



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

## Supporting over 46 Years of Excellence in Community Services

*Winter Issue*

### 7th Annual Charity Gala

If you are wondering how you can help with the upcoming Sunflower Charity Gala, there is a long list of options to choose from. Our non-profit agency needs items for the live and silent auctions, sponsorships, cash donations and volunteers.

The Gala is Sunflower's biggest fundraiser of the year; all proceeds go directly to people who need help with services and equipment that tax dollars will not pay for. The seventh annual event is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at the Highland Hotel.

Those who attend can enjoy the putting contest, prime rib dinner with wine on every table and an open bar. There will also be a brief presentation about the people we serve.

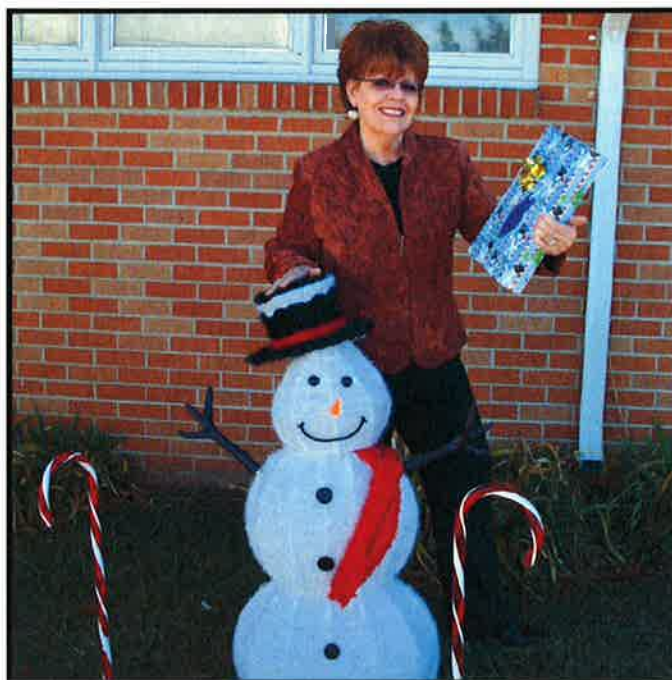
Please mark your calendar and contact Connie Oetken, 620-792-1325, if you have any questions.



*Charity Gala "V.I.P. Table"*

### Christmas Giving Tree

Thanks to Great Bend Coffee and the generous spirit of our supporters, the Christmas Giving Tree event was a huge success. The tree was on display at Great Bend Coffee, 2015 Lakin, for several weeks to benefit children at our Early Education Center and Incredible Years Preschool.



*Cathy Estes displays a gift that was delivered to a child.*

Community residents outdid themselves with the quality and quantity of the beautifully wrapped gifts for struggling families. We even had a few extra that were given to siblings during our deliveries.

We don't take this generosity lightly. On behalf of all the delighted children, our heartfelt gratitude goes to the donors and GB Coffee.

## **Personal Accomplishments—Donnie**

Some people may use a seizure disorder as an excuse to avoid life and be completely dependent on others. Donnie Lewis is not some people.

Donnie shows his determination to succeed every day despite the challenges he faces. He lives as independently as possible and earns his own paycheck at Sunflower's manufacturing plant. In fact, a recent check came to more than \$700. Donnie is constantly setting new goals for himself and maximizes his potential at home and at work.



*Donnie Lewis prepares to work on an Aktion Club bag-stuffing community service project.*

Everything Donnie accomplishes is a testament to what can be achieved when we focus on abilities instead of disabilities.

## **Strategic Plan**

We have all heard the excuses: It can't be done. It will cost too much. People with disabilities will never accomplish that.

At Sunflower, we don't listen to excuses. We do everything we can to find the right avenues to achieving what may seem impossible. And we have a long history of achievements that demon-

strate Sunflower offers the best choices for the people we serve.

Since we know these successes don't just happen, our staff is diligent about looking to the future. Our recent strategic-planning retreat focused on ways to guarantee a productive future for people with disabilities who deserve respect, dignity and control over their lives.

Prospects for the future can seem intimidating but we do not let the negative attitudes get us down. Instead, they make us more determined to discover new roads to independence, even as we face day-to-day challenges.

To keep this foremost in our minds and hearts, we continue to plan strategically to ensure those with disabilities find productivity and peace of mind at home and work, and in the community.

## **Personal Accomplishments—Logan**

When you visit with Logan Wagner it is almost impossible to believe how many obstacles he has overcome. Logan began his life weighing just one pound, 12 ounces. He then spent 118 days in the hospital and underwent many surgeries. Today, at almost age 3, he speaks in sentences, walks, plays and is typically developing in all areas.



*Logan Wagner enjoys playtime.*

His family's love and the support of caring, professional staff have allowed Logan all the opportunities to meet his developmental milestones. The smile on his face is the reason we do what we do.

## Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Jim Johnson, our long-time executive director, is now a new member of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He should be congratulated for serving the community in this way.

The chamber is a good avenue to learning more about how central Kansas can grow and prosper. It also will allow Jim to better share Sunflower's story throughout the community. As he learns more about the comings and goings around town, chamber members will learn more about Sunflower and the people we serve.

It is one of those win-win things.

## Community Service

Sunflower is once again taking the lead in raising money for the popular 4th of July fireworks display in Great Bend. Since this event draws people from around the area, it is a perfect way to spread our message.

By coordinating this fundraising effort, Sunflower can be even more involved in the community.



*2011 Christmas Parade—"Let It Snow"*

This effort is akin to our agency organizing the annual Christmas Parade and Chili Cook-off. These events have proven invaluable in raising awareness about the people we serve, which leads to more community support.

