



# Disability Network Oakland & Macomb

# News and Events

Winter 2008

## Inside This Issue:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| From the Director's Corner | 1 |
| Meet the DNOM Staff        | 2 |
| Other News and Events      | 6 |
| Comedy Club Fundraiser     | 7 |

*Your LINK to community resources!*

## Welcome to Disability Network Oakland & Macomb!

### From the Directors Corner...

#### Happy New Year from Disability Network Oakland & Macomb!

We are celebrating our 1 year anniversary at our new building in Clinton Township and we definitely have a lot to celebrate for 2008.

In 2008, we are dedicated to continuing to expand our programs to provide more services in Oakland & Macomb counties:

In February 2007, DNOM began providing Independent Living Services to veterans in Oakland & Macomb counties. DNOM works directly with the Veterans Administration to conduct independent living assessments and provide supports coordination for veterans in the Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program and the Independent Living Program.

In December 2007, DNOM began providing transition services to high school students with disabilities at Walled Lake Western High School. The transition services focus on transition, vocational

readiness, rights and responsibilities, and empowerment.

In December 2007, DNOM began working with the Michigan Department of Community Health to provide Nursing Facility Transition services. Individuals that are Medicaid recipients or Medicaid eligible may qualify to transition from a nursing facility to community based living.



Michigan Nonprofit Association's Southeastern Public Policy Council is sponsoring a Legislative Breakfast to be held at Disability Network Oakland & Macomb on Monday February 4, 2008 from 7:30am-9:00am.

The breakfast will feature a brief program and extensive networking time with legislators to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the nonprofit community. Representatives from the nonprofit community and Macomb County residents are welcome to attend. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Deborah Foster at 313-309-1650.

On February 26, 2008 Disability Network/Michigan will host a Legislative Luncheon at the State Capitol in Lansing. The Luncheon is designed to educate Legislators about the services Disability Networks across Michigan provide and to gain support for continued and increased funding to continue to service people with disabilities. Each of the 15 Disability Networks will be represented at the luncheon. Please contact Kellie Boyd at DNOM for further information.

On behalf of Disability Network Oakland & Macomb, we wish you health and happiness for 2008.

**-Kellie Boyd**  
**Executive Director**

## Meet the DNOM Staff



### **Kellie Boyd · Executive Director**

Provides overall operational leadership for DNOM.

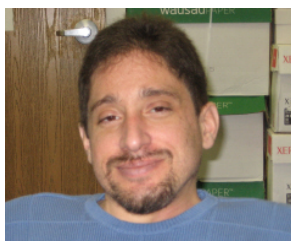
Kellie Boyd is the Executive Director at DNOM. She joined DNOM in November 2006 with an extensive background in the human service field spanning 13 years. Kellie completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Master of Arts degree in Community Agency Counseling from Michigan State University. She has worked as a substance abuse therapist, crisis lines counselor, and mental health therapist for various agencies in Ingham County. Kellie has worked as a Supports Coordinator for Community Living Services in Wayne County and Program Director for a residential treatment facility for adolescent females in the foster care system/juvenile justice system in Wayne County. She is a Licensed Social Worker and a Licensed Professional Counselor through the State of Michigan.



### **Kelly McConnell · Operations Manager**

Oversees the administrative function for DNOM to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the office. These duties include: operations, human resources, and financial management.

Kelly McConnell joined the staff at Disability Network Oakland & Macomb in April 2006. In her position of Operations Manager, Kelly is responsible for the financial aspects of the organization as well as overseeing the day to day operations of the center. Kelly graduated summa cum laude from Baker College with a Bachelor of Business degree. She has over 15 years of experience managing various offices and doing accounting. Kelly lives with her wonderful daughter and enjoys volunteering with her church youth group.



### **Mark Bashaw · Program Manager**

Provide training and program supervision to Core Service/Independent Living Specialists. Conducts outreach to public and private businesses to increase disability awareness and knowledge of Disability Network Oakland & Macomb.

Mark Bashaw is 36 years old. He was born paralyzed from the waist down due to having Spina Bifida. He started working at DNOM in January 1996 as the Transition Specialist. He helped students with disabilities make the transition to adult life. He also worked with and advocated for people with disabilities on an individual basis and facilitated presentations out in the community where he promoted DNOM's programs and services. Mark obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (B.B.A.) in 1996. Today, he continues to work with individuals, while also performing duties under his new job title of Program Manager.



