DISABILITY NETWORK OF MID-MICHIGAN

July 2019 NEWSLETTER

**ARTICLE 1 -** ADA Community Picnic – Join Us!

We're hosting our annual Community Picnic celebrating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on Thursday, July 25th, from 11am to 1pm at Imerman Memorial Park in Saginaw.

Bring your family, friends, co-workers, and support staff. We'll be grilling burgers and hot dogs and of course we'll have all the side goodies like potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, chips, desserts, and drinks.

There are plenty of fun activities including Plinko, Cornhole, and Ladderball in addition to a 50/50 drawing. Numerous prizes to be won! And there will be a special visit from Lou E. Loon!

If you and your friends and family wish to attend, please click here to register. We look forward to seeing you!

**ARTICLE 2 –** The Americans With Disabilities Act

July 26, 2019 marks the 29th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Celebrations of the signing of the ADA by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990 are taking place across the nation.

The ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) give civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The ADA and ADAAA also assure equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities for access to businesses, employment, transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications.

"Nearly 37 million people in our country have a disability and nearly 25% of today's twenty-year-olds will experience disability in their lifetime. Since 1991, the 10 regional ADA Centers in the ADA National Network have provided free, confidential and accurate information, resources and training on the ADA to businesses, employers, state and local governments, people with disabilities and their families, advocates, and veterans across the United States," said Barry Whaley, Director of the Southeast ADA Center.

Through the outreach, training, and technical assistance the ADA National Network, and organizations like the 15 Centers For Independent Living throughout Michigan, have done to promote compliance with the ADA, people with disabilities have better access to businesses, buildings, employment, state and local government programs and services, and increasing opportunities for equal and full participation in civic and community life.

We'd love to hear how the ADA has changed your life or the life of a loved-one. If you would like to share your story, please find us on Facebook or send us a message through our website at www.dnmm.org.

**ARTICLE 3 -** Inclusion Day at Dow Diamond

Inclusion Day encourages groups and individuals to rally behind the common theme that everyone is welcome at the ballpark to enjoy America's pastime.

This event also serves as outreach to our community business partners and non-profit organizations who support inclusion activities within the Great Lakes Bay Region. Many of these groups will be present providing information and awareness of the services they provide including P Flag, and local Miracle League Baseball Chapters.

The Great Lakes Loons and Corteva Agriscience find common ground as organizations dedicated to fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive gathering place for all fans regardless of age, gender, physical ability, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation gender identity or gender expression, military status, and national origin.

**ARTICLE 4 -** Community Organization of the Night

On Wednesday, July 31st, Disability Network of Mid-Michigan will be the "Community Organization of the Night" at Dow Diamond. Game time is 7:05pm! Come cheer on the Great Lakes Loons as they battle the Fort Wayne TinCaps.

Stop by our booth on the main concourse before or during the game for information on the services we provide and for FREE GIVEAWAYS! #DiveIn

For more information or if you'd like to attend or to help out at the booth, please call 989-835-4041 extension 227.

**ARTICLE 5 -** 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 6 –** Beat The Heat – Find a Cooling Center Near You!

With temperatures in the 90s and heat indexes topping 100, it's important to remain hydrated and to avoid prolonged exposure to the heat when possible. While not comprehensive, below is a list of places you can go to get a break from the heat. Be safe!

Saginaw County:

Eleanor Frank Senior Center 2355 Schust Road, Saginaw 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Marie Davis Senior Center 233 N. 2nd Street, Saginaw 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bay County:

Riverside Friendship Center 800 J.F. Kennedy Drive, Bay City Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Hampton Happy Hearts 801 W. Center Road, Essexville Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.- 6 a.m./ Friday 2 p.m.- 6 p.m.

Kawkawlin Senior Dining Center 1800 East Parish Road, Kawkawlin Wednesday-Thursday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Rainbow Center at the Canteen 800 Livingston Avenue, Bay City Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Williams Senior Dining Center 1080 West Midland Road, Auburn Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Clare County:

Hayes Meal Site 3821 Grant Avenue, Harrison Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lake George Township Hall 175 Lake George, Lake George Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Clare Senior Center 502 Beech Street, Clare Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lake Meal Site DAV Building 9840 School Road, Lake Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Gladwin County:

Horizon Senior Living, 450 Quarter St., Gladwin

Beaverton Community Center, 142 Saginaw St., Beaverton

Gratiot County:

Schnepp Health Care Center 427 East Washington Street, St Louis

Gratiot Community Senior Center 1329 Michigan Avenue, St Louis

Senior Activity Building 1011 East North Street, Ithaca

Perrinton Community Center 305 West Elba, Perrinton

Isabella County:

Commission on Aging, 2200 S. Lincoln St., Mt. Pleasant

Midland County:

Senior Services, 4812 Dublin, Midland

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1310 Ashman St., Midland

Ogemaw County:

Senior Citizen Center, 130 Page St., West Branch

**ARTICLE 7 - 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 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