
CENTER FOR DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Possibilities in Education and Training

A quarterly publication of the Center for Disabilities and Development, Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities at University of Iowa Children's Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1011

Stories of Transition from Park Place and Pacific Place, Part One

***By Mike Hoenig, Program Coordinator, State and Community Projects-
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Editor's Note: *We are dedicating the next three issues of Possibilities to telling the stories of Money Follows the Person participants who moved from Park Place and Pacific Place to community settings.*

Money Follows the Person (MFP) is a state/federal partnership which provides financial and direct support for up to one year to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries who want to move from congregate settings to the community. Each participant is assigned a transition specialist who typically coordinates all aspects of the move, connects participants to community services and supports, explores employment options with participants, and monitors progress throughout the year to increase the likelihood of a successful outcome.

Park Place and Pacific Place were two southwest Iowa Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF'S/ID) which closed in 2015. The 90 residents were given two months' notice of closure.)

Lynn and Greg's Story



Brothers Lynn and Greg Montague live together with two other roommates in a small Council Bluffs home. They're active community volunteers who enjoy the same things the rest of us do—spending time with friends and family, traveling, going to church, watching videos, reading, and going out for ice cream.

"We were scared about the two guys moving in together," says their mother Darlene. "They'd lived apart for over 30 years—Lynn at Park Place and Greg at Pacific Place. Lyn has to have everything in its place, while Greg is the type who walks into a room, tosses his hat, and leaves it wherever it lands. Yet, it's gone surprisingly well."

It's gone well for several reasons. Once the Montagues learned that closure of the two facilities was imminent, they were referred to MFP Transition Specialist Paige Shelton. Paige immediately located a provider, AmeriServe, willing to serve Lynn and Greg. Greg Scott, a former Pacific Place employee who now works as a residential coordinator at AmeriServe, knew the Montagues and provided a sense of familiarity.

A visit to the house prior to moving day provided additional assurance. "Lynn decided that his furniture would fit, so he brought it with him from Park Place when he moved in," explains Darlene. "When Greg walked in (on moving day), he knew right away which room was his. He walked right to it!"

"We donated some items to go in their new home, and went shopping for others with MFP funds," explains Darlene. "Without MFP and AmeriServe, I don't think this move would have happened. I would like to thank Paige Shelton from MFP and Greg Scott, along with all of the AmeriServe staff who helped us every step of the way toward making this a successful transition for our family."

Kenneth's Story

Kenneth Hopkins is the resident greeter at his house. "He smiles at every single staff member who walks in," said MFP Transition Specialist Carol Schroeder.

Kenneth moved into a house with two roommates in April, 2015 after living at Park Place for a very long time. "Kenneth is now healthier, has more choices, and is included in his community," Carol explained.

"Kenneth has had fewer hospitalizations since the move," continued Carol. "This is because staff from Nishna Productions, the agency which serves him, meet his health needs at a higher level. They spot symptoms quickly, keeping potentially serious illnesses from getting out of hand. They accommodate his lactose intolerance by serving him rice cream when the other guys are eating ice cream."

A visitor to Kenneth's home will soon learn about his preferences. His room is decorated in Hawkeye black and gold. If you arrive at mealtime, you'll likely see him eating his favorite foods prepared with the assistance of staff or savoring fried chicken ordered from a local restaurant. Stop by any other time, and it's a pretty sure bet you'll catch him enjoying his favorite TV personality, Bob Barker.

Clearly, Kenneth is not one to just sit at home. "He goes out to eat every week," Carol told me. "He's gone to the zoo, and was even on a local parade float."

When asked why she thinks Kenneth is doing so well, Carol responded: "The Nishna staff and the landlord. They've gone way above and beyond to make sure things work out for Kenneth and his roommates. When we (MFP program) approached them about building a ramp on to the house to accommodate the three guys, all wheelchair users, they readily agreed. When staff realized that the three guys did not have sufficient funds to cover the monthly rent, they approached the landlord who agreed to reduce it to a manageable amount."

Kenneth has accomplished a lot in just over a year of living in the community. It's fun to think about what lies ahead.

Tapping into Moods . . . with the Disability Resource Library (DRL)

The boys in the bunkhouse: servitude and salvation in the heartland / Barry, Dan.

New York, NY: Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, [2016] ©2016.

