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www.sunflowerdiv.com

Supporting over 40 Years of Excellence in Community Services

December 2008

SunRise Campaign

The annual SunRise Campaign kicked off September 18th with a Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Coffee, providing an opportunity for those in attendance to learn more about the organization. A number of those present took the opportunity to tour the manufacturing facility. That evening, the Foundation sponsored its annual Chris Cakes Pancake Feed. The event was well attended, with plenty of food and fun for all.

The purpose of this annual fall campaign is to seek contributions which in turn support the numerous services offered by Sunflower during the year. As the campaign winds to a close, over \$10,000 has been raised to help meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Special Needs

One of the primary functions of the Foundation is to provide financial assistance to individuals and families in need of special equipment or services. The Foundation's Special Needs Fund was initially established to help with communication devices, medical/dental needs, mobility supports, and home modifications. Over the years, several fund raising activities, including the annual trail ride, chili cook-offs and matching grants contributed to a reserve fund established specifically for that purpose.

In 2008, the Foundation has funded \$4,835.69 in special needs. Since 1998, more than \$27,000 has been provided to individuals and families to help meet needs for which no other funding is available. We are very grateful to those whose contributions or support of fund raising events help to make that assistance possible.

The Comfort Zone

The proposed therapy center that has been in the planning for some time has its new name, and with it an expectation of multiple personal supports for persons with disabilities. The program will be known as The Comfort Zone and the renovated space will be used to meet the ever-increasing need for therapy services for children and adults. The remodeling includes the use of the previously unused greenhouse and attached garage. The project will encompass a spa room, in which a whirlpool will provide hydrotherapy for both children and adults with specifically designed therapy programs. This portion of the project is nearly complete.



The remodeled greenhouse space will provide for a range of sight/sound/touch therapeutic activities, as well as space for individuals who require access to a relaxed area due to sensory over-stimulation. With the existing space, the plan includes a reflecting pond with small fish, a fountain for water sights and sounds, an aviary, and a multitude of plants, shrubs and small trees. During nice weather, the backyard space with a walking path, plants, and a pergola to sit and enjoy the outdoors will also be a part of the overall program offering.

The Comfort Zone is being funded by several grants and numerous contributions that have been received specifically for that project. Fund raising is currently underway to help defray the costs of the purchase and maintenance of the aviary.

Estate Planning Seminar

On October 20th, Sunflower cooperated with two other local non-profit organizations to host an estate planning seminar. John Griffin of Stewardship Counseling works with all three organizations, and offered an informative evening for people interested in developing a personal estate plan. We have contracted for John's services for many years, and he provides this service for individuals who wish to contact us. There is no charge to anyone we refer to him, as Sunflower pays to make this service available. John helps the individual or couple prepare documents that will best meet their needs and long range plans, which they can then take to their personal attorney to complete. He provides no legal or accounting services and has no products to sell or promote.

If you would like to take advantage of this service, please contact Connie Oetken at (620) 792-1325 to schedule an appointment.

Community Involvement

Sunflower encourages both staff and persons served to be involved in community activities. One very important event is Employment Mentoring Day. On October 15th, around 40 students and other members of the community visited various job sites to explore employment opportunities. Sunflower staff were the primary organizers of the event, designed to enhance career explorations for persons with developmental disabilities. Twenty-one local businesses participated in the event, offering a wide range of options for individuals to consider. As a result of last year's event, an individual served by Sunflower secured employment with the business he visited during the day.

Sunflower's Aktion Club, an affiliate of the local Kiwanis Club, assisted with the annual Great Bend downtown Halloween parade. The Aktion Club consists of persons served by Sunflower, with its primary purpose to do service projects within the community. Club members assisted children crossing the busy downtown streets as they moved from store to store.

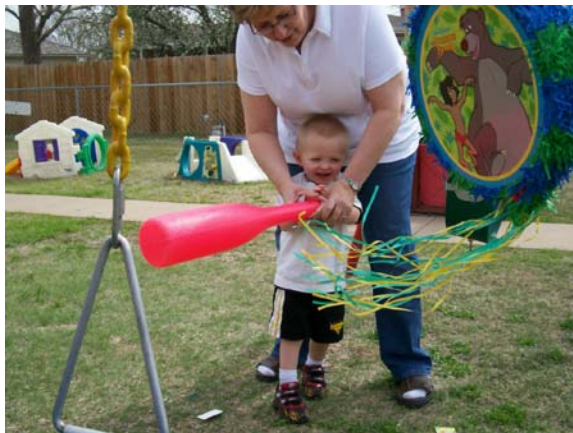
For the third straight year, Sunflower took the lead in coordinating the annual Great Bend Holiday Parade. Sarah Krom, Sunflower's Day Services Coordinator, has taken primary responsibility for organizing the event each year, and Sunflower is pleased to have played a major role in making this an enjoyable annual gathering.

