

The Junction

FEBRUARY 2009

Rising Stars at Crossroads

There are three new “leaders” among the staff at Crossroads. During the months of May, June, August, and September, Kris Rotnicke (Onawa location), Kelly Smith and Krista Rife (both from the Missouri Valley location) traveled to Ames, Iowa to take part in the Iowa’s Association Community Providers (IACP) Leadership Institute. This four month long training program offered two full day classes each month. The Leadership Institute is centered on developing leadership skills through formal instruction and active participation.

During the training the IACP Leadership Institute brought in Professors, CEO’s, people

from the area marketing firms, lawyers, speakers, and the President of the IACP to discuss and teach us different techniques that make effective leaders. There were a total of 36 people at the Leadership Institute from across Iowa. This training was a great learning experience for all.

Not only was the teaching beneficial, it was also fun! Kelly Smith said “We got to meet new people and hear some of the same challenges others in our same field face on a daily basis. We all



Krista Rife, Kelly Smith,
& Kris Rotnicke

brought back different ideas of how we would like to better ourselves and the people we serve”.

10 Years of Service!



Sarah Lubbert, Chuck Bettin,
& District Manager Sue Allyn

On October 17, 2008 Chuck Bettin was honored for 10 years of service to Casey’s General Store in Onawa, Iowa.

During his time at Casey’s, Chuck is responsible for a variety of duties such as sweeping, bagging ice, cleaning windows, keeping the freezer and cooler clean,

and wet mopping. Area Supervisor, Sara Lubbert, and District Manager, Sue Allyn, presented Chuck with a cake and a clock for his years of service. Congratulations Chuck!

CWI

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CWI offices can be found at the following locations:

301–10th Street
Onawa, IA 51040-9301
Phone 712/423-1477

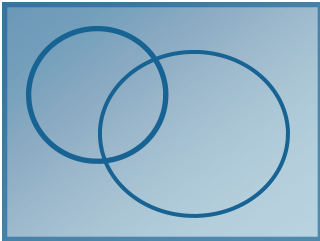
1529–9th Ave.
Council Bluffs, IA 51501
Phone 712/328-1930

One Crossroads Place
Missouri Valley, IA 51555
Phone 712/642-4114



“The Mission of Crossroads of Western Iowa is to empower individuals to actively seek out opportunities for an enhanced quality of life”

www.explorecrossroads.com



Bobbi Boze, A Good Neighbor

Bobbi was presented the “Good Neighbor Award” by Woodmen of the World at a brunch held November 22, 2008. The Good Neighbor award is presented to an individual that seeks out and helps others.

Bobbi has been employed at the Council Bluffs Crossroads in the Adult Day Program for the past 5 years. As Lead Coordinator, Bobbi has many responsibilities such as developing and coordinating activities for individuals with disabilities.

When you meet Bobbi you know right away that this is more than a job for her. Her dedication does not stop at the door at the end of the day. She truly cares about the families and all the people attending the program. She has gone out of her way to help the families when necessary to make their lives easier. Sometimes this means giving up her evenings, weekends, and even some holidays.

Bobbi has even organized and coached a baseball team and a Special Olympic Team.

Bobbi looks at an individual’s abilities and not their disabilities. She functions with the heartfelt belief that all people should be treated with dignity and respect. Bobbi is more than a good neighbor she is a genuine caring person who is always willing to help those in need.

Crossroads of Western Iowa congratulates Bobbi on this well deserved achievement and extends appreciation for her being a part of the Crossroads team.



Bobbi Boze receives her “Good Neighbor Award” from the Woodmen of the World.

Spiritual Growth

Everyone at Crossroads looks forward to Wednesday mornings because this is when we have Spiritual Growth.

Spiritual Growth is a time to renew our spirits. Area church Ministers and Pastors volunteer their time for a half hour or so and give a reading of scripture. Included in this half hour is time for singing and any prayer concerns anyone may have.

Especially uplifting was a local Onawa Pastor, Arley Ellingson, who is from the United Methodist Church in Onawa. He brought with him some back up named “Jimmy and the Giants”. This is a gifted group with Jim Shook on rhythm guitar, Leland Richbaugh on lead guitar, Barry Dumond on Bass, Charlie Davis on harmonica, and Pastor Arley as vocals. This group shares their talents by

praising the Lord and spreading his good word. It’s hard not to tap your toes or join in song when they are playing. Thank you guys for the great start to our day!

