

Encouraging

With support & guidance, Jeremy continues his life's passion...

Jeremy Opheim is a young man who isn't afraid to chase after his dream... his dream of becoming a firefighter. Born with a mild developmental disability, Jeremy has faced his share of obstacles, but it hasn't deterred him from fulfilling his dreams - he's just traveled a different route.

In high school, Jeremy did some research and found out that many fire stations have Explorer programs. Explorer programs are designed for young adults who are interested in learning about a career in the Fire Service. The program's main goal is to provide the young adult with a sense of responsibility to their neighborhood through on-going community related activities.

Jeremy was intrigued by this unique program and introduced the idea to his local fire station in Indiana. The chief told Jeremy that he would need to recruit at least four to eight individuals to start the program. Jeremy quickly recruited ten individuals and the rest was history. Jeremy was hooked and remained active in the program for four years until he moved to Moorhead.

Upon his arrival in Moorhead, the first thing Jeremy wanted to do was head to the fire station. He wanted to join their Explorer program immediately. Unfortunately, at age 21, he was too old to join their program. Jeremy was discouraged but not defeated. Instead, he kept his eye on the goal, and the detour only meant that he would follow another route.

Upon beginning services at CCRI, Jeremy was quick to point out his life goals....

- 1.) To one day live independently and 2.) To become a firefighter.

With the support and guidance of his CCRI team, and Jeremy's passion, things have fallen into place.

One day when there was a fire in Jeremy's neighborhood, he met Steve Carbno, of the Fargo Salvation Army. Jeremy visited with Steve about his experiences in the Explorer program and his love of fire fighting. In that same conversation, he disclosed his disability as he thought it might be important for Steve to know.

*Jeremy proudly
poses for a
picture with his
fire fighting gear.*



According to Steve he remembers, "I was looking at Jeremy and he was a young man with a lot of passion."

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Jeremy, continued

Jeremy brings a lot to the team....his spirit is amazing.

~ Steve Carbno,
Fargo Salvation Army

Today, Jeremy is a member of the Salvation Army's volunteer response team. There is no special job description because he has a disability...he is treated just like every one else. He has been on over 100 emergency calls in the two years since he joined the team. He has responded to train derailments, fires, floods and dive team missions. Steve states that, "Jeremy brings a lot to the team. He has a willingness to do what we ask of him and his spirit is amazing." Steve also mentioned that it has been fun to watch Jeremy grow in his skills and confidence as a responder. Jeremy has taken on a mentor role with some of the new responders. Jeremy has successfully completed national trainings and carries a pager and a two-way radio so that he can respond to calls immediately. According to Steve, Jeremy is usually en route in a matter of minutes.



Jeremy stands at the ready to help the firefighters with anything that they need.

More firefighters die from heat-related incidents rather than the actual fire itself, thus the Emergency Incident Rehab role that the Salvation Army and Jeremy play is very important. During a fire, the response team's primary job is to keep the firefighters healthy so they can fight the fire. As such, Jeremy spends a lot of time keeping them hydrated and fed. In addition, he may help pull hose, set up dump tanks or hold hose.

When asked about the rewards from being on the response team Jeremy is quick to say that, "He likes helping people and seeing them smile." Jeremy also points out that occasionally you may have to respond to the homes of people you know, "You aren't just helping the firefighters, you are helping your friends and neighbors." He also stated that "The Salvation Army makes you feel like you are a part of something. I consider the members of my response team my friends and family."

Recently, Jeremy went to Wadena for two days to help with the recovery efforts after the tornado. Although he was only gone two days he said, "It felt like a life time." The destruction was pretty overwhelming. His team served food, drinks, stacked wood and removed tree limbs.

Jeremy's advice to others is, "People who have free time should volunteer because giving back to the community is cool." It sure is Jeremy! Thank you for all that you do for this community.

Story by Rhonda King, Executive Director

Jeremy takes a call on his two-way radio. He has a pager so he can respond quickly to an emergency.



CCRI receives United Way Funding

After a lengthy application process, CCRI's ARMHS (Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services) program has been granted United Way funding. We will receive \$15,000 each year for the granting years of 2011 and 2012. The funding will go to support the ARMHS program and staffing needs.

The United Way funding application process is very complex. This year there were 14 new programs that were invited to apply for funding. Of those 14, seven made it to the review process and six were approved to receive funding.

