

# The Peoples Press

October 2024  
Newsletter



## **“Making lives better tomorrow by what is done today.” Honks!**

**Dawn Wilson, Veronika Finck, and Michaela Davis for working direct care while we are hiring and training team members. -Becky H.**

**Megan Travis, Wendy Lapel, and Andi Teel for their efforts to bring in virtual interviews for the Clarinda and Shenandoah locations. -Eric S.**

**Rena Addison for jumping right into her new location and handling a client's behavior in a calm manner. -Amber S.**

**Kelly Wieczorek for her hard work with making a new client's mom feel comfortable with her son starting services. -Amber M.**

**Bri Travis for setting up the Flu Shot clinic and taking on more responsibilities. -Tyna A.**

**Jannessa Gray for taking a client to Valas. -Joanie R.**

**Julia Guilliams for attending a client's PCSP by making herself available on her day off. -Lisa H.**

**Rhonda Baldwin and Laura Freeman for helping with a stressful situation between two clients. -Heather H.**

Have Honks to give? Send an email to [Btravis@ameriserveintl.com](mailto:Btravis@ameriserveintl.com) or [bhargens@ameriserveintl.com](mailto:bhargens@ameriserveintl.com).

Don't see your honks recognized here? Check the lobby monitor system at the front desk the next time you are in the office!

# Honks!

**Ailish Andersen and Jessica O'Neil for great communication to provide the best care for an individual. -Sam B.**

**Michaela Davis for always checking documentation each day, communicating what needs corrected/submitted with her team and supervisors, as well as ensuring those items get corrected. -Becky H.**

**Deana Blunt for getting her beginning of the month items completed and turned in by the 2nd of the month. -Amber S.**  
**Andi Teel for taking on a lot of OneMint responsibilities. -Tyna A.**  
**Alondra Ibarra and her team at 213 for keeping overtime to a minimum with several open shifts. -Lisa H.**  
**The team at 1520 for some amazing teamwork over the weekend. -Misty F.**

**Alex McClelland for getting a client spend down done quickly. -Amber S.**

**Joanie Renk for getting back to me quickly about clients and the flu vaccination clinic. -Briana T.**

**Megan Travis for always being Gung Ho with any task that is asked of her. -Andi T.**

**Adam Iniguez Rios who seamlessly became 2815's pc. -Joanie R.**  
**Annie Jackson for amazing communication and coaching skills with a client. -Isaiah M.**

**Devon Gawronski for being flexible. -Sam B.**

**Isaiah McGrone, Diana Sharp, Rodnesia Smith-Carter, Rachael Prinzing, Madison Hanna, and Katelynn Malik for taking clients to Valas. -Chaslyn B.**

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# Client



**Uriah W.**

We are pleased to introduce Uriah, who joined our residential program in March 2024. Over the past six months, Uriah has made remarkable progress. He possesses many admirable qualities, including an infectious smile and a consistently positive attitude, making him a role model for his peers. Uriah has a natural ability to bring joy and laughter to those around him and enjoys engaging in conversations with everyone he meets.

Uriah attends our Day Hab program four days a week and has recently secured a community job at Papa Murphy's. His coworkers have expressed their appreciation for his hard work and dedication. Outside of work and Day Hab, Uriah enjoys playing video games, spending time with friends, and engaging in outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing.

Uriah has experienced a long history with several placements, and when asked about his experience at Ameriserve, he remarked, "It feels like family; it's the home I've always been searching for." We are excited to share that Uriah will soon be transitioning to our "Lead On" Program, and we look forward to witnessing his continued growth and achievements as he pursues his lifelong goals.

# Client Birthdays

**Its time to celebrate!  
These individuals have birthdays  
in October!**

Marcus A.  
Anthony C.  
Julianne C.  
Spencer C.  
Adam D.  
Elizabeth L.  
Janet L.  
Vicki L.  
Pearl M.  
Gregory M.  
Roger S.  
Benjamin S.  
Danielle T.





# POWER OF PROOF

## Bike Night: PUTTING THE PEDAL TO THE MEDAL

Every year from May to September, Bike Night transforms the CB area into a vibrant hub of excitement, and this season, it was especially electrifying for Roger. Known for his unwavering enthusiasm, Roger has made an unforgettable mark by attending every single event this year. As he revved up for the evening, Roger dove headfirst into a whirlwind of live performances, marveling at a dazzling array of both new and familiar bikes. The air was filled with the irresistible aroma of mouthwatering food, each bite adding to the excitement of the night. For Roger, this isn't just a small gathering; it's an event that ignites his passion for cycling and community. With each race he conquered, he not only celebrated his speed but also the camaraderie that Bike Night fosters. Meeting newcomers and reconnecting with familiar faces, Roger danced under the stars, soaking in the joyous atmosphere that surrounded him. As the night ended, Roger sped through his final race, leaving behind a trail of laughter and memories made on the 100 block. Already, he's eagerly counting down to next year's event, cherishing every moment from this unforgettable night. Bike Night isn't just an event for Roger; it's a cherished experience that fuels his love for biking and community spirit.

