



1521 K-96 Highway, P.O. Box 838, Great Bend, KS 67530
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Supporting over 44 Years of Excellence in Community Services

Summer 2010

Mobile Shredding

Sunflower's First Step Recycling can no longer accept confetti-sized, cross-cut shredded paper because baling equipment isn't designed for it. And even though it still accepts paper shredded in strips, First Step has started a new mobile service to make recycling even more convenient.

Smaller volumes of personal shredding can now be done on-site at a home or business. Crews will shred paper inside the location or in a Sunflower vehicle outside the location. This is convenient for recyclers and provides job opportunities for people served by Sunflower.

Our clients count on us for opportunities to earn a paycheck and be productive members of society. This new service is just one more step in living up to our mission.



Dennis Rouser shreds paper.

Incredible Years Preschool

The first Crackerjack graduates of Incredible Years (IY) Preschool marched to Pomp and Circumstance May 26. Diplomas and perfect-attendance awards were handed out, and a hot-dog meal was served.

The youngsters also sang, and shared

information about what they want to be when they grow up. One said he wants to be a paleontologist and dig for dinosaurs.

IY is only 18 months old and we couldn't be more pleased with its success. The preschool is for typically developing children but parents of children with delays are very comfortable having their children participate. It has successfully met the needs of all children desiring a resourceful preschool.

There will be openings this fall, with the Crackerjacks meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the younger Peanuts on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Some scholarships are available for at-risk children.

The skills of Program Directors Shari Schneider and Jolene Hindman, plus the Itty Bitty Bookworm curriculum have allowed us to exceed expectations. And we know we couldn't succeed without the parents, whose contributions are invaluable.



Front row, left to right: Trenten Vsetecka, Aiden Tracy, Jakeb Cauthon and Brady Jackson

Back row, left to right: Xavier Ehster, Alaunuh Ybarra, Emma Thompson, Samantha Cregger, Emilee Nelson and Travis Schnelle.

Pilot Club

Sunflower clients are now the beneficiaries of the generosity of Great Bend's Pilot Club. The organization has donated two Wii systems with the fitness component.

One Wii is being used in our therapeutic and retirement center at Sunflower's K-96 location. It is a great complement to our existing physical fitness and therapy programs.

Our training coordinator is making good use of the other Wii on behalf of The Lady Leaders. This group of Sunflower individuals meets regularly to develop and carry out plans for improving health and fitness.



Leanda Ditus and Jessi Simonson enjoy bowling on the new Wii system donated by the Great Bend Pilot Club.

Everyone at Sunflower is grateful to the Pilot Club. Its donations are having positive effects every day for the people Sunflower serves.

Lunch and Learn

The goal of Sunflower's Lunch & Learn meetings is to spread the word about our clients to as many people as we can. And we definitely achieved that goal with a special Lunch & Learn in mid-July.

State legislators, who wanted to learn more about our services, toured our manufacturing plant and interacted with about 25 guests, including persons served, family members and staff.

The legislators who attended are Sens. Jay Emler and Ruth Teichman, and Reps. Bill Wolf and Don Hineman. Wolf's opponent in the

upcoming election, Christina Stein, also participated.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to everyone for taking time to learn more about our philosophy of independence, growth and productivity. We hope they share what they learned with family, friends and other lawmakers.



Personal Accomplishments—Trudy

When Trudy moved from her family's home in a very small town to Great Bend, she didn't have many of the skills necessary to keep herself safe in a larger community. She simply hadn't had the opportunity to learn these skills.

At the same time, she wanted to learn more about taking care of a household. Trudy was determined to demonstrate to her family that she is able to live with one roommate in an apartment of their choice.

Trudy has been diligent about learning and has achieved her goal. She recently moved into a new home with her friend, Thelma. She is extremely happy and proud of her accomplishments. And well she should be.

Sunflower's support staff will continue to lend a hand, and Trudy will continue to expand her horizons. We know she can reach any new goals she sets for herself.



Thelma, left, shares kitchen duties with Trudy.

Personal Accomplishments—Keaton

Keaton Wintholz needed the professional and caring guidance of a speech-language therapist and his family came to the right place. Our Early Education Center's Susan Keeler has been sharing her expertise, and Keaton's progress has been tremendous.



Keaton Wintholz proudly displays his art project — a paper-plate fish.

The toddler is enthusiastic and eager to try new activities. He also enjoys the opportunity to be around children his age.

Keaton enrolled in Sunflower's Incredible Years Preschool for the Summer Fun Program, where he interacts with his peers. Susan also provides speech therapy in his home.

Since Keaton will turn 3 at the end of the summer, he no longer will be eligible for the EEC's speech services.

However, everyone at the IY Preschool hopes he will return. Keaton is a wonderful addition to our classroom and field trips.

Foundation Scholarship

Beth Elliott, a May graduate of Great Bend High School, expressed her desire to help children with special needs and the Sunflower Foundation has responded with a \$250 scholarship.

Beth is enrolling in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences and Disorders at the University of Kansas. Her goal is a degree in speech pathology.

The Foundation awards a scholarship each year to a graduating senior who is pursuing an area of study associated with persons with disabilities. This includes special education; speech, physical and occupational therapies; and early-childhood development. The recipient is from Sunflower's five-county service area.

We are so pleased to be a small part of Beth achieving her goals and wish her much success.

Contributions

April 2010 through June 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.

EEC Phantom Party

Terri Bahr
Chris & Vicki Batchman
David Bolz
Lisa & Michael Burdett
Carr Auto-Electric
Leanda Ditus
Frank & Cathy Estes
Roger & Betty Good
Great Bend Children's Clinic
John & Carolyn Haas
William & Joan Harris
Karen Perry-Hayes
Heartland Regional OBGYN, PA
DeeAnn Hench
Ruth Johnson
Margaret Long
Ronald & Bonnie Mink
Ronald & Doris Mink
Ed & Carol Oborny

Lois & Paul Payne
Dennis & Kathy Pechanec
Tammy Romine
Suzanne Sauer
Lindsay Schartz
Larry & Kathy Schugart
Julie Spray
Lori Titsworth
Nadine Waddle

Donations

A & E Enterprises
Robert & Virginia Ballard
Mr. & Mrs. Sal Bianchino
Kathleen Collicott
Creative Touch
Garry Dassow
Charles & Marita Elliot
Elizabeth Evans
Alfred Hammersmith

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Harmony
Heartland Center for Wholistic Health
Duane & Kathleen Kaler
Dr. Kyle & Tasha Krebaum
Harvey & Rosemary Linn
Our Saviour Lutheran Church LC-MS
Dennis & Kathy Pechanec
Amelia Raffelock
Lawrence & Pauline Schneider
Darwin Seifkes
Julie Spray

Memorial Walter Hickle

Randy & LouAnn Cobb

Memorial - Ron Houser

Mary Ann Johnson

Memorial - Paul Neeland

Randy & LouAnn Cobb

Memorial - Martha Oehlert

Randy & Lou Ann Cobb

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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