

WE ALL BELONG *spotlight*

March/April 2026

WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING BRIO LIVING SERVICES A WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL TO LIVE AND WORK



ONE SMALL BISCUIT, ONE BIG IMPACT



A Brio Connection: *Beer City Dog Biscuits* was co-founded by Suzanne Wilcox, daughter-in-law of Cook Valley Estates resident and emeritus board member Bruce Barnhart.

IN 2018 Tad and Suzanne Wilcox and David and Leslie Hooker formed a nonprofit 501(c)3 on behalf of their adult sons, both of whom have disabilities.

Beer City Dog Biscuits, located in Grand Rapids, MI, is tailored to meet the unique abilities of each volunteer and employee to enable them to participate in all aspects of the business. They plan/forecast demand, assemble, bake, label and weigh bags, pack, and process orders. Additionally, employees identify sales opportunities, calculate costs, count cash and credit sales, and make bank deposits. Leadership volunteers assist and guide in the process; each stage is intentionally created to support project-based learning and work skill development that enables employees to learn valuable life skills.

They believe all people, regardless of their abilities, enrich our community. Those with disabilities are essential, without their presence in our workplaces, neighborhoods, and places of worship, our community is incomplete! Their belief is that every person—regardless of ability—is essential to God's plan.



Visit [Beer City Dog Biscuits](https://www.beercitydogbiscuits.org/)

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MARCH IS: DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH



Developmental disabilities occur among all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. Recent estimates in the United States show that about 1 in 6, or about 17%, of children aged 3 through 17 years have one or more developmental disabilities, such as:

- ADHD
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Cerebral Palsy
- Hearing Loss
- Fragile X Syndrome
- Tourette Syndrome
- and other developmental disabilities





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Definition of Developmental Disabilities



- Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas.
- These conditions begin during the child's developmental period, may impact day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person's lifetime.
- Most developmental disabilities begin before a baby is born, but some can happen after birth because of injury, infection, or other factors.



Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MiDDC) is a group of 25 Michigan citizens. Members are appointed to the Council by the governor. They come from across the state and are people with disabilities; family members of people with disabilities; and professionals from state and local agencies who provide supports and services to people with developmental disabilities. This diversity enables the Council to better analyze and improve systems and services within the state and ensure that the voices of people with developmental disabilities and their families are heard. [CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)

BREAKING BARRIERS ART EXHIBIT

This exhibit highlights art created by talented Michigan artists with developmental disabilities. Artists with developmental disabilities often face stigmas that prevent them from accessing opportunities in the art world. This online art exhibit challenges stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding developmental disabilities by providing a platform for these artists to showcase their creativity, passion, and unique perspectives. Explore the art exhibit and gain a deeper understanding of the intersection between disability and art as a powerful form of self-expression and self-advocacy.

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE ONLINE EXHIBIT](#)