If you are interested in helping out with Spiritual Growth in Onawa please call Miriam at 712-423-1477 or in Missouri Valley call DeAnn at 712-642-4114.



Jimmy and the Giants play a tune at Spiritual Growth in Onawa.

A Big Thanks to the Knights of Columbus

The Onawa–Blencoe Knights of Columbus Council 6249 have presented the funds collected during their annual PID drive to Crossroads of Western Iowa.

According to Knight Franklin Heisterkamp this PID fund raiser was meant to benefit persons with intellectual disabilities. Onawa Director of Operations, Jamie Barnum, accepted this generous dona-

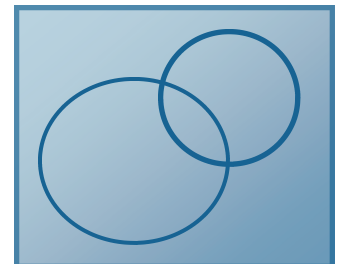
tion and thanked the Knights for their continuing dedication to helping those in need in our community.

The money will be used to expand the programs available to the persons served at Crossroads. Thus fulfilling the mission statement to enhance the quality of life for the persons we serve. All the staff and consumers at Crossroads

wish to thank the Knights for their generosity. THANK YOU!!



Onawa Director, Jamie Barnum, accepts a check from the Knights of Columbus.



A New Addition to Crossroads

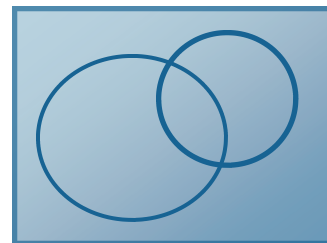
Onawa welcomes a new addition and no, it's not what you think! Staff and consumers have anxiously waited for the arrival Of our new truck!

With the new truck, staff and consumers now have the ability to literally "move about" in the community and surrounding areas. Inclusion and ability awareness have been great as staff and consumers proudly work side by side with our local businesses picking up and delivering products. The truck is a 2003 Ford

E350 and has a slide out ramp and low rear height level which allows numerous people the ability to load and unload work. Just last Friday the truck was seen heading to Burgess Hospital, Family Medicine Clinic, Hoffman Agency, and then on to Western Iowa Coop in Sloan to pick up confidential paper tubs.

Recently a business partner supplying one of our favorite types of work (which comes from Apex Tackle Corporation of South Sioux City, NE)

congratulated and complimented Onawa on the truck. They have expressed that the room on the truck allows them to send larger work orders. We LOVE Apex and are excited about being given the opportunity to increase the amount of work, as well as providing a faster return time on the completed work. With wheels turning, Crossroads is rolling down the roads looking for new opportunities for work expansion. Keep an eye out for us as we'll be driving your way soon!



Onawa's New Arrival! A 2003 Ford E 350

Onawa Thanks Local Churches for Their Generosity

The Christmas celebrations began early this year for the Onawa consumers. On December 2nd the Whiting Christian Church, under the leadership of Pastor Bryce McFarland, sponsored a Christmas party. What a wonderful party it was!

The church hall was decorated for the season and a delicious supper was served. There were games to play and crafts to make and all were of a

Christmas theme. Gift bags were handed out to excited people. What a wonderful way to start the Christmas Season!

To top that off, on Sunday December 7th the Onawa consumers were treated again to the annual Castana Christmas party put on by the Castana Community Church. This special group of ladies and their helpers have been "wowing" Crossroads for

many years. The Castana Community hall was fully decorated and a supper was provided. Christmas carols were sung, crafts were made, and gifts were exchanged. After two parties in one week the Onawa consumers were absolutely in the Christmas spirit!

A sincere thank you to both churches for their generosity and kindness.



Have You Ordered Yours Yet?

The attendees at the CWI Adult Day Program in Council Bluffs have been busy creating and assembling welcome mats. The mats are very durable as they are constructed out of a heavy gage rubber and interlocking wire.

