WE’RE BACK!
The Boosters’ first meeting of the year will be
September 19th
at 1:00 p.m. at Hickory Grove Rd.

With September here, another Booster year is about to begin. Booster meetings will take place, dances will be held, and the bowling league will start.

HDC has been very fortunate over the years to have a dedicated group of people who have been willing to do whatever it takes to make those events possible.

Some longtime Boosters may remember newspaper drives, with people filling semi trucks in order to raise funds. Others may recall hauling their gently-used household items to someone’s garage for a sale.

Many of those past Booster members worked long and hard to build the organization.

They put in the time and resources to lay the groundwork, and many participants have benefited greatly from their commitment and foresight.

Those past Booster members are no longer around, so now, new members are needed to continue the important work of those early volunteers.

In order for the Boosters to remain a viable group that continues to provide activities for the participants and support to the Center, we need your help.

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities to lend a hand. We know it is not possible for many people to attend meetings; however, there are plenty of other ways to become involved and to make a contribution. Here are just a few:

- Join the Boosters. Send in $10 and become a member.
- Volunteer at Booster events. Come to the parties and help decorate, serve the meal or clean up afterwards.
- Show up for Saturday bowling and help organize the bowlers.
- Help with the Nut and Candy Sale. Volunteer to price the bags when they arrive, deliver orders, sell them to your friends, etc.

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September 10th to September 16th is Iowa Direct Support Professional Recognition Week.

Join HDC Boosters in recognizing the dedication and accomplishments of outstanding Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and help express appreciation for their vital contribution to our family members, friends, and others at HDC and throughout the country.

DSPs provide a broad range of supports that allow people with disabilities to lead meaningful and productive lives. During the week of September 10th, visit the HDC Facebook page to learn more about some of the staff who are dedicated to doing this type of work at HDC.

SPEAKING OF DEDICATED STAFF...

Each year in September at the HDC Board of Directors’ Annual Dinner, staff members from each department are presented with an HDC Excellence Award for performing their duties above and beyond what is expected.

This year’s award recipients are:
- Connie Thompson, Employment Services Job Coach
- Andrea Shook, Community Residential Services Training Casemanager
- Pamela Gillam, Residential Center Certified Medication Aide
- Lauryn Jeffries, Personal Independence Services Casemanager
- Anthony Reyes, Housekeeper at Personal Independence Services

In addition to these awards, one staff person is presented with the Gary Ashcraft Memorial Award, which recognizes someone who displays humor, dedication, and a positive attitude. This year’s Gary Ashcraft Memorial Award recipient is Rodesha Rush, Dietary Supervisor at the Residential Center.

SPEAKING OF RECOGNITION...

Also at the HDC Board of Directors’ Annual Dinner, participants from each department are presented with an Achievement Award for goal achievement and other accomplishments.

This year’s award recipients are:
- Employment Services Doug Case
- Community Residential Services Randy Wortman
- Residential Center Mickey Whitney
- Personal Independence Services Grace Putman
- Community Residential Services

These individuals have worked hard on their goals during this year and will receive the recognition they deserve with a plaque and words of praise.
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- Support the other Booster fundraisers by purchasing and/or selling dining books, filling out a Birdies for Charity pledge form, and taking items to Stuff Etc.

Getting involved with the Boosters not only supports activities that benefit your family member, it also gives you the opportunity to meet others who can support you. You may find new friends who you can call with questions or who will understand your circumstances, because they have experienced the same thing themselves.

So, join the Boosters, get involved. They need you, but you may find out, you need them too.

QUAD CITIES DINING TOUR BOOKS

The Boosters are selling the Quad Cities Dining Tour books again this year. Each book contains discount coupons for numerous area restaurants, many of which are buy-one-get-one free.

*You only need to use a few coupons to get your money back.*

Books cost $35 and are available at 3 HDC locations: Hickory Grove Road, Personal Independence Services on Brady St. and the Residential Center. Call or stop by to get yours today.

A list of participating restaurants is available on the HDC website.

IT’S LEAGUE TIME!

The annual Booster bowling league starts on **September 16th**, and we encourage all HDC participants to come and join the fun!

The bowling league is held at Bowlmor Lanes every Saturday at 1 p.m. Bowlers should arrive by 12:30. If bowlers are planning to eat lunch at the bowling alley, they should arrive early enough to finish eating before bowling starts.

Help by parents, other family members and staff is always welcomed. This league is sponsored by the HDC Booster Organization. Questions should be directed to LouAnn Harmsen at 563-340-5297.
On a recent Friday afternoon, ‘Max’ cleaned up his work area while a small group toured the workshop. As the group learned about John Deere and Microsurface packaging jobs, Max stopped what he was doing, approached the group, and proudly showed them the paycheck he had just received.

Later on the tour, the group entered the new Kimmel Tech Center where “Sam” and others were searching the internet and making plans for the upcoming weekend. “Sam” told the group how excited he was, because he was going to an Iowa Hawkeye football game to cheer on his favorite team.

Life’s simple pleasures, like receiving a well-earned paycheck or making plans for a fun weekend, are shared by all, including people with disabilities at HDC.

By supporting HDC, you can ensure that people at the Center can continue to experience those simple pleasures, even after your lifetime. Consider making HDC a part of your final plans, so you can say, “I was here. I made a difference.” Call 563-391-4834 or go to the HDC website at http://handicappeddevelopment.org for more information.