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Supporting over 44 Years of Excellence in Community Services

May 2010

Walk A Mile in My Shoes

A recent event at Veteran's Park in Great Bend racked up hundreds of miles in the statewide "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" program. The goal was to walk, run or ride a mile for each person waiting for the support that can lead to the highest level of independence possible.

And, we are sorry to report, that is a lot of miles; there are 4,372 Kansans on the waiting list for services, such as those offered by Sunflower. We must continue to raise awareness, and this InterHab-sponsored event was a great way to do that. InterHab is Sunflower's state professional organization that helps us guide people to becoming productive members of their communities.

The event wrapped up April 28 with InterHab's Push Day, when Kansans with developmental disabilities advocated for services that cannot be provided without adequate funding.

All of us appreciate every volunteer. They played a special role in educating the public and lawmakers about our most vulnerable neighbors. They should all take a bow.



Applause for Doug Chambers who bicycled from Veterans Park in Great Bend to the middle school in Hutchinson, handing off the scroll to TECH for the next leg of the Walk A Mile in My Shoes relay.

5th Annual Charity Gala

The community demonstrated its overwhelming support for people with developmental disabilities by raising more than \$29,000 during the Sunflower Charity Gala. This is just incredible.

There are so many items that can't be financed with tax dollars and that families cannot afford. The money will be used for these special needs, including adaptive equipment, communication devices, and medical and dental care.



Jane Isern commiserates with Emcee Scott Donovan at the Charity Gala

The Gala proceeds include funding for nine scholarships at Sunflower's Incredible Years Preschool. Our preschool serves children with disabilities, as well as those who are developing typically. Many of our families need a helping hand.

Auctioneer Mike Niedens, Emcee Scott Donovan and the Highland Hotel staff all played instrumental roles in the Gala's success. Also, our gratitude goes to agency and Foundation board members, guests, sponsors, donors and volunteers. They can all take personal satisfaction in knowing they are helping central Kansans with disabilities.

Mark Your Calendars
6th Annual Charity Gala
March 5, 2011

Anderson Recognized

Bob Anderson was formally associated with Sunflower for more than a decade but resigned from our two boards because of increasing demands at Anderson Financial.

“I already miss being on the boards but will always support Sunflower,” Bob said. “While offering a helping hand to those with disabilities is always important, it is especially crucial now in this era of budget cutbacks.”

Bob served as agency board president for three years, during a financially and politically difficult time for our agency. Under his leadership, we not only survived, we became stronger.



Jim Johnson presents Bob Anderson a plaque for his many years of service. Bob served on both the Agency and Foundation Boards, holding multiple offices during his tenure.

Bob became Foundation president in 2004 and continued in that position until his recent resignation. He was instrumental in restructuring the Foundation and the resulting increase in annual fund-raising events. In the last three years, the Foundation provided to the agency \$191,000 and another \$8,370 in grants for medical needs, adaptive equipment and home modifications.

These are examples of special needs that families cannot afford and that tax revenues cannot pay for.

Hearing Equipment

Young children with hearing problems now have a valuable new tool close to home, thanks to a state grant. Sunflower’s Early Education Center received \$3,600 for equipment designed for hearing screens.

Seven staff members attended special training by the Sound Beginnings Early Hearing Detection & Identification Program, through the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. Those who are now certified include Karen Perry-Hayes, SLP, Susan Keeler, SLP, and Judi Swagerty, early intervention specialist.

Newborns that screen positive will have a diagnostic evaluation before age 3 months, and those with hearing loss will receive early intervention before age 6 months. This early intervention and treatment, which should begin as soon as possible, is highly effective in promoting a child’s development—not only in hearing but in virtually every other aspect.

Our EEC deserves a pat on the back for applying for this grant, which was awarded to only five of the 37 tiny-k networks in Kansas. Our gratitude also goes to the KDHE for making this possible.

Estate Planning

John Griffin, of Stewardship Counseling, has been serving Sunflower for close to two decades, helping families with estate planning and Special Needs Trusts. He has been a valuable resource, and all of us truly appreciate his expertise and support.

John is here once a month to provide guidance about financial options and welcomes anyone with questions about planning for the future. There is no cost for his services and families are under no obligation to make a gift to Sunflower.

“Children with developmental disabilities need an organization that helps them transition into society, and provides residential and other services,” John said. “Families realize the integral role Sunflower plays in providing a quality-of-life environment and I want to do everything I can to support its efforts.”

For information about John’s schedule, contact our director of development, Connie Oetken, by calling 620-792-1325.



