

NEWSLETTER

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PHILIPPIANS 4:13



Celebrating Jordan Brown: A Dedicated DSP Making a Difference

Meet Ryan and Jordan. Ryan receives Community Integration services from Jordan Brown and residential support from Jordan's brother. Ryan's journey with ABLED has been one of growth, happiness and fulfillment. Once living at home, he now thrives in a supportive environment where he is known for his fun-loving and caring personality.

Staying active is important to Ryan. He works out daily at Crunch Fitness, alongside his girlfriend. He remains closely connected with his family, visiting on weekends and attending church.

Jordan transitioned into Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) from a background in youth sports mentorship, real estate and healthy living. He adapted quickly, starting with day services before becoming a Shared Living Provider. He now balances responsibilities between two clients in both Community Integration and Shared Living, compassionately serving others. Ryan's state service coordinator recently praised Jordan for his positive influence, quality of care, and thorough documentation. His calm and patient demeanor makes him an ideal support provider, fostering independence and dignity in those he works with. We're thankful that he plans to work in this field a very long time!

Ryan and Jordan's story is a testament to the positive impact of HCBS. Together, they exemplify the success and fulfillment that ABLED strives to provide for all individuals within its community!



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

Thank You for joining us in our mission!

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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.

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JOIN US AT ABLED EVENTS!

Putt Putt Golf

Feb 6, Thursday
1919 Cornhusker Hwy, Lincoln
1:00 pm



Valentine's Day Party

Feb 14, Friday
Bethany Park, N 65th & Vine St
10:30 am– 12:30 pm



Games at the Mall

Feb 17, Monday
6100 O St, Lincoln
11:00 am–12:30 pm



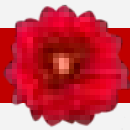
Stillwater Equestrian Center

Feb 28, Friday
6100 O St, Lincoln
1:00 pm

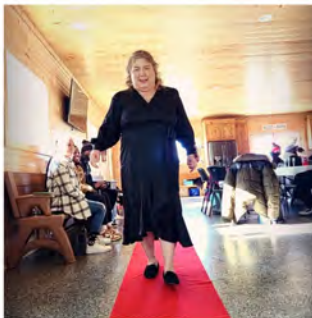




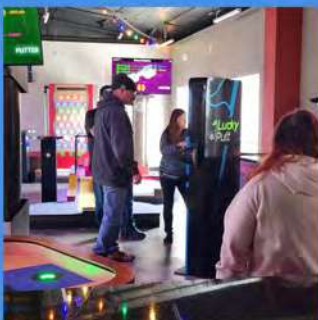
WE LOVE TO BOWL!



ABLED PROM JAN 20TH



LASER TAG & PUTT PUTT JAN 22TH





A HUGE Congratulations to April Hurt!

April was selected as one of the top 10 DSP's
by the Nebraska Association of Service
Providers out of 80 nominations!
Congrats April! We're amazed by all you do!



TAX CREDITS

Nebraska is bolstering support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through new tax credits established by LB 937, signed into law in April 2024.

These credits, detailed in Nebraska Revised Statutes are effective for taxable years after January 1, 2025.

- **Employers of DSPs:** Can claim a \$500 tax credit per DSP who has been employed for at least six months and worked at least 500 hours during the taxable year.
- **Direct Support Professionals (DSPs):** Are eligible for a \$500 tax credit if they have worked as a DSP for at least six months and met the 500-hour threshold during the taxable year.
- **Employers of Individuals Receiving HCBS Waiver Services:** Can claim a \$1,000 tax credit per employee who receives Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver services, has been employed for at least six months, and worked at least 200 hours during the tax year.

DHHS AWARDS

For the second consecutive year, the Division plans to recognize people, agencies, and employers who are making a profound difference. Winners will be announced during the March 2025 celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

You can nominate in the following categories from Jan 31-Feb 28:

- **Individual Spotlight Award:** A person with a developmental disability who has overcome adversity to achieve or exceed their goals.
- **Outstanding Provider Award:** An independent or agency provider who excels in delivering services.
- **Community Leader Award:** A person or group of people who have dedicated their time (paid or unpaid) to helping individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **Creative Employer Award:** A community employer who employs individuals with developmental disabilities.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Developmental-Disabilities.aspx>



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME



WE LOVE ANIMALS, VOLUNTEERING, FOOD, BEING SILLY AND SO MUCH MORE!



Iris, your Cayman trip looks absolutely INCREDIBLE!





Why Does God Love Us?

This short question is among the most profound questions ever asked. And no human would ever be able to answer it sufficiently. One thing is certain, however. God does not love us because we are lovable or because we deserve His love. If anything, the opposite is true. The state of mankind since the fall is one of rebellion and disobedience.

JEREMIAH 17:9 describes man's inner condition: "The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Who can know it?" Our innermost beings are so corrupted by sin that even we don't realize the extent to which sin has tainted us. In our natural state, we do not seek God; we do not love God; we do not desire God.

ROMANS 3:10-12 clearly presents the state of the natural, unregenerate person: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." How then is it possible for a holy, righteous, and perfect God to love such creatures? To understand this we must understand something of the nature and character of God.

GOD IS LOVE: First John 4:8 and 16 tell us that "God is love." Never was a more important declaration made than this—God is love. This is a profound statement. God doesn't just love; He is love. His nature and essence are love. Love permeates His very being and infuses all His other attributes, even His wrath and anger. *Because God's very nature is love, He must demonstrate love*, just as He must demonstrate all His attributes because doing so glorifies Him. Glorifying God is the highest, the best, and the most noble of all acts, so, naturally, glorifying Himself is what He must do, because He is the highest and the best, and He deserves all glory.

GOD LOVES US: Since it is God's essential nature to love, He demonstrates His love by lavishing it on undeserving people who are in rebellion against Him. God's love is not a sappy, sentimental, romantic feeling. Rather, it is agape love, the love of self-sacrifice. He demonstrates this sacrificial love by sending His Son to the cross to pay the penalty for our sin by drawing us to Himself by forgiving us of our rebellion against Him, and by sending His Holy Spirit to dwell within us, thereby enabling us to love as He loves. He did this in spite of the fact that we did not deserve it. "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

GOD'S LOVE IS PERSONAL: He knows each of us individually and loves us personally. His is a mighty love that has no beginning and no end. It is this experiencing of God's love that distinguishes Christianity from all other religions. Why does God love us? It is because of who He is: "God is love."