There are many skills learned and developed through this project; eye hand coordination, fine motor skills, color

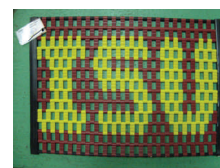
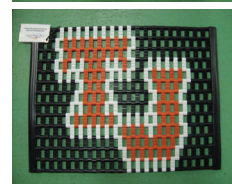
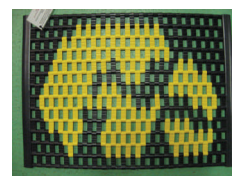
recognition, self satisfaction, and the feeling of accomplishment.

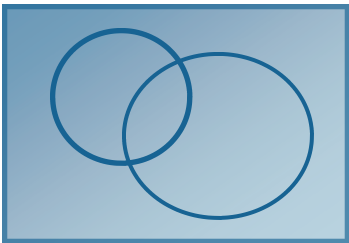
Special orders are welcome! They have created mats depicting things from favorite football, baseball, and basketball teams, high school colors and letters, to personal initials and holiday themes.

The mats sell for \$20 each.

You can order yours by calling 712-328-1930. They make a perfect gift for that "hard to buy for" person!

Arrangements for pickup or delivery will be made at the time of order.





CWI Attends Glenwood Provider Meeting



Jacob Blair and Josh Hopkins

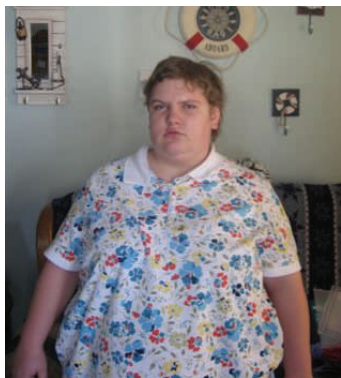
Crossroads of Western Iowa attended the Glenwood Resource Center Provider meeting on Wednesday, October 29th at Baylis Park Hall in Council Bluffs. Two consumers, Jacob Blair and Josh Hopkins represented Crossroads as people who have experienced our services.

Three staff members, Deanna Johnson, Missouri Valley Director of Operations, Martie Chauvin, Service Coordinator in Council Bluffs, and Keith Herron, Residential Supervisor in Council Bluffs, at-

tended the meeting and talked to many parents, guardians, consumers, and Case Managers about the array of services we offer in our three locations. Attendees were given an assortment of marketing items including key lanyards, cozies, and pens.

If you have any questions about the Vocational, Habilitation, Residential, or Day Habilitation Services in any of our three locations, please give us a call and we would be glad to help you. In Council Bluffs call Amy at 712-328-1930; in

Missouri Valley call Deanna at 712-642-4114; and in Onawa call Jamie at 712-423-1477.



Brittney Sheppard in her new apartment

Welcome Back!

Brittney Sheppard is excited about her new apartment in Missouri Valley. Brittney worked at Crossroads in Missouri Valley until she moved to Shelby, Iowa last spring.

In late summer, Brittney was told she would have to find a new place to live. Crossroads in Missouri Valley had an

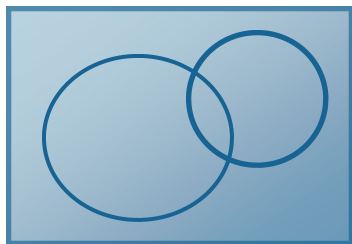
opening and so it is like coming home for Britt.

“I am very happy to be in Missouri Valley and I love my new apartment” says Brittney.

Brittney’s family is closer to her now and she enjoys spending more time with them.

Brittney is active in the com-

munity. She enjoys going to the library and the YMCA in Blair, Nebraska with her peers. On behalf of all of us at Crossroads of Western Iowa, “Welcome back Brittney!”



CWI is Going Green

In an effort to try and do our part with reducing waste and saving some “green” CWI is making an effort to follow our three R’s of recycling. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Of these three R’s, we are starting with the first R, Reduce, and you can help us accomplish that.

We are trying to get our mail-

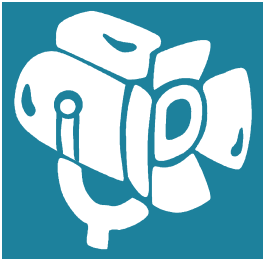
ing list for the newsletter updated and eventually we would like to do away with paper newsletters and switch to emailing the newsletter.

