

BEING
Well

MIND BODY
SPIRIT
2009

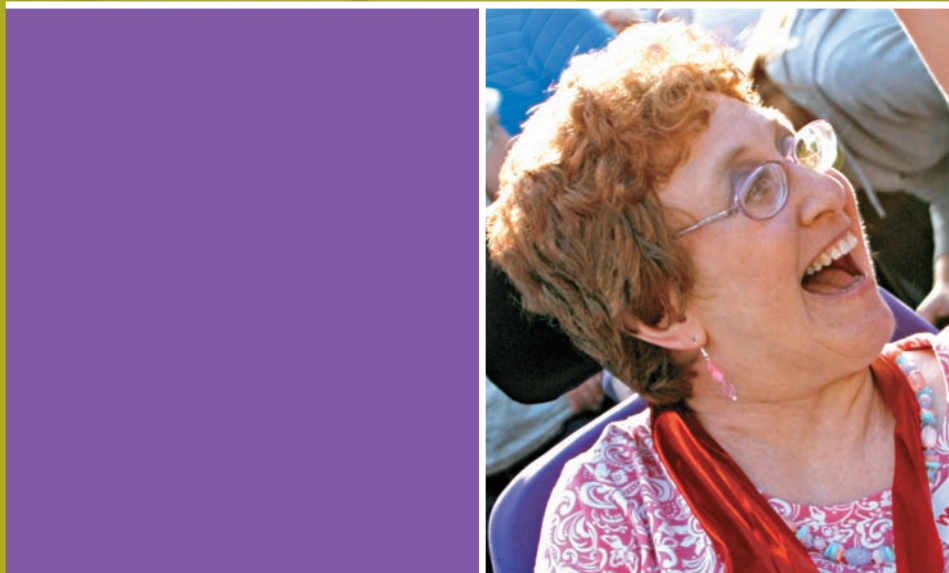
ANNUAL REPORT





community

Relationships with people are at the heart of who we are and what we do.



committed to Wellness

*Dakota Communities nurtures and supports the
health of mind, body, and spirit.*



BE A MODEL OF excellence



Being well in mind, body, and spirit is a journey for any person.

For people with disabilities, it is a journey with unique challenges and opportunities. In this Annual Report you'll meet two individuals served by Dakota Communities, Patti and Laura, who are achieving remarkable results in their quest for greater health. They are an inspiration to all of us!

At Dakota Communities, we're working to transform the traditional system of care and support for people with disabilities. We are creating a "culture of wellness," including good nutrition, physical exercise, stress management, and social connections.

One of our goals is to develop a model of best practices that can be replicated nationally. In addition to enhancing the quality of life for people we serve, this innovative initiative addresses the immediate and long-range need to stabilize and reduce health costs for people with developmental disabilities.

People with disabilities are living longer and fuller lives than anyone expected when we began as Dakota's Children in 1972. The challenge is that as people age it becomes increasingly expensive to support their health needs. But by becoming engaged participants in creating their own wellness, people with disabilities can become part of the solution.

Our focus on wellness is just one way we are fulfilling our mission of partnering with people with disabilities to reach their goals and potential. We are pleased to share some of the highlights of our 2009 accomplishments, which include:

- 60% of people receiving services in Dakota Communities residential settings participated in "Wellness Opportunities" such as personalized health coaching, therapeutic gardening, and pet therapy.
- People identified as obese in our "Healthy Menu" pilot project lost a cumulative average of 12% of their body weight, exceeding the original goal of 2%.
- 97% of case managers surveyed would recommend Dakota Communities.
- 96% of family members would recommend us.
- 98% of employees believe their job makes a difference in people's lives.

Philanthropy and volunteerism are more essential than ever to achieve our vision of being a model of excellence in a world that creates possibilities for people of all abilities. Your support enabled us to grow from one facility in West St. Paul to 32 residential settings in the Twin Cities Greater Metropolitan Area, plus an array of support services – including in-home and supported employment.

Thank you...we are grateful for your partnership!

