



Advocacy & Inclusion Matter of West Central Minnesota



Spring Newsletter

April, May and June 2024

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Paula Nelson

What is a Watch Party?

You come to watch a live rally that will be at the State Capitol on March 19.


Why should you come?

To learn about policy and laws that are being present for this session.

In this Issue:

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- Spring Dance
- Rose Sale
- Watch party
- Summer Dance

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.



Rose Packet Due

**Thursday
April 25, 2024**

**Please have all
packets to AIM
office by 3pm**

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



Greetings!

People First met on December 21, 2023 and elected new officers to serve for the next two years. Congratulation to **President:** Caleb Bedner, **Vice President:** Jodi Lange, **Secretary:** Jessica Castro, **Treasurer:** Riana Halvorson, and **Member– At– Large:** Lindsey Harms. They have been working on this years calendar: tour of county jail in July and see the other events under People First in the newsletter. They are working hard to have some great events.

The After New Year's Party was held at St. Mary's Church and we had 100 people. Thanks to the Schimmy Shack and S & S Sweets and Treats for the food and treats. It was all delicious. Everyone had fun playing bingo with some great prizes. Thanks to Willmar Warhawk's for donating ticket packages as an extra give away.

Dress sale fundraiser started in February. This year we are only hosting three days for the sale. Collection of two hundred dresses from the business location that had a box Bremer Bank, General Mailing, Mainstream Boutique, Ridgewater College and The Barn Theatre. Thank you to WCI clients and staff for wrapping boxes, distributing boxes, collecting of dresses and hanging flyers. Last sale day is on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Rose sale fundraiser is open. Please place order with those selling, call AIM office or order online.

A grant from Vision 2040 AIM is offering a watch party on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 10am at WCI. The watch party will be viewing a rally at the State Capitol for Disability Services Day. What does that mean to you. You will learn about what is happening in the current season. We will have treat and water. This grant also offered a chance to tour the Capitol. The plan was to go in May due to the tour that we wanted to go on the days open were only in February and March. So on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 twenty-three people went to the Capitol to learn history of the Capitol building, understand the roles of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Senators, Representatives, MN Supreme Court justices and location of each room. Thanks to R and J Tours for vans as transportation for the day and to healthy living class for the healthy food to eat on the trip. The tour is something we hope to offer again in the future.

Advocacy Fair will be on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at WCI. What is this? It is setup for you to explore AIM'S four pillars of what makes up AIM. This is designed to let a person or a group of peers to check out the activity booths at their own pace.

AIM received the New London –Spicer grant that is setup to explore places in the New London –Spicer area. AIM is starting to work on planning on how to explore the neighboring towns. If your interested in helping plan, call the AIM office.

Please check out our website: www.aimwcm.org go to calendar to see each event.

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)



Tour of State Capitol on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.



People First Officers

President

Caleb Bedner

Vice President

Jodi Lange

Secretary

Jessica Castro

Treasurer

Riana Halvorson

Member- At- Large

Lindsey Harms

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 recreational opportunities, educational forums, and ways to volunteer! Some People First activities include potlucks, speakers, parties, fundraisers, and more!

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024

Time: 6 pm

Place: Vinje Lutheran Church

Emergency Awareness

Learn to Play Disc Golf

Thursday, 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.



Volunteer to clean at Lions Dog Park

Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Lions Park

22nd St SW and Willmar Ave
Willmar, MN 56201

Please wear clothes you're okay with getting



Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024

Time: 6:15 pm

Place: Oak Knoll Cemetery

37th Ave. NE Willmar, MN 56201

* We will be putting flowers out to remember those buried from the Willmar State Hospital.

People First - No June meeting.

AIM and People First will have a booth at the Block Party on June 20.

Willmar Fests

June 19 - 23, 2024 | Willmar, MN



Profits from the
Rose sale support
AIM's program's
for people with
disabilities.

Annual Rose Sale



ORDER FLOWERS
MARCH 5, 2024 UNTIL
APRIL 25, 2024

RED OR LOLLIPOP HALF DOZEN | \$15.00

6 roses with greens in Red or Multi-colored

RED OR LOLLIPOP DOZEN | \$27.00

12 roses with greens in Red or Multi-colored

SPRING BOUQUET | \$20.00

Mix of Seasonal Flowers



Drive-thru pickup on
Thursday May 16th

Location: Uptown Willmar
(Former JC Penney South
Door Entrance)

Time: 12:00pm to 5:00pm



To place an order

320-231-1777

www.aimwcm.org



Distributing and collecting of
formal dresses.



Ceramic class





AIM Stingers Game

Date: **Friday, May 31, 2024**

New Picnic Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm, Game starts at 6:35 pm

Cost: \$15.00



Tickets can be purchased in AIM office first week in May. This is for the picnic and game.

Thanks to sponsors of the AIM game night.



HERITAGE
EXTERIORS

Willmar Eagles Club #2334

After New Year's Party



Thank You to our Supporters!

