

JULY 2023

THE APA TIMES

COMPASSION – RESPONSIBILITY – INTEGRITY – RESPECT



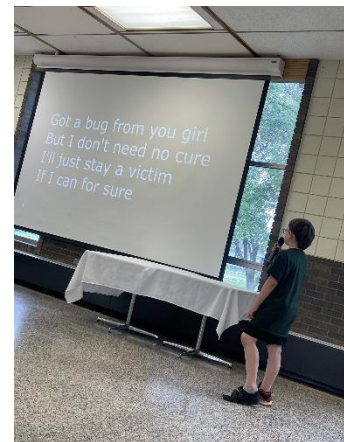
**JOHNATHAN TRUNKEY &
HAYDEN DINGER**

For June the employee of the month is Hayden Dinger. Hayden has gone above and beyond by stepping into the role of supervisor, helping train new supervisors, and is great with deescalating our residents. Hayden shows what it means to be proud of your work. If you see Hayden congratulate him!



APA'S GOT TALENT!

During the school break APA put on a talent show for our residents to share their talents with staff and the rest of campus. From hits from Michael Jackson to Blake Shelton were sung. If you ever get 'Hooked on a Feeling' to come and watch a 'Thriller' talent show, APA has got 'Something Just Like This.' A big thank you to Ms. Selland and the café for getting this set up for our residents to showcase their talents!



Recipe for Success



**JOHNATHAN TRUNKY-
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



“Success is the product of hard work, determination, persistence, and perseverance.”

-Dr. T.P. Chia



The recipe for success is not complicated. In my opinion, you need two things: A solid plan and perseverance. Over two years ago, we set out to attain the small but challenging goal of increasing our census. Along with the other providers in the state, we faced an uphill battle to recruit and retain a brand-new workforce due to the unprecedented workforce migration brought on by COVID. As you may know, we have officially reached that goal by increasing our census to 18 residents for the first time in several years.

To achieve a goal, you must first tackle a few small ones. That is what we did. We took some smaller steps that led to big successes. For example, we decided to eliminate mandatories to improve work-life balance. In addition, we worked hard to change programming and positive staff culture to make it more appealing for new talent to join our mission. All of this was done with solid planning but, more importantly, it was a direct result of APA staff being willing to stay through times of short staffing, in addition to all the changes we made in leadership and our treatment approach. We asked a lot, but I believe that our residents, who are successfully graduating at a record level, are the ones benefiting the most. Every organization must continue to grow or be at risk of falling behind. In the next year, we will be adding new programs and are looking to increase our capacity to serve more youth. I encourage you to pause and think back over the last year. We have come a long way; I could not be proud of our team and the work that we are doing for the youth and families in South Dakota.

Call of Freedom Presentation

On July 18th Steve and Ashtyn from Call of Freedom came to give our employees a presentation during all staff on human trafficking. They talked about the statistics and who is most likely to become a victim of human trafficking. Steve touched base of the main hubs of human trafficking in the Midwest and that it is known as the “Midwest Pipeline.” 6 of our staff volunteered to participate in the “Grooming Exercise.” During the exercise the 6 staff had to decide in what order they thought the stages of grooming happened in. Based on the knowledge they had on grooming they were able to get it on the first attempt. Steve and Ashtyn were very informative and welcoming when it came to questions staff had on the subject.



ALL-STAFF MEETING

August 22nd @ 12:00



MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

If you have been seeing big improvements around campus please take some time to thank our maintenance team. They have been working very hard to make APA look great. One of the many projects maintenance had been handed was to get a new water fountain installed into the school, Just recently they were able to complete that project and the school has a brand new water fountain just in time for the new school year to start. Another project that was given to them was new cottage signs! Since our campus buildings were renamed the old signs no longer functioned with the new names. A big thank you to John Grams for etching the wood signs and hanging them up around campus!

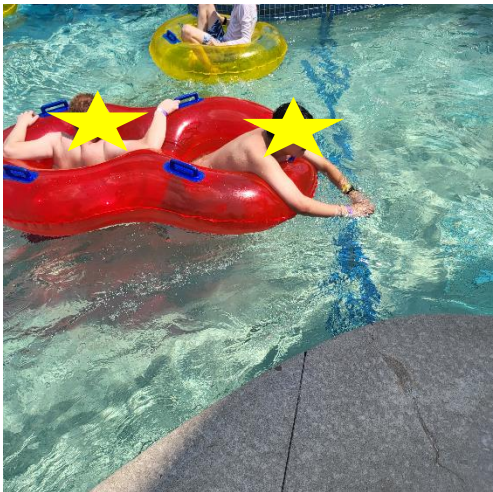


AURORA PLAINS ACADEMY SPONSORSHIP

Sandler Wiekamp, 17, qualified for the National Jr. Gold Bowling Tournament in Indianapolis, IN July 14-21. He had to earn his spot in the national tournament by placing 1st in one of the sanctioned local tournaments but on by JST. Sandler earned his bid in April 2023 at a tournament in Madison, SD. While in Indianapolis, he faced 1551 other bowlers in the U18 division. After 4 days of qualifying, he missed the cut on day five, placing 435th out of 1551 bowlers. While in Indianapolis, he did earn 2 scholarships! Sandler is currently planning to attend Wichita State University where he hopes to major in Applied Engineering and bowl for the WSU Shockers or attend SDSMT for Engineering.



The residents of Dakota Reach went to Splash Central Waterpark in Huron, SD. They went down several different water slides and were able to float down the lazy river while enjoying some fun in the sun! After swimming the Dakota Reach boys were able to enjoy some cold ice cream!



Rachel Pata
Marcus Hill
Kendra Gusan
Trevor Harms
Cayden Whitaker



Emily Wiekamp- 5 Years
Kirbie Payne- 4 Years
Victor Bonomo- 3 Years
Dori Anderson- 2 Years
Brennen Smith- 2 Years
Jacob Brandt- 1 Year
Jada Clark- 1 Year



Oceana Williams- YDS 2nd Shift
Bailey Klinger- YDS 2nd Shift
Rodney Rorex- YDS 2nd Shift
David Willrodt- Therapist

GOLF TOURNAMENT



Aurora Plains Academy held an after work event for staff out at Fish Lake golf course in Plankinton, SD. Staff were randomly drawn a partner for two-man best ball and split in teams of 3 around the golf course. During the tournament staff tried to out stroke the other competition, but would occasionally fall short. While out on the course a storm was brewing but it did not stop these tough players, they waited till it started pouring to head for safety. After about 20 minutes the storm passed, the grass wet; but the game must go on! Once the tournament was completed awards were given out for several different things.



