

ADVANCE AT A GLANCE

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This Year Larry Thomas was presented the "Distinguished Service Award" at the 2008 NDEAM Awards. The following is what was read about Larry at the Awards Ceremony:

The Distinguished Service award is given to an individual or organization in public recognition of extraordinary contributions to advancing the empowerment and employment of people with disabilities.

Larry Thomas has dedicated the past twenty three years of his life to creating opportunities for people with disabilities to live their lives to the fullest. As Production Manager at ADVANCE, Larry has worked with numerous Brookings area businesses, including 3-M, Falcon Plastics, Royal Plastics, Larson Manufacturing, Daktronics, and Hub City, to bid projects and set up contracts to provide meaningful work and training opportuni-

ties for hundreds of individual's with severe disabilities over the past twenty three years. His dedication to maintaining quality of work and meeting timelines for contracts with companies has provided consistent work opportunities for ADVANCE clients through these many years.

Larry was also the driving force behind the establishment of STARS which stands for Special Training & Riding Skills Program. STARS is a therapeutic horse back riding program for individuals with severe disabilities. Through Larry's vision, research, and recruitment, the STARS program was founded in 1995. With Larry's guidance and leadership as President for the past 11 years the program has grown from just 6 riders in 1995 to a current ridership of 62 with 48 volunteers.

Larry was also a consumer of Vocational Rehabilitation utilizing the services of that program to prepare himself for his current employ-

ment after his disability prevented him from continuing to work in the construction industry. Following his involvement with VR, Larry became a peer advocate for other VR consumers.

For the past 5 years, Larry has been a Board Member of the Brookings Interagency Council which oversees the distribution of United Way funds for the Special Olympics, STARS, and Camp Adventure.

I can think of no one more deserving to be recognized for the Distinguished Service Awards than Larry Thomas. He is a great example of a person with a disability showing that it is ability that counts. His dedication to his job is an inspiration to others and his leadership in his community has improved the quality of lives for many other community members.

Submitted by Jerry Raabe

Distinguished Service Award

Fred's Trip to Denver!

By: Cheray Gibson

Fred and I traveled to the great city of Denver, Colorado this last July. While in Denver Fred was able to go to a number of really fun places! The first day we went to the Denver Zoo. Fred

had an awesome time and really enjoyed all the different animals. The second day we went to an old fashioned candy factory. We got a free tour where we got to sample a bunch of candy! Later that night we went to downtown

Denver to the Coors stadium to see the Rockies play. The final day of our trip was spent at Water World before we flew back to South Dakota. Fred had a very good time and saw a lot of fun and exciting things.



Top Left: Fred at the Rockies game
Bottom Right: Fred poses with a giant Lollipop at the candy factory!



Here is a listing of the fantastic new employees ADVANCE has gotten this fall!

Welcome to ADVANCE!

ALA:

Trisha Nordaune
Bailey Clark

SLA:

Michelle Martinsen
Megan Nelson

Alicia Maynard
Dantelle Tupa

York:

Lexi Peterson
Nicole Goethe
Donna Powell

Marie Ngo Kaman
Marissa Granstra

905:

Jackie Rempfer
Jessica Brats
Jeannie Kruse
John Speakman

Prairie View:

Monica Jackson
Lindsay Firme

Mustang:

Ari DenOtter
John Albrecht

VOC:

Jeannie Bentley

509:

Angela Huba
Marcus Nelson

Hillcrest:

Joel Murano
Erin Arch
Karmyn Kindle
Jordyn Johnson
Ashlea Hoffmann
Michael Buchanan



I just want to extend a HUGE Thank You to my wonderful staff at SLA! I know that it has been a rough summer for us all. The people that work each day with the people that we support are the foundation of our house as well as the agency. I try hard to express

my gratitude on a regular basis, but I want each of you to know what an important asset you are to the house and the agency! You all mean the world to the people that we support and me! Thank you girls! You make a difference each and everyday!

