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**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2017**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 7: Masquerade Ball- 5-8pm- Civic Arena
April 14: Closed – Spring Break
April 20: Basketball Game with Fraternal Order of Police – 6:30pm- NSU Barnett Center
April 24: Assistive Technology Fair – 10am to 2pm- Aspire

MASQUERADE BALL

TICKETS are still available (until April 3rd) for the Masquerade Ball to be held on Friday, April 7 from 5pm-8pm at the Civic Arena. A dinner will be served at 5pm. Tickets are \$20. Any persons supported by Aspire, their friends or family members are welcome to attend. Contact Amanda or Bobbi Jo at the front desk, or call 229-0263 #0, for more information.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE and ASPIRE BASKETBALL GAME

NSU Athletics will be hosting the annual basketball game/ fundraiser for Aspire on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30pm in the NSU Barnett Center. Doors open at 6:00pm. Free will donations will be accepted at the door. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER/KIWANIS CARDS

Aspire is once again partnering with the Aberdeen Kiwanis Club to sell business discount cards. Cost of the card is \$10, with \$7 of every card being donated back to Aspire. Our goal is to sell 100 cards to raise \$700 for equipment for the recreation department. If you are interested in helping sell cards, contact Heather Dockter in the Rec department at 229-0263 #1020 or inquire at Aspire's front desk if you'd like to buy a card. Cards will be available March 31st.

Assistive Technology Fair

Come check out assistive devices that are available through Aspire's lending library at our Assistive Technology Fair on Monday, April 24 from 10am- 2pm. Area vendors will be on hand to demonstrate their products/services available within the community. Breakout sessions will be available to provide more in depth information. Here is a few topics that we are planning:

- IPAD applications that can help with everyday living (i.e med reminders, etc).
- Demonstrations using Skype/Facetime to talk to a family member
- Dining/cooking (i.e. specialized tableware to making dining a pleasant experience)
- Sensory/calming ideas that you can make at home or purchase

A schedule of breakout sessions will be sent via E-bulletin and available on our website after April 13th.

We ASPIRE for ALL People to be... valued... connected... empowered...

MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

The Aspire Board of Directors met on Tuesday, March 21. All board members were present with the exception of Kelli Comstock. The minutes of the November 2016 and January 2017 meetings were approved. The financial statements were tabled until May.

Information was shared with the board regarding the following:

- **FY18 Budget Updates:** Aspire will receive a 0.3% inflationary increase in funding next fiscal year. Due to reductions in the DHS budget for the current FY, Aspire does not anticipate any year-end reimbursements for supplies.
- **National School Lunch Program:** Providers were notified that adults with ID/DD are no longer eligible to receive the free/reduced breakfast and lunches through this program, effective July 1st. The lost funding amounts to about \$90,000. Aspire is looking into alternatives for people to have affordable meals.
- **Wellness Committee Report:** Aspire received a \$1000 grant to promote healthy vending machine choices. Prize coupons have been placed behind healthy choices in the cafeteria and employee breakroom vending machines.
- **Accreditation Review:** Aspire's national accreditation review is scheduled March 28-31. Various stakeholders have been invited to participate to develop the next strategic plan.
- **Health/Safety Data:** Information including medication errors, work comp claims, complaints, parent/guardian survey responses, etc. were shared. Overall, data information was positive. Employee turnover and vacancy rates continue to be a concern.
- **Personal Outcome Measures:** Data reported in the March newsletter was shared.

In other board action, the board approved policy updates for: Section 202-Basic Assurance monitoring; Section 309 Individual Service Plan- Case Management and Quality Assurance; Section 318-329 for Medication Control, etc; and Section 331: Positive Behavior Intervention-Techniques.

A Nominating Committee was established to fill one vacancy as the result of President Peterson being term-limited. The Buildings Committee reviewed the status of projects and a bid for replacement of a ramp/deck at 702 S. Kline Street. The board approved an additional \$10,000 in spending authority to complete the project.

The board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Once again, we would like to remind everyone that the full minutes of the board meetings are available at Aspire. Board meetings are open to the public. If anyone would like to address the board we would appreciate knowing this in advance so you can be placed on the agenda. A one-week notice would be appreciated.

Masquerade Ball

Friday, April 7th

Dinner: 5-pm-6pm

Dance: 6pm-8pm

Civic Arena

Enjoy a meal while you watch live entertainment then get ready to dance!!

Dress up in formal attire with a mask or in a costume that goes with the theme of a royal court (kings, queens, knights in armor, dragons, wizards, court jester, servant, etc.)

Tickets are \$20

Cash or Checks made out to Aspire

On sale March 1 to April 1

