



# focus facts on community living

OKLAHOMA'S FEDERALLY DESIGNATED UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

October 2023

Access our website at: <https://ouhsc.edu/thecenter>

## October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is recognized every October and celebrates America's workers with disabilities, and highlights the supportive, inclusive, employment policies and practices that benefit employers and employees. [The Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#) has designated this year's theme as Advancing Access and Equity. The [Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion \(EARN\)](#) helps employers find the resources they need to recruit, hire, and retain people with disabilities.

### Community Partner Highlight: Will's House

[Will's House](#), a nonprofit in Jenks Oklahoma, and the executive director, Jeanette O'Hara, an [OKLEND](#) graduate, was featured in a News on 6 report, "[Will's House Nonprofit Provides A Space For People With \[Disabilities\].](#)" Jeanette's goal is for everyone visiting Will's House to feel at home. "They don't have to qualify for our services. We can simply say what do you need? How can we help you, and enter in."

### COVID-19 Rapid Tests Delivered to You for FREE

On Monday, September 24, it was announced that U.S. households can receive four free rapid tests. You can order your [FREE COVID-19](#) tests straight to your home. Also, check to see if any of your current "expired" at-home tests have [expiration dates that have been extended](#).

### Host an Inclusive Halloween

Halloween is just around the corner and communities are celebrating through a variety of events! Do you want to make sure your Halloween or Fall Festival celebration is inclusive for everyone? [Connecting for Kids](#) has put out a how-to guide that offers tips and additional information to help families and the surrounding communities create more inclusive [Halloween celebrations for all](#).

### Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL)

[DIAL](#) is a first-of-its-kind national contact center that connects people with disabilities to a broad range of services such as housing assistance, accessible transportation, legal assistance, and other resources and networks to support independent living in the community. DIAL has multiple ways for people to contact them including calling, texting, chatting live from their website, and even connecting with someone virtually using ASL. DIAL was created through a partnership between the Administration on Community Living (which is the CLL/UCEDD federal grant sponsor) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. DIAL operates as a collaboration between a consortium of organizations serving people with disabilities and USAGing.

### Announcements & Events

#### Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> | 6:00 PM | Long-term Planning – Financial and Employment Options | Virtual

[The Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD](#) and the [Oklahoma Disability Law Center](#) invite you to the family training on Long-term Planning - Financial and Employment Options. This training is designed to help plan for the future by sharing options to protect long-term supports and benefits, including waiver supports and methods for saving money beyond the typical Medicaid asset limits. Learn about options for community integrated employment such as Ticket to Work and options to help secure funds for future needs such as OK STABLE accounts. Come learn about what could be available to you or the person you care for. [Pre-registration is required](#).

#### Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8:30 | Halloween Celebration | We Rock the Spectrum, OKC | \$25/child

We Rock the Spectrum is hosting a [not-so-spooky Hotel Transylvania themed Halloween Party](#) for young children. Look forward to a night of games, play, take-home goodies. Tickets are only \$25 per child (parent/guardians free). Space is limited to 25 children only to reduce overstimulation.

#### Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 | Adaptive Trunk or Treat | Sellers Rec Center, OKC | FREE

[Sellers Recreation Center](#) is hosting a FREE Adaptive Trunk or Treat event on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. This event is open to everyone including children and adults with disabilities. When you're done collecting candies and goodies, be sure to swing by the resource tables showcasing local community partners.

#### Oct 31<sup>st</sup> | 6-8pm | Selfless Hands' Fifth Annual Trunk-or-Treat | Ice Events Center and Grill, OKC | FREE

[The Selfless Hands Foundation](#) recognizes barriers that could prevent families and their children from experiencing trick-or-treating and having fun with other families such as financial constraints, environmental or safety concerns. In response, the organization invites families to their [FREE Trunk-or-Treat event](#) that includes carnival games, candy and music!

### We want to hear from you!

Do you have news or an event to share? Please send all information including a link (if applicable) to [learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu](mailto:learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu). All submissions should be in no later than the fourth Friday of the month before publication (ex: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in August for September's newsletter).

Sign-up to receive our free monthly newsletter *focus facts on community living* <http://tiny.cc/focusfacts>

Or use your cell phone camera and point it to this QR code



The University of Oklahoma advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive university community by embracing each person's unique contributions, background, and perspectives. OU Norman, OU Tulsa, and the Health Sciences Center recognize that fostering an inclusive environment for all, with particular attention to the needs of the historically marginalized populations, is vital to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our institutional mission and enhances the OU experience for all students, faculty, and staff.

*focus facts* is published for the University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network members. Its purpose is to highlight specific information and data items relevant to developing and sustaining positive community environments. Individual information items are provided for use in this form, or for further circulation. When re-printing information please reference *focus facts* and the month of issue noted below the banner at the top of this page. The name of a contact person for additional information on items referenced in the newsletter is provided for your convenience. If you have data, information or a story to report relevant to community living, please send it to *focus facts* Editor at the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD OU Health Sciences Center, PO Box 2690, Oklahoma City, OK 73126. Please include the information source, by title, a one paragraph description or story, a contact name who can provide additional information on the subject, and a daytime or evening telephone number for the contact.

If you have questions regarding the format for submissions, please call the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Headquarters Office at (405) 271-4500. The University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network is open to membership by any organization or individual who shares the interests of Network members. The Network is dedicated to identifying opportunities for collaboration and information exchange among its participating members, which leads to improving our statewide, regional or local capacity to provide a better living environment in Oklahoma for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families. The Network is partially supported through a grant from the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, and by the Offices of the Designated Representatives of the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Collaborating Partners.

If you have a disability (Deaf/hard-of-hearing, Blind/low-vision, mobility, cognitive, etc.), and require accommodations, please reach out to [Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu). It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.