**ROGER G.**





# Community Engagement

## Lead On's Valas Adventure!

On September 25th, the Lead On group embarked on a memorable adventure to Valas Pumpkin Patch in Gretna. The day was filled with excitement, laughter, and all the fall delights one could imagine. From thrilling rides to indulging in endless treats like warm apple cider, fresh doughnuts, funnel cakes, kettle corn, caramel apples, and more, the group had a feast for the senses.

They braved spooky haunted houses and enjoyed close encounters with rabbits, frogs, and a vibrant sea of pumpkins. A highlight of the day was a scenic train ride that offered an educational journey through the history of the land before it became the beloved pumpkin patch. The team strolled up and down hills, making their way to rides like the Scrambler, and shared plenty of laughter as they relaxed in topsy-turvy chairs that couldn't tip over, no matter how hard they tried.

The fun continued as the group explored the cider maker and discovered all things autumn and Halloween. They picked apples and flowers, soaking in the rich seasonal atmosphere. The day wrapped up perfectly with warm, freshly-baked cookies and giant turkey legs, leaving everyone with full hearts and happy memories of this magical fall adventure.





# Client Creativity



**Pumpkin painting with the girls at 3612**



**Jessie M**



**Josh H and Ashley C  
40th Bday Party**



**Ashley C  
doing crafts  
with her  
grandma**



# Client Creativity



**Adam D., Brian M., Kaleigh G., Andy M.,  
Steven W., and Nicole S.**

# Team Member Creativity



**Megan Travis**



# Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new team members who have joined our team!

Citlali Aguilar

Britni Bahlmann

Jolinda Everett

Jessica Fronce

Aaron Gardner

Evras Iteka

Patrick Major

Lura Miller

Alejandro Morales

Ayralynn Munro

Jamie O'Connor

Joanne Osborn

Caydan Retzlaff

Jessica Rosenow-Dahlstrom

Linda Sanchez

Elizabeth Shatava

Sarah Wuol



# Team Member SPOTLIGHT

**Baylee Ruffcorn serves as a dedicated CSR at Dayhab, where she has excelled since she transferred from her previous role in the residential program.**

**She goes the extra mile to ensure each client receives personalized care, creating new and engaging activities tailored to their unique needs and preferences.**



**Baylee Ruffcorn**

**Her compassion and dedication are evident in her thoughtful approach, making every client feel seen, heard, and valued. Baylee's ability to connect with people—both clients and team members—creates a comfortable and supportive atmosphere. As a passionate advocate for all her clients, she takes time to understand each individual and is a strong voice for their needs.**

**With nearly four years of experience and a commitment to continuous improvement, Baylee continues to make a lasting impact at Dayhab. Her creativity, empathy, and leadership make her a vital asset to the team, and Ameriserve is proud to recognize her hard work and dedication. Thank you, Baylee!**



# Office Team Member Spotlight



## Steve Pearson

**Can we get a "WOOT WOOT" to our Office Spotlight of the Month, Steve Pearson! Since joining AmeriServe in 2010, Steve has been an integral part of our organization. As CFO, a member of the Board of Directors, and the head of the accounting department, Steve juggles numerous responsibilities with ease. He's also actively involved in several task forces, always ready to contribute wherever he is needed.**

**Even with his busy schedule, Steve recently took the time to showcase his green thumb by replanting vibrant yellow mums, adding a welcoming touch to our courtyard. Beyond that, Steve is a key facilitator of our Employee Stock Ownership Plan, bringing his trademark enthusiasm to the annual training required for October.**

**Steve embodies the AmeriServe culture through his go-getter attitude, team spirit, and unwavering positivity. We're incredibly grateful for his dedication and contributions. Thank you, Steve, for all that you do to make AmeriServe thrive!**

