



# THE PDI CHRONICLE *August/Sept 2022*

## Jay Has SOMETHING TO say...



Wow, what an exciting time at PDI. The last two months have brought us many activities for the PDI Family. We had a great time in July at the ribbon-cutting of the New Giles County Office Building. This new site will be a wonderful asset for the community and the adjoining counties. We also want to thank Lee Brown and Taffe Cunningham for all their hard work in helping us celebrate this Grand Opening.

There are also some great articles in this addition of the newsletter celebrating our staff with Employees of the Month, Birthdays and New Hires along with, of course, pictures of celebrating DSP week. We received proclamations for the week by a couple of Mayors. And I hope you all enjoyed your new shirts. I want to personally thank all of you for your hard work and dedication, not only to those we serve but the agency itself. You are truly the best DSPs in the state!!

There are also great pictures showing some of the exciting adventures and accomplishments of those we serve (a trip to the zoo, Anna's new job, Del attending the Indian Pow Wow and Stephen Dodd winning the employee of the month for the Paris Wendy's to name a few). Also, Buddy Ball baseball is in full swing and there are some great photos inside.

In conclusion, Fall is in the air, and that means it's time for our audit season at PDI. I know you've all done a great job this year and our audits will be fantastic. We are also focusing on more giving back to you in the form of training. Amy Caudill and Rhonda Green have been hosting and leading PCT training and will soon be going to receive POM training from CQL. These trainings are important because they help show that we truly are here first and foremost for those we serve. Please be looking to sign up for these classes as they come available. Lastly, I do want to acknowledge the loss of one of our very own Clara Pennington. She will be missed by so many of us, and our prayers continue for her family.

Till next time,

Jay

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*Giles County's new office building!  
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony*



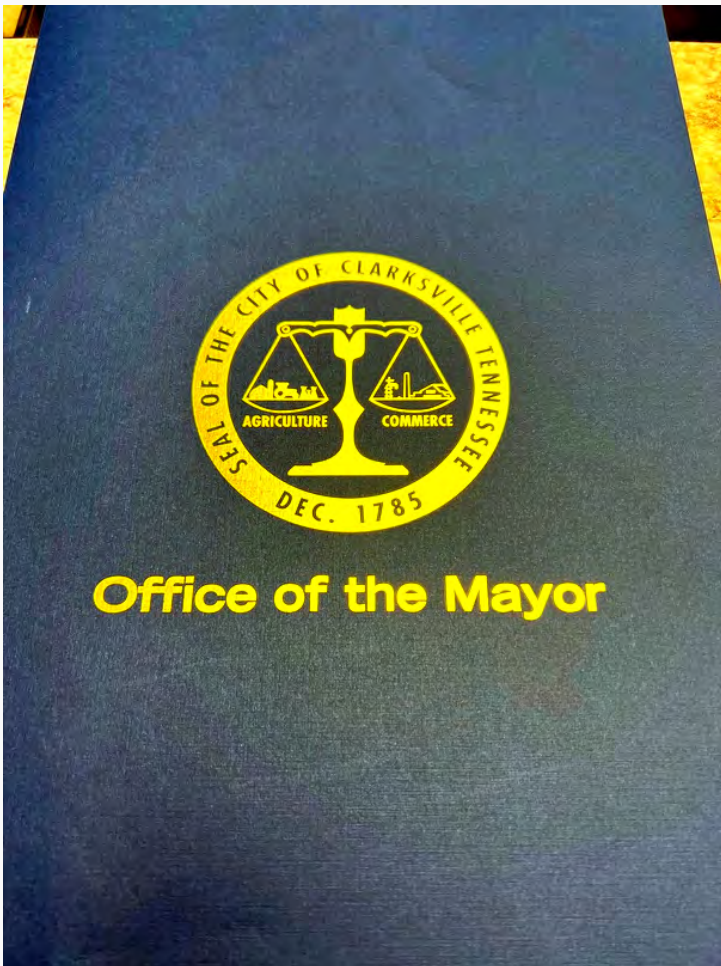
# Giles County's new office building! Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