Most recently, 22 individuals served by Sunflower, accompanied by two staff persons and one volunteer, attended the annual Self Advocacy Coalition of Kansas convention in Wichita. The term self advocacy denotes each person's right to speak on his or her own behalf. The convention activities include sessions on personal rights, along with access to information that will assist each individual in personal growth and independence. The number of individuals attending from Sunflower has grown each year.

Spotlight On Personal Accomplishments...

Darin entered the Early Education Center at about 12 months of age with concerns that he was not using his right side. He had an overall motor delay greater than 50% and was later diagnosed with cerebral palsy. He was also very withdrawn, with very little expression.

Staff clearly remember the first day he walked down the hall with a walker. Grinning from ear to ear, he was so excited to be walking that he did not want to stop. Within just a few months he was walking by himself, unassisted by the walker. He also increased the use of his right hand.



As Darin made progress reaching physical milestones, he also displayed an increase in expressive communication and interaction with others. His family is delighted by Darin's response to early intervention services. His mother writes, "In the past year he has learned so much, how to crawl, feed himself, drink from a cup, laugh, get into things he is not supposed to, and most of he learned how to love!!"



When Robert came to Sunflower in 1996 he had spent over 40 years in an institution. Robert has severe intellectual disability due to PKU (phenylketonuria), a genetic anomaly that results in brain damage due to deficiencies in enzymes necessary for the body to break down natural poisons during the digestive process. He also deals with chronic medical conditions that cause pain and discomfort.

While in the institution Robert learned to insure his needs were met by communicating through a number of behaviors serious enough to preclude his inclusion in the community. Aggression, self-injury, and serious property damage were among the numerous daily occurrences. One-on-one behavioral response staffing was a constant requirement to keep Robert and those around him safe.

With the help of his team at Sunflower Robert has been able to understand that he needn't engage in these behaviors to communicate his basic needs and has learned many more appropriate methods of doing so. He is living with his brother (who has the same condition) and attending Sunflower's Life Skills Enhancement supports during the day. He has been able to successfully attend many community activities. His staff have learned to understand Robert's means of non-verbal communication, and are always present to respond to indications that he is hungry, thirsty, cold, hot, in pain, tired, stressed, frustrated - the conditions of life most of us resolve or communicate easily when we need assistance.

Robert and his team have accomplished amazing things over the years - in spite of many professional predictions to the contrary- and Robert is now able to live a richer and more peaceful life as a result.

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

June 2008 through December 2008

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.

SunRise Campaign

A-One Automotive
Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball
Alternacare
American Legion Auxiliary
Post #320
Alice Arnett
Mr. & Mrs. Alvie Axman
Chris & Vicki Batchman
Becker Tire
Mr. & Mrs. Sal Bianchino
Cecil & Leona Cheney
Consolidated Trash Service
Creative Touch
Dominican Sisters
Dr. Tatum Dunekack, LLC
Charles & Marita Elliot
Alice Erbes
Leonard & Agnes Finger
Bill & Janet Fleske
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Fundenberger
HI-LA Engine, Pump & Supply
Heartland Center for Wholistic
Health
Dr. Marc Huslig
Stuart Hutchison
ICH Trust
Marie Isern
J & L Coins and Jewelry
Jim & Judy Johnson
Mary Johnson
Hazel Jordan
Kansas Fishing Tool
Leon & Wanda Karst
Kathleen Kimpler
Bill & Ada Koop
Leons Midwest Appliance Service
Thomas & Shirley Lytle
M & F Plumbing, Heating & Air
Esther Maher
Mark's Custom Signs
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miller

M.S. & L.Z. Miner
Mr. P's Truck'n, Inc.
Keith Mull
Edmund & Carol Oborny
Dennis & Kathy Pechanec
Victor Pechanec
Mike & Donna Petz
Pistol Pete's Nuts & Bolts
Presbyterian Women
Mi Mi Raffelock
Rainbow Trucking, LLC
Yvonne Robbins
Jean Robinson
Thelma Russi
Seeman Farms
Eugene & Kristi Stos
State Farm Insurance –
Blaine Ammeter
Stueder Contractors
Joleen Tammen
Ruth Teichman
Craig Thurman
Melanie Uhrich
Ward Feed Yard
Reginald & Wilma Washaliski
Larry & Jan Westfall
Jan White
Bill Wolf

