

*Dear Friends,*

*Warmest greetings to you, and thank you so much for visiting our page!*

*The concept of Meghan's Place came to be out of necessity, as are many beautiful and purposeful ideas. After gathering a small group of local parents to discuss the needs and future of our young adult children with disabilities (soon to be graduating from the local transition program at age 21), my husband Kurt and I made the decision to purchase and renovate a vacant building, and in 2017, Meghan's Place was born! The club was named in honor of our daughter, Meghan, who has Down syndrome. Meghan and her peers have become ambassadors for individuals with disabilities in our Hutchinson community.*

*At Meghan's Place, we strive to provide a safe, friendly, inclusive environment for our friends with and without disabilities. It's like a "second home," a place where we can all belong, be ourselves, feel accepted and loved, and can continue to grow. We spend our days engaging in activities that a typical young adult would do. Being part of the lives of our youth and young adults with disabilities is such a gift!*

*The familiar phrase "it takes a village to raise a child" originates from an African proverb, and conveys the message that it takes many people ("the village") to provide a safe, healthy environment for children, where they are given the security they need to develop and flourish, and to be able to realize hopes and dreams. This perspective is alive and well within our Hutchinson community, positively impacting our children and our adult community members with developmental disabilities. Our "family" includes not only parents and siblings, but also a wide variety of individuals, friends and businesses who have shown their desire to be inclusive, to walk through life together, and to share in everyday experiences...together.*

*My personal experiences as a parent, friend, educator and athletic coach have shaped my perspective and fueled my desire to support and provide for our families and their children with disabilities. I am passionate about my Christian faith, music, being active in a variety of sports, traveling, and spending time with my husband, Kurt, our 4 adult children and families, and our awesome English Bulldog, Elvis (who can be found most days at the club, lovingly caring for and snuggling with members, greeting visitors, or snoozing!)*

*We are so thankful for the opportunity to provide a place where youth and young adults with developmental disabilities can feel safe, socialize, and remain active within our community! Please reach out if you:*

- *know someone who would benefit from joining the club,*
- *would like to become a supporter in some way, or*
- *are interested in starting this type of club in your own community!*

*Thank you so much for taking the time to check in and to learn about Meghan's Place! We'd love to meet you! Join us from 9:00-10:00 am on a Friday morning at "Coffee Shop" for a free hot cup of coffee and a friendly smile.*

*Blessings to you!*

