

## An Introduction

**A**nne Carlsen Center is dedicated to helping individuals lead a life that is built on dignity and full of as much independence as possible. For many individuals, this means connecting with their community as a college student, a volunteer or an employee.

The foundation of this program is one that our namesake, Dr. Anne Carlsen, based much of her life on. She believed that each person, regardless of ability, had worth and could be taught to perform tasks and achieve goals.

Dr. Anne's life was full of challenges, as she was born without lower legs or forearms. But with the support of her family, she wouldn't allow disabilities to define her life. Dr. Anne earned her bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees, and as an adult, enjoyed driving a car. She was and is an inspiration in the lives of countless people connected to the Center and the mission of hope that we serve.

### Comments about GRASP from former clients

*"This was one of the most professional and valuable assessments ever done on my son."*

*"The information will be very helpful to my student in making career choices."*

*"The process was thorough, but not intrusive."*

## About ACC

The Anne Carlsen Center provides individualized services for children, teens and adults with disabilities, such as autism, pervasive and other behavior disorders, cerebral palsy, orthopedic, vision and hearing impairments, as well as many other medical challenges. Our caring and experienced staff nurtures abilities in order to change lives.

### How Can I Learn More?

The GRASP program is not limited to the information found in this brochure. For more information or to set up an appointment please contact:

Bev Miedema  
ACC Community Integration Coordinator  
1-800-568-5175, ext. 134.



*Anne Carlsen*

C E N T E R

Nurturing abilities. Changing lives.

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# Grass Roots Assessment Services Project

*Assisting schools  
in meeting  
transition  
requirements*



## Grass Roots Assessment Services Project (GRASP)

Assessment has the potential to be a powerful force. Not only can it motivate individuals, boost self-esteem, and increase self-confidence, but conclusions drawn from assessment can be used



to persuade employers and colleges that an individual has the potential to undertake a particular job or complete a training program.

## GRASP Objectives

*\* Conduct community-based vocational assessments for individuals with disabilities in North Dakota. Assessments can be performed in the individual's home community as well as at the Anne Carlsen Center.*

*\* Assist school personnel to implement and utilize functional curriculum for individuals with disabilities.*

*\* Assist school instructors to meet transition requirements as outlined in IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).*

*\* Evaluate the effectiveness of the assessment with the providers of vocational services and review the appropriateness of the suggested recommendations and vocational goals.*

## GRASP Components

Young adults receiving GRASP assessments are observed and evaluated in a number of different areas. These areas can include, but are not limited to:

- \* Dependability
- \* Job attitude
- \* Personal traits
- \* Job effort
- \* Social skills



From the assessment results, vocational strengths and needs are determined and a list of suggested activities are recommended for use by educational teams and adult providers. These suggestions can then assist in planning appropriate educational goals, employment experiences, and living opportunities for the individual.

## GRASP Funding

There are various funding methods that can help pay for an assessment. Upon approval, Vocational Rehabilitation may fund this assessment, provided the individual has an open case. GRASP can also be funded by other sources such as the school district, other agencies and/or an individual's family.