



The Voice

Voice of Care — In Christ with Persons Developmentally Challenged

November 2011

From the Executive Director — Rev. Donald Kretzschmar



INDIVIDUAL WORTH!

In the early days of VOICE OF CARE, our Board of Directors in retreat chose six core values upon which our mission and sharing will be based. The first value chosen is **Individual Worth**. **Every person, regardless of ability, is precious and important to God and to Voice of Care.** We are all created in God's image. Our Lord has commanded us to love every one that Christ came to redeem. Those of us who share by words and actions the Law and Gospel with children and adults who have all levels of disability, have witnessed with joy, precious faith, sometimes expressed only by eye contact, a nod or a smile. They receive the kingdom of God as does the smallest child, just the way we all must receive that precious Gift.



The Final Swing 2011 Golf Outing

While September 30th was a windy day, 53 golfers enjoyed a day of golfing and socializing. Over a lunch buffet, they were able to hear about Voice of Care's ministry. Many thanks is given to Thrivent Financial for matching funds and our many hole sponsors. We raised over \$800 in our silent auction. In total we raised over \$7500 to help

cover the expenses of Pastor Don's ministry to the people of Aspire, which is a group of residential and training facilities.

Save the Date

"Good Vibes"

A New Invaders Band Concert
(www.newinvaders.com)

You are invited to an evening of music and dance for people of all abilities to benefit Voice of Care!

**Saturday, March 31, 2012
7 to 10 PM**

**Hyatt Hotels & Resorts
1400 Corporate Dr Lisle IL 60532**

Tickets \$30.00 per person
Price covers: Appetizers, Desserts, and Refreshments

Silent Auction Table

Mission Statement

To enable the church in serving Christ to do ministry with persons developmentally challenged and those who care for them within congregations, homes, residential facilities, and communities, seeking with them our Lord's good plan for them and enabling their full participation in the Body of Christ.



In Christ with Persons Developmentally Challenged

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From Pastor Don

MY FRIEND'S THANKSGIVING

Julian is a friend with a gripping handshake I value visiting. In high school he was quite athletic before an accident left him severely disabled. In his wheelchair, very limited in his use of voice, Julian still has the fun-seeking competitive attitude of an athlete. When I visit him in the developmental training room of his day program, an early high point in our visit is our handshake. He takes my hand with a powerful grip I don't experience elsewhere. With a smile and laugh he holds me captive until with his delightful chuckle he gives release. He communicates with picture images and pointing to letters in an alphabet on his table.

One November my devotion in his room focused on the gifts of God for which we give thanks. I asked the men and women there to show me what they give thanks for. Most of them pointed to people or things that came readily to mind. Julian got my attention and he pointed out letters to tell the gift for which God has his thanks: B...R...E...A...T...H. Breath! I and others there marveled at the depth of meaning in the gift he had named. The Spirit Breath of God has breathed into Julian a joy in his faith he will grip forever.

From Deaconess Jana

A REFLECTION FROM SUMMER CAMP

I recently called Brittany and her mom Kathy to see how camp went. Brittany is a first time camper at Walcamp and had never been away from home. I asked Kathy if Brittany enjoyed her week and if there was anything Voice of Care could do for her family.

Kathy has never had a week to herself and she could not find the words to tell me how grateful she is. She talked about how Voice of Care/Walcamp has given her something she has not had for many years (a week of rest). Kathy mentioned Ellie (Brittany's helper) and I said, "Isn't she awesome?" Kathy said, "Words do not describe her and her

parents must be so proud." Kathy was very impressed with Brittany's helper Ellie. God has blessed Voice of Care and Walcamp with a wonderful Special Needs Program and gifted volunteers who serve our Lord with their whole hearts.



From the Board of Directors

My name is Laurie Schaefer and I am on the board of directors of the ministry, Voice of Care. I am a music therapist who works with the Developmentally Disabled adults and children. When I first encountered the ministry of Voice of Care (Pastor Don), I was working at Marklund homes. This is a home that serves severe/profound developmentally disabled children and adults. When Pastor Don comes with Voice of Care volunteers, the clients faces light up! They learn songs, scripture, and sense Gods love through them in a way that is understandable to them. The verbal clients and possible non verbal clients have memorized the songs and Lords prayer. A particular client I know comes to mind. He is a verbal client who loves to sing. Before I sing a song and ask him who he can depend on or who he loves, he will say the Lord Jesus Christ. Through these clients, the love of Jesus shines! Sometimes individuals, who don't know the DD population, see that the clients are happy! I believe they are happy because they have Jesus in their lives and have wonderful people that care for them. Voice of Care provides this for them. Not only do the clients receive the "message," staff, families, and volunteers do as well. Voice of Care visits to the sites reading the Lords prayer, scripture, and praising Jesus in song, fills their hearts with love as well! This also provides a positive work environment and draws them closer to Jesus! I believe that Voice of Care is such a positive and beneficial ministry to so many people and I love being a part of it!

From the Director of Development Kris Blackwell

Voice of Care is a very specialized ministry with in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Unlike churches and schools, the people we serve are in no position to financially support us. We reach out weekly to over 600 people with developmental and other disabilities, most of whom are in secular facilities. This leaves us with a huge challenge as to how to provide the funds needed to pay our chaplains and office staff. While our fundraisers help and we do get a few grants, we primarily rely on the generosity of our congregations and individuals who sacrificially give every month to make sure that Pastor Don and Deaconess Jana can reach out to the people of northern Illinois who may not otherwise have the opportunity to hear the good news of salvation through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope as you read this newsletter, if you are not one of our regular supporters, you will consider partnering with us in this important ministry.

Voice of Care and Walcamp are looking forward to Winter Camp.



Winter Special
Needs Advent
Retreat
December 2-4
Cost \$130

For more information
contact

Cameron Harms/
Debra Hull at
815.784.5141 or
Cameron-

Harms@walcamp.net
We are excited to
celebrate Advent,
decorate cookies,
and to go bowling!