# DSP WEEK!

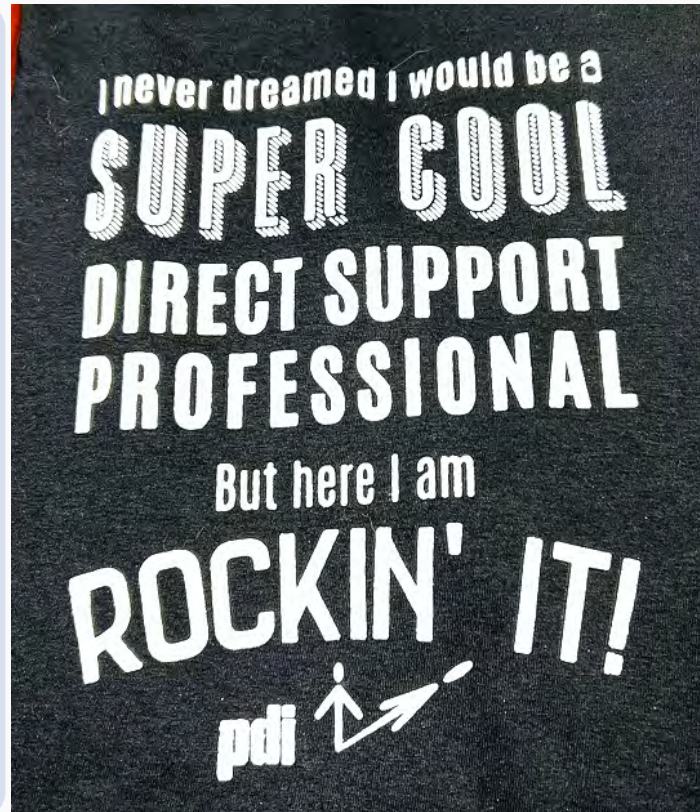


Mayor Joe Pitts presented PDI with the City of Clarksville proclamation designating September 11-17, 2022 be observed as Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week, and commending them on their dedication to the communities of Clarksville.



# THANK YOU DSPs!

Everyone got a new shirt



And we had some drawings with 2 lucky winners!



Gift Baskets: Brittany Mattingly, RS, Region II  
PTO Day: Tasha Grandberry, PA, Region I

