



1521 K-96 Highway, P.O. Box 838, Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 792-1325 Fax (620) 792-9119  
www.sunflowerdiv.com

## Supporting over 40 Years of Excellence in Community Services

*April 2009*

### Charity Gala

All of us at Sunflower have always been well aware of the community's generosity: our neighbors donate their time, money and talent every day. But the success of our fourth annual Charity Gala, overwhelmed us.

Proceeds came to \$28,000, which is especially impressive in these difficult economic times. It just proves that Sunflower supporters understand the importance of our impact on the lives of children and adults.

Everyone can be assured that all proceeds will go directly to people with special needs such as adaptive equipment, communication devices, wheelchairs, dental expenses, and apartment and utility deposits. The funds fill in gaps not covered by tax dollars.

Sponsors of the Gala version of Deal or No Deal were Sunflower Insurance Group, Anderson Financial, Central Kansas Medical Center, Credit Union of America, Eldridge Fencing, Great Bend Farm Equipment, Southwind Drilling and Jim Thurman. The local Red Hat Divas livened up the evening and displayed the 10 game cases.

Mike Niedens was the auctioneer, and Scott Donovan and K.B. Bell helped him keep the audience entertained. Bob Anderson and Joe Drescher also assisted with the live auction. And to top it all off, four scholarships were funded for Sunflower's Incredible Years Preschool.

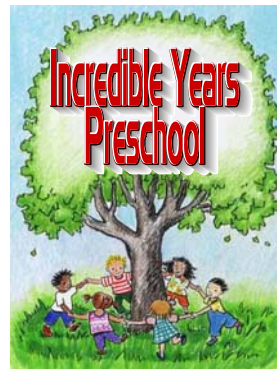
To all Sunflower supporters, our heartfelt thanks.



### Incredible Years Preschool

It is gratifying to report that the opening of our new preschool, Incredible Years, has been, shall we say, incredible. Classes began on Jan. 27 with a full enrollment of 12 children; several are on a waiting list until they are old enough to attend.

Two youngsters are on full scholarship, while another has partial assistance thanks to the March of Dimes and local Kiwanis Club. Family need and risk factors necessary to qualify for financial help are teen mother, limited education, low income, single parent or substance abuse.



Our Cathy Estes, who is one of only nine infant mental health mentors in Kansas, has been meeting with families who want to learn more about their children's social/emotional development. Early intervention can often alleviate delays caused only by social or emotional concerns.

The Summer Fun Program begins on June 2 and, starting this summer, the preschool can accept up to 18 children. The fall session starts Aug. 24, when the preschool will add the classroom for 4 year olds on Mondays and Wednesdays. The first semester was able to serve only 3 year olds on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Cathy and the rest of her staff deserve big pats on the back for getting this project off the ground and into the classroom.

## **Invisible Kansans**

We wish we could disagree with Tom Laing but we can't. Tom is executive director of our valuable state organization, Interhab, and has said that funding shortfalls have brought our system "to the edge of crisis."

Since almost 4,000 Kansans are on the waiting list for services, we are glad he laid it on the line. Some people have been waiting a short time, but for others it has literally been years.

And you can help.

Interhab has launched the "Invisible Kansans" website to call attention to the people who wait. The easy-to-use site,

[www.invisiblekansans.com](http://www.invisiblekansans.com)

is making a difference and by adding your voice, we can continue to spread the word. Please send emails to legislators and visit with them when possible.

We empathize with our lawmakers who must juggle difficult budget decisions with many legitimate requests for funding. But people with developmental disabilities who are lingering without vital supports should top the list.

The people Sunflower serves need a helping hand to live productive, rewarding lives. Babies and toddlers need crucial early intervention programs and adults simply need a boost to grow into the next level of independence.

## **Lunch & Learn**

Since we know many of you may want to learn more about Sunflower and the people we serve, Ladeska "Decky" Makings hosts a Lunch & Learn session every month. This is a great opportunity to enjoy lunch, learn more about our many, many services and even take a tour of Sunflower's facility.

