



Stevens County Developmental Achievement Center

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Easter is behind us & the DAC building schedule is full swing into summer. This month we opened bids and decided that we can afford to pursue all our plans to upgrade and expand our building this summer.

Many thanks to the Stevens County ARC (and many others) for their generous donation to our building project. We still need to raise about \$100K, but we have raised local contributions of \$1.2 Million dollars so far. We plan to spend \$400K of our reserves too. Altogether it looks like we will be spending approximately \$1.7 Million to enlarge and upgrade our facility.

That means, we will need to vacate the DAC building by this June - for at least 4 months and set up shop somewhere else. So where are we going during construction? It looks like we will be relocating temporarily to the old Riley Brothers office building on Hwy 59. They have generously offered to rent us their building and the fire marshal has agreed. Now we wait for approval from the MN Department of Human Services.

It is a great fit for us, but it does not include a licensed kitchen. Therefore, the clients and/or the group homes will need to prepare cold lunches until we get back to our remodeled DAC bldg. Clients will not pay for hot lunch during this time, but they will need an insulated lunch pail with their name written on it. Change is good right? We will soon find out and it is only temporary inconveniences.

Meanwhile, life and Special Olympics continue too. Lots of us have begun swimming practice and/or track and field training. Swimming will have their meet in Alexandria in early May and then Track and Field will compete in Moorhead by the end of the month. None of this could happen without the help and support of volunteers like Chris Hopkins. Thanks for making this happen for our friends.

It's going to be an exciting year for us here someplace. Thanks for your support and friendship.

Charlie Oakes

DAC Executive Director