*Thank you
Brittany, Kylie,
Jillian, Rhonda,
Erin, Sabrina &
Michelle!*

-Amanda



Congratulations Cidna Smith

Cidna became a Grandma on Sept 14, 2008. Aydin weighed in at 7 lbs 5 oz. Here he is pic- tured with his

mommy Jocelyn and grandma Cidna.

He made his 1st visit to Yorkshire when he was only 2 days old. He was held by many in- cluding Jean Carol who didn't want to give him up!



ADVANCE Excellence

July

Sherry Woodraska- ALA
 Catherine Godés- SL
 Kayla Simonsma- 717
 Emily Ditzlerman- SLA
 Jen Riedel- SL
 Evan Pottbaum- ALA
 Brian Ardry- Res. Serv.
 Jerry Miller- Maintenance
 Terry Brown- SL
 Ron Gary- SLA
 Richard Zeller- SLA
 Mark Oings- 717

August

Pat Isler- 717
 Richard Anderson-
 Supported Living
 Amanda Novotny- ALA
 Justin Timmer- Career
 Advantage
 Melinda Weidemann- SL
 Carissa Menke- SL
 Marissa Murphy- SL

September

Jim Simmons- SL
 Elizabeth Cunningham- SLA
 Arnie Collins- MP
 Geoffrey Stoner- MP
 Sharon Scott- 509
 Ashley Hintz- PV
 Melinda Weidemann- SL
 Brian Ardry- Res. Serv.
 Renae Becher- 509 DS
 Betsy Yseth- HC
 Melissa Daugherty- MP
 Richard McBrien- Maint.

October

Geoffrey Stoner- MP
 Arley Larson- 717
 Evan Pottbaum- ALA
 Cindy Hetzel- 717
 Christina Bemis- ALA
 Cidna Smith- York DS
 Debbie Strommer- 509
 Sara Cul Gentry- 509
 Jen Riedel- SL
 Brittany Zwanziger- SLA
 Markie Dietz- 717
 Amy Osterberg- SL
 Brandy Johnson- 717
 Renia Arneson- York
 Makayla Hillman- York
 Adrienne Hemerka- York
 Stormy Christianson- Larson
 Michelle Gilbertson- Larson

This year the United Way in Brookings county has a goal of \$500,000; ADVANCE contributed \$9286.00 towards that goal. Thank you all for participating and being a part of "Live United."



Curt and Myrtle demonstrate their litter box skills; Curt is to the left and Myrtle to the right.

A Dirty Job, But Someone has to do it!

By: Marvin Bahr

Myrtle and Curt have been a big help at the humane society. It is a dirty job, but very rewarding. They empty kitty litter, clean cages, fill up the water bowl, fill the food bowl, change the bedding, etc... They really enjoy picking up the cats and playing with them too. Danalee, the coordinator there, has been very appreciative. We go every Monday from 11:00 -12:15. Matt and Katie sometimes go also and help out!

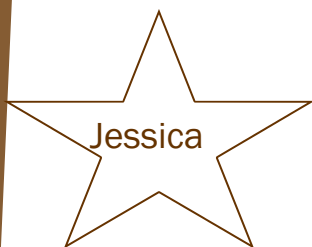
All about Amy

By: Amy McGregor

I grew up in Mapleton Minnesota. I am from a family of four kids. I have 3 brothers, Thomas, Jason, Jerry, and my parents. My mom and grandma passed away in May of this year. I currently work at ADVANCE on the Voc floor and in Human Resources, Larsons and am working on a job at Arby's. I enjoy working and fun. What I do for fun is knitting, reading, word search, going to movies, going out to eat, and swimming. Some of my goals are to live in a supported apartment and to get a part time job. I am working with career advantage to find a job in the community. I want to get more involved in the community.

Coaches Support Day

By: Krecia Weinberg



3 Important Things About Me I want Others to Know:

- I value education and learning
- I value helping others and doing volunteer work
- I need "Me Time"

Important to Me:

- Education/Learning
- Independence
- Friends
- Martoise (tortoise)
- Family
- Being creative
- Time for me
- CERT/volunteering
- Road trips/traveling
- Job/People Supported/Co-workers

How Others can Support Me:

- Flexible schedule for school, family, volunteering
- Being on time with things or letting me know if something will be late
- Leaving me along when I need "me time"
- Respecting me/asking me to do things, not telling me what to do

Great Things About Me:

- Very friendly
- Hard working
- Dedicated
- Organized
- Creative and Driven
- Very helpful
- Punctual
- Committed
- Great Idea
- Great friend and confidante
- Gets things done in timely manner
- Great commitment to job and people supported.

