

John H. Bonnett Leaves MVRS Board



After nine years of service, John H. Bonnet has recently left the MVRS Board of Directors. John was a Board member from 2006 through 2015, and served four years as President (2010-2014).

"John was amazing," said John Bodden, MVRS Executive Director. "He brought so much energy and enthusiasm to the Board and MVRS, and his contributions have been immeasurable. I doubt he even realizes how much I, our participants and staff, and the rest of the Board relied on him. He's been a strong advocate for our

mission in the community, for persons with disabilities, and has positively impacted so many lives in his years of service here."

John, who retired a few years ago, reports he and his wife Tina will be spending more time traveling in their RV. He's also well known for his woodworking projects, which he plans to continue with. He recently made and donated a coffee table to MVRS (see picture).

Though he's left the Board, John will always be part of the MVRS family. John indicated, "My time on the MVRS Board was the most fulfilling experience I've ever had. It was just great to meet and get to know the clients, and the employees of MVRS are outstanding."

Thank you John! We wish you and Tina the best!

42nd Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 30th as Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services celebrates 42 years of providing services to **People With Abilities**. MVRS's 42nd Annual Meeting will be held the evening of the 30th here at MVRS (484 Eastland Drive South, Twin Falls). Board and Staff members will be recognizing area businesses, employers, program participants and others for their contributions and accomplishments during fiscal year 2015. There will also be reports on MVRS activities and achievements during the past year. In addition, the Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 term will be elected. The public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend.

So come celebrate with us. Telephone Teena or Julie at 208-734-4112 to make your reservation.



MVRS Membership

Membership at MVRS is open to all public minded citizens/businesses who support the MVRS mission and activities. If you are not a member currently and are interested in becoming a "Friend of MVRS," you can do so by completing the green insert Membership Application that is enclosed with this newsletter, then sending it to MVRS, PO Box 189, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

Two years ago the MVRS Membership Program was revised to include just two membership categories - **Individual** (which includes organizations), and **Business**. Individual memberships are a one time fee of \$25, and a Business membership is a fee of \$100. As an Individual or Business member, once you become a "Friend of MVRS," you will remain a member until you notify us that you wish to discontinue.

If you are not sure of your membership status at MVRS, please give us a call at 734-4112 and we can clarify your status.

Getting Results

Individuals with disabilities who are interested in finding employment in the community, but who may be having difficulty in their job search, are referred to MVRs by the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and other agencies. MVRs Employment Specialists assist these persons with writing resumes, completing applications, interviewing skills, and ultimately with finding a business that will hire them. These Employment Specialists are experts at matching a participant's skills and abilities with an employer's needs.

In Fiscal Year 2015, MVRs Employment Specialists helped find jobs for 86% of those persons referred for placement services. According to Brenda Kenison, supervisor of the MVRs Community-Based Employment staff, this impressive placement rate is all about building positive and long-term relationships with employers and businesses in the community. "Employers have had very positive experiences with our clients and Employment Specialists," she said. "The job match, being responsive, and providing professional and reliable support for the employer and client after placement are all critical."

Medicaid Survey

In April, three surveyors from Idaho's Medicaid Licensing & Certification team spent two days at MVRs reviewing the agency and our Developmental Therapy Program in relation to current Medicaid Regulations. The surveyors found MVRs to be in substantial compliance with those regulations and issued another three year license, the maximum amount of time an agency can be certified. The surveyors complimented MVRs staff on the quality of services provided, and made some very positive suggestions to enhance service delivery.

Safety Inspection

Also in April, a consultant from the Boise State Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program conducted an inspection of the MVRs physical plant.

Dean Smith, the MVRs Safety Coordinator, indicates the safety of participants and staff at this agency has always been an extremely high priority. The results of this inspection verify that. The BSU Safety and Health consultant found zero (0) hazards during the visit.

New Faces at MVRs



Misty Chandler, a Filer resident, began working at MVRs in April as an Employment Service Specialist. As such, she is providing job development, job training and long-term support to persons with disabilities. Misty has over 10 years experience working with students and adults

with disabilities.

Misty has taken a number of courses from the College of Southern Idaho and Boise State University, with a particular focus on Psychology and Special Education. She has also been certified previously in Behavioral Management. Misty lives in Twin Falls with her three children, ages 12, 8 and 4.

"I really enjoy working at MVRs, and with people with disabilities. It's extremely rewarding work," she said.

