



Sharon Byers has worked for COC for 35 years! She was the first workshop supervisor. She recalls that the first job the workshop had was putting together door latches for Pella Corp. She enjoys working with the people we support by helping them learn different skills.

She has served on many different committees through the years. Her favorite was helping to organize and supervise people supported on overnight trips to Disney World, Branson, the Omaha Zoo, and Des Moines. Participants appreciated these trips and said they were the high points of their lives. Sharon shared, "I enjoy working in a Christian atmosphere and being a team member for COC." Sharon has seen many changes in the thirty five years she has been at COC and feel the reason for it's longevity is love. Outside of work, Sharon loves to spend time with Ron, her husband of 44 years, and with her children and grandchildren.



Eleanor Boot began working at COC in the 1980's as a volunteer. In 1982 she took the Janitorial position at COC's Admin/Plant building which included supervising people supported in Janitorial work.

Safety and Transportation responsibilities were later added to her position. She enjoyed driving the COC vehicles and interacting with the people supported in their daily living. She has served on the Physical Plant and Transportation Committee and is currently a member of the Safety Committee as well as the Accessibility Committee. Away from COC Eleanor enjoys the great outdoors, camping, flower arranging, reading, crafting as well as being with family and friends.

Betty Van Zee has worked for COC for 25 years. She enjoys interacting with the people we support and seeing them learn new skills. She is currently working as a Work Skills Supervisor. She started in 1983 working part time as the overnight shift supervisor in the ICF, and later she also worked in the kitchen. She then switched to the full time Janitor position which she did until June of 2008. During her time here she has served on the Safety Committee and also really enjoyed being on the committee that set up the Staff Enhancement benefit. Outside of COC she sews Dutch lace curtains in her home for Heritage Lace. In her free time she likes to go for walks, read and get together with friends to play games.



COC Update is a semi-annual publication for friends, relatives, and staff members of the

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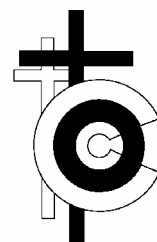
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COC Executive Director Rod Braun

Board of Directors Denny Brand, Pat Brehse, Jim Bruxvoort, Mike Clavell, Don De Waard, Bonnie Deur, Rick Elkin, Ron Groenenboom, Bruce Nikkel, Brian Thomas, Kristy Van Der Wiel, and Jerry Ver Meer,

All individuals are considered for services at COC without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, creed, physical disability, mental disability, or political belief. COC is a public benefit corporation which is accredited by CARF for Organizational Employment Services, Community Employment Services, Respite Services and Community Living Services and is a member of Iowa Association of Community Providers, American Network of Community Options and Resources.

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Christian Opportunity Center Spring Update

Making A Difference - Regional Offices in Pella, Indianola, Oskaloosa and Des Moines

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Volume XIX - No. 1 - April, 2009

40 Years of Faithfulness



Original 5 students

It all began on September 15, 1969 with five children. The first classes met at Second Reformed Church.



Second Reformed Church



Present Workshop

Past & Present

Early in C.O.C's history, land was purchased along Main Street and Big Rock Road. There was a time of construction and building which ended in 1975 at which time the building was dedicated.



The Future Home Of COC



Present Day Pella location

COC has expanded in the South East region of Iowa through the years. We now offer services in Oskaloosa (1989) Des Moines (1990), and Indianola (1994).

1975: The first Workshop was located in the basement of Faith Christian Reformed Church in Pella.



Present: A 1996 building expansion increased the size of the workshop structure to its present 5,000 sq.ft. We have work contracted to us by local businesses such as Pella Corp, Hormel, Smurfit Stone, Co-line and Fastenal.

COC has seen changes from its beginning to today. From five students to supporting approximately 240 people in 4 regions. We have provided schooling, residential, respite, day habilitation vocational, and spiritual services.

We look forward to the next 40 years!

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In Memorium

The following people who have passed away in the last year have generously remembered COC in their final arrangements. Our sincerest condolences and deepest thanks go to their families for helping us further the mission of COC through these gifts.

Alfred Couch
P.R. Van Gorp

Anna De Jong
Pat Van Waardhuizen
William Bergmann

Arlene Slack
Ruth Van Donselaar

Friends We'll Miss

Ruth Van Donselaar

September 24, 1949 – March 27, 2008



Poem Of Life

Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
to sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,

We all were meant to
learn some things,
but never meant to stay...

Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.

For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.

And when the journey finally ends,

We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,

Together with the Lord

Author unknown

Ruth Van Donselaar began receiving services at COC in 1975. She rode the bus to attend school three days a week. In 1985 she became a resident. She also participated in the COC workshop program as long as she was able. Ruth found joy in playing with children and her doll collection. Ruth passed away on March 27th, 2008 and is dearly missed by her housemates, co-workers and staff at COC.