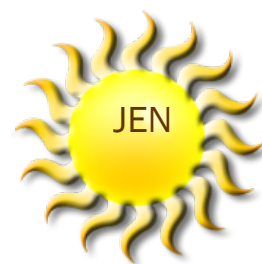


The PCT coaches had their first support day on Sept 25. The day was filled with sharing a lot of information and learning more about the skills/tools and how to proceed with this in the next few months. One of the activities that we all enjoyed was learning and completing a one page description. This is a snapshot of important things that the person wants to share with others.

Some of you may becoming more familiar with the "buzz" that the PCT is starting to create and/or have utilized some of the tools already. Please look for future training that the coaches will be providing to staff within the agency. The purpose of PCT is to help people get better lives; not just better plans.

"Person Centered Planning discovers and acts on what is important to a person. It is a process for continual listening and learning, focusing on what is important to someone now and in the future, and acting on this in alliance with their family and their friends". (ref. Thompson J. Kilbane J Sanderson H. (2008) Person Centered Practice for Professional. Open University Press)

On the sides are the one page description that two of the coaches did. On the top is a picture of coaches: Jen Riedel, Melinda Weidemann, Cindy Hetzel. The bottom are coaches Nicole Cochran, Jess Stout, Emily Dietermean.



3 Important Things About Me I want Others to Know:

- Don't like talking in large groups
- Nothing is more important than my BOYS
- SHY when around others I don't know

Important to Me:

- My 3 Wonderful Boys
- My Family
- My Friends
- My Job
- Having a Good Time

How Others can Support Me:

- Have GOOD Communication
- Listen to me
- Support Me
- Help me Figure out Answers to Obstacles

Great Things About Me:

- Easy to be Around
- Supportive
- Sense of Humor
- Dedicated
- Makes things happen
- Funny
- Fun & Creative
- Caring
- Open to try new things
- Nice
- Great person with many talents
- Great to be around
- Always in a GREAT positive Mood

Pat and Paul at the Powershop

By: Marv Bahr

Pat and Paul have been going to the Powershop gym to help reach their goals of living a healthy lifestyle. They have made friends with many of the staff and patrons there. They enjoy riding the bikes there and have recently been incorporating some weightlifting in their routines. Robert is their trainer. They go every Tuesday at 10:00.

In this photo Paul is on the left bike and Pat on the right bike with their Trainer Robert in the middle giving pointers.



NASHVILLE!

By: Jessica Stout

Richard Zeller, Donna Smith, and Jessica Stout all took a trip to Nashville TN. They had so much fun that they are making a video about their trip! Here are some pictures they shared, but be watching for the Nashville Video showing soon. Flyers will be posted!!



We enjoyed the Grand Ole Opry and saw many stars including Jean Shepard, Ray Pillow, Phil Stacey, and Minnie Pearl.

We ate at many great restaurants including the Aquarium Restaurant, Rainforest Café, and Hardrock Café



Country Music Hall of Fame



We went to many museums including:

Willie Nelson Museum



Nashville Wax Museum

Cooters



Hobo's Get Physical



With the theme of Hobo's Get Physical the Hobo Days Committee had many ideas that came to mind, but the one that stuck was the Olympic theme. We ended up having the Olympic rings with the Olympic podium as our main focus

on the float. ADVANCE of course was the winner of the GOLD! We had fantastic signs, made by Dena Skiles and Brandy Johnson, to make the float stand out and they looked great! The day before Hobo Days the com-

mittee had a lot of fun getting the candy ready (we put stickers on the candy that advertised working at ADVANCE) and then of course getting the float prepared. We sure did a lot with some Hula Hoops,



Top Left: Adam and Donna are working hard on sticking those stickers!

