

Working at COC ~ A Job to **LOVE**

“I can’t believe how quickly they get into your heart.”

The person who said this is a recently hired employee who left the corporate world and applied at COC at the prompting of a family member, also a COC staff member, and discovered how quickly she melded into the lives of the people supported and her teammates.

Although there are many paths that bring staff members to COC, once here, we can all agree how much people with disabilities have the potential to change us. Many come to COC wanting to give back in some way, believing that what we have to offer can change a person’s life. Few of us expected that the life we’d be changing was our own.

As the Human Resources Director, it is a great privilege to have the opportunity to know each staff member at COC and watch a transformation of sorts. For some it might be a change in words—how they speak to and about others. It could be in their work ethic, as they realize that coming to work on time really matters. Perhaps the death of a person supported causes them to pause and be grateful for the imprint left on their hearts. We may each be impacted differently, but the impact is real and has the potential to create a life not before considered.

Let the words of some of our staff members convey that working at COC isn’t just a job, it’s a job to love. And it can be life-changing.

Helen Rooda - Living Skills Advisor

“I am proud to work at COC because I know that I am able to be a part of a mission that I strongly believe in. I know that I have the opportunity to give someone else a better quality of life and that I am making a difference. I enjoy working for a Christian organization because it means I can openly share my faith.”

Lisa Meinders – Life Skills Instructor

The primary reason Lisa still enjoys working at COC is because of its rewarding nature and the good hours. *“Our mission is respectable and there are a variety of positions available. We are accepting of people despite their disabilities or differences.”* Lisa considers herself blessed with a great team of people who encourage and are helpful to each other. They enjoy each other, have good senses of humor and exhibit high moral standards. She appreciates her supervisor’s willingness to listen to her ideas, her flexibility, and her positive and supportive attitude.

Carla Woodley – Work Skills Supervisor

“My favorite part of working with people supported is when they connect with you. They remember your name, and they are happy when they see you. My co-workers are amazing. (We) all have different personalities, strengths, and weaknesses, but we all come together and work as a team. We are there for one another.”

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Staff Recognized for Years of Service



At COC’s 3rd annual picnic we had the opportunity to thank and recognize employees and people supported who work hard for COC every day. Regional vocational managers recognized 16 people supported who were celebrating 5 year increments of working at COC in their respective programs, the longest being 35 years! HR Director Angela De Cook then asked employees who were celebrating 5 year increments to come forward and receive their awards. Recognition and thanks were also given to two retiring board members, Bruce Nikkel and Don De Waard, for their six years of service on the COC Board of Directors. It was another wonderful opportunity to be together as one COC family, with many people attending from our four county service areas.

Pictured are the employees of COC who were recognized for their years of service:

Back: Karla Winegar, Betty Van Zee, Brenda Miedema, Nancy Sinnett, Sheryl Van Wyngarden, Barb Casper, Shawna McMain

Front: Stormie Wright, Susan Harris, Rhonda Whitehill, Lora Van Essen, Teresa Rietveld, Carolyn Day, Bre Brooks

Not pictured: Liz Vander Werf, Stan Vos, Mickey Edwards, Ruth Ann Triplett, Julie Metzger, Stephanie Boyd, Amanda Comstock, June Spencer, Teresa Ryan, and Jeremy Carlson



Christian Opportunity Center
2012-2013 Financial Report
(Audited)

