



Stevens County Developmental Achievement Center

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The DAC group just came back from our annual trip to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. It was great! We saw *Newsies*, the wonderful Disney musical about the New York City newsboy strike of 1899. The story was about the importance and dignity of all work, even selling newspapers on the street. It was about fairness in wages, both earned and paid. It was a powerful message with meaning for all of us. It was a wonderful day of singing and dancing that we will remember for years. Thank you for the support of our chartered bus costs. We love this community opportunity and [the support of the] Arc . . . literally makes this possible. Thanks.

Back here in Morris we are struggling with the Department of Human Services decision to simultaneously change our payment system from average daily rates to many different individual 15-minute rates and to lower our overall reimbursement by 7% at the same time. These reductions began to hit us in August of 2018 and we anticipate this to reduce our income by as much as seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) per year. Our state association is subsequently suing the State of Minnesota over the rate reductions, and so far, we have only enriched attorneys while they argue endlessly about Federal law that frankly misses the point and makes very little sense to us. Instead we are struggling to learn the new rate system while keeping everyone served with person-centered programs. Que sera.

Meanwhile, our building fund is growing every day and it looks like we will be improving our facility next summer. We need: wider hallways, bigger restrooms, separate laundry facilities and improved heating and cooling equipment. It's a beautiful building but it's been more than 30 years. We need more elbow room and modern code compliance. The improved facility will retain the current brick and glass look while adding needed space for our community work programs, too. That means that next summer we will need temporary space during construction. The temporary space has to be accessible. If you have some space available, please let us know. We also need to raise another \$400,000 toward our goal of 1.5 million, so it will be a busy winter. Please consider contributing to be part of our success. We are a 501(c)(3) charity and your gifts are tax deductible contributions. [Mail contributions to:] SCDAC, PO Box 25, Morris, MN 56267. **

Thanks for your friendship and support. If you have any questions or ideas, please stop by and let's visit. We love visitors.

Thanks,

Charlie Oakes

Stevens County DAC Executive Director

**Editor's note: Donations can also be made online using a credit card on our GiveMN page. To donate online, click on the header of our website, or click the "DONATE" button in the navigation menu.