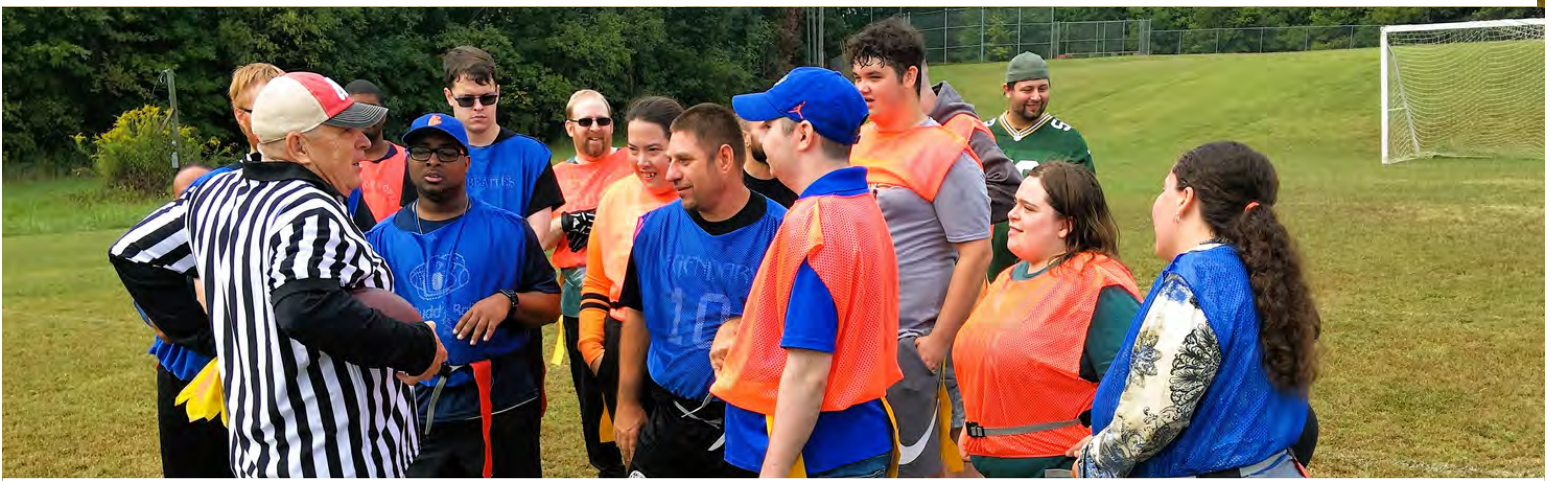


# FLAG FOOTBALL

GAME WAS ON  
SEPTEMBER 24, 10AM



**HILLDALE  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER**



# BASEBALL

SEPTEMBER 9 - OCTOBER 28



*20th Anniversary*  
**Buddy Ball**

## Civitan Park

Games are at 5pm and 6pm

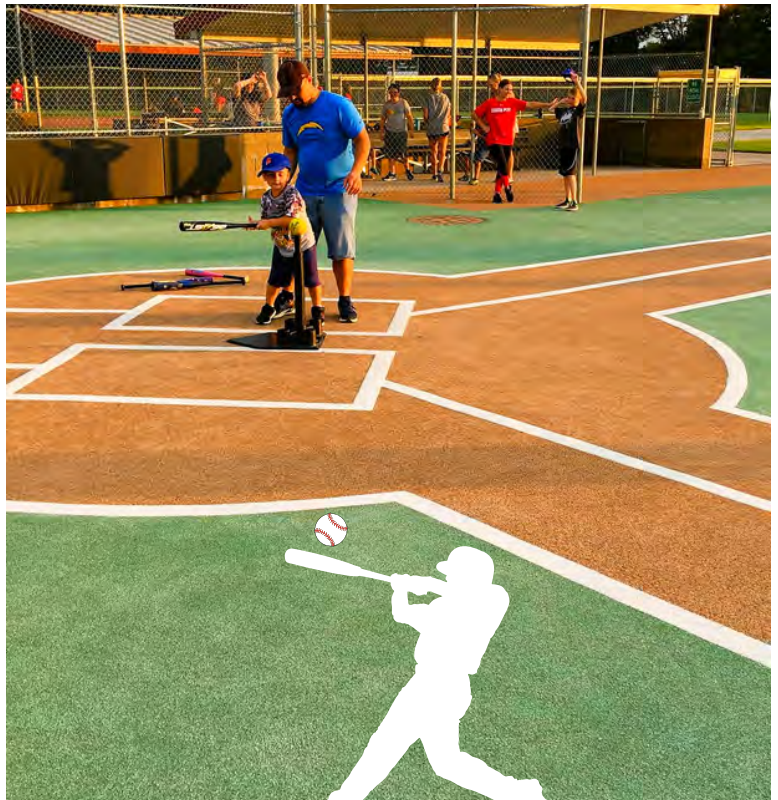
Please come out and support our Athletes by cheering them on or volunteering to be a Buddy. It would mean so much!

Contact Melanie Deskin for more info:

931.980.7451

[mdeskin@progressivedirections.com](mailto:mdeskin@progressivedirections.com)







# CLARKSVILLE CIVITAN SUPPORTS BUDDY BALL

Jay spoke at a Clarksville Civitan Club meeting recently to promote Buddy Ball and to introduce Common Ground Cafè.

The meeting concluded with a Civitan representative presenting PDI with a \$1700 donation for Buddy Ball.

We appreciate Clarksville Civitan Club for their support!