Chris Cakes Tickets

A-One Automotive
Adams, Brown, Beran, & Ball
American State Bank
Anderson Financial
Benefit Management, Inc.
Darrell & Mary Bieker
Catholic Community
Central Plains Computer Service
Credit Union of America
Eldridge Fencing
Farmers Bank & Trust
John & Nancy Francis
Great Bend Farm Equipment

Great Bend Tribune
Marty Keenan
M & F Plumbing, Heating & Air
Marmie Ford
Marmie Motors
Medical Park Pharmacy
Tim Miller
Mike & Carrie Minton
Mobile Radio Service
Office Products, Inc.
Allene Owen
Dr. Jean Pringle
Gregg & Maggie Reinhardt
Sanko's Service
Dennis & Jan Sherman
Southwind Drilling
Stueder Contractors
Sunflower Bank

Donations

Anderson Financial
Mr. & Mrs. Alvie Axman
Thomas Bell
Priscilla Benignus
Mr. & Mrs. Sal Bianchino
Garry Dassow
Elizabeth Evans
Farmers Bank & Trust
Craig Heneke
Jim & Judy Johnson
Leon & Wanda Karst
Knights of Columbus #1500
Knights of Columbus #2100
Knights of Columbus #3273
Knights of Columbus #9350
Knights of Columbus #1187
Rhonda Knudson
LaCrosse Furniture
Duke Lorson
Thomas & Shirley Lytle
Esther Maher
Mr. P's Truck'n, Inc.
Karen Nicholson

Contributions

June 2008 through December 2008
Continued

Dennis & Kathy Pechnec Yvonne Robbins Don & Mary Lou Sanders Lawrence & Pauline Schneider Bev Simonson Morgan Wright AA Yost	Restricted – Aviary Project Larry & Jan Westfall	Sheryl Rauch Duane & Lee Rouser Rick & Amy Schwarz R. Skeels Elnora Steitz James & Kathleen Thomas
Restricted – Makinna Krebaum Memorial Fund	Restricted – Comfort Zone Robert & Virginia Ballard Flame Engineering	Memorial – Wayne Becker Randy Cobb
Kyle and Tasha Krebaum Vivian Grosshardt	Memorial – Sharon Henderson Richard & Phyllis Cyphers Kenneth & Delores Hanhardt Brad & Meg Henderson Bryan & Georgia Henderson Janet Hipp Connie Jones Gaye Newlin Janet Novlan	Memorial – Leon Graver Katherine George
Restricted – Early Education		Memorial – Robert Keenan Randy Cobb
Kenneth & Delores Hanhardt Eleanor Bell		

During This Special Season, A Special Thank You

When you make a contribution to Sunflower or support one of its fund raising events, you become a part of the lives of the children and adults we serve. For too long, society had very limited expectations for persons with developmental disabilities. Today, we know that a person's ability to grow is limited only by our lack of vision. One after another, the infants and toddlers we serve reach developmental milestones that might have otherwise eluded them. Darin (in our spotlight section) is a perfect example of the steps they take, literally, to begin their pursuit of personal independence.

We are proud of the personal accomplishments of the adults we serve, with over 80% of the individuals in our residential program residing in homes or apartments they rent from community landlords, including individuals who not long ago were residing in institutions. And while most, like Robert, still may need full-time staffing to be successful, they nevertheless control their living environment because it is THEIR home, not Sunflower's! That's no small accomplishment, nor does it happen without the hard work of our direct service professionals and the support of our donors!

As the only non-profit organization providing these services in this area, Sunflower takes special care to ensure that the financial support we receive is used in a way that meets the most needs possible. Sunflower is continually evaluating its services to determine how to best direct those resources. Our goal is to keep you informed of the accomplishments resulting from the gifts you share with us.

It is the support of our donors that help make this possible, and as the year draws to a close, all of us with Sunflower wish to express our sincere appreciation for the care and concern you have shown for those we serve throughout this 40-plus years of service to our five-county community.

To each of you, the very best in this coming New Year.



