



## Director's Corner - Special Education Issues

As our school year wraps up, I felt compelled to write an article that was education related. Teaching is commonly recognized as being one of the most challenging and rewarding careers. Currently there are many issues impacting our educational system. One of which is the significant shortage of special education teachers. This shortage is magnified by the rising number of students diagnosed with disabilities who require special services. This situation can threaten the quality of education for some students. The systemic challenges that all schools face is very significant. Schools must ensure equitable access to quality education for all, but there is no easy way to do that. Even with qualified teachers and paraeducators the task is difficult and becomes nearly impossible when faced with staff shortages. **Continue to full article**

## Did you know about?

Learn about services and organizations in our community we think you should know about!

Interview with Cathryn Erbele  
Operations Lead, **Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley**

### What is your goal at Farm in the Dell?

Farm in the Dell's mission is to "transform disabilities into abilities" through meaningful employment, a supportive community, and life experiences. We employ individuals with developmental disabilities in a non-competitive farm setting, teaching them agricultural and employment skills while giving them a place to belong.

### Can you tell us about the location and crops you grow?

Farm in the Dell is nestled on 25 acres in north Moorhead - near the Anderson Acres development. Our current garden occupies about half of that acreage - with the rest taken up by our barn, greenhouse, parking lot, bathroom facility, green space, and untilled farmland. Each year we grow over 100 varieties of veggies, herbs, flowers, pumpkins, strawberries, and more!

### What is a Garden Engineer?

Our Garden Engineers are our employees with developmental disabilities. Garden Engineers get to experience firsthand the joys of producing a bountiful harvest, while working together on farm and garden tasks like planting, weeding, harvesting, washing, packing, and more.

### Can I apply to be a paid Garden Engineer?

You absolutely can! While we don't have any openings available for the 2025 season, you are welcome to join our waiting list. Each year, we reach out to our waitlist in early spring regarding available opportunities for that year's growing season. Garden Engineer positions are currently limited to part-time during the growing season (May through October) although we are hoping to expand that very soon! Learn more about employment and join the waitlist online: **[farminthedellrrv.org/employment](https://farminthedellrrv.org/employment)**



**Can I volunteer?**

We love our volunteers! During the growing season, we offer regular volunteer opportunities several times a week, with more opportunities available for larger groups or during special events. To learn more or to sign up, visit [\*\*farminthedellrrv.org/volunteer\*\*](http://farminthedellrrv.org/volunteer)

**When can I come and buy produce or flowers this summer?**

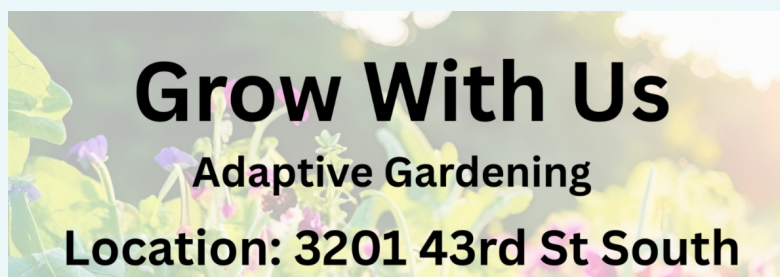
There are tons of opportunities to enjoy our produce! Our weekly Market will kick off mid-June, and will run every Thursday through the end of the growing season - featuring fresh produce, flowers, herbs, and Farm in the Dell merch! You can also purchase our produce at our "U-Pick" events - where you get the joy of picking your own flowers and produce, straight from the garden! We also offer a veggie box subscription program, where you can get fresh Farm in the Dell produce each week during the growing season! Learn more about opportunities to enjoy our produce online: [\*\*farminthedellrrv.org/produce\*\*](http://farminthedellrrv.org/produce)

**Anything else we should know about Farm in the Dell of The Red River Valley?**

Don't miss out on our special events! In addition to offerings like our Market and U-Pick events, we also have fun opportunities throughout the season like Fall Festival, Table to Farm Dinner Series, and more! Learn more about our events online at [\*\*farminthedellrrv.org/events\*\*](http://farminthedellrrv.org/events)

