



November 2022

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

Giving Season

Each year, the [Family Support 360 Center](#) provides a Holiday Assistance Program for families in need during the Holiday season. Some of the items provided to families are culturally appropriate toys, winter clothes, food baskets and emergency items. Please consider [making a tax-deductible donation](#) to help families with children with special health care needs or disabilities this holiday season. Your donation helps most where we cannot use federal or state money to support a need. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Caregiver Month

November is National Caregiver Month. On October 31st, President Biden [signed a Proclamation](#) recognizing caregivers that stated, "My Administration is committed to easing that squeeze on working families and getting caregivers the resources and respect they deserve." [The Caregiver Action Network \(CAN\)](#) website offers a variety of resources for caregivers, including financial and legal tools, and local and national resources.

CLL's Wanda Felty Named One of Oklahoma's Most Inspiring People

Oklahoma's [NextGen Under 30](#) has been honoring those from the younger generation for their outstanding work to make Oklahoma a better place to work, live and raise a family. Award winners, past and present, wanted to recognize the people they look up to for inspiration. As a result, the [55 Over 55 Inspiring Oklahomans](#) was created. Starting in February 2022, nominations were accepted for the most inspiring Oklahomans from any generation prior to the Millennial generation. They received more than 200 nominations and chose 55 of Oklahoma's most inspiring people. Our own [Wanda Felty](#) was selected! In addition to Wanda, others selected as inspiring people were former Oklahoma [Gov. George Nigh](#), Former [Sen. JC Watts](#), [Commissioner of Labor Leslie Osborn](#), and the outstanding [artist Paul Moore](#) to name a few.

Resources for Holiday Help

The holidays are a financial strain for many Oklahomans. Oklahoma 211 has [a list of Holiday Help resources available located all over the state](#) for those who need food and gift assistance this year. [Oklahoma 211](#) is a free 24/7 resource service available to all Oklahomans operated by Heartline, Inc. and the Community Service Council. If you need assistance with home heating, Oklahoma DHS has information available for the [federal LIHEAP program](#). [The Office of Community Services](#) also has assistance available for water bills.

Bivalent Booster Recommendations to Include Children 5-11 Years Old

The CDC has updated their [recommendations for the COVID-19 bivalent booster](#) to include children 5-11 years old. If it has been at least two months since your last booster or your second primary COVID-19, schedule your bivalent booster now. This newer booster provides broader protection against newer BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron variants.

Dr. McMaughan new 2022-2023 OPHA President

Congratulations to Dr. DJ McMaughan, the new 2022-2023 President of the [Oklahoma Public Health Association](#). Dr. McMaughan (they/them) identifies as a "disabled scholar" in Health Education and Promotion and works at Oklahoma State University. Their work uses the principles of Universal Design and a Disability Studies framework to focus on improving the delivery of critical health services. Dr. McMaughan has received multiple awards, including the APHA New Scholar Award in Disability (2015) and the Aggie Allies Rainbow Award (2020), and they are a professional member of SOPHE, APHA, and the Society for Disability Studies. Dr. McMaughan's guiding principle is "nothing about us without us."

Events and Announcements

City of Norman Wants Your Feedback

The City of Norman has opened a public comment period regarding proposed changes to Norman transit service through scheduled in-person and virtual meetings, by email, phone, and through the [Bus Transit Service Changes webpage](#). The public comment period will close on November 21, 2022, at which time staff will compile the feedback, analyze it, and forward it on to City Council for their final review and action. It is anticipated that Council will take this action at their December 13, 2022 meeting.

Family Waiver Training Series: December 7th and 14th (both begin at 12pm)

Please join the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD, the Oklahoma Family Network, and the Oklahoma Disability Law Center training for two FREE upcoming virtual trainings on the Developmental Disability Services (DDS) In Home Supports Waiver. On **December 7th**, there will be a training on [Using Life Course to Plan for Long-term Supports](#). You will learn what the Charting the Life Course tools are and how they can help you plan for a family member's long-term services and supports. On **December 14th**, the training will focus on the [Basics of Self-Directed Services](#) (SDS) and creative ways families are using SDS. This training will also help you determine if SDS are right for your family.

DDS Waiting List Meeting: December 8th (1:30-3pm)

The [DDS Waiting List Meeting](#) was created by family members for family members. This meeting is a time for those on the waiting list and those who want to learn more to interact with the DDS Director, DHS leadership, and other state agencies and programs that support people with developmental disabilities and their families. Individuals, family members, and community allies share information and resources, ask questions, and raise concerns. [Pre-registration is required](#).

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 (or less) 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. It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.