


Accessing Independence



We all have things we take for granted—having a vehicle to drive, a roof over our heads or being able to grab Starbucks on the way to work. But how about the smaller things? The little things we do without even thinking about them—things like being able to get up in the middle of the night to get a drink of water or to use the bathroom.

Entering his bathroom isn't something Josh takes for granted, because for Josh, getting into his bathroom requires many steps. First, he must notify his caregiver, have his caregiver assist him out of his scooter and help him to his walker, next they accompany him into the restroom where they help him with his cares. You see, Josh has Fahr's Disease and, among many other things, it has taken away Josh's ability to walk. And his scooter, his preferred way to get around, doesn't fit through the door of his bathroom.

Fahr's Disease is incredibly rare and causes calcium deposits to grow in the brain, affecting brain functions as it spreads. It is progressive, degenerative and life-limiting. Yet, Fahr's Disease hasn't taken away Josh's love of hunting and fishing, his never-ending faith, love for his family or his adoration of his NDSU Bison. Unfortunately, it is taking away Josh's mobility and speech.

A bathroom remodel is critical and will give Josh back some of the independence he longs for. A wider doorway, accessible sink, counter, and toilet, and a wheel-in shower will allow Josh to safely enjoy increased independence.



This remodel of his bathroom will cost \$5,000 but, to Josh, the cost of his independence is priceless. Your support will allow him the opportunity to wheel up and complete the simple task of washing his own face while looking in the mirror—something he is currently unable to do. Something we all take for granted.

Don't take mobility for granted. Please give the gift of independence this holiday season.



Threads by Amber Lobdell

When I see Gloria and Vicki together it just makes me feel...cozy. Like seeing a family eating a holiday dinner through a frosted window. Or it's like the threads of a favorite quilt—holding differently patterned cloth alongside each other tight. You don't need to read an explanation of their bond to know it's there.

Caregiver and Client

Vicki has been Gloria's caregiver for six years. The first time I met them, Gloria was telling me through the sweet, squinty smile she gets when she's laughing that she was helping Vicki make apple crisp and Vicki forgot to put in the brown sugar. "Good thing Gloria was there to remind me," Vicki said, chuckling. I saw Vicki carefully wrap Gloria's poncho around her, making sure she didn't mess up

her freshly permed hair. The energy between them was so comfortable, it just felt like they were family. Nothing very eventful or grand happened that day. It stuck with me, though, because I remember thinking to myself it seemed like they had always known each other. Their bond was unique and full of depth. This was before I knew the losses that made them an even stronger pair.

Love and Loss

Their relationship is so much more complex and beautiful than this Norman Rockwell-esque apple crisp banter and holiday dinner imagery. Vicki and Gloria's lives intersected shortly after Vicki suffered a loss no mother should have to experience. In 2011, she lost her daughter to a courageous battle with cancer. While Vicki was dealing with the loss of her daughter, Gloria was beginning to lose her mother. As Gloria saw her mother's dementia progress, Vicki was by her side. Vicki would bring Gloria to the nursing home to visit most every day, as her mother began to slip away. Gloria struggled as her mother's disease took away the ability to know her own daughter's face. One day, toward the end of her mother's life, Gloria looked up at Vicki and said tenderly, "You are going to have to be my new mom now."

Mother and Daughter

Vicki, reflecting on how precious Gloria's words were—especially at that difficult time in her life—gladly said, "yes!" to Gloria's request. She already considered Gloria family.

Life can tear and fracture us in ways we don't see coming. But it has a way of stitching us back together in ways we don't expect as well. Vicki showed up to work one day on Gloria's doorstep and gained another daughter, and Gloria—another mom.

I Am CCRI

Terry

After graduating from seminary school, Terry looked for a job that offered opportunities to help people. He found that at CCRI and worked as a caregiver for four years before taking the call to be a pastor in Enderlin, ND. When he left he knew "CCRI would always have a friend in me."

A friend indeed. Three years later, Terry returned to CCRI to work part time. "CCRI has a great culture. The staff is good to each other and it is almost like a family. I have met some of my best friends in the whole world at CCRI. That's including staff and the people we support."

Terry has many memories with CCRI, but his favorite took place at CCRI's Camp HERO. "A young woman came up to me at camp and asked if I could take her fishing. I took her out and we caught fish nonstop. She was smiling from ear to ear. Afterwards she shared with me that her father had never taught her how to fish. I'm glad she was able to do something that she never had done before because of CCRI."

We are grateful that Terry continues to share his passion of serving others with everyone at CCRI.



