

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Center for Developmentally Disabled Announces the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Spring Fever Scavenger Hunt*

*CDD is pleased to announce the funniest, the most craziest-time, hilariousness, creative, weapon of mass kindness, life-changing experiences of your life!*

**Kansas City, Mo. – Center for Developmentally Disabled (CDD) is hosting a Scavenger Hunt April 15-22, 2016 throughout the Kansas City Metro area that is sure to “get you out of your day-to-day routine and experience things that will make you nervous, uncomfortable and exhilarate you”, said CDD Sr. Program Coordinator and game originator, Jody Michael. There will be a list of many weird things that could include going to places you have never been before, meeting people you have never met, taking a picture in a place that represents the city or showing an act of kindness to someone else.**

This is the Second Year for the CDD Spring Fever Scavenger Hunt. Last year the game was enjoyed by 124 CDD Clients and Staff. This year, due to the consolidation of services with Special Neighbors, Inc., CDD anticipates participation of 340 staff members *and* 205 clients across Jackson County. Nine different teams will be created based on current caseload assignments. The number one commandment of the Scavenger Hunt is to have fun. “If you’re having fun, making or doing an item, odds are the result will be great,” said Michael.

To enhance the Hunt, CDD has implemented app based game play via GooseChase. Hunt team members can join the game by downloading the GooseChase iPhone or Android app. The live mission list of items to be completed on the Scavenger Hunt can be accessed by all team members. To complete a mission, teams select items from the list and follow the instructions to receive the allotted points. Sometimes teams will submit a photo or video, while other times a check-in or text might be required. Points are received right away, but are subject to review by the Spring Fever Scavenger Hunt Judges. Sometimes bonus point are assigned to submissions that are extra impressive. One of the best parts of GooseChase is the ability to see everything as it happens. Whenever another team completes a mission, it’s added to the activity feed and the rankings are automatically updated. Pretty awesome for those competitive players. At any given moment, teams know exactly how they are doing and what needs to be done to win.

Competition and game play will launch at sunrise (6:40am) on Friday, April 15, 2016, and will conclude at sunset (8:03pm) on Friday, April 22, 2016. A small sample of the 70 missions for this year's Spring Fever Scavenger Hunt include:

**Going To The Movies:** Watch a movie. Picture must have you and two team members with a big tub of popcorn. (600 points)

**Hang Em' High:** Each year on the third Thursday in April, we celebrate National High Five Day. This is a fun day where you can "High Five" everyone that you see. Take a photo or video with all team members high-fiving simultaneously. (400 points)

**History 101:** Four team members locate a Kansas City Landmark. Take a photo or video re-enacting a moment in history with this monument. (400 points)

**We Are All Thumbs-Up:** Get a local celebrity to be an honorary team member. Get them to take a picture with you and another team member while giving the thumbs-up. (600 points)

Teams are competing for a grand prize and bragging rights throughout the next year. In 2015 the winning team, La-Villa, was treated to a night of food and games at Dave & Busters. The prize for 2016 has yet to be determined (pending sponsorship (hint, hint)).

Also new for 2016, CDD is inviting community "celebrity" teams to join in the fun. Though missions are geared toward CDD participants and staff, celebrity teams can have fun playing along and adapting missions to fit the team's experience. Although no prizes will be awarded for celebrity team participation this year, registration will be free of charge. Celebrity team participation will assist CDD in building a more dynamic event for 2017 as plans are rolled out to expand the event as a fundraiser by opening registration to community teams to join the fun and win prizes.

CDD is looking for dynamic sponsors (business or individuals) to embrace and sponsor the 2016 event. Hunt missions can be tailored to include sponsorship through logo placement, a link or photo, special prizes, or GPS check-in; giving sponsors even more exposure to the 500+ individuals playing.

If you would like to join in the fun as a celebrity team and/or sponsor, contact CDD Development Director, Stacie Bratcher, at [stacieb@cddkc.org](mailto:stacieb@cddkc.org), for more information.

Be sure to Like Center-For-Developmentally-Disabled on Facebook to follow-along with the fun.

The CDD Spring Fever Scavenger Hunt is modeled after the international sensation GISHWHES (the Greatest International Scavenger Hunt the World Has Ever Seen) an annual week-long competitive media scavenger hunt. After participating in and highly enjoying their involvement in the 2014 GISHWHES, Michael and CDD Executive Director, Sarah Mudd, decided to bring the experience to the clients and staff of CDD.

"As a fairly reserved person", shared Mudd, "I was not too excited about playing, but my daughter asked me. It was the most fun we had had in a long time. I mean, when will you ever be able to feed chicken noodle soup to a 'sick' person in bed using a leaf blower and get away with it?" Mudd continued, "The reason I brought it to CDD was after doing it once, I realized the team building potential it could have to unite employees with the people they were supporting, with other organizations we are connected to, and the community at large. It proved to be that, and so much more. The fun and excitement of seeing

people working together to accomplish as many of the items on the list was just as much fun as participating in the game itself.”

Michael insisted, “Bringing the idea to CDD was to give the folks we serve and our staff the opportunity to be in an atmosphere which promoted teamwork, brought out the creative side in themselves, laughter and to be a part of something bigger than oneself. Oh and it makes those participating terribly, terribly, terribly happy!” The Scavenger Hunt is fully aligned with CDD’s mission and commitment to providing person-centered life-enhancing services to individuals with disabilities in our community.

CDD staff are trained in “Gentle Teaching” techniques that align with the agency culture of treating all persons with respect and care. The Scavenger Hunt emphasizes engagement, one of the four pillars of the Gentle Teaching concept. Engagement can include: 1) creating rituals; 2) eating together; 3) doing things together--planned and spontaneous activities; 4) helping others.

After the first year of successful scavenger hunt play, CDD organizers began to realize the benefits reached far beyond having fun and team building. The following observations were gleaned from staff and clients:

- Individuals enjoyed it. Deeper bonds were formed. Community outing goals were met.
- “It was really fun!” “It was easier than I thought...” “I didn’t realize how many places we could go for free!”
- Lots of attention on Social Media, comments from other agencies, even across the world.
- Medication errors decreased by 66%.
- Physical and Verbal aggressions were down by 82%.

CDD is a private, not-for-profit corporation founded in 1972. CDD provides housing, residential care and day habilitation programs 365 days per year to adults with developmental disabilities in the greater Kansas City area. Accredited by CARF, CDD maintains a nationally recognized quality of service standards for our housing and community placement options and opportunities. The mission of CDD is to support persons with disabilities in achieving their fullest potential. CDD believes each person is unique and their personal journey should be respected and supported. With encouragement and assistance, everyone can make lifestyle choices. Lives are enriched through social relationships, active community involvement and access to comfortable and safe residential opportunities.

On January 27, 2016, Center for Developmentally Disabled (CDD) had the great pleasure of announcing that Special Neighbors, Inc. (SNI) consolidated services with CDD, making CDD the largest Kansas City based provider of services to people with developmental disabilities in an eight county area. At that time, CDD became an organization of more than 340 employees, providing community living opportunities to 205 individuals over the age of 16 who have developmental disabilities across Jackson County, Missouri.

The new company is a true combination of equals – a joining of two extraordinary organizations very similar in size and culture, with practice strengths that are highly complementary. Both organizations are extremely proud of the quality of their programs and the provision of quality care; providing quality of life and community access for people with developmental disabilities. The newly formed organization will have the same focus, the same commitment to providing a positive, gentle and caring quality of living for all individuals.

**Won’t you join us?**

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