



YOUR LINK TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

DISABILITY NETWORK OAKLAND & MACOMB NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2016

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR



Hello Friends,

It was September of 2015 that I stepped into the role of Executive Director for Disability Network Oakland & Macomb. I am struck in a state of awe by the large number of individuals and organizations that support DNOM as we diligently pursue our mission to support personal choice and independence for persons with disabilities. This says a

lot for the reputation that DNOM has earned and maintained over the last twenty-nine years; a reputation that I enthusiastically seek to heighten and enhance.

Here at DNOM we vigorously embrace new opportunities of growth within DNOM and our communities to create new programs while being mindful to retain and improve the core services that have served the community well. When talking about value, it doesn't necessarily come from the dollar but rather from the continuous hard work and dedication that happens on a daily basis with the team at DNOM and our collaboration and alliance with our community partners. The expertise that

exists within DNOM and our partner organizations is priceless. Together, we raise awareness, maintain channels of support and develop new initiatives that create diversity and opportunity for all persons with disabilities.

In closing, I leave you with a quote from a famous disability advocate, Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." DNOM and I thank you for your continued support.

Kelly Winn
Executive Director

2015 BEST OF THE BEST

DNOM touched the lives of 3500+ consumers!

DNOM supports many community partners and organizations in fundraising and outreach events.

DNOM advocates equal access to all services, programs, activities, resources, and facilities, for individuals with disabilities.

DNOM is committed to supporting personal choice and independence of persons with disabilities.

Offered to our youth and youth adult consumers, DNOM Promotes self-help and self-advocacy through several programs including: Resource Advocacy Services and the Independent Living Guide Program.

Always celebrating, educating, and advocating for further progress towards an accessible Michigan. DNOM served as a sponsor of Michigan's statewide 2015 ADA Celebration.

DNOM fostered peer role models and peer relationships which encouraged success in the community.

DNOM partnered with Disability Network Michigan on Legislative Day. Our staff advocated statewide accessible transportation, health care needs, and funding strategies.

DNOM'S OUTREACH SERVICES

PREVNT *(Prevent Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect Today)*



Disability Network Oakland & Macomb offers a **FREE** hour long presentation to educate the community about elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. Gillian Bentley, a DNOM Independent Living Specialist, is dedicated to helping the community learn to recognize elder abuse and to learn the tips and tools to be protected. Gillian has visited senior housing locations, senior centers, businesses, colleges and universities and would love to come and speak with your group or organization. **Refreshments can be provided.**

Contact Gillian at 586-268-4160 ext 6603 or e-mail her at gbentley@dnom.org to get more information or to set up your presentation time.



The Michigan Aging & Adult Services Agency recently met with those organizations funded across the state in an effort to combat one of the fastest growing crimes in Michigan, elder abuse.

MOBILE OUTREACH

Disability Network Oakland & Macomb (DNOM) is the largest Center for Independent Living (CIL) in Michigan and serves two of the largest counties in our state. Recognizing that many consumers in our service area do not have easy access to our office, our goal is to bridge the gap. Traveling to the in-between and outer edges of our service areas and setting up shop at libraries or other community venues, Miriam Green, an Independent Living Specialist and MMAP Certified Counselor at DNOM hosts Mobile Outreach sessions throughout Oakland and Macomb counties.



UPCOMING EVENT:

April 1 - 9:00am-4:00pm - Life Skills - 142 Auburn Rd, Pontiac MI 48342

For more information or to request the scheduling of a Mobile Outreach event in your area, feel free to contact Miriam at 586-268-4160. An updated Mobile Outreach schedule can always be viewed by checking the Upcoming Events page at www.dnom.org

PUBLIC POLICY



Lauren Baker and Kelly Winn with Senator Steven M. Bieda, a member of the Michigan Senate. Senator Bieda represents the 9th District, which includes Macomb County.

As the Public Policy Specialist, Lauren Baker analyzes disability related policy and legislation creating summaries for DNOM's director, staff and community. Lauren serves as our disability advocate before local, state and federal elected officials on key policy issues. She collaborates with community members, business leaders and elected officials by attending chamber meetings, transportation committee meetings and legislative sessions.

One of Lauren's passions is advocating for affordable and accessible solutions for local and regional public transit systems. Lauren is a member of the SMART Bus Advisory Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Regional Transit Authority. More information on the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan can be found at <http://www.rtamichigan.org>.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



The **ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience)** allows people with disabilities to open tax-free savings accounts that can be used to cover qualified expenses such as education, housing and transportation. The goal of this federal legislation is to ease the financial strains faced by individuals with disabilities and their families by allowing them to establish ABLE savings accounts that will not affect their eligibility for SSI and/or SSDI, Medicaid and other public benefits. Visit michigan.gov for more information.

SHAPING THE FUTURE

GET EXCITED!

**SOMETHING GREAT
IS COMING TO DNOM**



The National Center on Health said it well, "**exercise is for EVERY body!**"

DNOM plans to partner with the community and assist those with a disability and/or other chronic health conditions achieve the health benefits that come through participating in physical and social activities. Caregivers, family members, co-workers and seniors will be included as we strive to build a healthy inclusive community!



The vision is planted and we are excited. Stay tuned for more information.

 SAVE THIS DATE!

Friday, September 23, 2016

**COMMUNITY SPIRIT
FUNDRAISER**



MORE SERVICES AT DNOM



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology devices promote greater independence by enabling people to perform everyday tasks that were formerly difficult to accomplish. If you have ever had trouble turning the door knob, difficulty putting on your sock or getting in and out of the car, an Assistive Technology (AT) demo may be the resource you have been waiting for.

Jenell Williams or Lauren Baker, DNOM AT Specialists, will come to you to provide a one-on-one demonstration of devices including those for bathing, cooking, dressing, grooming, and other daily activities. **There is no cost for this service.** For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call the DNOM Assistive Technology Department at 586-268-4160.



myride2 provides access to transportation options via a toll-free, multilingual phone line (855)698-4332 or website (www.myride2.com). Mobility Specialists help determine the best transportation option for the caller or, individuals may visit the website to search for providers or request a ride. **myride2** serves Oakland, Macomb, and Western Wayne counties. The service is free; however, there are costs for the transportation itself.

SUPPORT DNOM'S MISSION

Become a DNOM Board Member

- Do you have one free afternoon a month to participate in a board meeting?
- Are you a compassionate person who cares about those who are disabled?
- Do you have experience in fundraising, human resources, human services or education?





Joining the Disability Network Oakland & Macomb Board of Trustees is a way to support DNOM's commitment to support personal choice and independence for persons with disabilities. DNOM recently hosted an information presentation and luncheon for those who were interested in learning more about DNOM while considering joining our Board of Trustees. If you are interested, call us at 586-268-4160 or send an e-mail to kwinn@dnom.org.

Contact

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