Remember When...



Melissa Laverman & Amy Van Roekel

These two friends spent a lot of time together during the early years of COC.

Amy remembers hanging out with Melissa a lot. She has fond memories of playing in the gym and of how large it all seemed. Amy now lives with her stepsister and works in the Pella Plant. She enjoys doing crafts and spending time with her family.

Melissa recalls that it was fantastic going to school at COC. She has a lot of good memories. She remembers talking with Amy and misses her now that she is in the Oskaloosa location.

Annual Meeting Highlights

On October 16, the Annual Meeting was held at Central College's Graham Hall. Board members, staff, family members, and friends of COC gathered for an evening of fellowship and celebrating the successes of the past year.

- The evening began with devotions led by Board President Mike Clavell, followed by a buffet dinner and socializing.
- Staff members were recognized for their years of service to COC.

Back-John Van Donselaar (20) Stormie Wright (10) Mickey Edwards (10) Cheryl Snyder (10) Robert Hook (10) Sheryl Rozenboom (20) Brenda Miedema (20) Seated-Marci Kellow (10) Liz Vander Werf (15) Sheryl Van Wyngarden (5) Lora Van Essen (5) Betty Van Zee (25) Teresa Rietveld (20) Karla Winegar (20) Not Pictured-Alanda Rowe (5) Loren De Zwarte (5) Ruth Ann Triplett (5) Cassie Mikkelsen (5) Tamara Alexander (5) David Lord (5) Julie Metzger (5) Joyce Stam (10) Stan Vos (15)

- Mike Clavell recognized and thanked retiring Board Members Chuck Keuning, and Steve Boender.
- Pat Brehse, Ron Groenenboom Rick Elkin, and Denny Brand were all elected to serve on the COC Board.
- Rod Braun, (pictured at right) Executive Director, presented his annual report.
- Jake Keegan, Finance Director, reviewed the Financial Report.
- Marcia Nikkel and her parents (pictured below) spoke about their association with COC. Marcia works in the Oskaloosa region.

Marcia Nikkel with parents Norman and Treva Nikkel.

COC 2009 Annual Meeting
And 40th Anniversary Celebration

October 15, 2009

Graham Conference Center
Central College
Pella

Dinner at 6:30
Meeting at 7:30

Marcia said she likes coming to work and that preparing documents for scanning is her favorite job. She also enjoys delivering meals on wheels!

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities?

COC has many opportunities for volunteering as well as several job opportunities.

For more information check out our website
www.christianopportunity.org
or call us toll free at
1-866-262-3433

2008 COC Financial Report

REVENUES:

Government Funding.....	\$ 7,447,789
Persons Supported Payment.....	560,107
Work Contracts.....	636,322
Other:	
United Way Funding.....	26,528
Other Transportation.....	24,951
Interest.....	8,378
COC Foundation Support.....	75,492
Miscellaneous.....	13,440
Other TOTAL	<u>\$148,789</u>

TOTAL Revenues **\$8,793,007**

EXPENSES:

Personnel:	
Staff Wages.....	\$5,625,089
Persons Supported Wages.....	409,142
Staff Benefits.....	749,323
Payroll Taxes.....	409,000
Workers Compensation.....	111,374
Staff Development & Training.....	<u>18,558</u>
	7,322,485
Services:	
Purchased Services.....	31,753
Legal and Accounting.....	<u>13,092</u>
	44,845
Supplies & Office Expenses:	
Supplies and Food.....	273,700
Work Contract Supplies.....	101,600
Telephone.....	26,368
Postage.....	9,341
Printing & Advertising.....	35,771
Subscriptions & Dues.....	<u>20,63</u>
	466,842
Building & Auto Expenses:	
Bldg & Grnds Supplies & Care.....	157,122
Utilities.....	150,028
Insurance.....	63,596
Transportation.....	<u>133,531</u>
	504,268

Other:	
Depreciation.....	361,723
Interest.....	22,275
Miscellaneous.....	<u>209,989</u>
	593,987

TOTAL Expenses **\$ 8,932,428**

REVENUES LESS EXPENSES **(139,421)**

Capital Items Purchased 548,295
Loan Balance 398,888

SAVE THE DATE COC GOLF CLASSIC 2009

June 19, 2009
Oskaloosa Golf
2214 S. 11th St.

For more information call:

Diane Mitchell, Golf Classic Registrar
at (641) 628-8087 Ext. 108

or email at dmitchell@christianopportunity.org



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Thank you!