



1521 K-96 Highway, P.O. Box 838, Great Bend, KS 67530  
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www.sunflowerdiv.com

## Supporting over 44 Years of Excellence in Community Services

February 2010

### 5th Annual Charity Gala

The planning for Sunflower's Fifth Annual Charity Gala is picking up speed and we trust the community will support us in this major fund raiser. Please mark your calendar for 6 p.m. Saturday, March 6 for what promises to be another great event at the Highland Hotel Heritage Room.

Social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and a live auction; the silent auction will run all evening. Tickets are \$100 and also include an open bar and wine at each table.

Businesses and individuals who want to donate auction items are encouraged to contact Connie Oetken, 620-792-1325.

We are hoping for an especially good turnout this year, in light of state funding cuts that directly affect the people we serve. The generosity of central Kansans allows us to fill in some gaps that state funds simply will not cover.



Vicki Batchman admires the "V.I.P. Table" that was purchased during the live auction at the previous year's Charity Gala.

### ICC (Interagency Coordinating Councils)

Sunflower's Cathy Estes took the initiative to arrange a meeting of our four Interagency Coordinating Councils and then took the extra step of inviting Doug Bowman, Department of Health and Environment ICC coordinator. The result was a great opportunity to share information about the needs of families with children under age 5.



Doug Bowman, KDHE, left talks with Jim Johnson, Sunflower Executive Director.

It is crucial that our Early Education Center find children who can benefit from early intervention and Doug helped us better understand the ICCs' role in this. Ninety percent of brain development occurs in the first three years of life and we must ensure that youngsters with delays are evaluated and referred to the appropriate services.

Our EEC appreciates the collaboration of our county partners, including the health department, public libraries, Parents as Teachers, Head Start, preschools, school-district special education for ages 3-5 and many more. We want everyone to be aware of our free screenings for children under 3, which include evaluations of communication and cognitive skills, and social/emotional, self-help and physical development.

Early detection is the key to success in early intervention.

## **Comfort Zone**

The finishing touches are in progress at The Comfort Zone, our new therapeutic center. We are planning an open house because we want everyone to see this wonderful center in the old greenhouse at our K-96 facility.

Many people will benefit from the calming atmosphere, especially those with severe developmental disabilities who can't tolerate noise and crowds. The Comfort Zone's features include an aviary, plants, walking path, tactile wall, and a pond with a fountain and fish. The soothing environment offers many therapies.



Jim Johnson thanks Mark Schulte and Dave Dechant with Good Samaritan Society, Home Health of Central Kansas for the donation of the aviary.

Much of the flooring came from recycled tires and was made at an agency that serves people with disabilities; the furniture is recycled plastic. Sunflower wants to be "green" at every opportunity.

Please watch for the open-house announcement. We think you will be amazed at the results of a lot of hard work and generosity from the community.

## **Rice County Events**

A state grant is allowing Rice County children to enjoy special playtime, while parents learn new ways to interact with their little ones.

Cathy Estes and her staff at our Early Education Center are playing an instrumental role in using the RECESS grant as an avenue to enhance children's development. The acronym stands for Rice Early Connections Equal School/Life Success.

The first grant-sponsored event focused on nightmares and night terrors, and how parents can offer comfort. The second was a visit from Santa to help children and parents cope with holiday stress.

These were wonderful opportunities to entertain children and educate parents. All of us at Sunflower hope the grant will be renewed so we can continue to provide these resources in Rice County next year. Many, many partners support us in this effort, and we appreciate each one.

Sunflower's EEC is part of the state's tiny-k network and provides early intervention for children birth to age 3. It relies on grants, mill levies and private donations to provide services free of charge.

## **Recycles Day**

A partnership between Sunflower's First Step Recycling and Barton County resulted in more than two tons of electronic waste being taken to the landfill. Computers, monitors and used cell phones were collected at First Step, 1010 Hubbard, in observance of America Recycles Day in November.

Sunflower's Sarah Krom and her colleagues appreciate the county's cooperation in protecting the environment, preserving resources and contributing to the area's economic well-being. Thanks also goes to Great Bend Mayor Mike Allison for issuing a proclamation. This event was part of a national campaign by Keep America Beautiful Inc. and the National Recycling Coalition.



## **Personal Accomplishments**

Robbie Davis came to Sunflower a few years ago with limited social and work skills. Now he enjoys the dignity that comes with a job, and his self-confidence and self-esteem are greatly enhanced.



Robbie practices good social skills, his impulse control has improved and he succeeds in a variety of jobs at our plant and First Step Recycling. Sunflower's Decky Makings noted that Robbie's skills have improved so much that he was able to participate in out-of-town ventures as a member of our self-advocacy group.

Since Robbie is a big fan of professional wrestling, he and his family were instrumental in arranging a group outing to watch some big names in the sport.

All these aspects of Robbie's life – work, community involvement and leisure time – demonstrate Sunflower's philosophy. When people have opportunities and choices, their abilities come shining through.

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When Landon Titsworth was 11 months old, his developmental stage was about six months younger and there was a 50 percent delay in his physical development. The diagnosis was cerebral palsy.

