

IN THIS TOGETHER

Making Summer Memories to Last a Lifetime

When you think about summer in Minnesota, a list of iconic imagery probably comes to mind: lakes, fishing, boats, campfires, swimming, a trail hike. They are all classic summertime pursuits, and for most of the people we support, they are often just out of reach because of the time and cost involved in creating safe, accessible accommodations for outdoor activities. That's why Camp HERO continues to be one of our most treasured and happiest events of the year.

Camp HERO is a three-day summer camp where the folks we support can enjoy outdoor activities and make the kinds of memories only summer camp can provide. There are boat rides, swimming, fishing, ziplining, crafts and time spent with friends around a campfire. This year's camp was held in June, and the recent addition of a fully accessible pool and padded splash pad proved to be big hits.

HERO stands for Helping Everyone Remove Obstacles, and every year we have new attendees who discover the joy of the outdoors for the first time. It's something really special to see.



"Camp truly gives the people we support the chance to do things they didn't think they could do," says Gracie Hennen, a CCRI residential coordinator who has helped out at the last three camps. "It's so much fun watching them experience things for the first time. It's like a mini vacation for them, and they get to hang out with their peers, which makes it even better."

Camp wouldn't be possible without the help of one of our most steadfast supporters, the FM Crusaders Motorcycle Club. Since 2009, the Crusaders have held both a live and silent auction at their annual Bike Show to benefit Camp HERO, and they have raised more than \$200,000 in those efforts. Equally as valuable are their efforts to ensure the people we support feel seen and included. Many of them help out in the auction and attend the Bike Show regularly. The Bike Show has become a much-loved tradition, just like Camp HERO.

"Many of our clients who go to camp say it is their favorite part of their year," says Gracie. "It's so enjoyable to watch them try something new and to be a part of their experiences."

IN THE COMMUNITY

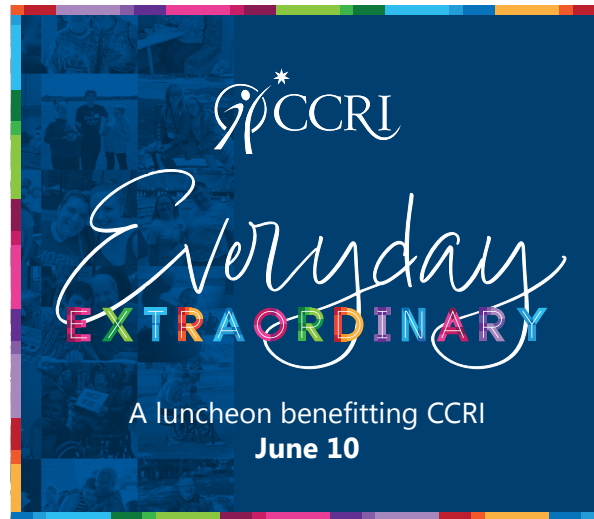
Everyday Extraordinary Luncheon Draws a Crowd

We hosted our first-ever summer luncheon fundraiser on June 10 at the Avalon Events Center, and it was a great success! It kicked off with a taco bar and raffles that sold out faster than anticipated, which was awesome to see. Then our emcee Patrick Kirby greeted the crowd and introduced our speakers, Executive Director Shannon Bock and Community Engagement and Advancement Director Alita Hanson, who talked about our theme for the event, Everyday Extraordinary. They discussed how unique and varied our services are for each individual we support, and attendees saw three videos highlighting the care we

provide to three of those people: Ashlin, who lives at home with her family with the help of CCRI staff; Nicole, who is able to live on her own through our Independent by Design program; and Mitchell, who receives 24-hour care but has been able to chart his own course for his life with the support of CCRI. The luncheon ended with some giveaways and many attendees pledging their continued support for our mission.

It was an incredible day, and we are so thankful to everyone who came out

and showed their generosity for the folks we support. We can't wait for next year!



Up Next: Silent Auction and Designer Purse Bingo

Because the new luncheon replaced our fall fundraiser, which traditionally also held our silent auction, we will be holding the silent auction separately from 4–8 P.M. August 7 at Brewhalla, 1702 1st Ave N, Fargo. Keep an eye on our social media and our website as the day approaches to get the link for online bidding, and we welcome you to stop by Brewhalla on August 7 to see the items and get help registering to bid.



