

SPRING 2026

inspiration



EMPOWERING
ABILITIES

Creating Opportunities.
Changing Lives.

THE PEOPLE POWERING OUR PROGRESS

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Cover: Moments of joy, connection, and experiencing life's simple pleasures matter. Here, Bob Webster enjoys a beautiful day kite flying at Empowering Abilities Residential Center.

OUR MISSION

We believe in people and what's possible for them. This belief drives us to be a mission driven provider, working alongside people with disabilities, creating opportunities, and changing lives.



Irene Valleroy takes a moment to shine alongside the princesses at Night to Shine—pausing for a photo filled with smiles, sparkle, and a little extra magic.



A Season of Growth and Gratitude

As spring gives way to summer, the world around us reminds us that growth happens when care, intention, and support come together. At Empowering Abilities, this season of renewal is filled with visible progress and meaningful momentum—made possible by the generosity and commitment of our donors and supporters.

One important milestone this spring was the completion of another

CARF survey. This rigorous process helps ensure we continue delivering high-quality services that meet the highest standards in our field. The dedication of our staff throughout the survey reflects the strong foundation of support you help sustain every day.

Your impact is also clearly seen in the improvements underway at our Daily Discovery location on Brady Street. In addition to enhancing safety by renovating the front entrance, replacing two exterior doors with a single, secure entry point. We are refreshing the interior of the building with updates that include new flooring, improved railings, and dynamic, interactive, and fun graphics throughout the facility. These interior enhancements are designed to create a welcoming, engaging, and uplifting environment that supports learning, independence, and joy for those we serve.

At our Residential Center, corrective work on the front entrance is helping maintain safety, accessibility, and a positive first impression for residents, families, and visitors. We are also constructing a new vehicle storage building at our Hickory Grove Road location. This important addition will protect our transportation vans from theft and harsh weather—safeguarding a vital lifeline that connects individuals to services, employment, and community opportunities.

Perhaps most exciting, we are launching a new three-year strategic plan. Developed collaboratively by our Leadership Team and Board of Directors, this plan builds on the progress of previous years while setting a clear and hopeful roadmap for the future.

None of this growth happens without you. Your generosity makes these improvements possible and helps ensure Empowering Abilities continues to flourish. As we embrace this season of renewal, thank you for helping us create spaces, services, and opportunities where individuals can thrive—today and in the years ahead.



Jeff Ashcraft

Empowering Abilities President/CEO





Mary Willis reminds us that independence has no age limit. Whether she's out in the community, enjoying time with friends, or taking in a beautiful day, Mary continues to live life with confidence, determination, and joy.

**Performance objectives for
Residential Center during the period
January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026**

On a scale of 1-4:

- Were offered access to community activities: **4.0**
- Were made aware of options to access the community: **4.0**
- Increased their independence: **3.7**
- Achieved at least one goal: **2.6**
- Were offered choice of activities: **4.0**
- Were satisfied with their community access: **3.9**
- Were overall satisfied with services: **3.9**

Number served: **56**

Intakes: **0**

Quarterly Snapshot: At Home, In Community

At Empowering Abilities, our **Residential Center and Group Homes** offer more than a place to live—they create environments where individuals build independence, experience connection, and feel a true sense of home. Through thoughtful updates and person-centered supports, both programs continue creating opportunities and changing lives.

Residential Center

The Residential Center provides a supportive living environment with 24/7 care, shared community spaces, and access to on-site nursing services. Recent updates to the **front entrance doors** have created a more welcoming and accessible experience for residents, families, and visitors.

One of the highlights of the past year was the introduction of the **holiday sensory trail**—an engaging, festive experience that sparked connection and exploration. Building on that momentum, expand the holiday experience on the sensory trail, creating even more opportunities for meaningful engagement.

Participant Spotlight: Mary Willis

Mary Willis was part of the very first groups of individuals to call the Residential Center home, moving in 1986. Over the years, she has embraced a wide range of opportunities—from day services and Special Olympics to attending Camp Courageous.

