



Advocacy & Inclusion Matter of West Central Minnesota



Winter Newsletter

January, February and March 2024

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Please
donate new
or gently
used
formal
dress. All
sizes and
colors.

FORMAL DRESS COLLECTION

Drop off Location:
AIM Office
Bremer Bank
General Mailing
Mainstream Boutique
Ridgewater College
The Barn Theatre

January 22 to
February 20, 2024



AIM provides opportunities
and resources to support
inclusion and independence
for people with disabilities.

In this Issue:

- People First
- Painting Class
- Walking Club
- Ceramic Class
- Spring Dance
- Prom/Formal Dress Sale
- Rose Sale

Annual Rose Sale

Would you like to help
sell roses?

Please call AIM office

**Packets will be ready
to pickup**

March 5, 2024

Time: 9am– 3pm

Note: All events are subject to change. Ask any questions please.

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Executive Director's Report

Greetings!

With the year coming to an end, AIM is very grateful for the participants, volunteers, donors, granters, partnerships, and AIM board members. With several supporters in many different ways, AIM is able to offer opportunities and resources for the participants that AIM serves. The last quarter has been busy and enjoyable. There was a new emergency response and ceramic class that had 15 –18 participants. The Fall dance drew people from Granite Falls, Grove City, Pennock, Atwater, Spicer, Clara City, Raymond and Willmar. People First volunteered to pickup sticks and trash at Willmar Lions Dog Park and setup lights at Robbins Island for Celebrate the lights. Some participants also rang the bell on December 6, to help support other local non-profits. They enjoy giving back to the community.

The AIM townhall forum is held every other year. Thank you to the policymakers in attendance Andrew Lang, Dave Baker, Justin Ask, Steve Gardner, and Jesse Gislason. The audience included participants of AIM/People First, staff, family, and board members. Two participants with AIM programs spoke during the forum. AIM had three topics of concern (14c Certificate, workforce, guardianship laws/rules). The goal was to have conversations on areas of concern with the audience and policymakers, learn more about each policymaker's position and understand their responsibility. It met and exceeded my expectations. In years past, AIM took a bus to Disability Services Day at the Capitol. This year on March 19, 2024 at 10am, AIM is partnering with WCI to have a watch party for that day. The flyer of the watch party is in the newsletter. All are welcome, please RSVP to AIM office. AIM is working on a tour of the Capitol in May instead.

The AIM Annual meeting gave a recap of the past year. Congratulations to AIM award recipients, **Mary Rhude Advocacy Award:** Paula Oslund, **Anne Miller Volunteer Award:** Paula Bredberg, **Ruth Mossberg Professional in Disability Services Award:** Mel Thorpe, **Community Partner Award:** Alley on Ash and **People First Member of the Year:** Robert Gilland. Thank you to ACGC FFA Chapter for the donation \$9,000.00.

Planning of 2024 is well underway. You will see information in the newsletter. There are a couple of details that need to be worked out yet: Self- Advocacy course - 12 week class with ACT, cooking class, guardianship training, and Advocacy Fair.

Please check out our website: www.aimwcm.org for full flyers.

Warm regards,

VaLoris

The Walking Club

Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 through September 25, 2024

Time: 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Place: Robbin Island

Instructor: Lynn and Mark Stier

Cost: \$10.00 (pay to AIM)

Call AIM office to sign up.



VIP Warhawks game



People First Officers

President

Lindsey Harms

Vice President

Sara Schmidt

Secretary

Angela Remus

Treasurer

Robert Gillard

Member- At- Large

Brenda Simning

People First Meetings

Are you looking to meet new people and get involved in the community?

Join People First! It's FREE!

****AIM's People First meetings are usually every third Thursday of the month***

Being a part of People First provides for recreational opportunities, educational forums, and ways to volunteer! Some People First activities include potlucks, speakers, parties, fundraisers, and more!

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024

Time: 6 pm

Place: Vinje Lutheran Church

Movie night:

Barnyard & snacks



Learn to Play Disc Golf

Tuesday, April 18

6:00-7:30pm

Ridgewater College Disc Golf Course
2101 15th Ave. NW, Willmar
Park in East lot & meet by the tennis courts

Learn about the rules, how to throw a disc and play 9 holes with some new friends.

Fun Games & Prizes!



RSVP to 320-231-1777 to let us know you are coming

**All equipment is provided.
Wear comfortable clothes and a good pair of tennis shoes.**



Date: Thurs. March 14, 2024

Time: 6 pm

Place: Vinje Lutheran Church

Regular meeting for participants.



Ringin
of Bells
and Fall
Dance





AIM
Advocacy & Inclusion Matter

AFTER NEW YEAR'S PARTY!!

Thursday, January 18, 2024
St. Mary's Church
713 12th St. SW Willmar, MN 56201

Time: 6-8pm
Meal served at 6pm (new caterer)

Must pick Chicken or Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetable, dinner roll, & cupcake (gluten free).
You will get a ticket for the event that has your meat choice.