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Patrick Tinucci
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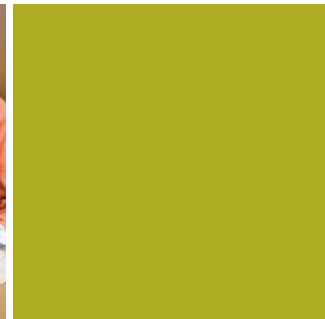
Healthy & Wholesome

Early in the summer of 2009, Patti Hilla and her Kennelly housemates in Burnsville learned about a custom nutrition program that would be launched in their home.

Toni Boelter, Director of Community Life for Dakota Communities, explained that the people at Kennelly would be among the first to try healthy menu plans created specifically for Dakota Communities by St. Catherine University's Professor Emeritus Julie Jones, Ph.D., and five of her students.

"We had been using the same meal plans for more than 18 years, so this was a big change for us," said Tom Mohrland, Program Coordinator at Kennelly. "We questioned whether the people in the home would eat the food because they're resistant to change, but the response has been really positive. The taste of everything is great. People have really enjoyed the food."

The menu plans created for Dakota Communities include plenty of fish, lean meats, pasta, and fresh fruits and vegetables. New plans are provided to the home each season and include weekly menus with recipes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner that use fresh, seasonal ingredients. "Last summer we grew tomatoes, parsley, and herbs in our garden that were provided to us by The Center for Therapeutic Horticulture and Recreation Services at the University of Minnesota," said Tom. "We were able to use them for meals we made using the new recipes."



"I like cooking. It's my favorite hobby!"

– Patti Hilla, Kennelly House

When making one of the new recipes for dinner, Patti, a 47-year-old woman who lives in the Kennelly home, helped by placing chicken, artichokes, and sliced red pepper on a ready-made pizza crust. While spreading a layer of barbeque sauce on the crust, Patti proudly said, "I'm painting the pizza with sauce!" "Patti has always been helpful in the kitchen; she has always been right there willing to lend a hand," said Tom.

The new menu system has been a success in ways that go beyond pleasing palates and inspiring budding chefs. Since the menu system was implemented last summer, five of the eight people who live in the Kennelly home have lost weight. "The people at Kennelly are very active,"

said Tom. Patti, for instance, enjoys dancing, taking walks, swimming at a community center, going bowling each week, and playing golf and frisbee toss on a Wii™ game system. "But the new menu system has definitely contributed to their overall health and weight loss."

The new menu system has also streamlined meal preparation. "Before getting the new meal system, we had to prepare a low fat menu for a small portion of the people who live in the house in addition to the regular meal we prepared," explained Tom. "Now we prepare one meal for everyone."

Tom added that "it often takes a bit of effort to get some of the people in the house to try the meals because they are resistant to change, but once they try it, they say, 'Oh, this is good!' The new meal system has been a success." "I like cooking, It's my favorite hobby!" added Patti with a glowing smile.

A Way TO Wellness

Just over a year ago, 52-year-old Laura Ketcham drank mainly carbonated beverages and coffee filled with cream, ate foods high in fat and sodium, and was afraid to go into clinics or near exercise equipment.

Today Laura drinks mostly water, takes skim milk in her coffee, eats salads when dining out, and exercises regularly at the Monticello Community Center.

After serving Laura at the Powell House in Big Lake for nearly 20 years, Cindy Moos, Program Coordinator, became her partner in the Ways to Wellness program. Ways to Wellness is a 12-week program hosted at Woodwinds Health Campus in Woodbury that creates individualized fitness, nutrition, and weight management programs to help people meet their wellness goals. "Convincing Laura to interrupt her daily routine to go to Ways to Wellness training sessions wasn't easy," said Cindy, "especially since it involved more than three hours of driving each week." Yet when asked how she felt when the Ways to Wellness program came to an end, Laura said, "Horrible!"