Known for her determination and independence, Mary has always made her preferences clear. Even as her mobility needs have changed, she continues to move confidently throughout her home, often spending time in shared spaces or connecting with others. She enjoys being out in the community—going to movies in the theater, hockey and baseball games, dining out, and even fishing. And when it comes to favorites, she doesn't hesitate to advocate for what she loves: tea, pop, milk, pancakes, French fries, and meatloaf!

After briefly stepping away from day services, Mary made it clear she wasn't ready to slow down—and returned, fully engaged as ever. Today, she remains a constant and valued presence, reminding

us that independence looks different for everyone—and that growth doesn't have an age limit.

Group Homes

Our Group Homes provide neighborhood-based settings that foster independence, routine, and community integration. Individuals are supported in building life skills, relationships, and meaningful community connections.

Thanks in part to support from the Quad Cities Housing Council, recent updates across the homes include installation of new showers, enhancing accessibility, safety, and comfort in daily routines. These improvements support greater independence while ensuring each home continues to meet the evolving needs of those who live there. From shared meals to outings and social activities, the homes provide a strong foundation for individuals to grow, connect, and belong.

Across both the Residential Center and Group Homes, the focus remains the same: **person-centered support, meaningful daily experiences, and opportunities for independence and connection.** Together, these programs reflect what's possible when individuals are supported in ways that honor their choices and empower them to live full, engaged lives.

Performance objectives for Group Homes during the period January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026

On a scale of 1-4:

- Were offered access to community activities: **4.0**
- Were made aware of options to access the community: **4.0**
- Increased their independence: **3.8**
- Achieved at least one goal: **4.0**
- Were offered choice of activities: **3.5**
- Were satisfied with their community access: **3.6**
- Were overall satisfied with services: **3.6**

Number served: **21**

Intakes: **2**

Turning a Required Distribution into a Purposeful Gift

by Tower Trust

Your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can do more than fund retirement; it can support opportunities for individuals with disabilities in our community. And if you are 70½ or older, there is a simple way to make a gift while reducing taxable income.

This strategy is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution, or QCD.

What is a QCD?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution allows individuals age 70½ or older to direct funds from an eligible IRA to a qualified charity. When done properly, that amount generally is not included in taxable income. For those who are also subject to an annual required minimum distribution (RMD), a QCD can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

That is part of what makes this strategy appealing. Rather than taking distributions personally and then making charitable gifts separately, a QCD allows IRA dollars to be donated directly to the organization you support. For some donors, it may also be especially helpful because the tax benefit does not depend on itemizing deductions. In that sense, a QCD can turn a routine RMD into an opportunity to support a cause you care about.

An Example

Imagine your annual RMD is \$20,000, and you use \$10,000 for personal expenses. If you gift the other \$10,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity as a QCD, that amount may satisfy part of your RMD without being included in your taxable income.

Using a hypothetical 15% federal tax rate, reducing taxable income by \$10,000 could reduce federal income tax by about \$1,500. For someone who is already charitably inclined, that can be a

meaningful outcome: the opportunity to support a cause you care about while potentially lowering taxes and using IRA dollars with greater intention.

Scenario	Amount included in taxable income	Hypothetical 15% federal tax
Take full \$20,000 as taxable distribution	\$20,000	\$3,000
Direct \$10,000 as a QCD and take \$10,000 personally	\$10,000	\$1,500

For illustration only. Your results will depend on your individual tax situation.

If You'd Like to Explore This Option

To direct your gift to the area of greatest need, contact Empowering Abilities. Call: 563-391-4834 or mail: Empowering Abilities, 3402 Hickory Grove Rd., Davenport, IA 52806

Your financial and tax advisors can help coordinate QCD. The team at Tower Trust & Investment Company works directly with clients to complete QCDs. If you are a client or would like to work with Tower Trust, please feel free to contact us.