# ASI Birthdays!

**October 4th: Devon Gawronski**

**October 5th: Caitlyn Kush, Natasha Leland, and Barbara Remmen**

**October 7th: Nafiso Haye**

**October 14th: Shirley Clapp**

**October 20th: Susan Hastie, Dana Nielsen, and Rodnesia Smith-Carter**

**October 23rd: Amanda Fay**

**October 25th: Monica Estes and Rochelle Seaman**

**October 31st: Tanja Ebert, Dianna Humphrey, Jeff Manzer, and Emma Ostdiek**

## ASI Anniversaries!

**Tyna Anderson 10/12/2009 (15 years)**

**Robert Franks 10/25/2012 (12 years)**

**James Westphal 10/19/2015 (9 years)**

**Kyle Clemens 10/26/2015 (9 years)**

**Dawn Wilson 10/20/2016 (8 years)**

**Jamie Kleckner 10/16/2017 (7 years)**

**Kevin Conn 10/02/2018 (6 years)**

**Elena Reedy 10/31/2019 (5 years)**

**Heather Harmon 10/07/2020 (4 years)**

**Andrenika Teel 10/26/2020 (4 years)**

**Michaela Davis 10/04/2021 (3 years)**

**Veronika Finck 10/07/2021 (3 years)**

**Baylee Ruffcorn 10/19/2021 (3 years)**

**Rhonda Baldwin 10/26/2021 (3 years)**

**Joe Komakech 10/07/2022 (2 years)**

**Dianna Humphrey 10/14/2022 (2 years)**

**Zamzam Abdi 10/04/2023 (1 year)**

**Faith Vanhorn 10/12/2023 (1 year)**

**Annie Jackson 10/18/2023 (1 year)**

**Omar Ismail 10/19/2023 (1 year)**

**Joshua Smith 10/25/2023 (1 year)**

**Sarah White 10/25/2023 (1 year)**





# Goal Achievements!

**Tonya Carroll went on vacation!**

**Chelsea Acosta got engaged!**

**Tyler Pearson got married!**

**Rhonda Baldwin went to Hawaii!**

**Katelynn Jordan got Married!**

## Upcoming Events in the Community

October 4th  
Classic Car Night  
Quaker Steak and Lube  
4pm-10pm

October 4th-5th  
Lewis and Clark Expo  
Riverfront  
10am-4pm

Southwest Iowa Band Jamboree  
Parade Downtown Clarinda 9am  
Field Competition Clarinda High  
School 12:45pm

October 4th-6th  
Nuke Con  
Mid America Center

September 8th  
Rally for Life  
Werner Park  
8:30am

October 5th  
Block to Block Party  
Classic Car Show  
Habitat for Humanity CB  
9am-3pm

October 6th  
Open House Pancake Feed  
Ralston Fire & Rescue Inc  
8am-1pm

October 6th  
Car Show  
Albrights Auto  
11am-3pm

October 8th  
Blood Drive  
Council Bluffs Library  
9am-2pm

October 11th  
TJHS Homecoming  
Parade 5pm

October 12th-13th  
Pumpkin Festival  
Ditmars Orchard  
10am-6pm

October 12th  
Pancake Feed Benefit  
Citylight Church  
9am-12pm

October 12th-13th  
Falls Arts and Crafts Show  
Mid America Center  
9am-4pm

October 13th  
Firepit and Potluck  
Emanuel Lutheran  
4pm

October 15th  
Mobile Food Pantry  
Kreft Elementary  
4:30pm-5:30pm

October 18th  
Waubonsie Mental Health Center  
40th Anniversary Celebration  
11:30am- 1:30pm

October 19th  
Drive Thru Flu Vaccine Clinic  
Methodist Medical Plaza  
9am-11:30am

Clarinda Craft Carnival  
Page County Fairgrounds-Wibholm Hall  
and Cow Palace, Clarinda Academy  
Gymnasium, Clarinda High School  
Gymnasium, and Clarinda Lied Center  
Gymnasium  
8am-4pm

