



# Year in Review

Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program

# 2023





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## OVERVIEW

# As we look back on 2023...

As we look back at 2023 and look forward to our goals for the year ahead, we would like to take some time to warmly thank the MYEP network. Our gratitude for the support, resilience, agility of this greater network is more abundant this year than ever.

Thank you to the people we serve for being a continuing source of inspiration to keep getting better at what we do. Thank you to the people we employ for contributing your time and talents in such meaningful ways. Thank you to our Board of Directors for weathering all the storms with us and always rebuilding stronger. We enter 2024 with a rock-solid foundation and an unwavering focus on our mission.



## EXECUTIVE TEAM

[Read More](#)



# A leadership change

On July 1, 2023, the MYEP Board of Directors unanimously formalized a new leadership structure. This new leadership team managed a major transition seamlessly, led the charge for technology upgrades and infrastructure improvements, and held the 1st Annual MYEP prom. The Board is extremely confident that this team is uniquely positioned to use their experience, knowledge, and talents to lead MYEP into the future.



## EXECUTIVE TEAM

# Executive team

Each team member has continued to fulfill the responsibilities of leading their individual departments while taking on new shared responsibilities.



**Megan Gerber**

*Co-Executive  
Director/Operations*



**Kari Wilken**

*Co-Executive Director/HR*



**Karen Scott**

*Co-Executive  
Director/Finance*



**Chris Campbell**

*Co-Executive  
Director/Compliance*



## HOME RENOVATION

# A major residential remodel



MYEP purchased the Jamie Lane duplex in August of 2010. Customizations throughout the years, coupled with general wear and tear made it a great time for a remodel.

The demolition began in mid-august, and the first unit was completed in November. The second unit will be completed in early January.

[Read More](#)





**\$175,000** ◀▶

Total project cost

## HOME RENOVATION

# Timing is everything! ◀▶

Not only were we due for a refresh, but the timing also worked out perfectly. In 2022, Iowa announced they would be closing Glenwood Resource Center, an institution where 152 adults with disabilities lived.

Two people from Glenwood moved to the completed Jamie Lane unit on December 5th and we are looking forward to supporting two more individuals with a successful transition in the coming months.

[Read More](#)



## TECHNOLOGY Focus

# Technological updates

MYEP employees are known for their skills, talents, and knowledge. Technological savvy, however, has never been on the top of these lists. We recognized the necessity to take some steps to improve. This past year we challenged ourselves and prioritized meaningful growth in this area.

We understood that the technological systems and tools going in place would someday create efficiencies and improvements. We also understood and accepted the learning curve would be steep and the growing pains would be real.

[Read More](#)







### REMOTE SUPPORT SYSTEM

Night Owl is designed to assist people with disabilities to have increased independence while still having built in access to support systems in case of any emergency.

Use of this system has allowed an individual to make progress to meet his goal of increased alone time.



### DOCUMENTING PROGRESS NOTES

Our employees spend a lot of time documenting the services they provide. It's an important part of their jobs and our business. The transition to Setworks required months of time to migrate info and training. Staff are raving about the usability of this software, it has made documenting so much easier and more efficient.



### MEDICATION DOCUMENTATION

We moved from a paper and pen system to AccuFlo, an electronic documentation system. Our goal was to reduce the number of medication errors, and increase the access to medical information. Staff love the mobility and real-time tracking of this system.



### CLOUD-BASED NETWORK

This year we either had to make a huge financial investment in a new server or invest the man hours to create a cloud based solution. It was a no-brainer, SharePoint is more cost efficient, more mobile, and more secure than on-premise. Our team worked for months to setup and migrate nearly half a million files from our previous server.



### UPDATED WEBSITE

We wanted to join the modern times with a sleek and professional new website, but it was important to us to maintain MYEP's voice. Our team worked with Aelieve for months on design, content planning, fine tuning and even had a few fun days, recording content and taking headshots. Our new website went live on Sept. 1st. Check it out for yourself [www.myep.us](http://www.myep.us).



## 2023 EVENTS

# We hosted the first annual MYEP prom

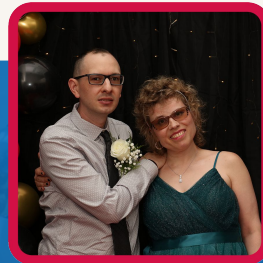
**WHEN:** May 20, 2023

**WHERE:** MYEP Office & Day Program

MYEP's 1st Annual Adult Prom was a night for the memory books with over 100 in attendance. We need to give a lot of credit for the event's success to our prom committee: Kathleen Brookhart, Mahmoud Yousif, Seth Worby, Nicole Lovestinsky, Sydney Shively, Becca Nolan, Brianna Becicka, Christine Fachman, and Deana Alston.

Thank you- all of the planning and preparation paid off. Special thanks to Susan Spalj of Shakespeare's Pub And Grill, for sponsoring our awesome Star Entertainment DJ!