REVENUES	
Government Funding	\$8,991,420
Person Supported Payments	\$319,690
Work Contracts	\$452,013
Foundation Income	\$975,659
Other:	
United Way Funding	\$17,500
Other Transportation	\$16,983
Interest	\$374
Total Other	<u>\$34,857</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$10,773,638
EXPENSES	
Personnel:	
Staff Wages	\$6,392,734
Persons Supported Wages	\$340,018
Staff Benefits	\$882,125
Payroll Taxes	\$489,860
Worker's Compensation	\$118,852
Staff Development & Training	\$10,923
Total Personnel	<u>\$8,234,511</u>
Services:	
Purchased Services	\$134,005
Legal and Accounting	\$19,075
Total Services	<u>\$153,080</u>
Supplies & Office Expenses:	
Supplies & Food	\$451,296
Work Contract Supplies	\$39,071
Telephone	\$37,077
Postage	\$13,848
Printing & Advertising	\$23,502
Subscriptions & Dues	\$19,981
Total Supplies & Office Expenses	<u>\$584,776</u>
Building & Auto Expense:	
Bldg & Grds Supplies & Care	\$183,291
Utilities	\$145,984
Insurance	\$55,404
Transportation	\$110,669
Total Building and Auto Expense	<u>\$495,348</u>
Foundation Fund Expenses	
Staff Enhancement	\$134,659
Special Education	\$35,944
Trip/Camp Expense	\$29,389
Spiritual Nurture	\$9,265
Total Foundation Fund Expenses	<u>\$209,256</u>
Other:	
Depreciation	\$363,384
Interest	\$30,353
Miscellaneous	\$180,784
Total Other	<u>\$574,521</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,251,492
REVENUES LESS EXPENSES	\$522,146
Capital Items Purchased	\$262,823
Loan Balance	\$907,757

COC on the Go

In an effort to utilize our resources efficiently, we would like to discontinue our printed update. This doesn't mean you can't keep up with the latest happenings at COC! There are three ways to get the latest news at COC.

1. To receive our Update electronically, simply send an email to: info@christianopportunity.org with "COC Update" in the subject line.
2. You can:

Like us on FACEBOOK!

Look for COC (not Christian Opportunity Center) on FACEBOOK. Please invite your friends and family to visit our page and see the exciting things that are happening at COC!



3.  And you can check out our website at www.christianopportunity.org, or scan this QR Code with your smart phone and be brought right to our website wherever you are!

We look forward to staying in touch with you!

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Karla Winegar – Community Skills Advisor

Karla never wanted to work at COC, but her heart got the best of her, and she's spent over 25 years in a number of positions throughout her career. Her favorite thing about working with the people we support is that they give with no strings attached. Karla once had surgery, and the people she supports called her at home to make sure she was okay. She enjoys seeing their progress and rejoices over their accomplishments.

Judy Kelly – Living Skills Advisor

"I have grown in my faith because of all my experiences. I believe that God values, loves, all people, no matter what their skills are. When I do things in my home, I often think about how the people supported could learn how to do the same things."

Kara Barfield – Living Skills Advisor

Kara began working with people supported at COC in 2004 and currently takes people to their medical appointments, and assists with their weekly shopping and their finances. Kara enjoys working with her co-workers, knowing that they care about the people supported. Because of her service at COC, Kara's perspective of some things in life has changed. It perhaps can be best explained by her favorite quote, "Never ignore somebody with a disability; you don't realize how much they can inspire you." *Unknown.*

Mark McMains – Safety/Transportation Coordinator

Mark has been familiar face in our Oskaloosa region since 1992, and it seems that he is always smiling! His favorite part of working with people supported is watching them succeed in their jobs and in life and he takes pride in knowing he may have helped another person with improving his or her life.

Have you felt a prompting to try a new job or to tell someone about COC? A new life is calling! Check out our website at www.christianopportunity.org for employment opportunities.



The Christian Opportunity Center (COC) hosted its first Classic Comedy Café on Thursday evening, October 10, 2013, at the Summerset Winery. The evening began with a social time when guests could sample and buy their favorite wines or beverages and visit and mingle with each other. Patty Zylstra, COC's Public Information

Director, welcomed the guests and invited Rod Braun, COC's Executive Director, to open the evening with prayer. A highlight of the evening was when Shelly Oder spoke of her personal experience with COC and how much the support that COC provides through services and staff means to her. She said, "They are wonderful and like a family to me". The lasagna dinner was donated and served by Noah's Ark restaurant in Des Moines.



The featured entertainment was comedian Ed Vos, who has performed nationally, on National Public Radio, and has also appeared at the Funny Bone in Des Moines. He entertained guests with his stories of growing up in Iowa and other life experiences. Desserts were donated by local community members, and attendees voted on the

"Best Dressed Dessert" when guests arrived for the evening. The winner, with her elaborately decorated cake, was Amanda Morris, an employee at COC.



Many thanks to the others who donated their dessert creations, including MishMash, Heidi Blanchard, the Indianola and Hartford Fire Departments, The Outside Scoop, Nicole Gallintine, and Sonjia Bass.