Personal Accomplishments

Payton Edwards failed two hearing screenings during the first three weeks of life and then a brainstem-hearing test at age 4 months. The diagnosis was mild to moderate hearing loss, and she was fitted with hearing aids.



Payton's family moved here from southwest Kansas, where she received early intervention from another tiny-k infant-toddler network. She started Sunflower Early Education Center home-based services seven months ago, and is walking and sharing her social nature with peers.

The 1-year old child uses sign language to say "no," "Mom" and "Dad." The EEC staff is thankful her parents are actively involved, collaborating with them to ensure Payton has every opportunity to develop. This is especially important because hearing loss can impede development in all areas.

EEC services are available to Payton until she turns 3, when Sunflower will help her transition into continued services, if necessary. She has the opportunity to meet her developmental milestones, which is testament to the importance of early intervention.

The EEC staff includes two speech-language pathologists and an early intervention specialist certified in hearing intervention, who have the most up-to-date hearing equipment available for children under age 3.

Thelma's new wheelchair may be helping her get around physically but her positive attitude and work ethic are the forces that really keep her going.

She recently asked her team to help structure her schedule so that required physical therapy can be accomplished in a way that allows for even more work hours each week. Thelma thrives on the personal satisfaction that comes with earning her own paycheck to pay for trips to see out-of-town family members.

Without her specialized wheelchair, Thelma wouldn't be able to earn at her current level and her ability to participate in life would be significantly restricted. Medicaid finances new chairs only every five years and doesn't always cover necessary adaptations.

Thelma is one example of why donations to Sunflower's Special Needs Fund are so crucial. The community's generosity can help her receive the upgrades she needs before she is eligible for a new chair.



Week of the Young Child

Sunflower and its Interagency Coordinating Councils (ICCs) showed their commitment and creativity during the Week of the Young Child, April 10-17. Our Early Education Center and Incredible Years preschool, along with the ICCs helped raise public awareness about the many services available for our youngsters.

For example, Incredible Years made 25 paper dolls that were displayed hand-to-hand across storefronts by the Stafford County ICC. And we helped sponsor the Barton Parent Education Expo to share information about service providers available to children birth to age 8 and their families.

Other Sunflower service-area events included story hours in Stafford County, a family swim night at St. John, a meeting with the Rice County Commission and a Lyons Chamber of Commerce Coffee.

The ICCs and our EEC and IY staff members should be commended for their efforts. Anything we can do to share our early-childhood message benefits not only children and their families, but also the entire community.

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.

Return Service Requested

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Great Bend, KS 67530
Permit No. 114

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

Contributions

January 2010 through March 2010

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

Chris & Vicki Batchman
Bison State Bank
Joe & Darlene Boley
Commodities, Inc. of Larned
Calvin & Debbie Finn
First Christian Church
Delores Funderberger
Karla & David Gonzales
Great Bend Regional Hospital
Jim & Judy Johnson
Mary Ann Johnson
Larned Rotary Club
Larson Engineering, Inc.
Mark's Custom Signs, Inc.
Karen Nicholson
Dr. Jean Pringle
Larry & Kathy Schugart
Seeman Farms
Melanie Uhrich

EEC/Tiny-K Phantom Barn Dance

Flame Engineering

First Step Recycling

Larson Engineering, Inc.

Early Education Center

MaKinna Ann Hope Foundation

Donations

Robert Anderson
Mary Brown
Charles & Marita Elliot
EQ Muffler, Inc.
Marlene Feist
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ICH Trust
J & L Coins & Jewelry
Leon & Wanda Karst
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Knights of Columbus #2970
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Barbara Steiner
Mary Lou Warren

Jocile Hansarik Memorial

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John Kriss Memorial

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Tom Kummer Memorial

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Theodor Popp

Steve & Becky Baggerly
Groth Family Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Haxton
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Jefferson Staff Courtesy Fund
Jennifer Lewallen
C.J. Maneth
Mr. & Mrs. James Meyeres
Albert Parnell
Rev. Dr. Carol Perrott
John & Carolyn Phelan
Larry & JoEllen Schroeder
Larry & Debby Steffan
Don & Cheryl Stegman
Melvin & Mary Waite
I.M. Wilkens
Gina & Brian Woodmansee