You can also mark your calendars for a back-to-school Designer Purse Bingo on September 29 at Vic's Bar & Grill, 1608 SE Main Ave., Moorhead. Watch our social media and website for information on ticket sales and start time. Designer Purse Bingo is always a great night!

Proceeds from these fundraisers go toward events and activities such as our inclusive Prom that help the people we support create connections, build life skills and live as independently as possible. We hope to see you there!

CREATIVE CARE

Lindsay Shock Completes DSP Ambassador Program

DSP Lindsay Schock recently completed the most recent DSP Ambassador Program with ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources).

The DSP Ambassador Program was created in 2025 by ANCOR to enhance the abilities of DSPs to be spokespeople for disability services and the vital role these services—and the professionals who deliver them—play in our communities. The program brings together DSPs from across the country to help teach them how to speak up, speak out and tell their stories.

This year's program was held in Salt Lake City, and Lindsay took part in training sessions designed to strengthen her storytelling, advocacy, and media engagement skills along with 17 other ambassadors.

Lindsay has been a DSP with CCRI for three years and was nominated for an ARRM Cares Award in 2025 because of her passion, empathy, and humor, which she brings to every interaction. We are so thankful to have her on our team!



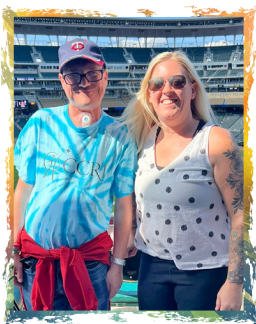
Lindsay Schock, second from left, at her DSP Ambassador Program graduation.

Karen Knutson, Kathryn Dalton nominated for ARRM Cares Awards

We are excited to share that two of our DSPs, Karen Knutson and Kathryn Dalton, have been nominated for ARRM Cares Awards for 2026!

The ARRM Cares Awards were created to recognize professionals who represent the top of their field and are committed to quality services. Nominees are recognized at ARRM's annual conference, and winners will be announced during DSP Week in September.

Here is more about each of these nominees. We appreciate you so much!



Karen Knutson, seven years of service

Karen approaches every situation with a proactive, positive, and collaborative approach. She arrives at every shift with a productive mindset and is consistently finding ways for our clients to be part of activities we host. Karen was also instrumental in ensuring two of the people we support who have been friends since childhood were able to keep their friendship strong when one of them received a terminal diagnosis. She worked thoughtfully to preserve the connections between these two individuals during challenging circumstances, helping bring comfort, companionship, and a sense of normalcy to their lives. Karen sets a strong example through her dedication, teamwork, and commitment to quality, person-centered services.

Kathryn Dalton, two years of service

Kathryn is a caregiver who is deaf, and she has shown exceptional professionalism while working with two of our clients who are also deaf. She immediately showed patience, acceptance and grace with these individuals, and the results have been incredible. Kathryn was able to build trust with both clients by meeting them where they are and working to build a relationship with them. As a member of the deaf community, Kathryn became a role model for these clients, and she embraced that role to help these clients see how they did not need to be defined by their disability. As a result of Kathryn's care, both clients have made phenomenal progress toward their personal goals, even requesting more shifts with Kathryn to continue their personal growth. Kathryn is also active in a local deaf, hard of hearing, and ASL group, and she has helped our clients get connected to this group and other resources in the area.

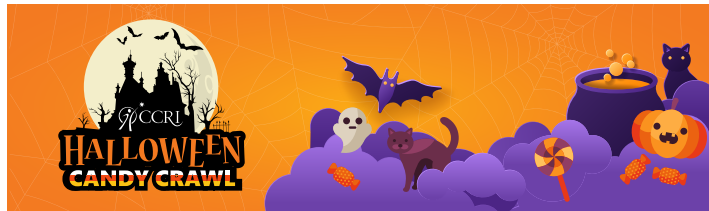




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JOIN US



Keep That Summerween Energy Going!

Plan ahead for some fun this fall by getting signed up to have a table at our annual Halloween Candy Crawl! It's a free event where community members and organizations dress up, decorate a table and hand out treats to clients. It's a spooky good time!

Email Alita.Hanson@CreativeCare.org to get registered!

