

The Owens Interlink

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NBA Playoffs and Baseball season!

OES garage sale fundraiser news

by Diana Owens

From June 24th through the 26th, Owens Educational Services will be sponsoring a huge garage sale to raise funds for the upcoming opening of the Day Reporting Centers and there are many needs to fulfill.

Times for the sale are Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00PM, Friday 9:00 AM to 4:30PM, and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 3:00PM. One of our Board Members, Mary Zukaitis has allowed OES to hold the sale in her front yard (rain or shine). Her address is 1141 S. 94th Street, Omaha, NE.

The age old expression seems appropriate: "one man's junk is another man's treasure." And you will likely find many "treasures" at this sale. Perhaps you have items yourself that you would like to donate to this event. Such items can either be dropped off at our office (7415 N. 30th Street) or at Mary's house.

One thing to keep in mind is that only children's clothing will be taken.

If you choose to donate to our sale, please create a suggested price for the item(s). Keep in mind that Owens Educational Services is a non-profit organization and your contribution(s) to the garage sale are tax deductible.

All proceeds from the sale will go to help furnish the OES Day Reporting Centers. The opening of the Centers has certainly been a long time in the making, but with various issues that we have faced of recent, the Reporting Center openings had to be put on the back burner temporarily.

We are also interested in hearing from anyone who would like to volunteer for a few hours on any one of the days listed above. If you would like to assist us, please call Diana (402-455-5067) and let her know when the best time for you to personally volunteer would be. Some of our youth will also be assisting, so this would give you a great opportunity to come meet and encourage them in their progress in our programs.

Let's make this event a success and bring in the needed funds to help with the reopening of the Centers. See you bright and early! Another saying appropriate here is: "the early bird gets the worm"and while the worm may not be the most enticing incentive you could be offered for helping out so early, the best selection of goodies certainly might be. ■

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See our staff shine

edited by J. M. Owens

Illustration 1:

A client for one of Owens's in-home safety cases recently called a supervisor and asked him/her to "do her [the client] a huge favor." The client asked that the supervisor tell all of the Owens staff how wonderful they were and how much the family has appreciated having such wonderful staff work their case. The client stated that Owens staff has helped ease an intrusive 24 hour service, and that the staff has been great with all of the kids in the home.

Thanks so much for all your hard work! It is not going unnoticed!

Illustration 2:

"Troy [(Lieberth), Lincoln Tracker Supervisor]:

I was speaking with David Murphy the other day. I like using him to work with my youth who think they run the place because David is good at taking care of those issues. I would love to see him work with my youth on family support services as well. Thanks for a job well done. Let me know when you have openings for more referrals."

Justin Detrick, OJS/NDHH
Lincoln, NE.

Illustration 3:

May 2010 — Owens Quality Improvement High School Report

The following report is in regards to the comments made by the school administrations of:

Lincoln High School

Lincoln NorthStar High School

Lincoln Southwest High School

"All three schools said that the workers have been of great assistance to the students. They see that when the workers are involved with the students, their attendance is up, their homework is being done and grades have improved. They all said that the workers are very polite and following school visitation rules (signing in and out, etc).

"Administration said that the students seem to welcome the Owens' workers. They like that Owens' has a presence in their schools. They say that the workers make a difference in the students.

"One counselor said that he appreciated that the workers makes the student come in to talk with the counselor. Instead of the worker speaking on behalf of the student, the student is encouraged to speak for himself. Another counselor requested that when a worker begins a new case, she would like to be included in the loop. They would like the workers to make contact with the student's counselor personally. They are contacted by the service coordinator, but they feel they could be of more assistance to the workers and the workers would be of more assistance to them if they had direct contact with the workers along with the teachers of the students."

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What's going on: truths and rumors

edited by J. M. Owens

Webster describes “rumors” as hearsay or common gossip.

With the multitude of changes taking place at the Department of Health and Human Services in both the Eastern and Southeastern service areas, we know that many of you have heard, or been told, a number of different things by a number of different people who profess to have knowledge about what is actually going on.

For some of our newer employees, you may or may not have been exposed to some of these changes – which, as an organization, we consider short term challenges. For others, the “gossip” is causing a significant amount of fear of the unknown. To help ease all our minds, the following is what Gennifer and Diana got from a direct meeting with State of Nebraska Officials:

Many of you have probably seen on the news or read in the local newspapers that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) was going to pay past employees, foster parents and subcontractors for the monies still owed to them when Visinet filed for bankruptcy based on amounts still owed to Visinet.

Nebraska HHS indicated that, with the total outstanding indebtedness, they were approximately a half million dollars short with respect to

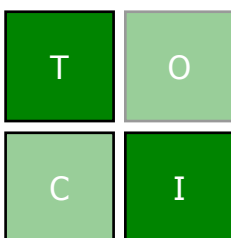
being able to fulfill the obligations left by Visinet.

In the meantime, Nebraska HHS has gone about trying to take care of as many of those parties as possible who were ostensibly left “holding the bag” when Visinet closed.

From what Owens has been told, past employees were paid for actual hours worked only and foster parents were paid for their fees. Presently, subcontractors are still meeting with Nebraska DHHS officials to determine what may or may not still yet be paid. A percentage of the payment is being discussed now with subcontractors, but the final word has not yet been confirmed.

We know that some of our staff have been concerned about the status of our outstanding balance remaining from the Visinet closure and we appreciate all those who have stood beside us through this ordeal. Please know that we are in negotiations with Nebraska DHHS in an attempt to recuperate what is still owed to us. As additional information becomes available, we will keep you all advised.

Again, thank you for your loyalty to our clients and to our organizations. Our great staff is the foundation of our businesses success.



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