DISABILITY NETWORK OF MID-MICHIGAN

August 2019 NEWSLETTER

**ARTICLE 1 -** ADA Community Picnic a Big Success

On Thursday, July 25th, we hosted our annual Community Picnic celebrating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Over 200 people from throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region joined us for food, friends, and fun at Imerman Memorial Park in Saginaw.

In addition to the great food, attendees played games like Giant Checkers, Giant Jenga, and Cornhole. They won prizes playing Plinko, participated in a fun community needs survey, and got their pictures taken with special guest Lou E. Loon.

We look forward to an even bigger celebration next year as we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the ADA. We hope you'll join us again!

**ARTICLE 2 –** Project Community Connect

Linking neighbors to resources and services in our community. Thursday, September 5th from 10 AM to two PM.

Join us at Trinity Lutheran Church. 2701 Jefferson Avenue in Midland. For Resources for Childcare, health, education and more. Free lunch and personal care items available.

**ARTICLE 3 - Festifall in Downtown Midland**

Festifall is a community event on Saturday, September 28 in downtown Midland. The event coincides with the Northwood Auto Show and it offers a wide range of activities for kids, teens, and adults. So bring the family and friends to Main Street in Midland to celebrate the fall season!

Disability Network of Mid-Michigan will be sponsoring Corn hole games. Stop on by our booth to play!

Additional events and activities include:

From 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM - Arts & Crafts, Mini Golf Hole in One Challenge, Checkers, Tic-Tac-Toe, Make-it Take-it Scarecrow, DJ Dance Party, Face Painting, Food Trucks, Giant Jenga, Magic, Photo Booth, Bowling, and more!

From 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Movies on Main at Ace Hardware & Sports

From 7:30 PM - 11:30 PM - Woody's Taproom Presented by CDK Global

We look forward to seeing you downtown!

**ARTICLE 4 -** SUPPORT DISABILITY NETWORK WHEN YOU SHOP!

When you go to the grocery store or when you purchase items online, there are new and easy ways you can support Disability Network of Mid-Michigan.

Kroger Stores and Amazon.com both have rewards programs set up that donate a certain percentage of purchases to a buyer's charity of choice. If you'd like to support DNMM, all you have to do is sign up.

Here's how:

 KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Visit kroger.com/communityrewards. Click on "I'm a Customer." (Be sure to have your Kroger Card with you). Follow the on-screen prompts. To find us, search for Disability Network of Mid-Michigan or enter the organization number "PR812." And that's it! From now on, Kroger will donate a percentage of your purchases to Disability Network!

AMAZON SMILE

Amazon Smile You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support DNMM every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at Amazon Smile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Click here to support Disability Network of Mid-Michigan through Amazon Smile!

**ARTICLE 5 -** STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

The DNMM staff wanted to take a quick moment to recognize the efforts of the M-20 Animal Clinic for their help and kindness to one of our DNMM family.

Due to a crisis issue that required hospitalization, one of the people we serve had a companion dog that needed care. Due to unforeseen nature of the crisis, there was no time to for our consumer to make plans for care for the dog. No family or friends were able to assist. This was causing additional stress for our consumer during an already highly stressful situation.

Fortunately, one phone call to M-20 Animal Hospital put everything at ease. They took the dog in, gave him needed vaccinations, housed, fed, and exercised the dog for over a week. Most of the services were provided in-kind and the others were significantly discounted. We sincerely appreciate the M-20 Animal Hospital owners and staff for their assistance and their generosity.

**ARTICLE 6 - MI ABLE CAN HELP YOU SAVE**

The Michigan Able Act was signed into law in October 2015, following passage in December 2014 of the federal Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which authorized states to establish tax-advantaged savings programs for individuals with disabilities.

The goal is to encourage and assist individuals and families in saving funds that help individuals with disabilities to maintain health, independence and quality of life without jeopardizing benefits provided through private insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, the beneficiary's employment and other sources.

The goal of MiABLE's "I Will Never Lose" campaign is to reach out to individuals with disabilities, and their families, who haven't yet taken advantage of the program created to help them save for current and future expenses without jeopardizing eligibility for government benefits.

Approximately 300,000 Michigan residents with disabilities are eligible for MiABLE, including 28,000 in the Great Lakes Bay Region and Thumb. Yet largely because of a lack of awareness, less than 1% of those who qualify are currently enrolled.

For more information, please call 1-844-656-7225.

**ARTICLE 7 - FEATHERS AND FEDORAS**

Save the Date! DNMM’s annual fundraiser, Feathers and Fedoras, a Roaring Twenties gala, is Saturday, February 15th, 2020 from 5:30 to 11:00 PM at the Great Hall in Midland.

**ARTICLE 8 – WE’RE HIRING!**

WE'RE HIRING!

Whether you're seeking full-time employment or just a few hours of part-time work:

YOU can make a difference in someone's life! YOU can help a person with a disability live independently!

As part of our Bay County Independent Living Assistance program, you provide personalized support to individuals who need assistance accessing support in their communities. You work directly with the consumer to help them meet their goals and create the lifestyle they choose.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS. WAGES: $10 - $10.50 PER HOUR

Must have a valid Michigan Driver License, with a good driving record, and dependable and insured transportation. Must be able to pass a criminal background check. Training will be provided.

If you want to make a difference, please call 989-895-2363.

To learn about additional employment opportunities at DNMM, please visit http://www.dnmm.org/employment

**ARTICLE 9 - STATEMENT OF INCLUSION**

At Disability Network of Mid-Michigan, inclusion is a universal human right for all people, regardless of race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or any other discernible quality. To be inclusive is to promote a sense of belonging, respect, and value for who you are as a person. It is about equal access and opportunities for everyone. Inclusion is an integral part of our Independent Living philosophy and of our agency's vision of "Accessible and Inclusive communities that provide opportunities for individual choice."

In the twelve counties we serve in Mid-Michigan, Disability Network offices have been, and continue to be, places of solace, understanding, and information for all. We are committed to promoting and protecting diversity and inclusion, within our offices, among our community partners, and throughout the 15 Centers for Independent Living in Michigan.

**ARTICLE 10 – STATEMENT OF ACCESSIBILTY**

DNMM advocates for the removal of barriers to independence and full inclusion of people with disabilities throughout the Mid-Michigan area. DNMM pledges to ensure accessibility. Each year, DNMM conducts a review of its own architectural, environmental, attitudinal, employment, communication, transportation, and other barriers that may exist which prohibit full access to our services.

 If you have any issues of concern regarding the accessibility of DNMM services and facilities, we encourage you to share that information with us.

 Please send your concerns or suggestions to:

Executive Director
Disability Network of Mid-Michigan
1705 S. Saginaw Road
Midland, MI 48640