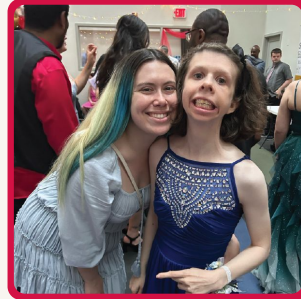
Guess what? We are already at it again. Stay tuned for updates on the time and place of MYEP's 2024 Adult Prom.





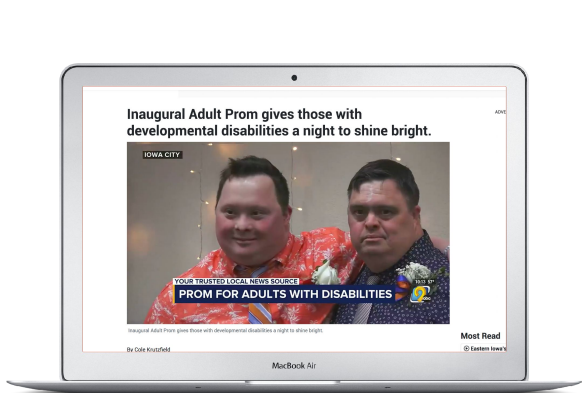
2023 EVENTS

# View our first annual MYEP prom gallery






# It was a night to remember



The laptop screen shows a news article from KCRG. The headline reads "Inaugural Adult Prom gives those with developmental disabilities a night to shine bright." Below the headline is a photograph of two men, one in a red floral shirt and one in a blue patterned shirt, both smiling. The article is by Dale Korfied and is labeled as "Most Read". A yellow button at the bottom of the laptop frame contains the text "View Article".

**KCRG News Recap**

[View Article](#)



The laptop screen shows a video player with a play button in the center. The video thumbnail features a green sign that says "WALK OF FAME" with "HOLLYWOOD" written above it in smaller letters. The video player interface includes a progress bar at the bottom. A yellow button at the bottom of the laptop frame contains the text "View Prom Video".

**2023 Prom Recap Video**

[View Prom Video](#)



## 2023 EVENTS

# Block party and open house event

**WHEN:** August 19, 2023

**WHERE:** MYEP Office & Day Program

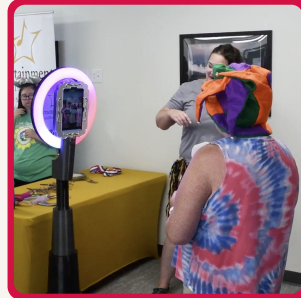
We hosted our first Block Party! There were guided tours to finally show off our remodeled Day Program and offices, we enjoyed snow cones, music, games and a photobooth.





2023 EVENTS

# View our **block party** and **open house gallery**





## 2023 EVENTS

# We hosted multiple cookout events

**WHEN:** All Summer

**WHERE:** MYEP Office & Day Program

We got together four times for cookouts at MYEP. We had so much fun spending time together, enjoying good food, music games and lots of laughs.

Our final cookout of the year turned into a spirited tailgate for the Iowa vs. Iowa State rivalry game. Everyone showed up in their black and gold (and a few red and gold) "Back in Black" was playing on repeat and we had a blast!





2023 EVENTS

# MYEP cookout events photo gallery







## CLIENT STORY



# Meet Garth, The Collector

Garth is a collector. He loves everything about the lifestyle; the thrill of the hunt, the love of well-preserved old classics, the comfort of multiples, and the security of being surrounded by the stuff you love. He loves to tell anyone willing to listen all about his vintage Coca-Cola products and he has no shortage of information on vintage cars.

While Garth's passion for his belongings brings him joy, comfort, and purpose, the reality is his belongings also bring him stress. Space can be a resulting stressor. Garth shares a 1,200 square foot home with two roommates. Simply put, it is not possible for Garth to store his belongings in a way that is safe or in a way that maintains happy roommates.

[Garth's Story](#)

Garth has so much stuff he doesn't always know where it is. This becomes stressful because this makes him feel like it's missing and can feel mentally exhausting to him.

This past October, Garth learned that his landlord had plans to replace the flooring in his home and all rooms were to be completely clear by a certain date. This included Garth's bedroom. Garth immediately recognized that accomplishing this assignment was going to be technically difficult as well as emotionally difficult. Garth has past experiences of some important possessions being taken away from him against his will. Facing this fear again was a big deal in his life.

Garth and his support network could not be prouder to share the wildly successful outcome of Garth's response to this curveball. Garth faced this challenge with maturity, bravery, and a commitment to doing the needed work.

Read Garth's full story by clicking the yellow button.



# Big Things Coming

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024





# Thank you all!

Thank you all for an amazing year. We can't wait to see what's in store for 2024!

[2023 Video Recap](#)

# 2023