5th Annual Charity Gala

20/20 Optix
4 Corners Liquor Store
Adams Brown Beran & Ball
Bob & Vicki Anderson
Jim & Kathi Armatys
Brian & Sara Ballard
BCCC Athletic Department
Kristy & John Balthazor
Chris & Vicki Batchman
Beautiful Beginnings
Becker Tire
K.B. & Tammy Bell
Bell Engine Service
Mike & Diane Bender
Benefit Management Inc.
Don & Sue Bentley
Darrel & Mary Bieker
Barry Bowers
Brown, Isern & Carpenter
Michael & Lisa Burdett
Gary & Anna Burke
Scott & Lynne Bush
Bush Bush & Shanelec
Philip & Kristi Butler
Butterfly Supply, Inc.
Dennis & Dianne Call
Gail Carpenter
Ron & Carol Carr
Central Kansas Orthopedic Group
Casey's General Store
Central Kansas Medical Center
Chlumsky Liquormart
Clarke Well & Equipment, Inc.
Randy & LouAnn Cobb
Terry & Cheryl Conard
Credit Union of America
John & Crystal Cross
D & J's Country Garden
Dirk & Kathy Davis
Dawson Jewelers Designs by Dana Delgado's
Doerrs Ace Hardware
Don's Electric
Joan Dreher
Joe & Glennda Drescher
Drescher Repair & Design
Carol & Bonnie Dudley
E & E Glass
Eagle Radio
Wally & Deanna Eldridge



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

Contributions continued
January 2010 through March 2010

5th Annual Charity Gala (cont.)

Eldridge Fencing
 Ellinwood Packing Plant
 Cathy Estes
 Kayla Estes
 Everything Under the Sun
 Farmers Bank & Trust
 First Bank
 Flame Engineering
 Mary Foley
 French Lily—Collections by Sophia
 Fuller Brush
 G-B Tires
 Jay & Maureen Georg
 Golden Belt Feeders
 Golden Belt Telephone Association
 Great Bend Appliance Furniture &
 Sleepsource
 Great Bend Farm Equipment
 Great Bend Regional Hospital
 Great Bend Tribune
 Great Lakes Airlines
 Randy & Karmi Green
 GTM Sportswear
 Alfred Hammersmith
 Kenneth & Delores Hanhardt
 Mike Heshner
 Highland Hotel & Convention Center
 Janet Hipp
 Patty Hipp
 Jane Isern
 JC Penney
 James & Carole Jecha
 Jim & Judy Johnson
 Bernard & Beth Juno
 Just Fabulous
 Kansas University Bookstore
 Gary & Peggy Kay
 Larry & Patty Keenan
 Marty & Julie Keenan
 John & Jane Kely

Kimple Furniture
 Tom & Debye Kirkhart
 KSNC
 Kustom Floor Designs
 LaCrosse Furniture Co.
 Larned Veterinary Clinic
 LeAnn's Restaurant & Carryout
 Heather Lockhart
 M & F Plumbing
 Esther Maher
 Decky Makings
 Jerry & Linda Marmie
 Maurices
 Devin & Jennifer McMillen
 Medical Park Pharmacy
 Mike's Meat Market
 Mike & Annetta Milhon
 Kelly & Fawnia Miller
 Stan & Marianne Miller
 Millers of Claflin
 Mark & Leslie Mingenback
 Mike Minton
 Mr. P's Truck'N
 Nex-Tech
 Mike Niedens
 Northview Nursery
 Ed & Carol Oborny
 Lacey Oetken
 Ron & Connie Oetken
 Office Products Inc.
 Papa Murphy's
 Dennis & Kathy Pechanec
 Victor Pechanec
 Mike & Lynn Pivonka
 Von & Connie Pounds
 Barney Prosser
 Tammy Pugh
 Gregg & Maggie Reinhardt
 Renue Salon and Spa
 Tony & Judith Reynolds
 Rockin M Radio

Kevin & Tammy Romine
 Duane & Lee Rouser
 Tomi & Tony Rues
 Clark & Donna Rusco
 Ronald & Catherine Sandstrom
 Kenton Sanko
 Alan & Janet Schremmer
 Marvin & Karen Sessler
 Brad & Sarah Shirer
 Perry & Krista Smith
 Soroptimist
 Chris & Julie Spray
 Doris Spray
 Stafford County Flour Mill
 Thad & Kim Starr
 Barbara Steiner
 Tom Stickney
 Terry & Meleesa Stueder
 Bob & Sabrina Suelter
 Nancy Sundahl
 Sunflower Insurance Group
 Jill & Ty Swarts
 Taco Hut
 Travis & Andrea Thompson
 Jim Thurman
 Scott & Debbie Tillotson
 Town & Country Supermarket
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 Walgreens
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 Waters True Value
 Watkins Calcara Chtd.
 Judith Werth
 Whites Garage
 Bruce & Rosa Wilson
 Wolf Furniture
 Joanne & Steve Wondra