No walk-ins accepted / non-refundable!
Cost is \$13.00 per person
Register by Thursday, January 4, 2024!

BINGO!

Ceramic Class

Pick and paint your own ceramic piece

Cost is \$15.00 per person

First 15 people only

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: The Hive 1029 19th Ave SW
Willmar, MN 56201



FITNESS CLASS

COME JOIN US FOR A GENERAL FITNESS CLASS. YOU WILL EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT FORMS OF EXERCISE, FROM YOGA TO HIGH INTENSITY INTERVAL TRAINING.

NOTE: STAFF CAN JOIN IN BUT MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN MAT AND WEIGHTS FOR THE CLASS.

INSTRUCTOR: AMBER SILVA

REGISTRATION DUE JANUARY 5, 2024

CLASS SCHEDULE- CLASS FEE \$15.00

WHAT DAYS: 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

WHAT DAYS: JANUARY 9, 2024 - MARCH 26, 2024

WHAT TIME: 5:15 PM-5:45 PM

WHERE: CONFERENCE ROOM ACROSS FROM THE AIM OFFICE

HEALTHY LIVING CLASS

THE HEALTHY LIVING CLASS IS DESIGNED TO EDUCATE AND SUPPORT PARTICIPANTS IN LIVING HEALTHIER LIVES. THROUGH EDUCATION SESSIONS, HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, AND FIELD-TRIPS, PARTICIPANTS WILL GET TO LEARN AND PRACTICE NEW SKILLS THAT CAN HELP THEM TAKE STEPS TOWARDS MAKING HEALTHIER CHOICES.

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WHAT TIME: 4:00 PM-5:00PM

WHERE: CONFERENCE ROOM ACROSS FROM THE AIM OFFICE



Ceramic and Emergency response class.



Fudge Sale

2024 Fudge sale raised over \$3,700.00.

Sold a total of 932 boxes.

Top Sellers

Eric and Paige Wankerl

Jacob Ludvigson

Tied: Kari Benson and Eric Guevarra

Thank you to Lori Bahn, Leah Baune, Caleb Bedner, Kari Benson, Deb Downey, Dawn Englekes, Robert Gilland, Eric Guevarra, Rinna Halverson, Lindsey Harms, Patty Kelm, Betty Kraemer, June Laechelt, Mike Lewis, Annie Liedman, Jacob Ludvigson, Mandy Lush, Kelly Miller, Angela Remus, Scott Rhude, Tasha Stangeland, Eric & Paige Wankerl, Denise Weitzel, Bremer Bank, ProCore, Schwieters, and board members for helping sell fudge.

Painting Class

Painters will paint a Galaxy design.

Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Time: 4 pm – 6pm

Place: WCI 1300 SW 22nd St. Willmar, MN 56201

Cost \$25.00 (pay to AIM)

Instructor: Carol Slinden

Thank You to our Supporters!

AIM would like to recognize those who have generously donated.
Your contributions make such a difference!

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ◇ Dan & Deb Hanson | ◇ Travis & Kylie Aufderheide | ◇ Bev Kingman |
| ◇ Mary Schnell | ◇ Mark & Lynn Stier | ◇ Benson Laundry |
| ◇ Mitch & Jo Johnson | ◇ Dennis Schaeffbauer/Ann Hedershott | ◇ Ken Spates |
| ◇ Kathryn Hund | ◇ Walt's Soft Car Wash | ◇ Supportive Lifestyles Inc. |
| ◇ Jody Weddle | ◇ In Memory of Wilton Gustafson | ◇ James M. Ruff Inc. |
| ◇ Jenith Benson | ◇ In Memory of Shannon Bolter | ◇ Tru Journey Advisors |
| ◇ LuAnn Kruger | ◇ In Memory of Lori Hebrink | ◇ Diversified Lifestyles |

This recognizes donors from September 28, 2023 to December 18, 2023 Donations made after this date will be recognized in our next newsletter.

We apologize if you were unintentionally omitted from our list; please contact the office so you can be properly acknowledged



Advocacy & Inclusion Matter
of West Central Minnesota

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311 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201

Phone: 320.231.1777
Email: contact@aimwcm.org
Website: www.aimwcm.org



*AIM advocates for a
community of inclusion.*

Check us out on the web!
www.aimwcm.org

WATCH PARTY



MARCH 19, 2024
TIME: 10AM

DISABILITY SERVICES DAY AT THE CAPITOL

LEARN ABOUT POLICY AND LAWS PEOPLE
WANT TO HAVE PASSED IN THE SESSION.

LOCATION: WCI
1300 SW 22ND ST.
WILLMAR, MN 56201

Everyone is welcome to attend.
Please tell your family,
friends and staff.



United Way
of West Central Minnesota

OTTO
BREMER
TRUST™

