



March 2023 Issue

5611 10th St., Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 792-1325 Fax (620) 792-9119

**WIN THIS CAR!**

**\*NEW\* Trailblazer Activ**

**Drawing March 30, 2023**



# 18th Annual Charity Gala New Date ~ New Location

## 18th Annual Charity Gala

Even though the time of year and the location are changing, the Sunflower Charity Gala promises to offer the 18<sup>th</sup> annual opportunity to support people with special needs.

The Gala is set for Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Columbus Club, 723 Main, Great Bend. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the evening will wrap up at 10 p.m.

"We changed the date from late February because last year our event was the fourth local charity event during that month," said Cody Harris, director of planned giving and community support. "We recognized that people were being overwhelmed by the time they attended our Gala."

"So, we looked for a date that would not have as many conflicting events. We encourage people to mark the date on their calendars now."

The Gala is still several months away but Cody said he would accept items for the silent and live auctions anytime. "I am always looking for donations and am grateful for them whenever they come in."

Cody and his colleagues are brainstorming ideas and hope to line up some type of entertainment for the evening.

## **Pancakes/raffle**

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Sunflower Pancake Feed is set for 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 30 at Prince of Peace Parish Center, 4100 Broadway, Great Bend.

Ticket price for the all-you-can-eat meal is \$8; pancakes, sausage and a drink are included. Dine-in and carry-out are available. Tickets may be purchased in advance by contacting Sunflower, 620-792-1321, or at the door.

DJ Cain will entertain.

The drawing for a new Chevy Trailblazer ACTIV will be held at the pancake feed. The winner does not have to be present at the event.

Cost is \$25 per ticket or five for \$100. They are available at Westside Market, 5523 10th, or [www.sunflowerdiv.com](http://www.sunflowerdiv.com). Only 5,000 tickets are available.

"Every penny we raise stays in the local and area communities that Sunflower serves," Cody said. "Tax dollars do not come close to satisfying all the needs, including medical and dental care, adaptive equipment and more."

## **Early Education Center Playground Project Update**

Sunflower would like to update all current donors and any future donors to the Early Education Center playground project. After many hours of research and planning, the equipment and flooring have been ordered with plans to start construction in July. Thanks again to the "100 People Who Care" and private donors that have contributed to the success of this project for the children at the EEC!

## Daily Living Skills Classes

The new daily-living classes at Sunflower are enhancing the skills and expanding the interests of those who rely on our Day Services programs.

Clients are being introduced, and in some cases re-introduced, to activities that can help them attain even more independence in their day-to-day lives. Some of these sessions were available before the pandemic and are now in full swing again.

For example, cooking classes offer a variety of lessons that are not only practical, but fun too.

"One week we used only a microwave as our cooking equipment and made Rice Krispies treats," said Sarah Stromski, advocacy training and activities manager. "Another time we used the oven and made cranberry pastries. We also decorated cookies to get the feel for different techniques to use in the kitchen.



*Sarah Stromski supports Leon and Brad during a laundry daily-living class.*

"At Christmastime," Sarah added, "gift wrapping was a topic. This is a skill that can be used year-round because our clients enjoy many gift-giving celebrations with family and friends."

Other class subjects have included how to count money, while learning the value of each coin and bill. Laundry lessons and tips also are now on the to-do list.

"We try to tackle something different every week whether in the kitchen, laundry room or elsewhere," Sarah commented. "The individuals we serve enjoy having these options that lead to more independence and self-confidence."

## Personal Accomplishments—Brady

After six months of job training and preparation, Brady Burnham earned a position at Great Western Dining at the Barton Community College kitchen. And he is loving it.

Early on, it became evident that Brady wasn't much for talking with the public. But he and his job coach, Cody Harris, quickly learned that the job doesn't have to entail much public interaction.

"Brady demonstrates to his colleagues the items he needs and they gladly accommodate him," said Cody, Sunflower's director of planned giving and community support. "Brady quickly developed a routine and away he went.

"I have been very pleased to fill this coaching role to help Brady become successful on the job. It is great to watch him grow and be productive."



*Brady Burnham takes care of business at Great Western Dining at Barton Community College.*

The 20-year-old man shows his commitment to the job every day and takes pride in his accomplishments and earning his own paycheck.

"During winter break at the college, Brady couldn't wait to get back to work," Cody noted. "His story is just one example of what can happen when we give people choices and take advantage of the Vocational-Rehab Program."

Brady graduated from Great Bend High School last year and has been in Case Management since 2009. His hobbies include bowling, and spending time with his grandparents and other family members on the farm.