### **Dorthea Bawks · Access Advocacy Specialist**

Provides individual and systems based advocacy services. Establishes and maintains relationship with community organizations and agencies through multiple medias. Creates an awareness of DNOM.

Dorie was a volunteer advocate for people with disabilities for sixteen years prior to finding a new home at DNOM in November 2006. She received her training through the Michigan Protection and Advocacy ASSET Network Program. She enjoys providing individuals with her advocacy services by creating relationships with community organizations, consumers, and their families and disability organizations within Oakland and Macomb Counties.

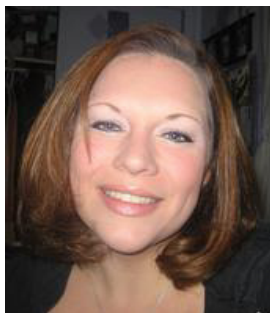


### **Michael Cadieux · Independent Living Specialist-South Macomb**

Provides four core services to consumers to assist individuals with achieving their goals. Works with consumers and MRS Counselors, as well as recruiting for and facilitating monthly Empowerment Trainings. Provides community resources to MRS counselors and consumers and presents DNOM program information during MRS orientations.

Mike joined Disability Network Oakland & Macomb in 2006. Prior to Mike's position as an Independent Living Specialist, he sold investments, such as annuities, mutual funds along with fee for service planning, for 11 years. A good deal of his background was in sales of various intangibles such as Insurance, Long term care, and preparatory school programs (Technical schools). He was born in Detroit and moved to Los Angeles California in 1970 where he studied acting at the Lee Strassberg Theatre Institute in Hollywood. Mike has been a member of the Screen Actors guild since 1975.

## Meet the DNOM Staff



### Traci Comer · Transition Specialist

Coordinates transition services including: working with students with disabilities to help them with the transition from school to adult life. Promotes education and contributes to issues affecting students with disabilities

Traci Comer joined the Disability Network Oakland & Macomb team in July 2005. In her position as Transition Specialist, she sits on Transition Councils for Oakland and Macomb County. She also assists students in creating a transition plan upon exiting high school or a secondary program into community living, furthering education, and/or employment. To do this she attends Individual Education Planning (IEP) and Person Centered Planning meetings. Traci facilitates the centers E<sup>3</sup> curriculum, which is centered on life skills, self-advocacy, and community resources. Traci has had training in psychology and development and classroom inclusion from Wayne State University. She also has Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training and Behavioral Modification Training. Traci is a certified True Colors facilitator.



### Jaylan Edwards · Independent Living Specialist (Veterans Administration)

Provides Independent Living Assessments and supports coordination to Veterans. Provides four core services to Veterans.

Jaylan R. Edwards I began working at Disability Network Oakland & Macomb in December 2007 as the Independent Living Specialist, focusing on Veterans. He received his Bachelors of Science Degree from Eastern Michigan University in December 1996. He served his country proudly from 1997-2001 in the United States Navy. Jaylan has three wonderful sons, ages seven, four, and three. He is also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.



### Paula Florka · Independent Living Specialist-North Macomb

Provides four core services to consumers to assist individuals with achieving their goals. Works with consumers and MRS Counselors, as well as recruiting for and facilitating monthly Empowerment Trainings. Presents DNOM program information during MRS orientations. Provides community resources to MRS counselors, MRS and DNOM consumers.

Paula Florka started at DNOM in March 2007 as an Independent Living Specialist. She works with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) consumers 20 hours per week providing peer support and facilitating Empowerment classes monthly. The other 20 hours are spent at Disability Network Oakland & Macomb helping our consumers. Paula is very happy to be part of this organization. Her passion in life is to be helpful to others and always strive to have a positive attitude. She retired from the Department of Human Services (DHS) in 2002 and her last job was working for the Macomb Homeless Coalition. Paula has lived in Macomb or Oakland County her entire life and has been happily married for 32 years with two wonderful daughters.



### Mary Ann Hewitt · Veteran's Service Specialist

Provides Independent Living Assessments and supports coordination to Veterans. Provides four core services to Veterans

Mary Ann Hewitt served in the United States Army, was stationed in Germany, and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service and the National Defense Medal. She graduated from Macomb Community College with an associate's degree and from Rochester College with a bachelor's degree magna cum laude in Counseling Psychology. Mary Ann was previously employed by Spectrum Human Services as a Semi Independent Living Social Worker, and by Sheppard Rehabilitation, where she worked with people with closed head injuries. Mary Ann began working at DNOM in February 2007, and focuses her time on the Veterans.

