



### “Let’s Talk” Town Hall Listening Tour

Tony Green, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has announced his annual statewide “Let’s Talk” Town Hall Listening Tour starting in November. He plans to visit seven locations throughout the state of Nebraska. This tour is designed to gain stakeholder input on services provided by the Division and provide updates on future initiatives.

“Nearly 12,000 Nebraskans who are aging and/or experiencing a disability are receiving long-term support through one of our Waiver programs”, Director Green said, “This is an opportunity to hear what’s working well, and where there are opportunities for enhancements to our services and supports.”

Any individual who would like to learn more about the Home and Community-Based Service Waivers for the developmentally disabled, aged and disabled, traumatic brain injury, or pending family support waiver, is encouraged to attend.

Remaining in-person “Let’s Talk” Town Halls:

- **Tuesday, November 15, 2022, Papillion:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. CT. Sump Memorial Library, South Meeting Room, 222 N. Jefferson St., Papillion, NE 68406
- **Thursday, November 17, 2022, Lincoln:** 6:00 – 7:45 p.m. CT. Eiseley Branch Library, 1530 Superior St, Lincoln, NE 68521
- **Tuesday, November 29, 2022, Omaha:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. CT. Omaha State Office Building, Douglas Conference Center, 1313 Farnam St., Omaha, NE 68102

Virtual “Let’s Talk” session:

- **Wednesday, November 30, Virtual:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. CT. Hosted via WebEx, please use this link to join: <https://bit.ly/3stzqTD> Participants can listen via phone at (408) 418-9388, meeting number 2494 445 9723

*Thank You* for joining us in our mission!

“Serving Jesus Christ by enabling people with developmental disabilities to creatively explore and live full meaningful lives in their communities”

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## FEEDBACK

We want to make ABLED the best agency. Please use the link at the top of this email to let us know how we’re doing and provide suggestions. Your survey comments are anonymous, unless you choose to submit your name.

You may also contact us by phone, email, mail or on our website at [www.abledinc.com](http://www.abledinc.com).



## ABLED EVENT

Participants and staff visited Roca Berry Farm on Oct 20th and enjoyed treats.





# ABLED EVENT

ABLED staff and participants visited Pearson's Pumpkin Place on October 12th.

## Christmas Starts in November



### Starry Nights Christmas Tree Festival

Starry Nights 2022 will once again be held at Gateway Mall and will feature 15 designer decorated Christmas trees. Take a walk through the magical "forest" of creatively designed trees.

- Gateway Mall
- Nov 23, 25-27
- Free

### Seward Evening Lighted Xmas Parade

Kick off the holidays with the 10th Annual Lighted Evening Christmas Parade. There is a full day of festivities but the favorite is the parade.

- November 26
- 5:30 pm
- Free



### Make a Difference with Every Ring

Volunteers ring a bell at a Salvation Army kettle every day from mid-November through Christmas Eve to help people in need in our local community.

- Two hour shifts
- Multiple locations
- [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com)

Visit [lincoln.org](http://lincoln.org) and [visitnebraska.com](http://visitnebraska.com) to discover more events taking place in and around the city of Lincoln.

>> ABLED, Inc. online apparel orders are in! Pick up yours at the office. <<

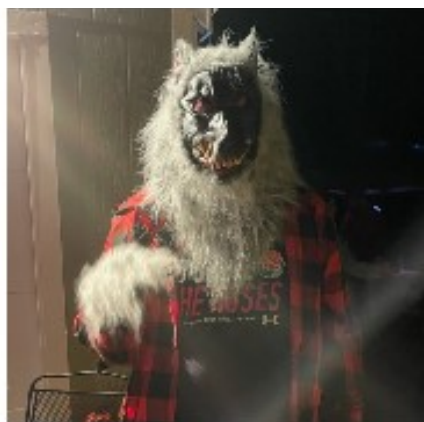


Been on vacation lately?

Check out these vaca photos from our participants!



LITTLE BIT OF THIS AND A LITTLE BIT OF THAT [Share Photos—Enter a Drawing]



# Why is giving thanks to God important?

The Bible says much about gratitude as well as the lack of it. God knows how we are made, and He designed us to thrive when we are humble, moral, and thankful. When we are arrogant, immoral, and ungrateful, we cannot have fellowship with Him, nor can we experience all it means to be created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5). So God included repeated commands in His Word about being thankful, reminding us that a grateful heart is a happy heart (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Colossians 3:15; Psalm 105:1).

Romans 1:21 says, "Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him." This tells us that God takes gratefulness—and ungratefulness—seriously. As long as a person or a culture remains thankful to God, they retain a sensitivity to His presence. Thankfulness toward God requires a belief in God at the very least, and ingratitude fails to fulfill our responsibility to acknowledge Him (Proverbs 3:5–6; Psalm 100:4). When we refuse to be thankful or to express gratitude, we grow hard-hearted and proud. We take for granted all God has given us and become our own gods.

Jesus' healing of the ten lepers gives an example of how highly God values thankfulness (Luke 17:12–19). Jesus healed all ten men, but only one returned to thank Him (verse 15). The Bible specifically records that the thankful leper was not even a Jew. He was a Samaritan, a fact that drove home the idea that Jews were not the only people who could reach the heart of God. The Lord notices those who thank Him, regardless of socio-political status or level of spirituality. His questions "**Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?**" (verse 17) show His disappointment at the ingratitude of the majority.

Ingratitude toward God is not so much a cause of evil but the result of it. Once we have hardened our hearts to the point that we no longer see God as the source of our gifts, nothing is off-limits. We become a law unto ourselves. One reason the Bible takes such a strong stance against unthankfulness and ingratitude may be that God knows that the end result of such arrogance is a reprobate mind (Romans 1:24). When we remind ourselves often that all we are and all we have is a gift from God (James 1:17), we are guarding ourselves against idolatry and pride.

This Thanksgiving and all year long let us have thankful hearts toward God and all that He provides! We will be thanking Him for you!



Check out [www.gotquestions.com](http://www.gotquestions.com) for more information.