"The Comfort Zone" Aviary Project



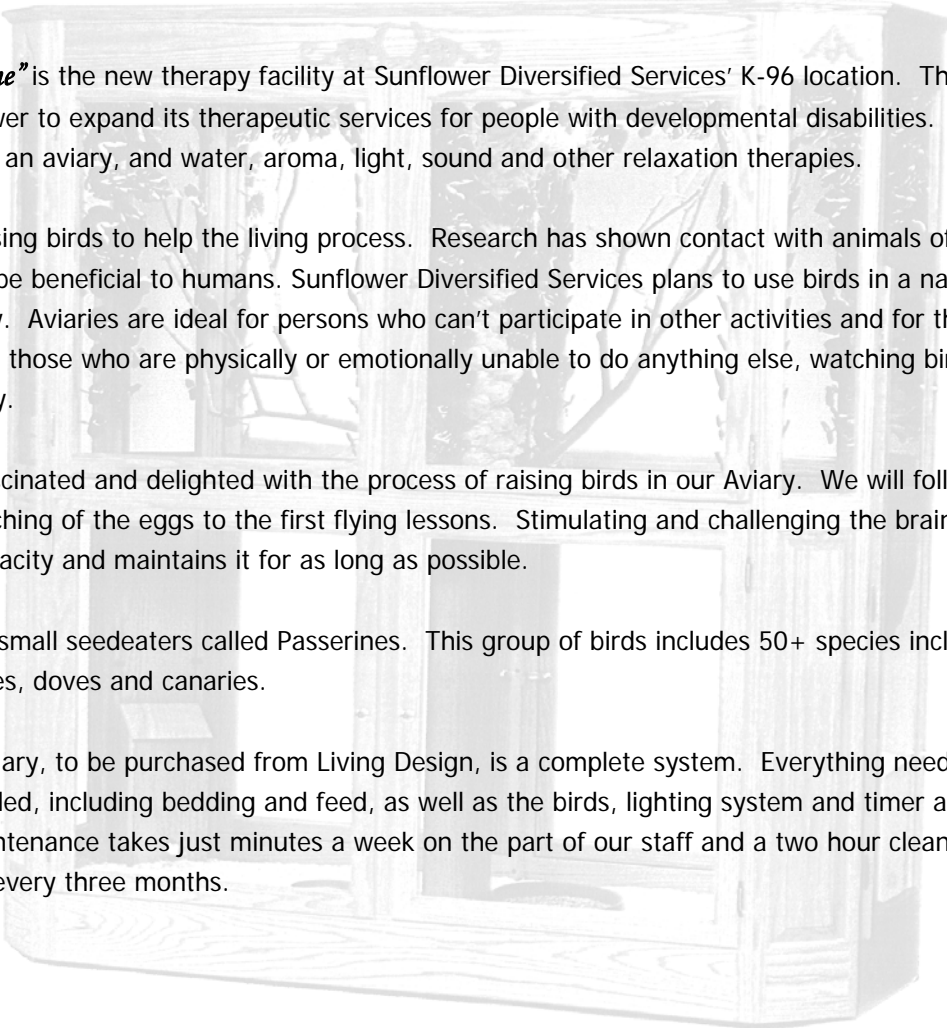
"The Comfort Zone" is the new therapy facility at Sunflower Diversified Services' K-96 location. The new facility will allow Sunflower to expand its therapeutic services for people with developmental disabilities. The Comfort Zone will provide an aviary, and water, aroma, light, sound and other relaxation therapies.

Bird therapy is using birds to help the living process. Research has shown contact with animals of all type, including birds, to be beneficial to humans. Sunflower Diversified Services plans to use birds in a natural setting as a form of therapy. Aviaries are ideal for persons who can't participate in other activities and for those who need a quiet time. For those who are physically or emotionally unable to do anything else, watching birds is an activity they can enjoy.

Clients will be fascinated and delighted with the process of raising birds in our Aviary. We will follow the process from the hatching of the eggs to the first flying lessons. Stimulating and challenging the brain draws on all of its reserve capacity and maintains it for as long as possible.

Our birds will be small seedeaters called Passerines. This group of birds includes 50+ species including several varieties of finches, doves and canaries.

The proposed Aviary, to be purchased from Living Design, is a complete system. Everything needed to care for the birds is included, including bedding and feed, as well as the birds, lighting system and timer and a "how to" Care Guide. Maintenance takes just minutes a week on the part of our staff and a two hour cleaning by the Living Design Staff every three months.



I would like to donate/pledge \$ _____ towards
"The Comfort Zone" Aviary Project.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