## Meet the DNOM Staff



### Lauren Lehr · Independent Living Specialist (Nursing Facility Transition)

Provides supports coordination services to consumers transitioning from nursing homes to community based living.

Lauren is the new Nursing Facility Transition Specialist at Disability Network Oakland & Macomb. She just recently began working at DNOM in January 2008. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Grand Valley State University. Lauren is excited to begin her career in such a rewarding field and start making a difference in people's lives. She enjoys volunteering with events/activities at church. Lauren also enjoys modern dance, reading novels by Nicolas Sparks, spending time with her husband of 2 ½ years, and taking care of her puggle puppy which keeps her busy.



### Kelley Miller · Information & Advocacy Specialist

Provides four core services to consumers to assist individuals in achieving their goals. First point of contact with MRS customers. Facilitate MRS orientations

Kelley started to work for Disability Network Oakland & Macomb in 2002. She works full time at the North Oakland Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) office. Kelley handles orientation intakes for the majority of MRS clients. She also helps with DNOM advocacy services for individual clients referred to her by their Oakland County MRS counselor. Kelley graduated from Oakland University with a degree in Human Services. She is currently attending Oakland University for an MA in Counseling. Kelley was previously employed at Oakland County Friend of the Court Job Placement; she has also worked for a MORC contractor, and the Oakland University Disability Support Service office.



### Ginger Monacelli · Independent Living Specialist (Nursing Facility Transition)

Provides supports coordination services to consumers transitioning from nursing homes to community based living.

Ginger became a Nursing Facility Transition Specialist with DNOM in January 2008. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 2003 with a BA in Psychology, and plans to pursue a PhD in the discipline in the coming years. Ginger has worked as a recruiter in the past and, most recently, as a pharmaceutical sales representative. She now plans to put her psychology background to better use at DNOM. She volunteers twice a week at Wayne State University in the Family and Child Developmental Lab, helping to research children's developmental disabilities and their families' coping mechanisms. Ginger was recently married in July 2007 and she and her husband live with their 2 dogs, Rupert and Bella.



### Merisa Musemic · Volunteer Coordinator

Coordinates activities of volunteers. Assists in developing program resources.

Merisa Musemic joined Disability Network Oakland & Macomb in December 2007. She has a bachelors degree in Social Work from Saginaw Valley State University. She completed an internship at Disability Network of Mid Michigan. Merisa is working on her Masters Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation counseling. She has been totally blind since birth, and enjoys a variety of leisure activities, including reading, arts and crafts, animals, and meeting new people.



### Yolanda Pinkston · Information & Referral Specialist

Provides information and referral to individuals and agencies and creates an awareness of DNOM. Maintains consumer data base, data entry, report requisitions and customer satisfaction surveys.

Yolanda Pinkston is the Information and Referral Specialist at Disability Network Oakland & Macomb. Yolanda joined DNOM in June 2003. She has over 10 years experience in the human service field and was also part of the Great Lakes Center for Independent Living in Wayne County, where she worked as an IL Specialist and Supports Coordinator Assistant. Yolanda enjoys helping people make a difference in their lives and has a wonderful daughter.

## Meet the DNOM Staff



### Amanda Searls · Administrative Assistant

Provides administrative support to assist in daily operations.

Amanda is the Administrative Assistant at Disability Network Oakland & Macomb. She started in August 2007. Amanda's duties include: managing the DNOM office, assisting with financial operations, and routing phone calls. She graduated from Dorsey Business School in December 2006 with an Administrative Assistant Certificate. Amanda likes to spend time with her family including her six brothers and sisters.



### Barbara Thompson · Independent Living Specialist-Oakland

Provides four core services to consumers to assist individuals with achieving their goals. Works with consumers and MRS Counselors, as well as recruiting for and facilitating monthly Empowerment Trainings. Provides community resources to MRS counselors and consumers, and presents DNOM program information during MRS orientations.

Barbara Thompspon is an Independent Living Specialist serving Oakland County at DNOM. She completed a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree, with a major in Psychology, from Wayne State University. Barbara was completing her master's degree in Social Work when she became disabled. She suffered a ruptured brain aneurism which left her paralyzed and unable to speak. As Barbara recovered, she retired from corporate life and in 2001 began to work for Disability Network Oakland & Macomb. Her first position was as the Information and Referral Specialist assisting consumers in resolving their problems. After a few years on this assignment, Barbara became an Independent Living Specialist and now teaches Empowerment classes in Oakland County. She is very involved with community and network agencies, and does public presentations and individual peer support counseling.