"All of us at Sunflower appreciate his family, as well as Barton Community College for supporting Brady while he searched for and found a good job," Cody commented. "His employment and leisure activities perfectly illustrate the benefits of a productive and rewarding life."

***Thank You  
Jane!***

**Sunflower Diversified Services  
Foundation  
would like to acknowledge  
Jane Isern for her years of service to our  
Board of Directors  
November 2014—October 2022**

## Newsletter Delivery

- ◆ **Do you get more than one copy?**
- ◆ **Does your business contact info need updated?**
- ◆ **Would you like to receive your copy by email?**
- ◆ **Do you know someone missing out on our news?**

**Let us know at  
SDS-Newsletter@sunflowerdiv.com**

## Westside Market ~ The UPS Store Beautiful Minds Art Studio

There is a reason Nohemi Gonzalez wears so many hats in service to Sunflower and the people it serves – there is a lot happening at the Westside Market location, 5523 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

Nohemi is manager of the three Westside ventures that cater to clients and the general public.

One of those is Beautiful Minds Art Studio, where clients get their creative juices flowing. “They love making art,” Nohemi said. “We have some very talented people that do such an amazing job.

“For example, Kaleb makes dragon incense burners and Pokemon characters. You just have to see these pieces, and other creations, to believe it.”

The artists sell their works in the Westside Market portion of the building. Inventory includes clay pieces, paintings and candles. Twenty-five percent of sales is earmarked for studio art supplies and 75 percent goes to the artist.



*Bailey creates a piece of art work at our Beautiful Minds Art Studio; she also works at The UPS Store. Both venues are located in the Westside Market.*

“We also have about 30 Westside Market vendors from the community who work on the same commission,” Nohemi said. “Merchandise includes coins, cartoon magazines and wood pieces. Another vendor has nice items made out of wire and beads. And there is so much more.”

The other Westside Market venture is The UPS Store that serves the entire community and employs Sunflower clients. Its list of services is long but includes printing, binding, laminating, letterhead, business cards, envelopes, greeting cards, signs, postcards and posters.

“We also have notary services, and packing and shipping,” Nohemi noted. “All you have to do is bring your items in; we will pack and ship them for you. We also accept Amazon returns.

“This location provides such wonderful opportunities for Sunflower clients, and local and area residents,” she added. “We encourage everyone to stop by anytime; you may be surprised at all the services we offer.”



## Personal Accomplishments—Erick

Erick began receiving Sunflower Early Education Center (EEC) services when he was just shy of turning 2 years old. At the time, Erick used five baby signs to communicate his wants and needs but didn't use them consistently unless prompted by his parents.

He also said about 10 single words but none were related to a particular food or drink during meals and snack times.

“This meant he had difficulty requesting what he would like to eat and/or drink,” said Alejandra Velez, LMSW. “When Erick had these communication difficulties, he would usually pull his mom or dad to the kitchen to get him food or drink. Or he would stand in the kitchen and whine until mom or dad got him what he needed.

“Erick has now been in early-intervention services for nine months and has made tremendous strides. He uses two- and three-word phrases to request specific items, such as ‘I want juice’ or to tell on his sister by saying ‘Drea did it.’”

Erick enjoys being helpful and follows directions in Spanish and English. While he is initially shy, he is able to overcome that feeling and be quite social. He is learning his numbers and letters by counting and saying the alphabet with his parents.



*Sergio and Karla Martinez spend time sharing a book with their son, Erick, who continues to make progress.*

“He also has started trying to tell them stories about many things,” Alejandra commented. “Unfortunately, these stories come out mainly as jabbering, with only one word being understood. There are still a few things to work on but Erick is making significant progress every day.”

Karla Martinez, Erick's mom, said she appreciates what Sunflower has helped her son accomplish.

“Having Sunflower services in our home has been life-changing,” Karla said. “No one likes to admit their child might need more support than what you as a parent can offer. Erick has made such huge strides toward his speech goals and we cannot wait to see where he ends up as we continue with services.”



WESTSIDE MARKET

Division of Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc.

**SHOP ~ Westside Market**

**SHIP ~ The UPS Store**



## **Join The Club!**

Sunflower Diversified Services "Invest In Kids" Club needs your help.  
'Grant the Giraffe' knows the "Invest In Kids" Club ensures the future of  
infants and children with intellectual and developmental delays.  
All proceeds go to Sunflower Early Education Center and Incredible Years Preschool.  
The children and their families will be grateful.