# In The Spotlight



Stephen Dodd wins Employee of the Month at Wendy's in Paris, TN. Stephen is supported through our ECF program.



Anna Lafferty has been offered a new job after graduating earlier this summer. She's joining a program called "People Talking to People" as an interviewer. It's a quality assurance program at The Arc Tennessee for TN DIDD. Anna will conduct surveys with peers receiving services to gather information for improving systems and programs in Tennessee. Congrats Anna!!



The Montgomery County Diversity Committee is featuring Common Ground Café in the county spotlight newsletter for National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October. The committee members came for a visit, got the tour and interviewed our crew. They want the piece to highlight our interns and show the community their achievements and challenges overcome by time working at the café.

# Person-Centered Thinking Class of August 2022



Happy 10 years  
to Mr. LeRoy  
Parks!!



## ***Congratulations Alana!!!***

Alana Yanes is graduating from our café's new learning to work program. She has spent 391 hours at Common Ground Café this summer (June 1 - September 30) learning job skills such as cleaning duties, time management, professionalism in the workplace, and customer service - like taking orders, using the point-of-sale system, making menu suggestions, upselling, and the importance of service with a smile. We'll miss Alana's positivity and great personality at the café. She's moving on to her next adventure, and we wish her all the best!





## *Congratulations Joza!!!*

Joza Haley also graduated from our work program. He was with us from June through August and graduated after working 198 hours at the cafe. Joza's favorite part of the job was dish washing, and he was proficient and proud! We miss Joza and his big smile already. He will be a great addition to his next team.

Common Ground's objective is to serve tasty food and specialty drinks to the community while providing a training ground to ready individuals with disabilities for the workforce. Participants complete a paid internship to learn job skills that will help them build confidence in themselves and their ability to perform on the job so they can attain competitive employment. Upon graduation, each intern is placed in a job in the community.



# Kudos: Employees of the month!

(Summer edition recap)

April



**Amelia Riddick**  
Home Manager, Region I

May



**Terry Byrne**  
Residential Manager, Region I

June



**Nicole Freeman**  
Home Manager, Region II

July



**Donna Cashion**  
Medication Mgr, Region I

*Kudos: Employee  
of the month!  
August*

*August*



**Mike Seguin**  
Job Coach, Region I





# COOL FIELD TRIPS



Marty Helser  
Party at the Predators hockey game!