Important note: QCDs must be made from an eligible IRA and paid directly to a qualified charity. Proper written acknowledgment of the gift is also important for your records. Please consult a qualified tax advisor regarding your specific situation.



Tower Trust &
Investment Company

Drive Impact with Every Birdie

The Empowering Abilities and our Booster Organization are proud to once again participate in Birdies for Charity—turning every birdie at the John Deere Classic into meaningful impact for the individuals we serve!

July 2-5, 2026 | TPC Deere Run | Silvis, Illinois

How It Works

When you donate using Bird Number 127, 100% of your gift goes directly to Empowering Abilities—plus a guaranteed 5% bonus match (and potentially more!) through the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund.

Bonus Fun

Make a pledge and guess the total number of birdies scored during the tournament for a chance to win prizes!

Your Impact

Your support fuels Booster-led activities like dances, outings, and celebrations—while also putting the Empowering Abilities mission in motion: creating opportunities and changing lives. From everyday experiences to life-enriching programs, your gift helps individuals build confidence, connection, and independence.

How to Give

- Donate online: <https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate?charity=127#/charities>
- Scan the QR code to give from your phone
- Mail: Birdies for Charity, 15623 Coal Town Road, East Moline, IL 61244

Reminder: Pledge forms will not be mailed separately—please use the form in this newsletter or give online.

Make your gift, take your guess, and help turn birdies into life-changing impact!



Empowering Abilities

CHARITY SOLICITED FOR

127

BIRD NUMBER



I PLEDGE TO DONATE:

\$_____ to the charity noted above.
(one time, flat donation amount) All pledges due by July 1, 2026.

GUESS THE BIRDIES TO WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2026 LEXUS!

I guess that _____ birdies will be made.

Only one grand prize will be awarded.
Void where prohibited by law. Guesses due to BFC office by July 1.

BIRDIES SCORED BY YEAR

1,918 (2017)	N/A (2020)	1,929 (2023)
2,355 (2018)	1,905 (2021)	2,315 (2024)
2,091 (2019)	2,041 (2022)	2,102 (2025)

MAKE MORE MAGIC with the BONUS FUND

- ☐ YES, I would like to make an additional donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund in the amount of \$_____, to help provide the minimum 5% match to all participating charities.

PLEDGE & DONOR INFORMATION (please print)

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE AND/OR EMAIL

* by providing an email, you are opting in to email updates from Birdies for Charity.

Please include payment & make checks payable to:
BIRDIES FOR CHARITY



Partner Spotlight: Rouse Consulting Group

Strong partnerships don't just support a mission—they help move it forward. That's exactly what Rouse Consulting Group has done alongside Empowering Abilities.

From the beginning, Rouse Consulting Group was drawn to the essential role Empowering Abilities plays in the community and wanted to be a part of their success and ability to provide critical services to their participants. The Rouse Consulting Group saw an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way—helping ensure the long-term success and stability of services that so many individuals and families rely on.

That partnership quickly turned into action. In their first 18 months working together, Rouse Consulting Group helped reduce Empowering Abilities' IT footprint by an impressive 90%. By simplifying and streamlining systems, they minimized downtime, reduced technical issues, and freed up thousands of dollars that could be redirected back into programs and services. It's a behind-the-scenes impact that makes a very real difference in day-to-day operations—and ultimately, in the lives of those served.

Beyond the technical expertise, Rouse Consulting Group values being an active, visible

partner. Whether supporting events, contributing creative fundraising ideas, or simply showing up with energy and enthusiasm, their team is committed to helping initiatives succeed and grow. Their involvement strengthens not just the organization, but the broader community.

What makes this partnership especially strong is a shared mindset: a commitment to continuous improvement and a refusal to stand still. Both organizations recognize the importance of evolving, innovating, and investing in what works—whether that's advancing technology or enhancing services.