### Renee Willneff · Customer Service Navigator Nursing Facility Transition

Provides system navigation services to Michigan Works customers seeking employment. Provides supports coordination services to consumers transitioning from nursing homes to community based living.

Renee has been working for Disability Network Oakland & Macomb since March 2006 as the Navigation and Peer Support Specialist. The Navigator portion of her job is to provide information about services available through Michigan Works! and Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) along with assisting consumers to access these agencies. As a Peer-Support Specialist, Renee works one-on-one with consumers to access and apply for community agency services as well as assisting them to overcome any barriers they may be experiencing such as housing evictions, utility shut-offs, and transportation issues. She also assists nursing home residents in transitioning to independent living.

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## *Are YOU an Artist?*

Disability Network Oakland & Macomb invites you to participate in our donated art program:



Artwork of all mediums may be donated to DNOM to be displayed on the office walls. It is a great way for consumers of DNOM to give something back to the community, while also expressing themselves.

We encourage you to use our walls to portray the truth about your life, your journey, your recovery, your success. Most of all though, we encourage you to express your ABILITY!

Contact Dorie Bawks at ext. 6603 for more information.

# Save the Date...



Disability Network Oakland & Macomb's  
Third Annual Fundraiser and Silent Auction will be  
held on August 15, 2007.

Look for more information  
in upcoming newsletters!



We also take donations for our silent auction year-round, so if you or anyone you know would like to donate items at any time, contact our office at (586) 268-4160.

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## Other News:

Our office now has up-to date information on **Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund**. The AT Loan Fund helps people with disabilities and their family members get the equipment they need to be more independent and productive. If you would like more information about the AT Loan Fund or how to begin the process, contact Yolanda at 586-268-4160 ext. 6605.



DNOM has a loan closet! If you (or someone you know) is in need of any assistive equipment (crutches, walkers, seat cushions, etc.) contact our office to arrange a loan. We also take equipment donations.



**Come Join the  
Disability Network Oakland & Macomb  
For a Night of Laughs at...**

# Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

**March 20, 2008**

**Show time 8:00p.m.**

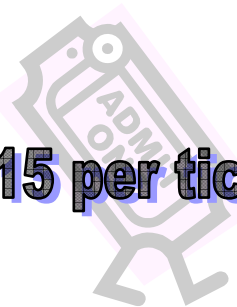
Featuring: Dean Edwards

With Chris White and MC Chad Thornsberry

[www.myspace.com/deanedwards1](http://www.myspace.com/deanedwards1)

<http://www.myspace.com/christianwhite>

**\$15 per ticket**



**Located at:  
269 East fourth Street  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 542-9900**

**Proceeds  
Go to Disability Network  
Oakland & Macomb**

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact DNOM at (586)268-4160.

16645 15 Mile Road  
Clinton Township, Michigan

## Disability Network Oakland & Macomb



Your Link to Community Resources!

Phone: (586) 268-4160  
(800) 284-2457  
Fax: (586) 285-9942  
E-mail: [info@dnom.org](mailto:info@dnom.org)

**WE ARE ON THE WEB!**  
[www.dnom.org](http://www.dnom.org)

If you would like further information on the services we provide or have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office!

### Disability Network Oakland & Macomb Staff:

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Executive Director                  | Kellie Boyd      |
| Operations Manager                  | Kelly McConnell  |
| Program Manager                     | Mark Bashaw      |
| Access Advocacy Specialist          | Dorothea Bawks   |
| Independent Living Specialist       | Michael Cadieux  |
| Transition Specialist               | Traci Comer      |
| Independent Living Specialist (VA)  | Jaylan Edwards   |
| Independent Living Specialist       | Paula Florka     |
| Veteran's Service Specialist        | Mary Ann Hewitt  |
| Independent Living Specialist (NFT) | Lauren Lehr      |
| Information & Referral Specialist   | Kelley Miller    |
| Independent Living Specialist (NFT) | Ginger Monacelli |
| Volunteer Coordinator               | Merisa Musemic   |
| Information & Referral Specialist   | Yolanda Pinkston |
| Administrative Assistant            | Amanda Searls    |
| Independent Living Specialist       | Barbara Thompson |
| Customer Service Navigator (NFT)    | Renee Willneff   |

### Our Mission:

We are committed to advancing personal choice, independence, and positive social change for persons with disabilities through advocacy, education, and outreach.