It is always great to see local and area families, along with Great Bend's downtown businesses unite for a common cause.

The fringe benefit is showing our appreciation to those who share their time, talent and money with us throughout the year.



## Radio Show

If our feedback is any indication, many of you listen to our monthly radio show. For those who haven't tuned in, we invite you to do so. We often hear that the show provides new insights into the skills and potential of people with disabilities.

Sunflower's 25-minute broadcast is aired at 11:05 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month on KVGB-AM, 1590.

Our priority is informing the public about Sunflower's unique services, which include crucial early-education programs and independent-living opportunities.

We also observe special months that highlight the lives of the infants, toddlers and adults we serve. For example, April is the Month of the Young Child and October is Disability Awareness Month. Our radio show also is a good venue for sharing statistical information and reinforcing our personal-independence philosophy.

The radio show, monthly Lunch & Learn sessions and regular media releases allow us to demonstrate how tax dollars and charitable gifts are being used. We hope you will take the opportunities to learn about your neighbors with disabilities.

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

## Contributions October 2011 through December 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.

### Sunrise Campaign

Alvie & Melinda Axman  
Clint & Lynn Barger  
Beck Chiropractic  
Karen Becker  
Carr Auction & Real Estate  
Central Kansas Orthopedic Group  
Circle T Oil  
Kathleen Collicott  
Culligan  
Garry Dassow  
EQ Muffler, Inc.  
Elizabeth Evans  
Farmers Bank & Trust  
Farmers Mutual Insurance  
Lloyd & Delores Fundenberger  
Steve & Debbie Giebler  
Roger & Betty Good  
HI-LA Engine, Pump & Supply, Inc.  
John & Carolyn Haas  
Dee Holman  
Hope Lutheran Church Women  
Alice Humphreys  
Normalee Isern  
J&L Coins and Jewelry  
Jensen Associates, Inc.  
Kansas Fishing Tool, Inc.  
Leon & Wanda Karst  
Rita Kurtz  
Tom & Shirley Lytle  
Mark's Custom Signs  
MS & LZ Miner  
Ron & Bonnie Mink  
Keith Mull  
Dennis & Kathy Pechanec  
Dr. Jean Pringle  
Queen Esther Chapter 32  
Rita Schilling  
Lawrence & Pauline Schneider  
Jerry Schnittker  
Bev Simonson  
Doris Spray  
Straub International, Inc.  
Terry & Meleesa Stueder  
Craig & Mary Thurman  
Jim Thurman  
Melanie Urich  
Victory Barber Shop  
Reginald & Wilma Washaliski  
Zelma Wendelburg  
Loren & Phyllis Wright

### 2012 Charity Gala

Chris & Vicki Batchman  
Becker Tire  
Bentley & Associates  
Mr. & Mrs. Sal Bianchino  
Brown, Isern & Carpenter Law Firm  
Central Kansas Orthopedic Group  
Comfort Pro, Inc.  
Terry & Cheryl Conard  
Countryside Veterinary Assoc.  
Creative Touch  
Doonan Peterbilt of Great Bend  
Mark Fesen  
Golden Belt Fire & Safety  
Kenneth & Delores Hanhardt  
Heartland Regional OBGYN, PA  
Janet Hipp  
Marc Huslig, DDS  
James & Carole Jecha  
Rachel Mawhirter  
Mobile Radio Service  
Mr. P's Truck'n, Inc.  
Nex-Tech of Great Bend  
Office Products Incorporated  
Larry & Kathy Schugart  
Sunflower Insurance Group, Inc.  
Jim Thurman

### Invest in Kids

Anonymous  
Bison State Bank  
Sylvia Byers  
Vicki Carvalho  
Esther & Cecil Cromwell  
John & Crystal Cross  
Great Bend Regional Hospital  
Chris & Melissa Hittle  
Dale & Billie Kuhlman  
Ron & Janet Maneth  
Steve & Linda Pringle  
Ernie & Dorothy Ryan  
Chris & Julie Spray  
Steel Builders Construction  
Barbara Steiner  
Bill Wolf

### Restricted—Chili Cookoff

Dr. Jean Pringle

### Restricted—EEC

Kenneth & Delores Hanhardt

### Contributions

Anonymous  
Karma & Steve Byers  
Farmers Bank & Trust  
Thaine & Melvina Francis  
Golden Belt Telephone Assn.  
Jan Hassler  
Hearthland Ctr. For Wholistic Health  
Kiwanis of Great Bend  
Knights of Columbus Council #1187  
Knights of Columbus Council #2630  
Knights of Columbus Council #2970  
Knights of Columbus Council #3273  
Knights of Columbus Council #7737  
MS & LZ Miner  
Vonnie Moore  
Nex-Tech of Great Bend  
Dr. Jean Pringle  
Bill & Yvonne Robbins  
Seeman Farms  
Darwin Seifkes  
Chris & Julie Spray  
William Stoss  
United Way of Central Kansas

### Memorial—Janice Boyd

Katherine George

### Memorial—Chet Crane

Katherine George  
Rose George

### Memorial—Frankie Keffer

Mary Ann Johnson

### Memorial—Arlene Mulford

Connie Galusha  
Katherine George  
Rose George  
Ladeska Makings  
Penny Rhodes  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfons Stiebe  
Glenna Taylor

### Restricted—

#### Food Bank Christmas Baskets

Sunflower Staff  
Don & Sue Bentley  
Glenda Drescher  
Jim & Judy Johnson  
Ladeska Makings

### Restricted—Adult Supports, Special Projects, Trips & Events

Anonymous

### Restricted—Expenses associated with Independent Living

Anonymous





**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information please contact  
Connie Oetken at 792-1325 x111  
coetken@sunflowerdiv.com**