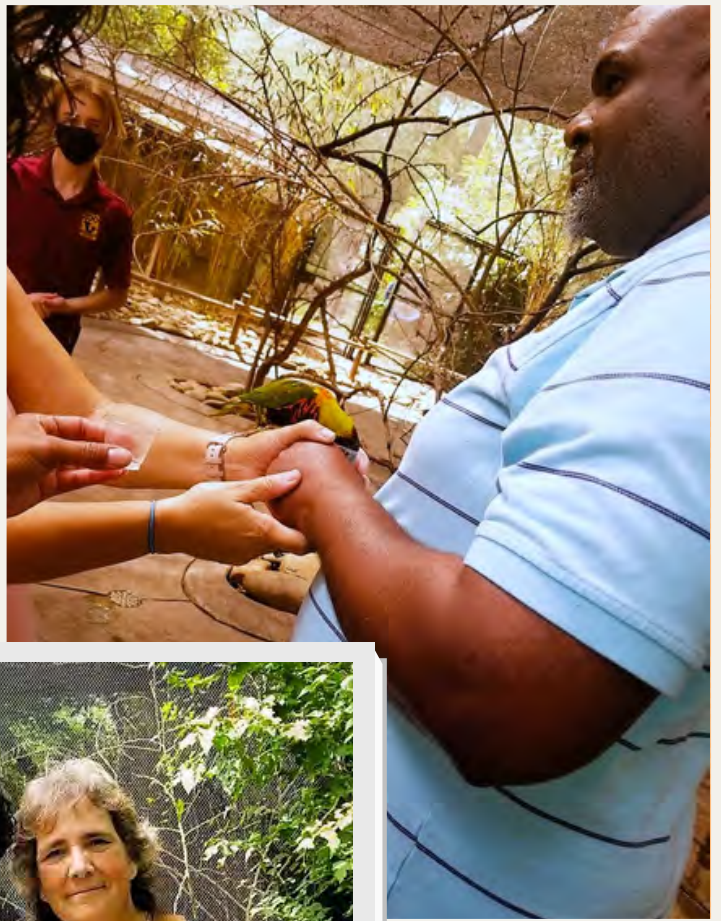
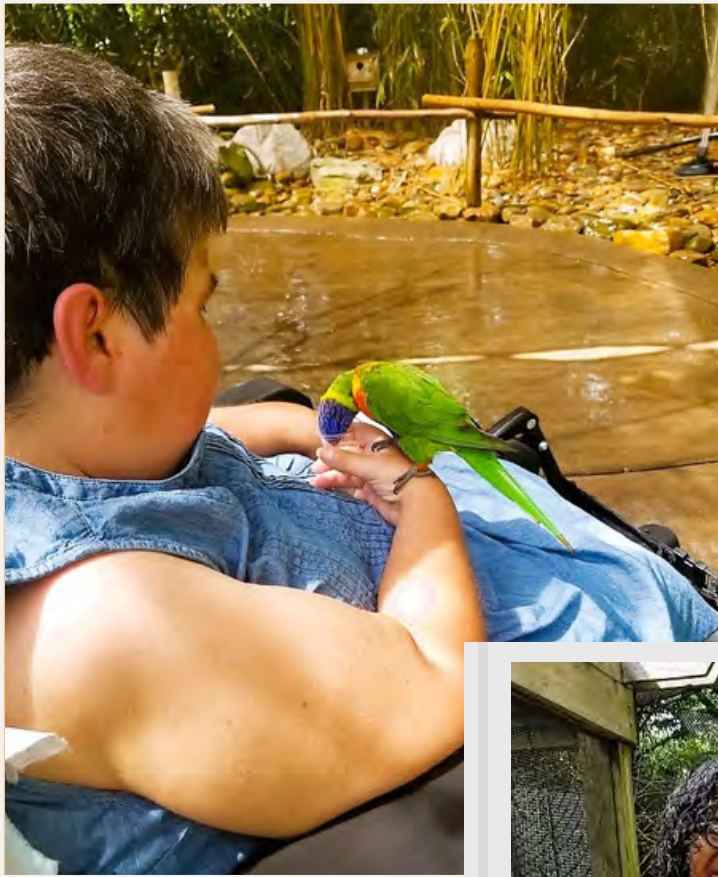
Del Baker attends the 35th Annual  
Trail of Tears Pow Wow





**NASHVILLE**  
**ZOO**  
AT GRASSMERE





# Labor Day Picnic in Dover



**DYERS CREEK,  
DOVER**



# Labor Day Picnic in Dover



# RIVERFEST 2022 BOOTH



Greg showed up!

# UNITED WAY 2022 KICK-OFF



Jay with Mayor Joe Pitts and wife Cynthia



# August Birthdays

Patricia Jenkins, August 2  
Kent Nell, August 2  
Jodie Cannon, August 4  
Angela Carter, August 5

Molly Brown, August 6  
Eula Smith, August 7  
Mary Powell, August 9  
Jessica Castro, August 10  
Stephanie Todora, August 10  
Emily Barnhart, August 14  
Lauren Bogard, August 14  
Kelly Schafer, August 14  
Kayla Sawyer, August 15