Lunch & Learn is typically scheduled for 11:30 on the fourth Wednesday of the month at our office/plant, 8823 4<sup>th</sup> Street, near the Great Bend Airport. However, if that time is inconvenient, we would be happy to make arrangements for another day.

These informative sessions are open to anyone, and clubs and church groups are encouraged to

attend. The topics are varied, depending on what the group wants to discuss. We're pleased at the response to our revitalization of this program in recent months.

To schedule a visit, contact Connie Oetken, our director of development, by calling 620-792-1325.

## **Spotlight On Personal Accomplishments...**

David Brack began working at Sunflower's manufacturing plant a few years ago and takes great pride in his accomplishments. Now he is taking on even more responsibilities since deciding to add another job to his resume.

David recently accepted a part-time position at Taco Bell in Great Bend, after collaborating with his job coach, Jennifer Welsch. Jennifer and Sunflower's Community Employment Department helped him prepare for a new job, conduct job searches and apply for employment.

Clearing tables, and collecting and sanitizing trays, highchairs and booster seats are some of David's new responsibilities. He also tends the condiment table, cleans restrooms, takes out trash and sweeps floors. David and Jennifer have even developed a picture instruction book that helps him successfully complete all required tasks at his new lunchtime job.

Kris Palmer, Taco Bell general manager, told us David has been welcomed by the team and is fitting in nicely with his new colleagues. She also reported that David takes pride in his work, which definitely shows in his performance. He is dedicated to getting the work done right the first time.



David says he enjoys being the “lobby man” at the fast-food restaurant and is confident in his new work environment. As further demonstration of his commitment to more independence, David also continues to work at Sunflower’s plant.

He is just one of many Sunflower people who are determined to be all they can be. David reminds us every day that we must keep expectations high and never underestimate anyone’s abilities to achieve success.

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Rebecca’s mother sought out Sunflower’s Early Education Center services when her daughter was 11 months old. Mom had concerns about developmental delays and a seizure disorder.

While Rebecca seemed content, she did not respond to her name, play with toys or interact very well with others. She did not sit up or crawl, or try to walk or vocalize.

Now Rebecca and her family are reaping the rewards of two years of early intervention services, including physical, occupational and speech-language therapies, along with early childhood special education instruction in all areas of development.



By the time Rebecca turned 2, she was beginning to reach for and play with toys, and explore her surroundings with the aid of a walker. Six months later, she began attending the EEC’s classroom and has made great progress. Rebecca responds to her name, enjoys more foods and sips out of a regular cup.

Her mother recently mentioned to our EEC staff members that “for the first time, Rebecca is able to enjoy family get-togethers.”

## **ATV Raffle**

Straub International has demonstrated its generosity by donating to Sunflower a Polaris Adult Predator ATV, which has a retail value of \$7,000. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing is set for Thursday, Sept. 17 at our annual Chris Cakes pancake feed.

Straub donated the ATV to help us raise much-needed funds for the special needs of people with developmental disabilities. Proceeds will be used for wheelchairs, dental work, adaptive equipment, and expenses involved in independent-living options such as transportation and rental deposits. The list could go on and on.

We are so grateful to Straub International for affording this opportunity to provide even more assistance to the people who count on us.

“All of us at Straub International want to support the many vital programs at Sunflower,” Ron Straub said. “We hope the community participates in this fund raiser to help people with some of their special needs.”

## **Above & Beyond**

Two Sunflower Diversified Services veterans have been recognized with our Above & Beyond Award. Sarah Krom has been with us for 25 years and Judi Swagerty for 20.

While Sarah’s title is “day services coordinator,” it doesn’t come close to describing her areas of responsibility, which include Sunflower’s manufacturing plant, First Step Recycling Center, General Public Transportation, and therapy and education programs.

Throughout Sarah’s 25 years, she has volunteered for countless Sunflower events and coordinated several; most recently, she has organized Great Bend’s Christmas parade. Sarah donates even more of her time to serve as an officer or chairman of state transportation and recycling organizations.