Watching Cindy undergo fitness evaluations helped Laura overcome her fear of the program and she soon embraced all she was learning through Ways to Wellness. Participating in the program has taught Laura to drink significantly more water; choose skim milk over cream; prefer healthier juices and breads; eat high-fiber, low-sugar snacks; enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables; select meals low in sodium and fat; and pursue a variety of physical activities.

The routine of going to Ways to Wellness has also helped Laura "get up and go" in other ways. She now walks and swims at the community center, goes on walks with a pet therapy dog named Moose, dances in her room and at functions held at the Big Lake Lioness Club.

Attending Ways to Wellness also lessened Laura's fear of new places and her dread of medical appointments. "Laura used to be afraid to be in the same room with a scale," said Cindy. "Seeing me on the equipment and working with Wellness Coaches has helped ease her into doctor appointments."

Laura isn't the only person who benefited from the Ways to Wellness program. Having struggled with ongoing health issues, Cindy learned through her fitness evaluations that she was in a worse state of health than she knew. As a result, she made significant improvements in her eating choices and habits and lost 24 pounds. In addition, her previously

high cholesterol is now perfect. "I am so much healthier now in so many ways. I consider every day a blessing."

"Laura's overall health has also improved," Cindy shared. "But Ways to Wellness wasn't just for Laura and I; it was for everyone. We brought to the house what we learned, and everyone is benefiting from it."

12 Months of
Healthy Choices
Transformed 2 Lives

Ways to Wellness

- 1 **Uses registered dietitians and certified personal trainers to tailor programs to meet each individual's unique wellness needs.**
- 2 **Is a joint initiative between Dakota Communities and Woodwinds Hospital hosted at the Woodwinds Health Campus in Woodbury.**
- 3 **Provides an individualized fitness, nutrition, and weight management program to help people meet their wellness goals.**



joy

*We celebrate the fullness of life
through playfulness and laughter.*

Dakota Communities 2009 Financial Results

ASSETS	2009	2008
Cash and Investment	\$ 6,730,517	\$ 5,537,924
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,279,854	\$ 1,314,434
Property and Equipment (Net)	\$ 8,190,852	\$ 8,572,145
Other	\$ 1,012,794	\$ 1,082,191
Total Assets	\$ 17,214,017	\$ 16,506,694
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,634,814	\$ 2,022,421
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 4,264,671	\$ 4,679,142
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 10,911,758	\$ 9,417,290
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 84,933	\$ 70,000
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$ 317,841	\$ 317,841
Total Liabilities And Net Assets	\$ 17,214,017	\$ 16,506,694
REVENUE		
Program Services	\$ 18,415,466	\$ 18,399,315
Donations and Special Events	\$ 326,243	\$ 606,007
Other	\$ 77,369	\$ 79,739
Total Revenue	\$ 18,819,078	\$ 19,085,061
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$ 15,816,333	\$ 15,940,931
Administrative Expense	\$ 1,873,857	\$ 2,403,576
Fundraising	\$ 261,550	\$ 318,876
Total Expenses	\$ 17,951,740	\$ 18,663,383
Change in Net Assets Before Investment Gains (Losses)	\$ 867,338	\$ 421,678
Net Investment Gains (Losses)	\$ 642,063	\$ (609,320)
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,509,401	\$ (187,642)

Combined financial statement of Dakota Communities, Inc. and Dakota's Adults, Inc.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
generous support

Our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, corporations, foundations, and civic organizations for their contributions to Dakota Communities in 2009.



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mission

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 Mary Jean Loomis
In Honor of Earl Bailey
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In Honor of Eileen Bream's Birthday
 Lloyd & Vicki Stern

compassion

We put love-into-action to uphold the dignity and respect of people of all abilities.



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 Esther Snaza

In Honor of Robert Gunderson
 Fred & Mariel Wolter

advocacy

*We work in service to people, actively
 supporting their needs and interests.*

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 Anita Geller

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In Honor of The Pate Family
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We make every effort to be accurate and complete and sincerely apologize if we have misspelled or omitted any names. Please contact us at 651.688.8808 with any changes.

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