As a proud Empower Sponsor, Rouse Consulting Group continues to look ahead—exploring new ways to collaborate, share insights, and build on the success already achieved. Their partnership is rooted in trust, mutual respect, and a shared goal: creating opportunities and improving lives.

For organizations considering a partnership with Empowering Abilities, Rouse Consulting Group offers a simple perspective—this is a team that brings full commitment, from leadership to staff, and a true sense of collaboration every step of the way.

Our Thanks Goes To



Night to Shine

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the organizers of the **Quad Cities Night to Shine** for another magical evening. This is an event our participants look forward to each year, filled with joy, celebration, and unforgettable moments.



The Cities Spring Classic

Thank you to the organizers, sponsors, and all the runners and walkers who made The Cities Spring Classic Easter 5K such a wonderful event again this year! Despite a cool, damp start, the energy and enthusiasm carried the morning—creating a memorable day of community and support!

The Boosters - Valentine's Day Dance

We're so grateful to the **Boosters Organization** for hosting such a wonderful Valentine's Day Dance for our participants! Because of your dedication and generous support, the evening was filled with laughter, connection, and unforgettable moments. Thank you for all you do to bring joy to our community. We appreciate you more than words can say!

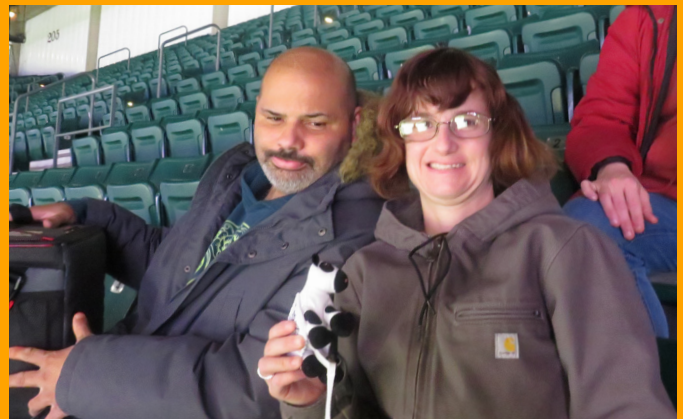
Trivia Night: A Winning Night of Fun & Impact

A huge thank you to our **HANDS Auxiliary** for hosting such a fun and successful Trivia Night again this year! It was a night full of laughter, connection, and community spirit. Your time, talent, and dedication made it all possible—and the impact goes far beyond the event itself.



MLK Food Drive - Community in Action

As members of the Quad Cities Disabilities Awareness Coalition, we thank WQAD for hosting the recent drive through MLK Food Dive which benefited 13 area food pantries. A special thank you to our incredible participant volunteers whose time and heart made a meaningful difference for families across our community.



QC Storm

Thank you to the **Quad City Storm** for hosting such a fun and welcoming daytime game experience! Our participants enjoyed not only the excitement of hockey, but also the opportunity to connect with one another and be part of the energy of the crowd. From cheering in the stands to sharing laughs with friends, it was a day filled with joy, inclusion, and meaningful moments. We're so grateful community spaces like this where everyone can feel a true sense of belonging.

Thrivent

Thank you to Thrivent for hosting a Special Needs Planning Workshop for the community. Providing access to practical tools, resources, and expert guidance helps families navigate important decisions with greater confidence and clarity. We're grateful for your partnership and commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities and those who care for them.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNRESTRICTED GIFT

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Donations listed were received from January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026. Every attempt is made to accurately recognize all gifts; however, if you spot an error or omission, please contact the development office at 563-391-4834. Thank you for your generosity.





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Save the Date: *Mum Sale is Back!*

The 2nd Annual Empowering Abilities Booster Organization Mum Sale is returning later this summer!

Get ready to add a pop of fall color to your porch while supporting a great cause.

Every mum purchased helps fund activities and experiences hosted by the Booster Organization throughout the year—creating connection, joy, and meaningful moments for the individuals we serve.

Details coming soon—plan to order early!