CAN YOU HELP THIS YEAR?

Now in our 43rd year, Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services has provided training, employment, personal development and other services to over 7,400 individuals with disabilities. As a non-profit agency, much of what MVRs has been able to accomplish, and much of what we have been able to offer in the way of services, is directly linked to the ongoing support of the community.

MVRs believes that community members who have made contributions in the past have done so because they believe every person should have the opportunity to become as independent and self-reliant as possible. Persons with disabilities want the same . . . to be active and involved participants in employment and community life. However, they frequently face many additional challenges in seeking greater social and economic independence.

Once each year MVRs asks for your support to continue the services we offer that have given persons the skills to become more independent. Please consider making a donation. If you can help, please complete the yellow Contribution Form enclosed with this newsletter and return it to MVRs, PO Box 189, Twin Falls, ID 83303. Your decision to make a donation will make a difference in the lives of **People with Abilities**.

MVRS Dinner & Auction Results 2015

Hopefully you didn't miss the 6th Annual MVRS Spring Dinner & Auction which was held April 11th at the Turf Club in Twin Falls. If you did, you missed another great time. 200 people attended the event which was catered by Soran Restaurants, Inc. Jim Howard from Hagerman was the Chief Auctioneer and Master of Ceremonies. In between jokes, he also managed to get some auctioneering done, and the 200 people who attended participated in both live and silent auctions. There were also several raffles.

Over 120 businesses and individuals donated food, auction items and raffle prizes this year. These items were valued at over \$16,000. There were also 38 event sponsors.

"As a non-profit agency, this event is so critical for us each year in being able to further our mission," said John Bodden, MVRS Executive Director. "I think that businesses and individuals in the Magic Valley, and many from outside the Magic Valley, know and support our mission and activities in South Central Idaho. Each year I think it's not possible for last year's financial and other support to increase . . . but it does," he said. "It is our primary fundraiser during the year, and we rely on it heavily to supplement the state and federal funding we receive for services provided to *Persons with Abilities*."

The event goals were to generate gross revenues of \$19,000, and net revenues of \$17,000. Thanks to the support of so many individuals and businesses, both these goals were exceeded.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and/or participated in the event. Please see the acknowledgment of donors and event sponsors to the right.

If you missed this event, don't make the same mistake again next year. Watch for future MVRS newsletters announcing the 7th annual Spring Dinner & Auction which will which will be held in April of 2016.

Final Thoughts: ADA 25 Years Later

On July 26th the U.S. Senate passed a bi-partisan resolution commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The resolution was co-sponsored by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA).

Senator Hatch commented, "As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we recognize it as a special kind of civil rights law because it not only prohibits discrimination but requires reasonable accommodation. The ADA is designed not only to protect, but also to advance, to accept, and to embrace. It requires that we maintain a deep and broad consensus and learn from experience. After 25 years, we can look back and see the fruits of this legislation; where for individuals with disabilities doors are open to equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, integration and economic self-sufficiency."

Senator Murray added, "In the 25 years that have passed, doors to equality have opened for Americans with disabilities. While we have made progress, we need to look to the future for ways we can build on the foundation of this historic and significant civil rights law to create a better future for all Americans. I look forward to working with all my colleagues in Congress to continue to work in a bipartisan way to identify barriers and expand opportunity for people with disabilities."

Well said Senators Hatch and Murray!

Event Sponsors

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Special Thanks

Jim Howard

and

Steve Soran, Don Olson &
The Crew at the Turf Club

TO:

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Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services, Inc.



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Members of the community both individually and collectively have a right to know about the activities of MVRs and shall be provided accurate information upon request as long as the information to be divulged is not protected by applicable privacy laws. Information to be provided shall include, but is not limited to, financial information, IRS Forms 1023, 990 and 990-T, the organization's conflict of interest policies, accreditation status, effectiveness of services, and consumer and customer satisfaction with services. Requests for information can be made by telephoning 208-734-4112, by sending a fax to 208-734-1514, or by sending an email to mvr@s@mvrehab.org.

Mission

Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services, Inc. affirms the worth of all individuals. Through a variety of programs MVRs actively strives to:

- **Empower** individuals to achieve maximum participation in employment and community life,
- **Encourage** individuals to explore and enhance their unique skills and abilities,
- **Promote** a work ethic that leads to greater social and economic independence and self-reliance, and
- **Develop** within the community a knowledge that supports the strengths and talents of a diverse population.

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