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## [\*\*Program Opportunities at The Arc of Cass County\*\*](#)



**\*Meet in the donation area behind the store.**

**Dates:**

- **May: 8th, 22nd**
- **June: 5th, 19th**
- **July: 3rd, 17th, 31st**
- **August: 14th, 28th**
- **September: 11th, 25th**
- **October: (tentative) 9th, 23rd**

**Time: 2:00 pm**

In the event of rain, we will have other projects at our office location. Please register by emailing [arcassistant@arccassnd.org](mailto:arcassistant@arccassnd.org)

**Monday, May 12th**



**YES! I AM CREATIVE!®**

Engaging, Encouraging & Celebrating Your Creative Side  
With Kay Hilde

**10:00 am, 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m.**

at The Arc of Cass County

We will be reverse painting on glass with Kay Hilde!

Please RSVP by Thursday, May 8th by emailing [arcassistant@arccassnd.org](mailto:arcassistant@arccassnd.org) or call (701)293-8191.



**215 N University Drive, Fargo, ND 58102**  
**701-293-8191 • [arcassistant@arccassnd.org](mailto:arcassistant@arccassnd.org)**



Join our **United Voices** advocacy text group!

**Text**

Join [CCountyUV@gmail.com](mailto:CCountyUV@gmail.com)  
**to 701.935.5381**



**701-935-5381**

Join  
[CCountyUV@gmail.com](mailto:CCountyUV@gmail.com)

## Engagement Opportunities



### Protection & Advocacy Project

400 E. Broadway, Suite 409  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-328-2950  
1-800-472-2670  
TTY: 711  
[www.ndpanda.org](http://www.ndpanda.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 1, 2025

#### P&A Seeks Public Comment

Bismarck, ND - The North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A) is a federally mandated, independent state agency established to advance and assert the human and legal rights of people with disabilities. P&A provides services to individuals with



disabilities statewide. Services include information and referral, self-advocacy assistance, advocacy representation, legal representation, protective services, education and training, systems work, and legislative advocacy.

Each year P&A identifies focus areas to guide its work and use of limited resources. As part of this process, P&A is requesting input on the issues that are most important to the disability community. From May 1 - 31, people with disabilities, family members, stakeholders, and the public are invited to provide feedback by completing a survey. Share your input by scanning the QR code or visit <https://forms.office.com/g/XzScq81fsa>.

Feedback is anonymous and will be used to help shape P&A's focus areas for federal fiscal year 2026 which runs from Oct. 1, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2026.

The Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A) is the leading civil rights organization for people with disabilities in North Dakota. P&A's mission is to champion the equality and inclusion of people with disabilities where we live, work, and play.

###



# families of children with unique needs

support group



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## Fueling Kids with Unique Needs: Ask a Dietitian

Join us for a casual conversation about the role of a registered dietitian. We'll cover the basics and leave plenty of time for your questions—no judgment, just support.

questions: [laura@beyondboundaries.us](mailto:laura@beyondboundaries.us)

**Tuesday, May 6**  
**6:00 pm**  
**3244 51st St. South**  
**Fargo ND 58104**

Scan  
here to  
RSVP!



## YOUR VOICE MATTERS

North Dakota Medicaid virtual listening session

**Tuesday, May 6**

3 to 4:30 p.m. CT

Virtual by Microsoft Teams

**REGISTER NOW**

## Good Reads

### North Dakota News

- **VNL** - New North Dakota law to ease medical stress for patients
- **KFGO** - ND Lawmakers selected for committee that makes study decisions for next session
- **KFYRTV** - How would dismantling the Department of Education affect North Dakota?

### US Disability News

- **Disability Scoop** - Adidas Designing Shoes For People With Down Syndrome
- **AP** - Draft budget plan proposes deep cuts across federal health programs
- **CBS** - Musicians with disabilities aim to break stereotypes with performance in Boston



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