October 20th  
BBC Annual Fall Foliage Ride  
Wabash Trace Nature Trail  
10am

October 20th  
Does Drove Fall Craft Show  
Elks Lodge  
9am-3pm

October

# Trunk or Treats in the Community

October 5th Countryhouse Trunk or Treat 2pm-4pm	October 20th Downtown Bellevue Trick or Treat 4pm-6pm	October 26th Halloween Spooktacular NFM 10am-2pm	October 30th Bethany Lutheran Trick or Treat 6:30pm-730pm
October 10th Rue Elementary Trunk or Treat 5:30pm-7pm	October 20th Underwood Trunk or Treat on Main street 5pm-7:30pm	October 26th Annual Witchy Wood Walk Hitchcock Nature Center 2pm-4:30pm	October 30th Living Grace Fellowship Autumn Festival 7pm-9pm
October 11th Cochran Park Costume Night 6pm-8pm	October 21st Bluey's Bubble Boo Bash 120 Regency Pkwy Omaha 5pm	October 26th Sherwood Plaza Trunk or Treat 4pm-6pm	Free Movie Nights Ditmars Orchard 4th- Hocus Pocus 11th- Beetlejuice 18th- The Pagemaster 25th- Dumb and Dumber
October 12th FallFest 2024 Hummel Park 10am-1pm	October 24th Early Learning Center Trunk or Treat 5:30pm-7pm	October 26th Citylight West Trunk or Treat 5pm-8pm	<u>Adult Halloween Parties</u>
October 12th Creepy Campground Willow Lake Nature Center 3pm-5pm	October 25th Halloween at the Huff Trick or Treat 4pm-10pm	October 27th Salem United Methodist Trunk or Treat 3:30pm-5pm	October 19th Are You Here With Us? Drips Botanical Elements 6pm-10pm
October 17th Quaker Steak and Lube Trunk or Treat 4pm-7pm	October 26th Emanuel Lutheran Trick or Treat 1pm-2:30pm	October 27th Timothy Lutheran Trunk or Treat 5pm-6:30pm	October 20th Boo @ The Mile The Mile Away 6pm
October 18th Bloomer Elementary Trunk or Treat 5pm-6:30pm	October 26th Boo Bazaar Joslyn Castle 10am-5:30pm	October 28th 100 Block Trick or Treat 4pm-7pm	October 25th 3rd Base Halloween Costume Contest 8pm
October 19th McMullan Ford Trunk or Treat 1pm-3pm	October 26th Glenwood Square Crow Days 9am-11am	October 29th The Great Halloween Haunt The Durham 5pm-8pm	October 26th Andrew's Lounge Halloween Costume Contest 7pm
October 20th Iowa West Sports Complex 3pm-5pm		October 30th Creeside Church Trunk or Treat 5:30pm-8pm	

HAPPY  
Halloween



# Continuing Education

## What is an ESOP?

**ESOP is an abbreviation for Employee Stock Ownership Plan. At the beginning of 2014 AmeriServe replaced its SIMPLE IRA with an ESOP plan. We will be celebrating 10 years of the ESOP during our October 2024 Continuing Education meetings this fall. The old, SIMPLE IRA, plan required employees to contribute their own funds to receive a company match. Many of our employees were either not able or willing to put part of their paycheck into the SIMPLE retirement plan. While many employees from the office participated in the SIMPLE, very few CSC's and almost no CSR's signed up for the SIMPLE IRA.**

**In contrast, the ESOP requires no contribution from its employees. Once they meet the eligibility criteria, an employee automatically becomes part of the ESOP plan. As a result, many of AmeriServe's employees, from all roles within the company, have become part of the ESOP. The longer that an employee stays with the company, the more their share of the ESOP grows. This has allowed many of our employees, especially those who have been in the ESOP for many years, to obtain significant funds for this retirement benefit plan.**

**Over the past ten years, the value of the ESOP has increased dramatically, both in terms of the value of the company shares owned by the ESOP, as well as the amount of the company owned by the ESOP. The ESOP now owns 100% of AmeriServe International, Inc.'s stock. We are a 100% employee-owned company! For more information, please plan on attending this October's continuing education meetings which will be exclusively focused on our ESOP.**

# **Expanding AmeriServe's Digital Presence:**

## **How We're Sharing Our Story with the world.**

At AmeriServe, we're always looking for ways to grow and better connect with our community, and lately, that's meant focusing on expanding our digital presence. In the past few months, we've made some exciting strides to ensure that the incredible work happening here is to be visible to more people than ever before!

From spotlight videos highlighting our clients to celebrating the dedication of our team members, we're showcasing the heart of AmeriServe's mission across our social media platforms. These stories reflect the impact each of you has on the lives of our clients, and we've already seen an increase in engagement and interest from the community as a result.

We've also been working behind the scenes to improve how easily people can find us online. By optimizing our website and refining our content, we're making sure families and case managers searching for disability services in Iowa can easily connect with us and learn more about the exceptional care we provide.

We encourage you to follow AmeriServe on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on the latest news, client stories, and company highlights. Your support on social media not only helps spread the word about the important work we're doing, but it also reinforces the sense of pride we all share in being part of this team.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our clients and our mission. Together, we're making a real difference—both in person and online!





