

Ann's Musings

***Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights -
Pauline R. Kezer***

The weather is changing outside from summer to fall and the leaves are beginning to turn. As outside, there are also changes occurring within Oahe, Inc. Some of the changes include system changes, employee changes and changes in our supports that we provide.

In 2011 we have moved to an electronic documentation system for staff. This started with an online system for documenting daily notes and incident reports as well as an electronic method that allows staff to communicate with each other. In July we expanded this system to include medical documentation and documentation on goals and supports.

This change has been like a roller coaster ride, filled with ups and downs. There were times it felt overwhelming and exciting, but at the end it feels like an accomplishment.

There have also been some significant changes with employees including some resignations and promotions. The biggest change will be happening in the next few weeks. Annette July is currently the Business Manager for Oahe, Inc. and she has worked for the agency for 19 years. Annette has submitted her resignation and will be moving on to a new adventure. Annette has been a HUGE part of Oahe, Inc. for many years and has had an influence on every area of the organization. She has made a DIFFERENCE in many, many lives and she will be missed. We do wish her success in whatever her future holds.

Another area that has

changed within Oahe, Inc. has been the amount of supports that we provide and what that support looks like. As everyone is aware, we received a significant cut in our rates that went into effect in July 2011. As a result of these cuts, we had to ask difficult questions and focus on what supports a person needs instead of what supports they want. We continue to assure that we are meeting their needs, but we had to make some cuts in some of the extras that we had been providing. This has been an adjustment and we are still trying to find our way at times. The health and safety of the people we support continues to be the driving force in all of the decisions that are made.

Change.... It happens as a part of life and as a part of work. Change can be positive and sometimes not so positive. Not all

changes lead to progress, but progress is impossible without change. One last thought regarding change...

If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies.

~Author Unknown

MISSION

ASSISTING

PEOPLE

TO

DREAM

PLAN

BELIEVE

AND

ACHIEVE

Value Village - Huge BLOW OUT Sale

Value Village held it's second annual Blow Out Sale, Friday, September 30th and October 1st, 2011. All proceeds made benefit the great people we support.

All clothing, shoes, and purses were taken outside and sold under the "big top tent" at great prices. Knick-knacks, books, and kitchen items remained inside and were 50% off. Hot dogs, cookies, and popcorn were sold along with coke products and lemonade. All cookies were specially made by people supported and staff.

It was a lot of work putting the Blow Out Sale together with lots of meetings, planning and

organizing going on for weeks. Special thanks to all the businesses who helped make this possible.

All day Friday and Saturday there was a steady



stream of customers who couldn't believe the prices. As fast as thing sold, more items were brought out. So there was a continuous supply of new items. Many customers came back five or six times.

Value Village staff are busy now trying to put the store back together. Stop in and get your Halloween items.

Store hours are ...

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Tuesday and Thursday - 8:00 am - 7:00 pm

WOW Walk

Saturday, August 27, 2011 began with rain, dark clouds and lightning. So the WOW Walk was moved indoors at the YMCA thanks to director Jeff Filipek. Fifty five walkers raised just shy of \$5,000 for the event which lasted from 8:30 am to noon. There was no set



distance that walkers needed to walk and each had to start with a minimum of \$25 in pledges or donations in order to be eligible for a shirt.

The top five money raisers were...

- Ann Hoye
- Luke Breckenridge
- Karen Wyly
- Levi Schmidt
- Mitch Moor

Many thanks to all who walked, donated, pledged or sponsored the event, and of course the YMCA for hosting us. Next year we plan on BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS.



Let's give a PEER CHEER!

A new user, called Peer Cheer, was recently added to the Therap documentation system. Use this section to give a fellow staff member a thanks for something they accomplished, a hand they gave someone, or just to say you appreciate their work.

More Of Our Successes —

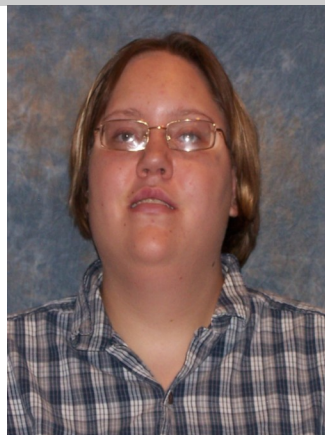
Here are a some examples of what we are most proud of:

- **21 Individuals** - to attend State Special Olympics bowling in October and November
- **Jonathan** - went on a church retreat to Nicaragua
- **Sammy** - started a job at the Oahe Federal Credit Union
- **Terry** - had a successful antelope hunt (ask him for pictures)
- **David & Jeff** - to attend Onida homecoming
- WELCOME **Jordan** - who is new to Oahe, Inc. and recently started receiving services
- **Levi** - moved to Pierre and Oahe
- **Jonathan** - took a new job working with kids at the YMCA
- **Levi** - learned to plan a menu, shop, cook and clean-up a lunch for his housemates
- **Carey** - is able to make 3 laps around the track - WAY TO GO!
- **Doug & Terry** - started a new custodial job at the Urban Indian Health Center
- **Tony** - who drove himself to bowling in Aberdeen from Selby
- **Toby** - expanded his candy vending business
- **Cherie** - recently traveled home for a long week-end to visit family
- **Charlie** - listens to audio books at the library
- **Kristin** - back serving lunches at Jefferson School
- **Amanda** - covered others jobs so they could go bowling
- **Diana** - coming back to residential services
- **Troy, Noah, Susan, Val, Jennie, David, Carl, John** - volunteer at Value Village

This is just a sampling of what has been accomplished. You can see we have much to be proud of. But this is just the beginning. There are many people we support who have goals and dreams they are anxious to fulfill.

World of Work - St. Charles Hotel

The St. Charles Hotel is a landmark in Pierre having been around for over 100 years. It takes a lot to keep it clean. That's where Amanda comes in. Removing trash from the five story building, sweeping and mopping out areas in need and vacuuming stairs are just a few of her duties. Amanda is always on time



taking River Cities Public Transit independently both to and from work.

Amanda always has a smile for everyone and a kind word. She has held the job for over three years now and knows most of the tenants and businesses within the building.

THANKS for doing such a good job AMANDA!!!



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Welcome To Our New Staff

Maintenance Phil Hubbard <hr/>	1305 Park St. Angela Jagne - Lead DSP Cindy Paul - DSP <hr/>	
Day Services April Smith - DSP Part-time <hr/>	120 Pasque Cindy Paul - DSP <hr/>	1019 E. Sioux Rahel Racz - LeadDSP Ronna Masteller - DSP <hr/>
1306 E. Dakota Brad Stack - DSP <hr/>	111 Hathaway Demetria Beaumont - LeadDSP Theresa Burchell - DSP <hr/>	410 E. Dakota Rita Hamilton - DSP <hr/>
516 S. Adams Jamie Big Eagle - Lead DSP Deb Wagner - DSP Rita Hamilton - DSP	1027 E. Sioux Jen Big Eagle - LeadDSP Karen McDonald - DSP	Looking for a job? DSP positions available both full time and part-time. Call (605) 224-4501 or visit our website at www.oaheinc.com .