Judi uses her teacher’s assistant skills as a home visitor, providing children’s services and family support. Her professionalism and compassion are invaluable to parents of children in our infant/toddler programs. Judi also volunteers for many events for the EEC in particular and Sunflower in general. She is always willing to go that extra mile without fanfare or expectation of recognition.

## *Our Core Values*

As an organization founded on the principles of serving individuals with developmental disabilities, we are committed to:

- People First:** We will always promote the maximum level of independence for each individual we serve, and dedicate our resources solely to assisting every person in his/her personal growth.
- Integrity:** We will maintain the highest ethical standards in the services we offer and in all dealings with individuals, their families and their support network.
- Excellence:** We will never compromise the service we offer in the name of corporate profits. The right of each person served will always remain our primary focus.
- Stewardship:** We will utilize the resources entrusted to us by donors, funding agencies and the general public in meeting the greatest number of needs possible.
- Personal Control:** We will protect the most basic right our society has to offer – the right to make informed decisions about how each person wishes to live his or her life.
- Dignity of Risk:** We will offer each person we serve the opportunity to try, to fail, and to try again. It is their right as human beings.
- Responsiveness:** We will guarantee the medical supports, general health care, and therapeutic services that promote personal health and wellness, especially for children and adults with severe, multiple disabilities.
- Quality of Life:** We will dedicate our existence to the vision of our founders. Their actions had a single focus – to ensure that people could live their lives in the community of their choosing, close to family and friends, with access to education, work, leisure, and health care, and to enjoy the dignity and respect that goes with being a citizen of the community.

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Sunflower Diversified Services Foundation  
1521 K-96 Hwy.  
PO Box 838  
Great Bend, KS 67530

# Contributions

January 2009 through March 2009

The following individuals and businesses have contributed to the support of Sunflower's programs and special projects. Dollars received by the Foundation are gifted on a quarterly basis to supplement local, state and federal funding.

Our supporters and partners are very important to us, and we appreciate the involvement of each and every one. If you know of anyone we have missed, or if we need to update our information, please let us know.

**Sunflower offers the services of an estate planning consultant, at no cost or obligation. Please contact us for details.**

## 4th Annual Charity Gala

20/20 Optix

Aaron's Repair & Supply, Inc.

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd.

Dr. & Mrs. Mike Allison

Bob & Vicki Anderson

Anderson Financial

Jim & Kathi Armatys

Brian & Sara Ballard

Chris & Vicki Batchman

Beautiful Beginnings

Becker Tire

K.B. & Tammy Bell

Bell Engine Service, Inc.

Benefit Management, Inc.

Don & Sue Bentley

Darrel & Mary Bieker

Barry Bowers

Don & Catherine Brening

Brown, Isern & Carpenter Law Firm

Brown's Shoe Fit

Michael & Lisa Burdett, DVM

Bush, Bush & Shanelec

Philip & Kristi Butler

Butterfly Supply, Inc.

Chet Cale

Ron & Carol Carr

Casey's General Store-10th & Frey

Central Kansas Medical Center

Chlumsky Liquormart

Randy & LouAnn Cobb

Credit Union of America

John & Crystal Cross

D.A.R.E.