Duane

Duane has learned a lot over the past 17 years working at CCRI. "As you're going through life, I think one of the most important things is the connections you make with people. Sometimes, when making those connections you do things that are unconventional and unexpected." When Duane first started working as Stephen's caregiver, Stephen loved to critique Duane's wardrobe, especially when he wore a pink shirt. "Stephen hated that pink shirt and always would shake his head at me when I wore it" laughed Duane. "So, when Stephen announced he wanted to be a female pop star for Halloween and needed me to paint his fingernails bright purple, we had a good laugh! Painting nails wasn't a skill that was in my wheelhouse at the time! It's the little things that make it fun to work at CCRI."

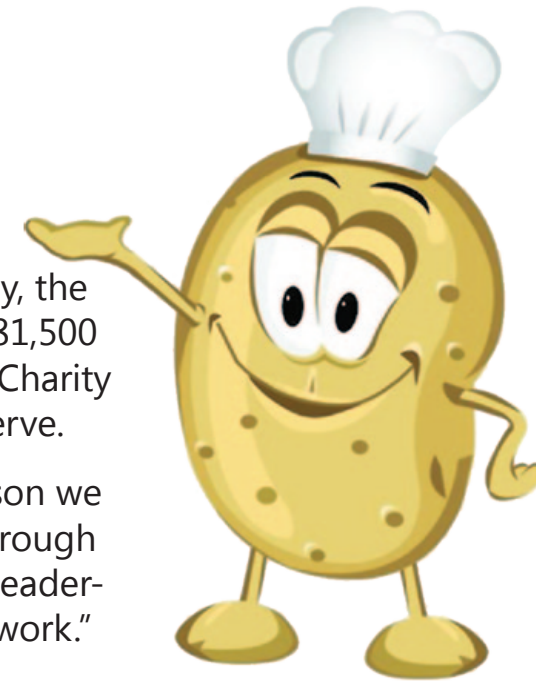
Duane says "when I first started working at CCRI, I didn't realize how long I was going to be here and, 17 years later, here I am. I'm glad I stayed."

Thank you Duane for making connections. We are so glad to have you on the CCRI team.

RDO Caters Taters Cooks Up a Winner.

John Deere dealer RDO Equipment and R.D. Offutt Company, the largest potato grower in North America, raised more than \$81,500 for CCRI during the recent 18th Annual RDO Caters Taters for Charity event. All of the funds raised will support the people we serve.

"This event has a significant impact on the lives of each person we serve. RDO once again has strengthened our community through this incredible charity partnership. We are grateful for their leadership, generosity, hard work and for their confidence in our work."
Shannon Bock, Executive Director, CCRI.





North Dakota Charitable Income Tax Credit

If you are a North Dakota taxpayer, you may be able to claim a credit of 40% on a minimum donation of \$5,000 to a qualified endowment through the North Dakota Charitable Income Tax Credit. This is on top of the savings you receive on your federal tax return by itemizing your qualifying charitable donations.

By taking advantage of both the state tax credit and federal tax deduction, you can significantly lower the net cost of your contribution and triple its impact.

40% Tax Credit for Individuals

Gifts made by an individual to a qualified endowment fund are eligible for the 40% tax credit if the aggregate of that year's gifts are equal to \$5,000 or more.

The maximum credit amount that may be claimed is \$10,000 (based on up to \$25,000 in gifts) for an individual or \$20,000 (based on up to \$50,000 in gifts) for married individuals filing jointly.

Example: Mrs. Smith, a North Dakota resident, donates \$20,000 in cash to an endowment fund. She receives an \$8,000 tax credit (40%) on her North Dakota return. If she is in the 28% Federal tax bracket, her Federal tax savings are \$3,360 (28% of \$12,000). The "cost" of her \$20,000 gift is offset by \$11,360 in tax savings.

40% Tax Credit for Businesses

Gifts made by a business entity to a qualified endowment fund are also eligible for a 40% tax credit. They, too, have an annual limitation of \$10,000.

In some cases the entity will "pass through" some or all of the credit to the business owners or to the beneficiaries of the trust or estate.

Example: Partnership XYZ has three equal partners. They would each receive a \$3,000 tax credit available for use on their North Dakota individual income tax returns if the partnership qualifies for a \$9,000 credit.

*This information is provided for educational purposes only.
Please consult your own attorney, accountant or financial advisor for advice on your situation.*

Client Appreciation Dinner

We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve you!



Thank You to Courtyard by Marriott and Costco for your sponsorships and Boy Scout Troop 215 for your assistance with serving and table clearing.



Creative Care for
Reaching Independence

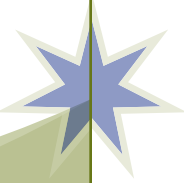
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The mission of CCRI is to enhance and enrich the lives and learning of people with disabilities.

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



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