LeAnn Byrd, August 17  
Amanda Martin, August 17  
Jo Vagnetti, August 18  
Jacie Stine, August 18  
Madeleine Kimbrough, Aug 20  
Stacie Vazquez, Aug 21  
Diana Tucker, Aug 21  
Donna Cozart, Aug 22  
Helen Martin, Aug 22  
Melaniece Tate, Aug 23  
Tonya Jack, Aug 23  
Michelle McGinnis, Aug 24  
Tasha Grandberry, Aug 24  
Laurie Moss, Aug 25  
Natalie Kazsuk, Aug 25  
Christopher Nickerson, Aug 25  
Esi Asante, Aug 25  
Audrea Pandolf Dozier, Aug 29  
Gwendolyn Till, Aug 29  
Megan Uhl, Aug 29  
Robert Silverheart, Aug 31  
Melanie Deskin, Aug 31

# September Birthdays

Lee Braun, Sept 1  
Jennifer Howe, Sept 1  
Jean Hembree, Sept 2  
Anna Jenkins, Sept 3  
Kasherra Mitchell, Sept 5

Anthony Brooks, Sept 12  
Amber Brown, Sept 12  
Lauren Holt, Sept 13  
Kelly Williams, Sept 14  
Jeanie Grace, Sept 14  
Diana Bell, Sept 15  
Rhonda Green, Sept 16  
Sherrie Phifer, Sept 16  
Lynne Shakeenab, Sept 17  
Douglas Cobern, Sept 17  
Ruthchelyn Kinslow, Sept 20  
Bob Logan, Sept 21  
Shemiko Harris, Sept 22  
Janice Garrett, Sept 22  
Taffe Cunningham, Sept 24  
O'Bee O'Bryant, Sept 24  
Michael Pilapil, Sept 24  
Angela Favors, Sept 25  
Michelle Brooks, Sept 27  
Brandon Franklin, Sept 27  
Alisha Riggs, Sept 28  
Alina Caratini, Sept 29  
Martha Ballentine, Sept 29



# HR Topics

**JOBS**

**JOBS**

**JOBS**

**Open positions, all locations!**

DSPs

Nurses LPN & RN

House Managers

One-on-One care

Kids Depot Teachers

Early Interventionists

Job Coaches

Residential Managers

**SPREAD THE WORD!!!**

**Apply on [progressivedirections.org](http://progressivedirections.org)**

**REMEMBER:**

**Refer a friend for a  
\$100 Bonus!**

Referrals should apply at [progressivedirections.org](http://progressivedirections.org).

Select referred by friend/family. Please follow-up with HR.





## **JULY - NEW EMPLOYEES**

Matthew Ingram, Residential Specialist  
Danetta Cloyd, Residential Specialist  
Jessika Bradshaw, DSP  
Kennecia Hamilton, Kids Depot Teacher  
Linda Hancock, Residential Specialist  
Jermanti Palmer, Residential Specialist  
Abigail Cain, Kids Depot Teacher  
Kyle Clark, Home Manager  
Tikeitha Ostine, Residential Specialist  
Lauren Bogard, Training Specialist  
Chasity Counts, Residential Specialist  
Lisa Galaini, Job Coach  
Stacia Williams, Residential Specialist  
Isabella Beck, Kids Depot Teacher  
Cheyenne Call, Job Coach  
Jamie Roach, Residential Specialist  
Delon Gray, Kids Depot Custodian  
Denise Favors, Residential Specialist  
Siobhan O'Brien, Kids Depot Teacher  
Samantha Fuge, Job Coach  
Chandan Green, Job Coach  
Stephanie Russell, Thrift Store Specialist

## **AUGUST - NEW EMPLOYEES**

Joy Skillman, Home Manager  
Trachonta Fentress, Residential Specialist  
Lari Snyder, Personal Assistant  
Lekesha Webb, Residential Specialist  
Angenlina Alves, Residential Specialist  
Tabitha Miller, LPN  
Jawan Edwards, PA  
Caryn Gillam, LPN  
Maquia Hall, Nurse Staffing Coordinator  
Terry Bain Jr., Home Manager  
Geneva Mercer, Residential Specialist  
Stephanie Braungart, Residential Specialist  
Yvette Ramirez, Receptionist  
Amy Daniels, Residential Specialist  
Michelle Johnson, Home Manager  
Jessica Murray, Residential Specialist  
George Godsey, Maintenance Technician  
Margaret Suhr, LPN  
rose Owens, Job Coach  
Theresa Taiapisi, Residential Specialist

WELCOME OUR NEW  
TEAM MEMBERS!