Local businesses were also invited to sponsor a table. COC thanks the following for their sponsorship: People's Bank, Westview Care Center, Optometric Associates, Fareway, Shine-Link, Community Bank, and Dental Professionals. COC is also grateful to the Indianola community for its continued support of our mission.



2013 Golf Classic

This year's 12th Annual Golf Classic turned out to be another fantastic event! It began on Monday June 14, with a COC Share night at Culvers where 10% of the evening sales were donated to COC. On Thursday evening, COC hosted Service Night on the square where we served a BBQ pork dinner and hosted an auction. Over 25 other local non profit organizations partnered with COC to "Race for the Reason."

We would like to thank Laura Vos and her family for barbequing the pork burgers, Shepherd's Staff Men's Quartet for providing music, and auctioneers Ray and Brad Veenstra for calling the auction.

On Friday, June 21st, many local companies and participants enjoyed a day of golf at Bos Landen Golf course. This year we were blessed with so many golfers that we decided to host both a morning and an afternoon tee time. Hearthstone also hosted "Hire the Pro" on hole #4 which raised money for COC. The Hole-in-One sponsors were Pella Motors and Ulrich Ford Lincoln.

Guests enjoyed a reception and dinner at Bos Landen Conference Center after another successful verbal and silent auction this year. The winning team was represented by Edward Jones and included Bob Fessler, Lucas Boyd, Alex Olsen, and Scott Reuter.

This event could not happen without the continued support from our community! We were so blessed with a great turnout and wonderful weather as well. Thanks to all the participants, sponsors and volunteers.

There are various levels of support for Golf Classic sponsorship. Our Championship partners commit \$2500, and this year were Tulip City Agency, Ltd, Musco Corporation, Vermeer Corporation, and Pella Motors. All totaled there were over 150 sponsors and donors who partnered with COC in this event. The funds raised will help COC in its mission of supporting people with disabilities. This year's Golf Classic was our best event to date. We came close to our fundraising goal of \$70,000.

We would especially like to thank the members of the planning committee: Larry Vander Molen, Diane Mitchell, Mark Van Roekel, Tim Baar, Barb Kniff, Bob Van Dyke, Jake Keegan, Vicki Cowman, Chrissy Edsall and Nancy Moton. They dedicated many hours to making this a successful fundraiser.

COC *Update* is a semi-annual publication for friends, relatives, and staff members of the

Christian Opportunity Center

1553 Broadway, Box 347
Pella, IA 50219
(641) 628-1162

110 B. Ave. E
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 673-9480

1602 North 14th St.
Indianola, IA 50125
(515) 961-3653

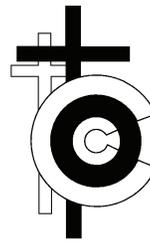
8450 Hickman Rd Unit 15
Clive, IA 50325
(515) 270-0305

COC Executive Director Rod Braun

Board of Directors Mark Becker, Pat Brehse, Ron Groenenboom, Twila Haverly, John Howerzyl, Allen King, Bob Kroese, Mike Maakestad, Scott Rempe, Troy Vander Molen, Gale Vermeulen, and Ron Zantingh

All individuals are considered for services at COC without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, creed, physical disability, mental disability, sexual orientation or political belief. COC is a public benefit corporation which is accredited by CARF for Organizational Employment Services, Community Employment Services, and Community Integration and is a member of Iowa Association of Community Providers, and American Network of Community Options and Resources.

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Does Your Employer Utilize a Matching Gift Program?

Many employers will match your charitable contribution to the COC Foundation Fund with an equal or higher amount if you or your spouse are an employee, retiree, or board member of a company. The COC Foundation Fund is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, a qualification for many companies' matching gifts programs. Check to see if your company has a "matching gifts program." If so, please request a matching gift form from your employer and send it completed and signed with your gift. We will do the rest!



Christian Opportunity Center

Supporting *People* With Disabilities

**Your new career at COC
is just a click away!**

The Christian Opportunity Center is currently hiring for various FT and PT positions in Des Moines, Indianola, Oskaloosa and Pella! Visit www.christianopportunity.org for more details and instructions on how to apply.

Human Resources: 641-628-8087, Ext 139
1553 Broadway Street, Pella, IA 50219