Little Landon was referred to our tiny-k network Early Education Center by a physical therapist in another network, and we welcomed him with open arms.



Landon Titsworth strings beads with Ruth Johnson, occupational therapy assistant.

He has received early intervention services in all developmental areas during the past year, with emphasis on physical skills. Landon is now almost 2 and walking independently with the support of a walker. He plays with his toys appropriately, and especially likes spending time with other children.

Landon is extremely social, very smart and a delight to his parents and everyone at the EEC. Thanks to our early intervention, he will be able to meet all his developmental milestones by the time he turns 3, perhaps with a little help with his physical abilities.

## **Early Education Funding**

Barton County Commissioners recently joined their peers in our other service-area counties to commit to the well-being of babies and toddlers. Commissioners have consistently placed a high priority on early intervention because they realize our Early Education Center is crucial to a youngster's life today and in the future.

After all, delays can be alleviated in most instances, and overcome in many others.

County funding is a vital supplement to revenue from the state departments of Education and Health & Environment, as well as Medicaid for certain therapies. Donations to our Foundation also support cognitive, speech/language, social and therapeutic services.

The families of babies and toddlers with delays join us in heartfelt appreciation to Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford county leaders. They are living the tradition of compassion that began in the 1970s. Each commissioner can take personal satisfaction in knowing county decisions directly affect our most vulnerable neighbors.



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

## *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**

October 2009 through December 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.

## **Sunrise Campaign**

Clint & Lynn Barger  
John & Crystal Cross  
Andy Detmer  
Dominican Sisters  
First Bank—Lyons  
Great Bend Children's Clinic  
J.C. & C.A. Haas  
Kenneth & Delores Hanhardt  
Alice Humphreys  
Marc Huslig  
Leons Midwest Appliance Serv.  
Thomas & Shirley Lytle  
Larry Panning  
Ray & Joan Reep  
Rita Schilling  
Donald & Sharon Urban  
Larry & Joni Wood

## **Tiny K- Beach Grant**

Chris & Vicki Batchman  
Michael & Lisa Burdett  
Ed & Carol Oborny  
Dennis & Kathy Pechanec  
Julie Spray

## **DIVA Day**

Judith Reynolds  
Jim Thurman

## **Donations**

Mr. & Mrs. Alvie Axman  
Robert & Virginia Ballard  
Mr. & Mrs. Sal Bianchino  
Steve & Karma Byers  
Christians Womens Fellowship  
Circle T Oil, Inc.  
Charles & Marita Elliot  
Elizabeth Evans  
Farmers Bank & Trust  
Leonard & Agnes Finger  
Delores Fundenberger  
Hope Lutheran Church Women  
Stuart Hutchison  
Hazel Jordan  
Kiwanis Club of Great Bend  
Knights of Columbus #1187  
Knights of Columbus #1500  
Knights of Columbus #2100  
Knights of Columbus #2630  
Knights of Columbus #3273  
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WR & Yvonne Robbins  
Don & Mary Lou Sanders  
Bernard & Lisa Seiwert  
Mr. & Mrs. Durward Smith  
Sam Spece  
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Jim Thurman  
Diz & Willie Washaliski  
Jan White

## **Harlan Foskett Memorial**

Ronald & Judith Foiles  
Lario Oil & Gas Company  
Randy Watson

## **Beth Graham Memorial**

Nancy Blackwell

## **Wilbur Graver Memorial**

Mary Ann Johnson

## **ME Marmie Memorial**

Randy Cobb

## **Mike Mingenback Memorial**

Randy Cobb

## **Glenn/David Scheuerman**

LaVina Scheuerman

## **Elnora Steitz**

Bison State Bank  
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Shelly Dewald  
Kenneth & Barbara Goetz  
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Merle & Maxine Josefiak  
Maneth Living Trust  
Mike's Auction & Sales  
Mike & Sandy Niedens  
Marjorie Niewald  
Marcia Ochs  
Kenneth & Dolores Romeiser  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ruble  
Craig & Carol Scheuerman  
Dennis & VirJean Scheuerman  
LaVina Scheuerman  
Leland & Mary Steitz  
Donald & Erma Wood  
James & Carole Zecha

## **Don Veach**

Randy Cobb



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



*A non-profit organization serving individuals  
with developmental disabilities in  
Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties for 44 years.*

*Announcing the  
**5th Annual Charity Gala***

***March 6, 2010***

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Heritage Room in the  
Highland Hotel

This is Sunflower Diversified Services largest fund raiser of the year.  
Tickets include dinner, hors d'oeuvres, wine at every table, open bar.  
Live and Silent auctions.  
Fun and informative evening.

*Please reserve your seats now!*

**Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc.**  
**5th Annual Charity Gala**  
**March 6, 2010**



*Need more information?  
792-1325 ext. 111*



**Please mark all that apply:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Number Attending / \$100 each

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Donate Items for Silent or Live Auction

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\_\_\_\_ Cash Donation

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Please send reply to Sunflower Diversified Services,  
1521 K-96 Hwy., Great Bend, KS 67530

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_