at  
(563) 252-3811 ext. 18**

**Or**

**[lbischoff@gandgiving.org](mailto:lbischoff@gandgiving.org)**

**Co-Sponsored by  
The Stadium Bar & Grill**

**All proceeds from the  
tournament will benefit  
children & adults with  
developmental  
disabilities.**

According to the U.S. Department of Education, there was a 710% increase in the diagnosis of autism in Iowa from 1992 to 2000. According to *Autism Speaks*, the largest autism advocacy group, autism is a complex developmental disorder that affects a person's ability to communicate and develop relationships with others. Symptoms usually appear within the first three years of life and affects individuals in varying degrees across his/her life span. April 2nd has been designated as World Autism Awareness Day to increase awareness about autism.

At G & G Living Centers, Inc., 28 percent of the individuals that receive services and supports have a diagnosis of autism. Last summer, G & G Living Centers, Inc. developed a specialized work and activity area for individuals with autism at the Activity Center in Guttenberg. Recently, 13 G & G staff members completed a TEACCH training. TEACCH, which stands for Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication-handicapped Children, was developed by Eric Schopler in the 1970s. During the four-day training, G & G staff members learned how to assess individuals and create work systems within individualized schedules.

For more information on World Autism Awareness day log on to [www.worldautismawarenessday.org](http://www.worldautismawarenessday.org).



At G & G Living Centers, Inc., our mission is *to empower people to maximize their independence*. That mission is the foundation on which all of our services and supports are based. My co-workers often share with me how that mission has empowered the individuals we serve and how the kindness of others brightens their day. I thought I would share a few of those stories with you.

Lisa Marie Bischoff, Community Relations & Development Director, *Celebrate Life* Editor

### Shopping, Here I Come!

Last month, Doreen reached a major independent outcome as she made her first trip shopping by herself. Her program manager, Amie, helped her arrange the trip with NEI-CAC. She rode with several peers on the bus for a full day of fun. They picked her up at about 10:00 a.m. and shopped until lunchtime, ate lunch at a restaurant, and went shopping again until 3:30 p.m. She was so excited about the trip that she called several people when she got home to tell them about her day. I've never seen her so happy and excited. Let's hope this is the start of a long "love affair" with shopping as so many women have. Doreen always looks nice and puts together some stunning outfits! You go, girl!



Submitted by Doreen's G & G Buddy Lisa Bernhard, Chief Support Officer



Stand Up and Vote!  
Did you know that Iowa is one of two states that hold a caucus? (The other is Nevada if you were wondering) On January 3<sup>rd</sup> the whole world was watching the results coming from Iowa since we are the first to hold a caucus for the 2008 Presidential Campaign.

In December, the Edgewood Day Habilitation welcomed Mr. Andrew Bray, from a local presidential campaign office, to educate the participants on the caucus process. All of the individuals enjoyed speaking with him. Lisa, Meagan, Louis, Jesse, Shawn G., CT and Mike S. had decided they would attend the caucus on January 3<sup>rd</sup>!



Submitted by Lindsey Miller, Lead Staff Edgewood.

### An Act of Kindness

In January, individuals who participate in G & G Living Centers, Inc. Habilitation Program visited a local restaurant in Guttenberg. The individuals were enjoying their coffee and appetizers. When another customer approached their table, the customer commented on how wonderful it was to see them and said that she wanted to treat them and paid their bill.

Submitted by Amie Gordon, QMRP/ Program Manager

*"When you are kind to others, it not only changes you, it changes the world."* Harold Kushner

## What's New at Garments & Goods



**Antique Furniture,  
Name Brand clothing  
&  
Household items**



**Handmade Crafts**

**Willow Tree  
Plants Stands  
Small \$19.95  
Large \$24.95**



**Primitive USA Flag  
Each one is unique and  
one of a kind.**



**Benches are available in 3 sizes and several colors!**

**Small 36" inches \$26.95  
Medium 48" inches \$36.95  
Large 60" inches \$46.95**

**Or purchase one of each size for \$100.00**



**Utility Table \$60.00  
Folds for Easy Carrying  
and Storage**

### **Are you a Garments & Goods preferred shopper?**

We all love to shop at Garments & Goods in Guttenberg and Edgewood, so why not sign up for the Preferred Shopper Club and earn FREE merchandise just for going shopping? Signing up is easy. Just fill out a Preferred Shopper card at either store location, and when you purchase 11 clothing or household items, your 12th item is FREE! Plus, we keep the card at the store for you, so you can't lose it, forget it at home, or worry about your dog eating it.