If you currently receive the newsletter and would like to continue to receive it please call us at 712-642-4114 or email DeAnn at deann.paul@cw Iowa.org. Please put the word

“newsletter” in the subject line when e-mailing. Be sure to include your full name and address.

If we don’t hear from you , we will consider it a request not to continue to receive a newsletter. Thank you for your help!

In The Spotlight



Council Bluffs : Melanie Donegan is new to Crossroads at the Council Bluffs location. Melanie has been employed with Crossroads for a little over eight weeks now as their Secretary. Before Melanie was a Secre-

tary for Crossroads, she was a Finance Manager, a Book-keeper, and a Payroll Specialist.

Being new to the organization and getting to know each of the consumers and their schedules and personalities has been her biggest challenge of the job so far but it is an enjoyable challenge.

What Melanie likes best about her job is that we have a very uplifting atmosphere. Melanie says the consumers usually come to the Day Program happy and it just makes

for great morale. She enjoys coming to work every day.

Melanie has been married to her husband, Tim, for 21 years. Together they have two children. Megan is 19 and is a freshman at the University of Iowa and Conor is 15 and a freshman at St. Albert.

When not at work Melanie enjoys traveling with her family, reading, and making holiday wreaths.



Melanie Donegan
Council Bluffs Secretary

Onawa : Heather Gibson has been with Crossroads for three years. She started in the residential program and transferred to the work floor six months later.

This past August Heather transferred yet again into the Facility Supervisor/ Residential Assistant position. Some of her job duties include taking people to medical appointments, facility upkeep, medication management,

scheduling life long learning classes, and doing the residential staff schedule.

Heather's favorite part of the job is the variety. There is always something new everyday and no two days are ever alike.

Heather's greatest challenge is there is only one of her and she cannot be in two places at once.

Before Crossroads Heather

worked at Pizza Hut, Dairy Queen, and Heartland Cellular. Heather lives in Blencoe and has a variety of interests outside of work. She enjoys cooking, computers, music, concerts, and spending time with her friends.



Heather Gibson
Facility Supervisor/
Residential Assistant



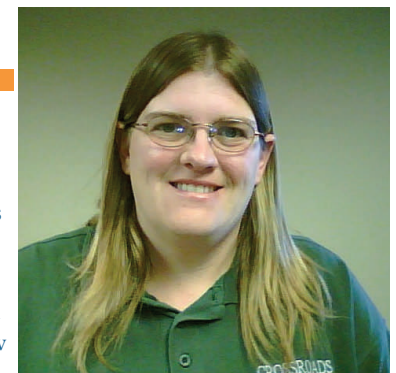
Missouri Valley : Christa Fielder has worked for Cross-

roads for 7 months as an Intermediate Care Supervisor. One of the biggest challenges Christa faces with her job is trying to meet all the needs of all the consumers.

Christa enjoys working with the consumers and teaching them new skills. She says that she just really enjoys working at Crossroads.

In the past Christa has worked as a Para Educator at West Harrison Schools and as a waitress at Pizza Hut.

In Christa's free time she loves to read, bake, and watch movies. Her favorite TV show is "Grey's Anatomy". She loves to spend time with her children and play Wii sports tennis.



Christa Fielder
Intermediate Care
Supervisor

Thank You

Raymond Friedrichsen	Betty Hammer	Valley Drug	Pat Sears	Pat Kocour
Steve Van Riper	Mike Kenealy	Myron Rozell	Pat Kocour	Betty Nielsen
Theresa Jozwiak	Eleanor Soetmelk	Sharon White	Charles Osgood	Hazel Hansen
Jim Sorensen	Henry Nissen	Beth Nielsen	Vincent Willey	Darci Tierney
Charles Stevenson	Judy Dinkel	Marjorie Loyd	Michael Jensen	Dennis Webner
Charlie Wisecup	Celia Stevenson	Glen Brewer	Ruth Heim	Kathleen Winther
Kenneth Stanger	Knights of Columbus	First Presbyterian Church		Dennis Crispin
Gale Renz	Christian Ladies Aid	Scott Glienke	Moorhead Christian Church	
Phil & Louise Campbell	Lois Miller	Paul Petersen, Jr.	First Congregational Church	
WELCA Solier, IA	St. Peters UCC			

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