AIM would like to recognize those who have generously donated.

Your contributions make such a difference!

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ◇ Dan & Deb Hanson | ◇ Mark & Lynn Stier |
| ◇ Margo Roth | ◇ In Honor of David Slinden |
| ◇ Robert Haines | ◇ Carol and Timothy Fostervold |
| ◇ Bev Kingman | ◇ Ronald Joffer and Jessica L. Hanson |
| ◇ Anonymous | ◇ Ron and Patti Noyes |
| ◇ ACGC FFA Chapter | ◇ Fraternal Order of Eagles #2334 |

This recognizes donors from December 19, 2023 to March 9, 2024. 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

PO Box 214
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

Pizza Ranch

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

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser!

Monday, April 22, 2024

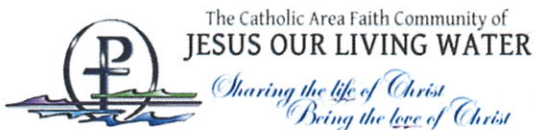
5 pm to 8 pm
1612 Lakeland Dr. SE, Willmar

Stop by for a pizza, buffet or take out!

Portion of the sales and tips help support People First.

The poster for the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser has a black background with white line drawings of various food items like pizzas, tomatoes, and herbs. It features the Pizza Ranch logo at the top, the AIM logo at the bottom, and two red circular callouts with white text. The text on the poster provides details about the fundraiser, including the date, time, location, and the purpose of the event.

United Way
of West Central Minnesota



Check us out on the web www.aimwcm.org

AIM SUMMER DANCE



Theme: "1950's"

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm with DJ

Location: Willmar Community Center

Cost is \$5.00 before or at the door.

Snacks will be available to purchase.



March 8 and 9, 2024 was Novice Bonspiel at Blue Line Arena. Thanks to Glacial Ridge Curling for a wonderful season. They also honored those before us. This completes the curling season. Hope you join next year.



Other upcoming events

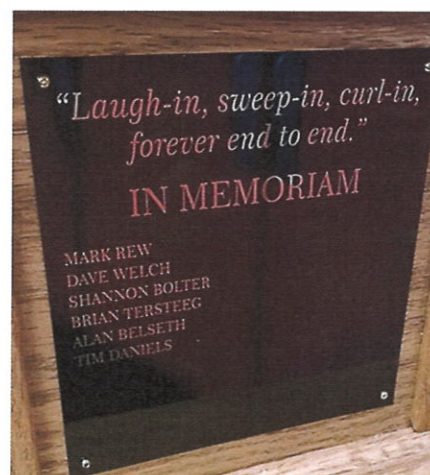
4-H Horse Night

4-H Dog Night

Exploring New London– Spicer

Let's Go Fishing/ Boating trips

Coffee Bag Fundraiser



**Check out Advocacy & Inclusion
Matter of West Central MN
on Facebook!**



ADVOCACY FAIR

**Saturday
April 27,
2024**

Registration: 10am- 11am
Activity Booths: 10am-2pm
Lunch served: 11am - 1pm
Taco bar, treat and water
**** Cost \$10.00 per person**

Location:

WCI

1300 SW 22nd ST.
Willmar, MN 56201

320-231-1777
aimwcm.org



**Come explore
AIM's Four Pillars
(at your own pace)**

ADVOCACY



WELLNESS



EDUCATION



SOCIAL INCLUSION



Advocacy Fair Registration

Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Staff Attending: _____
Staff Attending: _____
Zip Code: _____

Return registration form
and \$10.00 payment to:
AIM PO Box 214
Willmar, MN 56201
by Friday,
April 19, 2024!

Spring Dance 2024

Willmar Senior High National Honor Society &
Advocacy and Inclusion Matter of West Central Minnesota (AIM)
are proud to co-host this year's spring dance.

Our theme this year is "To Be Determined."

The decorations and theme have been provided by Willmar Senior High School Prom Committee.

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Doors open at 5:30pm

Time: 6pm- 9pm with DJ

Location: Willmar Senior High School- gym

Munchies will be available to purchase from NHS.
(bring spending money)

- **Dress Code:** Individuals/ staff are encouraged to dress nice/formal. PLEASE don't feel that you must buy an outfit to wear, come as you are!
- **School Property (this means outside to):**
 - **No smoking, vaping, alcohol.**
- **Code of Conduct:** Please always keep shoes on, No inappropriate dancing, No excessive kissing.
- **Due to confidentiality reasons, NO VIDEO TAPING.**
- **No in and out.** If you want to leave, you can't come back in.

Cost: \$10.00 per consumer

Walk-in: \$15 at the door

Staff are FREE (need to register staff)

**Early registration deadline by
Friday, April 26, 2024.**

Write Check to AIM - - Address: AIM Po Box 214
Willmar, MN 56201
320-231-1777 – www.aimwcm.org



AIM/NHS Spring Dance

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Staff Attending: _____ Staff Attending: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

**** Each registered person will receive a ticket.**