Middle: Ian and Lisa take a break to say cheese!

Top Right: Josh and Geoffrey sure did a great job with stickers!

Bottom Left: Brandi poses next to the ADVANCE sign on the float.

Bottom Right: Curtis smiles for the camera while Eugene keeps putting the decorations on the float.



Hobo Days 2008!



Here are a few pictures of the actual parade (Thanks Chad for taking these!)

Top: Here comes the ADVANCE gang!

Bottom Left: Randy, Mandy and Amy are right next to Chad just in time for pictures!

Bottom Right: Jason, Lisa and Cari are next in line to get snapped by

Gennell and Sherry at Burger King

By: Marv Bahr

Gennell and Sherry have been helping out at Burger King. They were both looking for a place to volunteer in the community. They have enjoyed wiping tables and countertops off at Burger King on Tuesdays about 2:30. They have made friends with the staff there and have done a good job keeping the place clean.



Far Left: Sherry takes a quick break for a picture
Middle: Gennell is working so hard she doesn't even have time to stop for a picture

Right: Gennell and Sherry in front of the BK where they volunteer



Lisa's Volunteering

By: Kim Wells

Lisa H. just did her first day of volunteer work at the Boys and Girls Club yesterday. Everyone there loved her and she enjoyed painting a pump-

kin with her new friend. She went home with a picture a girl colored for her and was completely surrounded the whole time by a big group of kids. They

Lisa also recently completed a goal: She spoke at a class at SDSU about her disability with her mother. The class enjoyed hearing her story and Lisa enjoyed

Trip to Prairie Village

By: Sarita Hartmann

Doug C., Randy F., and Bob H., (and Sarita and Jami) went to Prairie Village on a cool Sept. Day. They experienced tractors and horse parades, old time buildings and even a school-teacher! The highlight of the trip was the train ride. The conductor said "no ticket, no ride!" as he punched our tickets. You should have seen the smiles, especially when the whistle blew! We highly recommend this trip to everyone.



Left: The conductor checks tickets! From L to R Jami, Bob, Randy and in back Doug
Right: Doug, Sarita, Randy and Bob have their picture taken

Go Jacks!

On Friday Nov. 7th
ADVANCE got a
visit from some
of the SDSU
Women's
Basketball team!



Top: LtoR Tawnya M. (Adrienne C. in the back), Mike C., Bob H. all smile with the BB team

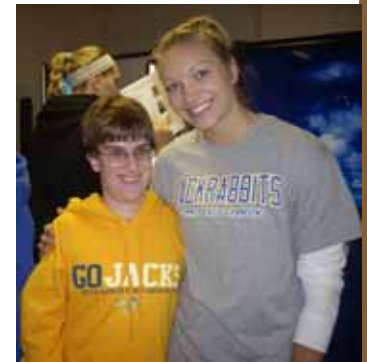
Top R: Ian M. visits with a Jackrabbit

Bottom R: Emily D. gets an up close view of just how tall a basketball player is!

Bottom: Amy M. and Geoffrey S. meet one of the players.

Bottom L: Doug H. has to stand on his tiptoes to take this picture

Top L: Arnie C. and a player take a picture



Mark at the Powershop

By: Marv Bahr

Mark won a free one month membership at the Powershop Gym. He has been having a good time going and lifting weights. He is thinking about getting a membership once this free one runs out. He even tried out the elliptical machines and stair steppers.



Richard and Michael Walking

By: Marv Bahr



Top: Richard takes a break from his walk to smile for the camera!

Left: Michael takes a walk back when the grass was still green and it was nice outside!



Richard and Michael have been working on goals of living healthy lifestyles. They have been going walking at the mall or park 2-3 times per week. Sometimes Arnie C., Tawnya M, or someone else from the activity center tags along. They have been doing a great job. They are talking about getting memberships at the Wellness Center at SDSU this winter.

