

CONNECTIONS

Community Options exists to help people live individually and be active in their community.

PROMOTIONS

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Bianca Bell - Lead Operations Officer-Employment

Bianca began as an Employment Specialist with Community Options in November 2011. She was promoted to Director of Services for Regions 3 & 4 in May 2013 and has served as Operations Officer since October 2015. Bianca graduated from the University of North Dakota with a BA in Communication with an emphasis in Visual Communication and a Minor in Art. She is currently working towards her Masters in Social Work. Bianca's 14-year-old son, Devaughn, and 7-year-old daughter, Evalina, will be moving with her to Bismarck.



Amber Derr - Operations Officer- Regions 1, 2, 3, & 4

Amber graduated from Minot State University in 2008 with a BS in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. She began working at Community Options in July 2011 as an Employment Specialist and in March 2015 was promoted to Director of Services for Regions 1 & 2. She and her husband, Nathan have a one-year-old daughter named Jordan. Amber enjoys relaxing, spending time with her family, and watching her daughter grow.



Austyn Kloehn - Operations Officer - Regions 5, 6, 7, & 8

Austyn graduated from North Dakota State University with a BS in Criminal Justice. He began as an Employment Specialist at Community Options in February 2014, was promoted to Operations Specialist in March 2015 and in November of 2015 became Director of Services. Austyn has a golden retriever puppy named Pippa and is an avid soccer fan.

SUCCESS STORIES

My Success Story with the Assistance of Community Options

By: Tina M. Lamont

When I first came to Fort Yates, ND, I was a single mother with four small children and in a new place. I did not know anyone. Plus, I was unemployed and needed some immediate assistance for my family. I decided to apply for SNAP, TANF & MEDICAID through Sioux County Social Services. It was there that I became aware of "Community Options". When I applied for TANF, I was referred to Kellie Donahue because I had already had my HS Diploma and a two year Associates of Arts Degree in K-8 Elementary Education.

When I received my referral to the JOBS program, I met Kellie. Kellie explained to me what the JOBS program does and the various ways that they assist in helping you achieve employment. This was the very first time, in a very long time that I had ever requested assistance from any DSS office. So, when I was notified that I had to work so many hours at a job site to receive TANF, I was a little worried about where I would do those hours. Kellie helped me by finding me a place to put in hours. She gave Kim a call at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe WIC office, and I was able to start my hours the very next day.

After about a week of doing volunteer hours at WIC, I was hired at The White Buffalo Grocery Store. The Community Options program still helped by letting me use those hours as on the job training hours. They assisted me with work shoes, because I was on my feet all day long. They assisted me with my phone bill and transportation costs. I was employed there from March until August 2016, that's when an emergency temporary hire, office assistant job became available at the very place I first went to when I needed help-the Sioux County Department of Social Services.

Kellie helped me with my resume by providing me the resume paper and printing it for me, so that it would look professional. I was hired as the Emergency Temp. Office Assistant on August 1, 2016. On September 12, 2016, I was hired as an Eligibility Worker for Sioux County. The Community Options Program & Kellie, once again, helped with me with some professional attire, mileage, transition funds and insurance for my vehicle to travel to and from work. I am proud to say that I am still currently employed with Sioux County Social Services at a job that I love doing. I am now able to assist others and repay the blessings that I have received.

I am very grateful for the opportunities and thankful to THE COMMUNITY OPTIONS JOBS PROGRAM. They have a remarkable employee who understands the many obstacles that can stand in the way of employment. Thank you, KELLIE!

Last but not least, I am very Thankful to an awesome GOD I serve. If not for him, then I would not have met my wonderful husband, good friends & co-workers or found my way to Ft. Yates, ND.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Sign up July 15th - Aug. 15th

September 1st is the effective date for open enrollment. **Sign up begins on July 15th and goes through August 15th.** Below is the information for company sponsored insurance plans.

Health Plan: Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (Family, Employee + Child(ren), Employee only plans)

Dental Plan: Standard Dental (Family, Employee + Spouse, Employee + Child(ren), Employee only plans)

Vision Plan: Avesis Vision (Employee + 2 or more, Employee + 1, Employee only plans)

Aflac Plan: Aflac (*Short Term Disability, Cancer, Hospital Confinement, Accident) (Two parent family, Insured & spouse, One parent family & Individual plans) (STD is for employees only)

These plans all have open enrollment beginning September 1, 2017. This is the only time of the year that you can make changes without having a Qualifying Event with a few exceptions.

On health coverage, dental coverage & vision coverage, you can sign up for the first time, change plans or who is covered on your plan. You must be eligible for insurance benefits and be a Full-time employee.

On Aflac coverage, this is the only time you can delete or lessen your plan coverage unless you terminate employment. Otherwise you can sign up for the first time, change or add anything to your existing plan(s). You can add to your Aflac coverage or begin new coverage at any time during the year (there is a waiting process when signing up). This plan is an option for all current Community Options employees whether they are Full-time or Part-time. Aflac also offers a plan for *maternity benefits.

All plans are Pre-tax except for Short Term Disability from Aflac which is Post-tax.

If interested in any of the open enrollment options or you have any questions about the insurance benefits, please contact the Human Resource Department in Bismarck at the following numbers or email susanm@coresinc.org.

1-800-823-2417 or 701-223-2417 Extensions (Brad - 126, Brittany - 142 or Sue – 125).



Picnic Fun!







A vibrant red background with a film strip winding across it. At the top, two golden film reels are shown. Scattered throughout are yellow stars of various sizes. In the bottom left corner, there is a striped bucket of popcorn, a clapperboard, and a pair of 3D glasses. The overall theme is cinematic and celebratory.

Kylie and Scotts Movie Review

“Diary of a Wimpy Kid – The Long Haul”

Starring: Jason Drucker and Alicia Silverstone

Kylie’s Review

“I like the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie because my favorite part is when Mrs. Heffley grounds her son until she says you are grounded or I swear you will be in the breath of my body. I recommend that movie because it is funny and hilarious.”



Scott’s Review

“Because he flew over a fence in the boat and landed in the pool! Very funny and interesting, it kept my attention and I highly recommend you see this movie! Good for families!”



Milestone Anniversaries

BRYAN W., ADMIN
Bismarck, 20 years

MICHELLE T., ADMIN
MO, 20 years

SUSAN W., DSP/FS
Bismarck, 15 years

CHRISTINE W., ISLA
Dickinson, 15 years

VALARIE S., ADMIN
Bismarck, 10 years

MELANIE G., PCI/DD
Bismarck, 5 years

JAMES C., DSP/ISLA
Dickinson, 3 years

DARLA A., DSP/AYS
Grand Forks, 3 years

KIMBERLY B., DSP/FS
Jamestown, 3 years

LADARRYL H., DSP/
ISLA

* Milestones anniversaries are recognized at 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, 20 etc. years of service.

DD Certifications

Patrick W., DSP, Bismarck (ISLA)

Fredrick L., DSP, Bismarck (ISLA)

Jodie K., Supervisor, Jamestown (ISLA/QSP)

Want to Pay Less on Your Cell Bill?

Who doesn't! Make sure you take advantage of the Community Options Verizon discount. If you are a full-time employee of Community Options and a Verizon customer, you are eligible for a **22%** discount (if you choose paperless) or **19%** discount with a paper statement.

To receive your discount, just take your pay stub to any Verizon store to show for verification. This discount applies to all plans **EXCEPT** the unlimited plan. The discount also applies to accessories.