

**Department Name: Commission for the Disabled**

**Budget:** In conjunction with registration fees, the Commission's monthly budget covers standard operational expenses, including Helping Hands salaries, supplies to run the Challenger programs, Ceramics, food/snacks/decorations for events, office supplies and other routine office needs.

**Personnel:**

- Karen Lundgren
- Voucher employees
  - Alison Defort
  - Diane Brown

**Commission Highlights:**

- July holds one of our most favorite events: Prom. This year we had a staggering 44% increase in attendance and it was such a hit that clients and families are still talking about its success on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - The relationship between the DPW and Recreation Departments is a key part of our overall success.
- ROID grant – each year the Commission applies for this grant and the Township will match a percentage
  - Historically we have received \$15k with Jackson Township matching 3k
  - With rising costs, we received the FY25 grant for \$20k and Jackson Township matches \$4k

**Helping Hands:** a program designed for clients 13 and older to have a safe place to hang out, have fun, make some friends and just feel like everyone else.

- Registration is now open for when the program returns in September
- Meets every Thursday night until June
- A continual calendar of fun and enriching things to look forward to.

**Ceramics:** a program to meet the need of accomplishment while exploring their creativity.

- Returns in October
- Meets every other Monday night until June

**Medical equipment swap:** We offer a service to our local Jackson residents. We accept medical equipment in good condition: wheelchairs, shower chairs, commodes, canes, walkers, and crutches. As people find themselves in need of these items, we lend them and ask that they be returned when they no longer have a need for them

**Upcoming Events:**

- Registration is now open for Bocce Ball (Saturday mornings in August and September)
- Bowling season is in progress (Friday nights at Howell Lanes)
- Free dance lessons are being donated for our clients to perform a Jackson Day dance routine
- Challenger Soccer registration will open soon for the September/October season
- The Halloween party will be October 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm at the Senior Center building
- Our largest event: The Holiday Party will be held at the AmVets Hall on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Lundgren, Commission for the Disabled / Handicapped