Myrtle's Summer

By: Myrtle First and Kathryn Strandell

Myrtle had a very fun summer! She went on a couple of trips and saw many friends! Myrtle and I sat down together and we remembered some things she wants to share with you. Myrtle told me that the most fun she had over the summer was riding horses in the STARS program. She also liked doing art over the summer. She met Cindy Scofield for Wosley and stayed at her house! She also went to a Pow-wow in Flandreau. At the pow-wow she enjoyed watching the

dancers, buying food, and she loves the tribal CD she bought there! She met an old staff from Redfield named Megan. Megan said she would make her a tribal dress to wear for next year's pow-wow. Myrtle visited her friend Jill at Redfield. Myrtle enjoyed her stay at Redfield and played carnival games. She even won a diet coke from one of the games! She was excited to stay overnight at Jenifer Lumen's house and met some friends. Myrtle saw a lot of movies over the summer. She

really liked Wall-E and the Chihuahua movie. Myrtle also has fond memories of her camping trip with SLA. She liked how big the cabin was and loved grilling out. Her favorite foods to grill out were brats, and s'mores. All in all she had a great summer and is looking forward to next summer when she can put her new fishing pole to good use!

Top: Myrtle with a friend
Bottom: Myrtle at STARS



Arley, Adam & the Cultural Center

By: Marv Bahr



Left: Adam and Arley take a picture in front of the Cultural Center



Middle: Adam is busy washing windows



Right: Vicki and Arley take a break from sweeping for a picture

Arley and Adam are going to the cultural center. They do some cleaning there every other Thursday. The cleaning may include: dusting, sweeping, mopping, taking out the garbage, shaking out rugs, cleaning windows, etc.. Vicki is in charge of the cultural center and her and Arley have a special bond. Adam has just recently started helping out. Vicki has been to 717 for special events.

ADVANCE's 2nd Annual Fall Celebration!

By: Paige Olevson

October 13th at the center there was a HUGE variety of food with the favorites being: melon brain, spooky cake, and of course Brian's fantastic BBQ's. There was a costume contest, face painting, a cake walk, a piñata, but the two most popular activities of the night were obviously the Wii and the Halloween Bingo! We owe a very special Thank You to Loren Smith (father of former ADVANCE employee Cindy Scofield) for the awesome Hay Rides that everyone got to take part in, those rides were a little cold, but well worth it! I hope you all had a great time and keep thinking of ideas for next year! (See Below for winners of the costume contest!)



Joe Vrochota—Scariest



Aria Simet- Kids



Leonard Wonenberg-Funniest



Brandon Schlenker- Most Creative

Every other week Karina and Patty get the money from some vending machines in town and restock them. We get the candy from Wal Mart. The vending machines are at Royal Plastics, Career Advantage, NAPA, Job Services and URC. They have a good time filling the machines and interacting with the people.

Karina and Patty taking care of the vending Machines

By: Marv Bahr



Left: Karina & Patty Middle: Karina exchanges money at the bank
Right: Patty gets to work filling the machine



Happy Birthday to Mr. Jamey Hanson who turned the big 30 this year!

Upcoming Events

Orientation: December 15th and 16th
January 12th and 13th
January 19th and 20th

ADVANCE Holiday Party: December 10th at the Old Sanctuary

Medication Administration Course: December 8th, 10th, 12th, 15th,
17th in B&C 4pm-8pm.

On **HALLOWEEN** the Center had a Costume Contest! There were so many great costumes the judges had a tough time deciding, but they gave out 21 different prizes. Here are the results from the winners in each category:

Cutest:

1. Amy H.
2. Gracia W.
3. Amy K.
4. Mark O.
5. Shelly E.
6. Katie A.



Amy H.

Scariest:

1. Mike C.
2. Dennis H.
3. Tom N.
4. Karen T.
5. Doug C.



Mike C.

Creative:

1. Geoffrey S.
2. Brandon S.
3. Lisa H.
4. Josh A.
5. Jean Carol B.



Lisa H.

Best Impersonation:

1. Darlis K.
2. Randy D.
3. Roger M.
4. Adam S.
5. Sandy M.



Darlis K.



Shelly E.



Tom N.



Jean C. B.



Sandy M.