D & J Country Gardens

Dirk & Kathy Davis

Dawson Jewelers Design by Dana

Delgados

Doerrs Ace Hardware

Joe & Glenda Drescher

Lindsey Drescher

Drescher Repair & Design

Carl & Bonnie Dudrey

E & E Glass & Gifts

Wally & Deanna Eldridge

Eldridge Fencing

Ellinwood Packing

Everything Under the Sun

Farmers Bank & Trust

Flame Engineering

Mary Foley

Earl & Judy Fox

Fuller Brush

Great Bend Appliance Furniture  
and Sleepsource

Great Bend Farm Equipment

Great Bend Packing

Great Lakes Airlines

GTM Sportswear

Kenneth & Delores Hanhardt

Mr. & Mrs. David Hays

Highland Hotel and Convention  
Center

Janet Hipp

Hollywood Theater

John Ingalls

JC Penneys

Jennifer's Hallmark

Darin Johnson

Jim & Judy Johnson

Margaret Johnson

Kansas University Bookstore

Keenan Law Firm PA

Kimple Furniture

Kustom Floor Designs

Larned Veterinary Clinic

Leann's Restaurant & Carryout

Lee's Crafts & Creations

M & F Plumbing, Heating & Air

Esther Maher

Eli & Debbie Makings

Ladeska Makings

Jerry & Linda Marmie

Marmie Ford, Inc.

Marmie Motors, Inc.

Maurices

Justin & Rachel Mawhirter

Gregg Maxwell

Dana McVay - French Lily

Collections by Sophia

Medical Park Pharmacy

Mid-Continent LP

Kelly & Fawnia Miller

Stan & Marianne Miller

Tim Miller

Millers of Claflin

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Mingenback

Mike Minton / Lyles Lashley

Mr. P's Truck'n, Inc.

Mike Niedens

Nex-Tech

Edmund & Carol Oborny

Ron & Connie Oetken

Office Products, Inc.

Glenn & Sandra Opie

June Price

Bernard Prosser

Reel Good Jigs - Kevin Keil

Gregg & Maggie Reinhardt

Renue Salon & Spa

Tony & Judith Reynolds

Rockin M' Radio

Kevin & Tammy Romine

Duane & Lee Rouser

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ruble

Clark & Donna Rusco

Kenton Sanko

Satellite Pro's

Pete & Lisa Schartz

Sears

Chris & Lindsay Shepard

Brad & Sarah Shirer

Dr. Perry & Krista Smith

Southwind Drilling, Inc.

Thad & Kimberly Starr

William & Alicia Straub

Stickney Distributing

Stueder Contractors

Bob & Sabrina Suelter

Sunflower Insurance Group, Inc.

The Buckle

Travis & Andrea Thompson

Town & Country Supermarket

Jim Thurman

Carol Tranbarger

Joe Waldman

Walgreens

WalMart Superstore

## Contributions

January 2009 through March 2009  
*Continued*

### 4th Annual Charity Gala (cont.)

Waters True Value  
Watkins, Calcara Chtd.  
Wells Furniture  
Whites Garage  
Wolf Furniture  
Joanne Wondra

### Aviary Project

Cecil & Leona Cheney  
Kathleen Collicott  
Luelma Hejny  
Leons Midwest Appliance Service  
Dennis & Kathy Pechanec  
Lawrence & Pauline Schneider  
Straub International

### Comfort Zone

Robert & Virginia Ballard

### Early Education Center

Aliease Dougherty

### IY Preschool Scholarships

Kiwanis Club of Great Bend

### Memorial - Howard Carpenter

Katherine George

### Memorial - Makinna Krebaum

Randy & LouAnn Cobb

### Memorial - Pollie Stalcup

Randy & LouAnn Cobb

### Memorial - Joan Vink

Katherine George

### Quarterly Newsletter

Mr. & Mrs. Sal Bianchino  
Heartland Center for Wholistic  
Health  
Anthony & Caroline Hoffman  
Jim & Judy Johnson  
Kiwanis Club of Great Bend

Dr. Jean Pringle

Larry & Kathy Schugart  
Joleen Tammen  
Taylor Abstract & title Co., Inc.  
Donald & Sharon Urban  
Mr. & Mrs. Wendelburg

### Tootsie Rolls Sales

Knights of Columbus #2630  
Knights of Columbus #2970  
Knights of Columbus #7737  
Knights of Columbus #9350  
Knights of Columbus #13019

### Unsolicited Donations

Aliease Dougherty  
Calvin & Debbie Finn  
First Christian Church CWF  
Doug Fuhr  
Kiwanis Club of Great Bend  
Queen Esther Chapter 32  
Straub International



*Scenes  
From  
The*



*4th  
Annual*



*Charity  
Gala*