# Avoid The Flu!

Get the flu shot here

AmeriServe International Main Office  
35 Main Place Suite 175 (2nd Floor)

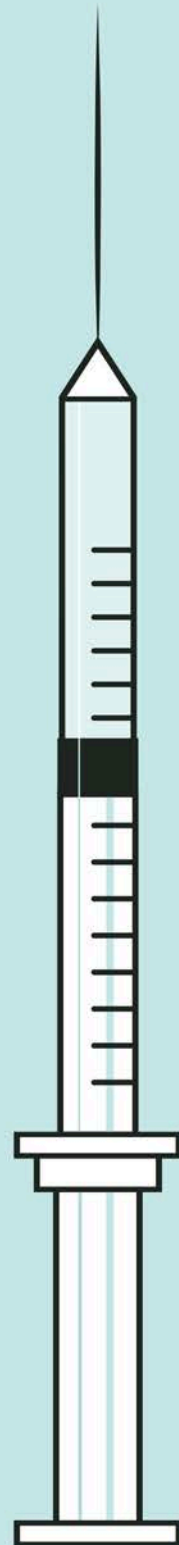
Wednesday,  
October 9th 2024.  
9:00a.m-4:00p.m



By appointment only we will  
hold a flu vaccination clinic for  
clients and team members at no cost.

To reserve a spot please call the  
main office at 712-322-0272 and  
ask for Briana Travis or Lisa

Gaunt



HALLOWEEN

ASL COSTUME

PARTY



Oct THE GRASS WAGON  
17th 11:30am-2pm

Bring a Sack Lunch. Drinks and Snacks provided.



ALL ASI FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND CLIENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR

# TRICK OR TREAT

3PM-5PM

31ST OCT

AMERISERVE OFFICE

35 MAIN PLACE STE 300

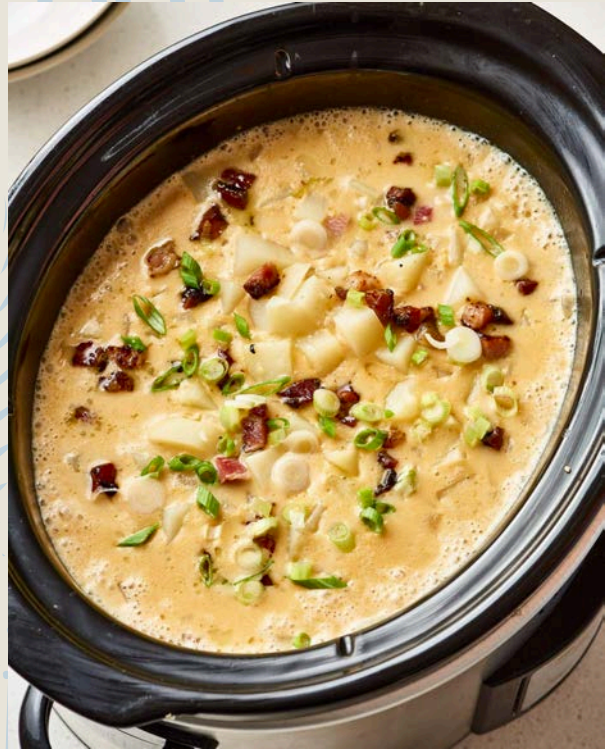


# ASI Cookbook Recipe of the Month!

## Slow Cooker Potato Soup

### Ingredients:

- 5 Large Russet Potatoes
- 1 Small Diced Onion
- 4 Cups Chicken Broth
- 4 TBSP Butter
- 1 TSP Minced Garlic
- 1 TSP Salt
- 1 TSP Pepper
- 1 Cup Heavy Cream
- 1/3 Cup Sour Cream
- 2 TBSP Cornstarch



### Directions:

- 1.) Add the potatoes, diced onions, chicken broth, seasonings, and butter to your slow cooker.
- 2.) Cook on low for 4 to 6 hours, or on high for 3 to 4 hours (until potatoes are soft).
- 3.) When there is 30 minutes to an hour remaining, in a small mixing bowl whisk the heavy cream, sour cream, and corn starch together. This will get thick.
- 4.) Stir mixture into the soup.
- 5.) Cook the soup on high for 20 to 30 minutes until the soup thickens slightly.

Serve with your favorite toppings. You could use cheddar cheese, sour cream, chives, and bacon.

End up making the recipe of the month? Send pictures of everyone creating the recipe to [bhargens@ameriserveinl.com](mailto:bhargens@ameriserveinl.com) to be featured in the next newsletter edition!