"A full-length account of the author's prize-winning New York Times story chronicles the exploitation and abuse case of a group of developmentally disabled workers, who for 25 years, were forced to work under harrowing conditions for virtually no wages until tenacious advocates helped them achieve their freedom."—Publisher.

When rain hurts: an adoptive mother's journey with fetal alcohol syndrome / Greene, Mary Evelyn. Pasadena, CA: Red Hen Press, [2013]

Summary: "A story of love blooming in even the most hostile environments, *When Rain Hurts* tells of one mother's quest to find a path of healing and forgiveness for her adopted son, a boy made feral by prenatal alcohol abuse and the stark rigors of Russian orphanage life."

When a family member has OCD: mindfulness and cognitive behavioral skills to help families affected by obsessive-compulsive disorder / Hershfield, Jon. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, Inc., [2015]

"When someone has obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), it can affect the entire family. This book is an essential guide to help family members cope with their loved one's compulsive behaviors, obsessions, and constant need for reassurance. If your loved one has OCD, you may be unsure of how to express your concerns in a compassionate, effective way. In *When a Family Member Has OCD*, you and your family will learn ways to better understand and communicate with each other when OCD becomes a major part of your household. In addition to proven-effective cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and mindfulness techniques, you'll find comprehensive information on OCD and its symptoms, as well as advice for each affected family member. OCD affects millions of people worldwide. Though significant advances have been made in medication and therapeutic treatments of the disorder, there are few resources available to help families deal with the impact of a loved one's symptoms. This book provides a helpful guide for your family"—Provided by publisher.

Supporting students with emotional and behavioral problems: prevention and intervention strategies. / Kern, Lee, Michael P. George and Mark D. Weist. Baltimore, MD : Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., [2016]

Abstract: "This book provides educators with practical, simple step-by-step strategies to address serious problem behaviors in school settings, framing interventions within a tiered system focused on prevention and positive approaches."

Autism and the extended family: a guide for those outside the immediate family who know and love someone with autism. / Melmed, Raun and Maria Wheeler. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons Inc., 2015.

"Not many resources examine how autism affects grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Yet, they are all affected by this disorder, too! Follow Dr. Raun Melmed, Developmental Pediatrician, and Maria Wheeler, M. Ed., as they examine the complex relationships developed, and changed, by an autism diagnosis in the family." *Neurology & Clinical Neurophysiology*.

Supporting positive behavior in children and teens with Down syndrome: the respond but don't react method. / Stein, David S. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, 2016.

Contents: How not to view behavior in individuals with Down syndrome -- Why do individuals with Down syndrome have behavior problems? -- Behavior 101: learning theory -- Common behavior problems in Down syndrome -- A behavior management system designed for children with Down syndrome -- Siblings -- Behavior management in school and in the community -- Discipline -- Times when behavior worsens or changes -- Managing internalizing behaviors in adolescence -- Maintaining behavior gains over the long term -- Where to turn for help: professional resources.

Invitation to Dance. / Tippelskirch, Christian von, [et al.] and Metuffer Films (Firm). New York, NY: Kino Lorber, ©2014. 1 videodisc (86 min.)

"In 1971, Simi Linton was injured while hitchhiking to Washington to protest the war in Vietnam. Suddenly a young disabled college student, she confronted insidious forms of discrimination she couldn't have imagined before. Over time she joined forces with a vibrant disability community, and realized that political engagement, love, and dance could once again be central to her life. Rock n' Roll, dancing, and sexuality liberated Simi from the shame she felt as a young disabled woman. Invitation to dance traces Simi's first reluctant foray onto the dance floor at a party to present day when dance has become a central theme in her social life, activism, and work. Ultimately, the film is a never-before-told coming out story of disabled people staking their claim to "equality, justice, and a place on the dance floor!"--Distributor.

What do you do with a problem? / Yamada, Kobi. Seattle, WA: Compendium Kids, 2016.

Summary: "This is the story of a persistent problem and the child who is not so sure what to make of it. The longer the problem is avoided, the bigger it seems to get. But when the child finally musters up the courage to face it, the problem turns out to be something quite different than it appeared. This is a story for anyone, at any age, who had ever had a problem they wished would go away." Audience: ages - 5+.

“Few things in the world are more powerful than a positive push. A smile. A word of optimism and hope.”

- *Richard M. DeVos*

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Click on "Disability Resource Library"

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