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Agency Newsletter

HOME  
COMMUNITY  
OPTIONS

# HOME COMMUNITY OPTIONS



## *HCO says farewell to retiring Board Members*

**BARB BREZA** began serving on the HCO Board in 2010. Barb is a passionate advocate for children with disabilities and has often contributed to ways our organization could be supportive to the needs of children with disabilities and their families. Thanks to Barb, HCO continues strong services to help support families.

**STEVE LIBERA** began serving on the HCO Board in 1997. Having served as Board President, Steve is a champion in promoting development activities to garner more community support for the needs of HCO's clients. Steve continues to volunteer for HCO as the Set Designer and Coordinator for the HCO musical, constructing beautiful stage pieces that help make our annual musical a success each year.

**DIANE AMUNDSON** has been a Board Member since 2011. Diane was instrumental in facilitating effective strategic planning. Diane brought her skills as a trainer and management consultant to help HCO improve staff skills and retention.

**ERIC BARTLESON** has been a member of the HCO Board since 2003, serving as the organization's Treasurer for many years of his tenure. Eric's leadership experience as a school superintendent has helped HCO make organizational improvements. Eric is known for his passion in supporting the people served by our organization as well as his thoughtfulness and encouragement to our agency's employees.



## *Grassroots, 5% Campaign, and Employee Advocacy*

On January 23, 2014, Representatives Gene Pelowski, Steve Drazkowski, and Senator Jeremy Miller met with Winona Area constituents to learn about issues related to funding services for individuals with disabilities and older adults. HCO and Winona County DAC sponsored the event, which was attended by nearly 100 recipients for service, family members, and staff. These organizations serve more than 250 citizens with disabilities from Winona County. During the visit, Winona Legislators Pelowski, Drazkowski, and Miller agreed to support a Legislative Bill being proposed in the 2014 Minnesota Legislative Session to increase funding for disability services.

A statewide campaign called the 5% Campaign is a nonpartisan coalition working together to ask lawmakers for a five percent rate increase for disability and elderly Home and Community-Based Services in 2014. Including repeated cuts, 2013 marks the fifth year in a row that services for people with disabilities and older adults have not received rate increases to keep up with rising costs. Supporters say the increase is needed to fund critical services and the workforce that allows older adults and people with disabilities to maintain good health and independence in their homes and communities.

## Employee Recognition

Home and Community Options recently honored employees who have reached important milestones in their years of service with our agency. Everyday we are honored and humbled by the hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment that our employees display to HCO's mission to provide support to individuals with disabilities. It's because of all of you that our agency is successful in enabling the individuals we serve to live as full members of their communities!

\* = not pictured



### 5 YEARS

Brooke Weaver, April Ledebuhr-Kerrigan, Amber Weaver, Lois Dyreson\*, Rose Carr\*, Joanna Gribbons, Patrick Bowlin\*, Abigail Jackson, and Jennifer Laufenberg



## 10 YEARS

Cheryl Marquette, Nick Hernlem\*, Kateri Mueller, Sue Gardner, Ann Smith\*, Barb Kulas, Sara Johnson\*, Lynn Kujak, Sarah Erdmann\*, and Andy Schneider



## 15 – 25 YEARS

15 Years: Gary Petschow\*, Kathy Hager, and Joette Gillett

20 Years: Sandra Schollmeier, Craig Thompson, and Denny Theede

25 Years: Byron Bascle, Lucinda Wiczek, and Kathy Murck

## Employee Recognition



### 30 – 35 YEARS

**Paula Krage** was honored for 30 years of services to the agency as Director of Services. Paula has Advocated our agency's mission to promote better lives for those with disabilities, and she is also known for her professionalism in mentoring new staff leaders.

**Pat Wood** was honored for 35 years of Service as the agency's Finance Director. Pat integrates her skills in managing the agency's multi-million dollar budget with her compassion for the people with disabilities that are served by HCO.



# Seussical <sup>2014</sup>

## PERFORMANCES

**June 12th-17th**

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota  
Page Theatre

For the past 15 years, Home and Community Options has presented an annual musical as part of its fundraising efforts. These productions have become a part of local community life, bringing together some of the strongest talent in the Winona area, and have earned a reputation for consistently providing high quality performances. As the reputation of HCO shows continue to grow, so does the demand for tickets. In the last 5 years, over 25 of the performances have sold out, reaching a significant portion of the Winona population.