# IN OTHER NEWS



## PROTECTION FROM HARM

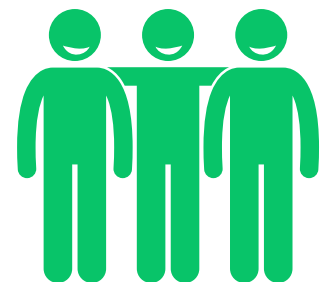
Remember... DIDD requires you to report any suspected incidents of abuse, neglect or exploitation to DIDD's Protection from Harm Unit at 888-633-1313 within 4 hours of observation or discovery. If you fail to report and the incident results in a substantiated case, you may be subject to disciplinary action along with the person(s) responsible for the abuse, neglect or exploitation.

## THE GREEN TEAM

As we demonstrate our commitment to sustainability, the agency continues its efforts to make positive changes toward energy efficiency a priority and ask for your help in doing so. There are things each of us can do to help further the cause. Here are some tips to reduce waste and improve efficiency at work, as well as at home:



- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use
- Recycle most paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass
- Adjust thermostat when away
- Upgrade to energy efficient bulbs and appliances
- Consider carpooling to work



If you are interested in learning more about recycling, resource conservation and sustainable living, check out this website for guides on money-saving tips and a better future for our kids. <https://mcgtn.org/green/sustain/resource-conservation>.

# WE ARE CQL ACCREDITED!!!

It's official! We were evaluated in detail at every level of the agency and passed our CQL accreditation. This voluntary evaluation system ensures we are providing the highest level of care to the individuals we support. Through this assessment by outside experts, accreditation equips us with valuable information and action steps for improvement.

## MORE ABOUT CQL

CQL is The Council on Quality and Leadership. Since 1969 the council has been a leader in working with human service organizations to continuously define, measure, and improve the quality of life and services for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Its vision is a world of dignity, opportunity, and community for all. The accreditation program is based on utilizing a proven framework for quality monitoring and enhancement.

CQL uses an evaluation system called Basic Assurances<sup>®</sup>. BA is a tool to evaluate successful operations involving the health, safety, and human security of people receiving services as well as areas such as natural supports, social networks, employment and more. Through 10 factors, 46 indicators, and hundreds of probes, the Basic Assurances<sup>®</sup> provide organizations with guidance for ensuring systems translate into actual practices to positively impact the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities.

These essential, fundamental and non-negotiable requirements for accreditation fall within these 10 factors:

1. Rights Protection and Promotion
2. Dignity and Respect
3. Natural Support Networks
4. Protection from Abuse, Neglect
5. Mistreatment and Exploitation
6. Best Possible Health
7. Safe Environments
8. Staff Resources and Supports
9. Positive Services and Supports
10. Continuity and Personal Security



Check us out!

Veterans Plaza, Suite 102 (350 Pageant Lane, Clarksville)  
Weekdays 7am-2:30pm (kitchen closes at 2pm)

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

If you have something to share, please send it to:



**Julie Brown**  
[jbrown@progressivedirections.com](mailto:jbrown@progressivedirections.com)  
x3152

Share your stories, your pictures, your ideas.  
What would you like to see?



*In Memory of*  
**Clara Pennington**



*In Loving Memory Of*  
*Clara Bell Pennington*

*Entered This Life*  
*December 11, 1948*  
*Departed This Life*  
*July 28, 2022*

*Celebration of Life*  
*1 p.m. Tuesday, August 2, 2022*  
*McReynolds-Nave & Larson*  
*Officiating, Rev. Jason Bell*

*Laid to Rest*  
*Resthaven Memorial Gardens*

McReynolds Nave  
& Larson  
[NaveFuneralHomes.com](http://NaveFuneralHomes.com)