This money comes at a critical time. A Minnesota funding source known as GAMC (General Assistance Medical Care) program was cut and ended in June, 2010. CCRI is currently serving many individuals who were on GAMC and many of these people will fall through the cracks as they are not eligible for services through other programs. Alternative funding is being explored, but will not be available for everyone. The United Way grant will help ensure they can continue receiving the critical services they need. In addition, it protects services for all people in need of ARMHS services if the next state funding cycle brings further cuts.

When donations are made to the United Way, you can choose whether funds go directly to CCRI or to the United Way general fund which goes to support all the organizations within our community who benefit from United Way funding. It is a great way to have an impact on a lot of great nonprofits within our community. If you work at an organization that offers United Way payroll deduction, please consider donating. By doing so, you are helping many wonderful organizations. We look forward to a long partnership with the United Way.

We look forward to a long partnership with the United Way.

~ Rhonda King, CCRI Executive Director



We need your

CCRI has lots of volunteer opportunities! They include helping out at our Walk & Roll-a-thon on 9/18/10, or on-going cleaning of windows and gutters, cleaning the insides of vans, yard work and gardening, painting, teaching computer lessons, cooking classes to help increase independence, craft classes or our Client Appreciation Dinner on 11/8/10.

*If you are interested in any of these opportunities,
please contact Rhonda King at 218-331-2002.*

US Bank Employees Volunteer

CCRI has been the fortunate benefactor of US Banks Volunteer program. US Bank allows each of their 600 employees to volunteer at a local nonprofit up to 8 hours annually. Collectively, US Bank employees have the capacity to make a lasting impact on our local non-profit community. Two of our CCRI homes have been the recipients of their generosity and look great because of their time and effort.

Brenda Kluth, a parent of an individual receiving CCRI's Supported Living Services and a US Bank employee, called CCRI early this spring. When visiting with her son, she noticed the deck at her son's home was in desperate need of being re-stained. She said she knew how swamped CCRI's maintenance person was and that she would like to get some of her co-workers together for an afternoon and help us out by staining the deck. After letting her know that we had two decks that needed some sprucing up, she said she would be happy to help do both. Thanks to the US Bank Volunteer program and their employees, the two homes look fabulous - freeing up time for CCRI's maintenance person to work on other important projects going on at the eight homes CCRI owns.



*Pictured above are US Bank volunteers,
Brenda Kluth, Janet Nundahl,
Gina Deibel, Karen Hehn,
and Nicole Windle.*



***US Bank
volunteers did a
fabulous job!***

***Thanks to their
gift of time, the
clients are now
enjoying the
outdoors and
having backyard
barbecues on their
beautiful decks.***





For safety & liability reasons, please do not bring pets.

Walk & Roll-a-thon Fundraiser for Disability Awareness

Rain or Shine

Saturday
September 18, 2010
Oak Grove Park, Fargo

All participants that raise more than \$300 will be eligible to enter a random drawing for 2 free round-trip airline tickets within the U.S. to a destination of your choice!! For every additional \$300 raised, your name will be added again.

(Booking fees paid by CCRI ~ Ticket value \$1,000)

Live Music by:
*Little Donnie & the
Groove Tones*

Picnic
Face Painting
Silent Auction Items
Games

Registration: 9:30 a.m.
Walk Begins: 10:30 a.m.
Music Starts: 10:30 a.m.
Picnic Begins 11:45 a.m.

The mission of CCRI is to enhance and enrich the lives and learning of people with disabilities.

CCRI is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization - located in Moorhead.



For more information call 218-331-2047 or
www.creativecare.org

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The mission of CCRI is to enhance and enrich the lives and learning of people with disabilities.

The vision of CCRI is to provide an environment where people of all abilities may experience life's possibilities.

CCRI LEADERSHIP TEAM

CCRI Board of Directors

Jim Danielson - *President*
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 Barb Matthees - *Secretary*
 Tom Holtgrewe - *Treasurer*
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 Deb Kukowski Hal Wentzel Catie Herman
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CCRI Sr. Leadership

Rhonda King, Executive Director	22 Years
Lynette Weber, Options Director	19 Years
Shannon Bock, Director of Programs	15 Years
Sue Lopez, SLS Director	13 Years
Jody Hudson, Development Director	11 years
Mark McGuigan, Business Manager	9 years
Carmel Froemke, ARMHS Director	7 years
Andrea Ryan, HR Director	4 years

The Big Event...

Walk & Roll-a-thon for Disability Awareness Fundraiser & Picnic

Saturday, September 18, 2010
 Oak Grove Park, Fargo
Walk begins at 10:30 a.m.

