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www.sunflowerdiv.com

Supporting over 45 Years of Excellence in Community Services

Fall Issue

Invest In Kids

The community response to our Invest in Kids campaign has been nothing short of phenomenal. As of early October, we had raised almost \$55,000.

It would be great to say our work is done, but we can't. The amount cut from this year's Early Education Center budget has been recovered but we face many challenges next year too.

The Damon Foundation started the campaign with \$10,000 and added another \$5,000 when the community donated \$15,000. This proves that every amount has an effect.



Karen Perry-Hayes, right, SLP, works with Amethyst Bruce and her mother, Kristina Bruce.

The Raymond and Viola Wagner family, originally from the Otis area, also deserves our heartfelt appreciation. They donated \$20,000 because they understand the importance of early intervention for infants and toddlers.

While these large donations are appreciated, much of the total was raised by smaller amounts. It all adds up to better lives for youngsters with disabilities and delays.

Lunch & Learn

When Ladeska "Decky" Makings hears the phrase "I had no idea," she is never surprised. That is what they all say after a Lunch & Learn.



Scott, left, and Ivan complete a pallet order at the Sunflower manufacturing plant

Sunflower typically hosts the tour and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month but the schedule is flexible. Church, civic and other groups are encouraged to call Decky, 620-792-1321; the meal is free.

"After our tours, visitors say 'I had no idea,'" Decky commented. "They come away with whole new perceptions of our clients' abilities. The extent to which perceptions have changed in the last 20 years is nothing short of amazing. Lunch & Learn sessions demonstrate that people with disabilities participate in and contribute to their communities.

"But we want to do even more to inform the public that our clients are hard-working, capable individuals who want to be as independent as possible—just as we all do. They take these responsibilities very seriously and enjoy the dignity that comes with earning their own paychecks—again, just as we all do."

Addressing Developmental Delays

Many in the community know that Sunflower's Early Education Center serves children with disabilities. But they may not realize the EEC also helps children overcome delays. And there is a big difference.

Coordinator Cathy Estes believes that because of the confusion about the difference between disabilities and delays, the EEC may be missing children that could be helped in a short period of time.

Disabilities are conditions that are clearly defined as needing intervention. Examples are Down syndrome and cerebral palsy.

However, developmental delays are not necessarily permanent concerns. They include stuttering, a behavioral problem due to social/emotional concerns, or an attachment problem.

One recent example of a delay involved a child who was approaching 2 years old and not walking yet. Sunflower's physical therapist began working with him, and within a few weeks the child was walking. It was a balance issue, and the therapy gave him the courage to walk without holding someone's hand. He overcame the problem.

Anyone with questions is encouraged to call the EEC, 620-792-4087.



Liana Colson, EEC physical therapist, works with young Axel, with the support of his mother, Maribel Ordonez-Marquez.

Chris Cakes Pancake Feed

The recent Sunflower Diversified Services pancake dinner attracted a great turnout, with a lot of familiar faces and many newcomers. There was good food and entertainment for everyone.

Chris Cakes is always popular not only for the menu, but also for flipping the pancakes a long distance. The Encore Sound deejay entertained, while Scott Donovan from Eagle Radio performed during a live remote.

The pancake dinner is one of Sunflower's annual fundraisers for infants, toddlers and adults with delays and disabilities. All proceeds stay in our five-county service area. The money is used for items such as wheelchair modifications, communication devices, and help with medical and dental bills.

Everyone at Sunflower appreciates the community's generous response.



The line is long at the Sunflower pancake dinner.

State Recognition

Many in our service area know that Sarah Krom is one of Sunflower's most diligent and caring professionals. And now people all around the state know it too.

Sarah coordinates our First Step Recycling and General Public Transportation operations, and has been recognized statewide for her efforts in both.

The Kansas Organization of Recyclers Appreciation Award honored Sarah for helping the environment and providing job opportunities for Sunflower individuals. The Kansas Public Transit Association bestowed its highest honor on her—the Willie M. Murry Award. Murry was a leader in public transportation services.



Leanda Ditus boards a GPT vehicle for a ride to an appointment.

While Sarah appreciates these honors, she is quick to note that Sunflower staff members, recyclers and

GPT passengers deserve much credit. This is not surprising. Sarah and the rest of our staff know that success is a team effort.

Congratulations to Sarah and all those who support her every day.

Preschool Aquarium

The new salt-water aquarium at Incredible Years Preschool has caught everyone's attention—not just as something to look at but also to learn from.

Jessica and Andy Nelson, and their children Emilee and Tori, donated the aquarium and fish to the preschool. They also give their time to maintain it and feed the occupants, which include two brightly colored clown fish, and corals, shrimps, snails and crabs.

When children finish an activity early, they visit the fish and talk with each other and teachers; it is great to see the interaction. This is a great educational tool and provides a soothing activity for everyone.

Jessica Nelson, who has a master's degree, is the early childhood special education teacher at Sunflower's Early Education Center. Emilee attended our preschool and just entered kindergarten very well prepared. Tori will join us next year.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the whole family.



Amanda Wilson visits with the residents of the new aquarium at Incredible Years Preschool.

Appreciation Dinner

Sunflower celebrated another great year at our Appreciation Dinner and Swim on August 5. We appreciate everyone who braved the heat wave to attend this annual event.

The crowd of about 200 people included Sunflower clients, staff members, families and other

community supporters. They enjoyed roast pork and barbecued beef with all the fixins, while many took advantage of the water features at Great Bend's Brit Spaugh Park. It was a great way to cool off.

All those who demonstrated dedication to Sunflower individuals throughout the year have our deepest gratitude.



Sunflower supporters attend appreciation dinner.

Personal Accomplishments—Audrey

Audrey has been working at our manufacturing plant for some time, enjoying the opportunity to earn her own paycheck and be productive. But she wasn't enjoying being on the waiting list for residential services.

The wait is over. Audrey is now living in one of our two group homes where she is developing the skills she will need for even more independence.

Audrey was eagerly awaiting this opportunity to move out of the family home and be a more active member of the community. Our staff will support her each step of the way to the highest level of independence possible.



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 July 2011 through September 2011

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.

Invest In Kids

Robert Anderson
Animal Medical Center
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Beta Sigma Phi—Mu Kappa Chapter
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Incredible Years Preschool Scholarship

Jesse & Shannon Zerr

Joyce Bitter Memorial

Clint & Darla Clarke

Muriel Gould Memorial

Marcia Lynne Rost

Gladys Hungate Memorial

Rose Marie George





Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc. 7th Annual Charity Gala

Saturday—March 3, 2012

5:30pm—10:00pm

Highland Hotel Heritage Room

***Socializing * Silent Auction * Dinner * Live Auction
Deal or No Deal Auction * Pay~N~Putt***

This is SDS's largest fundraiser of the year.

If you would like to help please consider the following:

Donating Items for the Silent Auction

Donating Items for the Live Auction

Attending—Tickets \$100 each

Sponsorship

Cash Donation

Other _____

(please specify)

Please all that apply

Name: _____

Address: _____

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**For more information please contact
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coetken@sunflowerdiv.com**