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# Booster Newsletter

"WE DO SO THEY CAN"

BOOSTER ORGANIZATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## Time to Advocate

Two exciting things happen on Monday, January 8, 2024. The college football national championship game is played and the Iowa Legislature begins their 2024 session. Although the game may be more fun to watch, the outcomes of the legislative session will have a far bigger impact on the lives of people with disabilities in Iowa.

Now is the time to advocate on behalf of individuals served at Empowering Abilities for changes that will help them lead their best life. Advocates can educate legislators on the following issues:

### Home and Community Based Services

Legislators should be made aware that the HCBS rate structure is inadequate to cover costs in some areas. Establishing an annual rate increase would help close that gap.

### Staffing Issues

Direct Support Professionals play a key role in ensuring participants receive the support they need; however, reimbursement rates make it difficult to recruit and retain staff. An increase in DSP wages is necessary to reduce turnover and improve the quality and quantity of services.

### Employment Opportunities

Governor Kim Reynolds has an initiative to increase Iowa's workforce programs for targeted populations. Ensuring that people with disabilities is one of those targeted groups will improve their community employment opportunities.

***Send an email or letter or give legislators a call. Visit [empoweringabilities.org](http://empoweringabilities.org) for legislators' contact information.***

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## Other Resources

Go to the Empowering Abilities website and click on "Get Involved" and "Legislative Information" for helpful links. Most legislators are now using social media.

Consider following them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.



# Dates to Note



**FUN BOOSTER ACTIVITIES HAPPENING!  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE. JOIN THE FUN.**

## **BOOSTER (INSIDE) PICNIC**

The Booster Picnic for participants was postponed back in September due to the ongoing work being done to update Daily Discovery at Hickory Grove Road. The picnic is now January 19th, and Boosters who are able to help should arrive at 10:30 AM.

## **BOOSTER VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE**

The Booster's dance for Empowering Abilities participants will be at Hickory Grove Road on Friday, February 2nd, from 6-8 PM. Anyone who is able to volunteer should arrive between 5-5:30 PM.



January 12th

Doors open at 6 PM, Trivia starts at 7 PM

\$10/person, \$80 per team of 8

Hickory Creek Event Center

3504 Hickory Grove Rd. Davenport, IA

Full bar available for purchase.

Bring your own food.

Raffle tickets to purchase for baskets

50/50 drawing

**Teams are limited so you MUST RSVP to**

**Lexi Keppy at**

**[lexikeppy@empoweringabilities.org/](mailto:lexikeppy@empoweringabilities.org/)**

**563-391-4834**

**Can't make it? No worries!**

**Buy out a trivia table for \$80 or donate a  
basket for the raffle!**

## **INSERVICE**

Hickory Grove Road and Brady Street inservice will be Tuesday, January 9th. Daily Discovery Services will be closed for participants that day.

## **HOLIDAY CLOSURE**

The Hickory Grove Road and Brady Street buildings, along with the Endeavor Living offices, will be closed Monday January 15th in observance of MLK Day.

## **BOOSTER MEETING**

The next Booster meeting will take place Tuesday, February 20th at 1 PM at the Hickory Grove Road location.

## **NUTS AND CANDY SALE**

Some nuts and candy remain, but not much, so check out the locations below to get your favorite snacks before they're gone for another year!

**Hair DeVine**

**Simplicity Salon**

**A Cut Above**

**On the Avenue Salon**

**Johnnie's Meat Market**

**K&K Hardware**

**Evergreen Artworks**

**Tri-City Equipment**

**Main at Locust Pharmacy**

**The Gentry Shop**

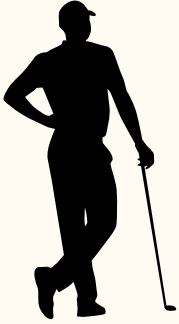
**Dittmer's Service**

**Empowering Abilities Hickory  
Grove Road and Brady Street**

**locations**

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE  
OUTLETS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO  
HELPED WITH THE NUT SALE THIS  
YEAR.**

# SAVE THE DATE



## HANDS Golf Outing

**CROW VALLEY  
GOLF CLUB**

03 JUNE 2024

CONTACT LEXI KEPPY FOR  
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

LEXIKEPPY@EMPOWERINGABILITIES.ORG  
563-391-4834

**\$225 PER GOLFER/  
\$900 PER FOURSOME**

### Registration Includes

**GREEN FEES &  
CART**

**TRAVELING  
LUNCH WAGON**

**GOLFER GIFT**

**PIN EVENTS**

**ON-COURSE  
BEVERAGES**

**SCORING PRIZES**

**COCKTAIL PARTY WITH  
HEAVY APPETIZERS  
AFTER GOLF**

REGISTRATION  
OPENING SOON.  
STAY TUNED.

# 2nd Annual

*More details to  
come! Mark your  
calendars now.*



563-391-4834/lexikeppy@empoweringabilities.org



# EMPOWERING ABILITIES

Empowering Abilities  
3402 Hickory Grove Road  
Davenport, IA 52806  
<http://empoweringabilities.org>

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Rock Island IL  
PERMIT 15

## 2024 BOOSTER DUES JOIN/RENEWAL



\$25 for individual, family or corporate membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include both spouses' names, if applicable.)

Business (Associate Members) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Boosters

Return to: 3402 Hickory Grove Rd., Davenport, IA 52806