So, the next time you are shopping at either Garments & Goods locations, ask how you can sign up to be a Garments & Goods Preferred Customer and start earning your free item today! Garments & Goods stores are located at 420 S. River Park Drive in Guttenberg and 106 N. Washington St. in Edgewood. Garments & Goods in Edgewood is now open the first Saturday of the month for your shopping enjoyment!

## Special Olympics Basketball Highlights



### Regional Basketball Results

The Special Olympics Regional Basketball Tournament was held on February 2nd in Cedar Falls, IA. Fourteen athletes from G & G Living Centers, Inc. participated in the event showcasing their basketball skills. Heather, Shawn G., Lisa, Mike A., and Randy placed 1st and participated in State Basketball on March 14-15th in Iowa City. (See article below for more on those exceptional athletes.) Second place honors went to Shawn O., Jon, Greg, Jesse and Logan. Finishing in 3rd was DJ and Brian B. David and Richard earned 4th place for their basketball skills. Congratulations to all of these very special athletes!



### Athletes Participate in State Basketball

Five athletes from G & G Living Centers, Inc. participated in Special Olympics State Basketball on March 14-15th in Cedar Falls, IA. Heather, Lisa, Randy, Mike A. and Shawn G. showed off their basketball skills along with other athletes from across the state of Iowa. Lisa, Heather, and Randy earned first places medals, Mike A. finished in third and Shawn G. finished in fourth. Great job athletes!

### Upcoming Special Olympics Events

Challenge Days in Dubuque, IA      April 19th  
State Track & Field in Ames, IA      May 22-24th



## New Faces at G & G Living Centers,

Shantel Berns joined the G & G Living Centers, Inc. team in March and is the new Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP) at Westside House in Garnavillo. Shantel has an Associates of Arts degree from North Iowa Area Community College and a Bachelors degree from Upper Iowa University. Prior to G & G, Shantel worked at Comprehensive Systems in Mason City, IA, TASC in Waukon, IA, REM Iowa Community Services and the Abbe Center for Community Mental Health in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Shantel's goals for this year include giving the individuals and staff at Westside stability, continuity and support. She enjoys working at G & G because her co-workers are outgoing and nice.



Melissa Hyde is G & G Living Centers, Inc. new Human Resources Assistant. Melissa attends Upper Iowa University and is a Human Resources Management major with a minor in Finance. Melissa lives in Guttenberg with her husband Tom, step-son Alex (14), step-daughter Carlie (9), and daughter Kennedy (5). She enjoys working with everyone at G & G and is looking forward to learning as much as she can about G & G in the upcoming year. Outside of work, Melissa enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, and hunting with Tom and Alex.

**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.**

**Thank you for your support!**



Lisa Bernhard  
Tina Brown  
Arlene & Randal Bunger  
Richard Burroughs  
La Vonne Ewing  
Jaleen Fassbinder  
Lisa Geick  
James F. & Suzann Guthrie  
Guttenberg Fire Department  
Guttenberg Pharmacy Inc.  
Mildred Hansel  
Gregory & Carla Henn  
Janet Jasper

Donald & Marie Johnson  
Colleen Joyner  
Ralph Kocher  
Jana Koresh-Elfstrom  
Viola Kurtt  
Helene Lammers  
Thomas & Carol Morarend  
Joan M. Newton  
Alton Schultz  
Regina Shafer  
Donald & Debra Sylvester  
Iva Ungs  
John & Donna Wagner





## 4th Annual G & G Living Centers, Inc. Golf Tournament

Sponsored by The Stadium Bar & Grill

Friday, June 13, 2008

At the Guttenberg Golf & Country Club

Tee Times beginning at 8:30 a.m.

18 Holes Four-Person Best Shot Format

Register by May 15th \$35.00 per person after May 15th \$40.00 per person

### Great Golf! Great Food! Great Cause!

For more information or to register for the tournament contact Lisa Marie Bischoff at (563) 252-3811 ext. 18 or [lbischoff@gandgliving.org](mailto:lbischoff@gandgliving.org)

All proceeds from the tournament benefit children and adults with developmental disabilities.



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](mailto:celebratelife@gandgliving.org)  
[www.gandgliving.org](http://www.gandgliving.org)

***“We empower people to maximize their independence”***