

Gem State News

Gem State Developmental Center is Expanding

Greetings, we hope this message finds you well. We're happy to bring you our FALL Newsletter that includes updates and information regarding Gem State Developmental Center. In this edition, you'll find recent achievements of those that received developmental disabilities services and our continual commitment and work to better the lives of others. We have much to be proud of and our future looks bright.

In our inauguration newsletter in August 2013, we announced and celebrated our 30th Anniversary with news and events, and how rewarding our wonderful history, our community, and our state is for making "what we do" such a gratifying and priceless experience. A year later, we can proudly say we've done our part to be a good member in our community.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be opening our new 1,500 square foot addition to our Meridian Children and Family Special Services Building. This addition will provide more space for our ever expanding adult services. Individuals that perform better in an environment that is sensory friendly, quieter and with less visual and auditory stimulation will be transitioned to the new addition for the Meridian Adult Program.



In addition, we will be monitoring, advocating, and assisting adult participants by fulfilling United States Federal Judge B. Lynn Winmill's order that the Department of Health and Welfare may not reduce or terminate developmental disability services to Medicaid participants "as provided in the Individual Support Plans in place for each class member prior to July 1, 2011." As we continue our work and efforts to better the lives of others, we invite you to be a part of our team. Come join the team! Thank you.

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Upcoming Events:

- Treasure Valley Resource Fair—Sept 6th
- Ride for Autism on Sept. 6th
- Buddy Walk—Oct 11th

Meridian Adult Center Is All About “**FUN**” (& Skills)!

One of the “**FUN**”damental goals of GSDC’s Meridian Adult program is providing events and activities that clients not only have “**FUN**” at, but more importantly the skills. The past few months have been no exception to meeting the needs of our clients with following the guiding principles of: “Exceptional Service for Extraordinary People”.

Paddle Boating: this activity started the hallmark of summer and allowed clients to get some good exercise, and also see the wildlife of ducks and fish, and watch some “**FUNNY**” moments amongst the ducks! Teamwork, social skills and following directions were focus skills.



Paddle Boating



Babby Farms

Babby Farms: clients witnessed the “**FUNNIEST**” moments at Babby Farms petting zoo with seeing an array of farm animals they could pet, feed, and experience close up, unlike any other place. Little did they know that they were learning about different types of animals and their habitats.



Franz Witte Nursery

Franz Witte Nursery: this informative tour allowed our clients to learn about gardening and various plants, flowers, trees, and even “**FUN**”gi that inhabit Idaho. We also learned about the edible Stevia plant and got to eat some!

GSDC clients are growing their own vegetables in the garden and can’t wait to start eating the fruits of their labor.

Planting, weeding, watering and lots of patience are some of the skills they are working on while waiting for the zucchini, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes and sunflowers to grow.



GSDC’s Garden

Nampa Joins The “**FUN**” In Meridian!

The FUN was located in Meridian, but all centers, young and old enjoyed the Bluegrass Band and July BBQ Blast!



Chicken Chasers

Bluegrass Band: “CHICKEN CHASERS” provided us with a great afternoon of “**FUN**”ky singing and dancing!



Bluegrass dancing

We practiced social skills, got some exercise dancing and singing and had a great time!

3rd of July BBQ Blast:

GSDC showed its appreciation to clients, staff, friends, and families who’ve made GSDC possible to “**FUN**”tion for over 30 years strong. The “**FUN**”ds for the BBQ allowed for a great afternoon of food, folks, and “**FUN**”.



July 3rd BBQ



Nampa Speaks Out

Nampa Adult Center has had an awesome summer so far. It is so nice to see the smiles on the faces of all our participants during both center and community-based activities.

What was your favorite activity thus far this summer?



I liked attending the picnic in the park and going to the fair.
I am glad we get to do fun things.
~ Lisa N.

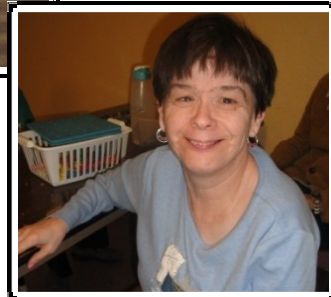


Ray is looking forward to the Buckaroo breakfast and says "He enjoys attending all of our social events and the Canyon County fair in the summer."
~Raymond B.



I liked going bowling because it was fun.
~Monica G.

If you are looking for a fun and exciting center with knowledgeable and friendly staff, Nampa Adult is the place to be!



I love having Susan paint and manicure my fingernails.
~Nancy B.

Kids Had A Busy Summer

The kids Program has had a pretty busy summer but it has been a blast getting to hang out with these kids, work on building friendships, and practicing skills in the community as well as at the center. Some of the kids favorite outings have been playing at the Splash Pad, playing games with the traveling playground, Pizza Hut tour, National Wildlife Refuge tour, Babby Farms, horse ranch tour, and Boise Capital Tour.



The kids worked on understanding and practicing many “pieces” of character traits such as; Citizenship, Friendship, Respect, Honesty, and Responsibility.



They have done a great job with being positive, being a part of the community, and building self confidence and good character through practicing skills that help them communicate, socialize, and understanding the environment around them.

We are also looking forward to the upcoming afterschool program and continuing to work on these skills and watching them grow! It is our goal for them to take these skills and what they have been practicing to home, friends, family, and school so that they can be successful with whatever they set their minds to.

By Meghan Barker

Training Seminars

Gem State Developmental Center planned and organized two training seminars for the GSDC staff and opened the training to Certified Family Home Providers, Service Coordinators, Self-Advocates and other service workers in this field.

GSDC felt it was important to provide this supportive and enhancing training for people who work with adults and children with developmental disabilities to further improve the quality of service and enhance the level of expertise for everyone in the industry.

The first training, in June, was on “**Autism and Communication**”. The amazing Carlyle King from the Treasure Valley Autism Society came to speak about how he was diagnosed, and share some of the challenges and successful moments in his life. His wife, Kristen, and daughter, Ariel, also shared their experiences, advice and answered questions from the audience. Carlyle hopes that his experiences and his ability to communicate what it is like to be on the spectrum will enhance the lives of others. Nearly 100 people were in attendance!



The second training, in August, was on “**Sensory Integration**”, presented by Beth Jacob, OTR/L, CMLDT, an Occupational Therapist who works at St. Luke’s Rehabilitation Center. Beth provided information on the types of sensory integration and difficulties that can result from being under-sensitive or over-sensitive to sensory information. She also presented different types of therapy interventions to help individuals that can benefit from sensory integration therapy. GSDC was pleased to have around 75 people in attendance!

GSDC is looking forward to being able to provide more high quality training opportunities for CFH providers, parents, families and other professionals. If you have a request for a training topic, please call or email Susan Hill, LSW at (208) 888-5566 x105 or shill@gsdcdda.com.

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