Please make a donation today!

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thank You

Pledge Amounts—SDS can invoice you!

\$1 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunflower Diversified Services Foundation**  
**5611 10th St.**  
**PO Box 838**  
**Great Bend, KS 67530**

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

**Return Service Requested**

# Employee of the Month Recognition



**November  
Employee of the Month**  
Stephen Patton—Fiscal  
**Runners Up**  
Felicia Gonzalez—EEC  
Frank Gutierrez—HR



**December  
Employee of the Month**  
Sarah Stromski—Training  
Mgr.  
**Runners Up**  
Paula Ingram—GAF  
Larry Harmon—Recycling



Tasha Manring—Not Pictured

Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc.  
January 2023

"EMPLOYEE OF  
THE MONTH"

Awarded to

**Tasha Manring**

In recognition of  
your dedication, passion, and hard work.

Name/Title of Presenter

Date

**January  
Employee of the Month**  
Tasha Manring—Residential  
**Runners Up**  
Jasmin Marley—Medical  
Dan Quillin—EEC

## Contributions

### October 2022 through January 2023

The following individuals and businesses have contributed to the support of Sunflower's programs and special projects. Dollars received by the Foundation are gifted to the Agency 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.

Donations accepted at 5611 10th St., PO Box 838, Great Bend, KS 67530 or online at <https://www.sunflowerdiv.com/support-us> ~ one time gift or monthly gifting option.

#### Contributions

Melinda Axman  
Chris & Vicki Batchman  
Christian Women's Fellowship  
Carole Edwardson  
Charles & Marita Elliot  
Farmers Bank & Trust—Great Bend  
Farmers Bank & Trust—Larned  
Delores Fundenberger  
Mary Johnson  
KD Lodge  
Knights of Columbus—Council 862  
Knights of Columbus—Council 1187  
Knights of Columbus—Council 2630  
Knights of Columbus—Council 2970  
Marjorie Miller  
Mobile Radio Service  
Norbert & Cheri Moeder  
Ann Parker  
Dennis & Kathy Pechanec  
Dr. Jean Pringle  
Queen Esther Chapter 32—  
Order of the Eastern Star  
Roy & Rosemary Robl  
Rita Schilling  
David Tabrizi  
Roy Weber  
Kenneta Zwick

#### Memorial—Karl Schwenneker

Patricia Ballard & family  
Penny Rhodes

#### Memorial—Mike Woodrow

Leigh Ann Swigert

#### Restricted

Chris & Vicki Batchman  
MaKinna Ann Hope Foundation

#### Giving Tuesday @ GBCF

Chris & Vicki Batchman  
Darrel & Mary Bieker  
Barry & Monica Bowers  
Sharon Bowers  
Leonard & Linda Bunselmeyer  
Dennis & Dianne Call  
Dick & Reva Dougherty  
Farmers Bank & Trust  
Don & Patricia Halbower  
Teresa Lahar  
Austin & Bobbi LaViolette  
Clay & Karen Lewis  
Fred & Pat Lohrey  
Butch & Vicki Miller  
Fawnia Miller  
Norbert & Cheri Moeder  
Jean Oelkers  
Virginia Schneider  
Marvin & Karen Sessler

#### Giving Tuesday @ GBCF (continued)

Dennis & Jann Sherman  
Layne Shirk  
Travis & Laura Straub  
Norma Strecker  
Tommy & Shawn Suppes  
TCI Answering Service  
Matthew & Erin Vaupel  
Curtis Wolf

#### Turkey Trot Sponsorship

Barton Community College  
Clara Barton Hospital  
Heartland Taxes  
Krebaum Chiropractic  
The Fieldhouse  
Univ. of Kansas Health Systems

#### Invest In Kids

Jeff & Kathi Barnes  
Scott & Lynne Bush  
Randy Cobb  
Carole Edwardson  
Creative Touch  
Normalee Isern  
Helen Lee  
Rosemary Linn  
Norbert & Cheri Moeder  
Carol Pospishel  
Presbyterian Women  
Joleen Tammen  
Victory Barber Shop  
Marc & Diana Webster  
Sue Wells

#### Sunrise Campaign

Advanced Therapy  
William & Ruth Baalman  
Henry Burmeister  
Mike & Diane Bender  
C & V Home Improvement, Inc.  
Cecil & Leona Cheney  
Clarke Well & Equipment, Inc.  
Kathleen Collicott  
Charles & Marita Elliot  
Delores Fundenberger  
Delores Hanhardt  
HaysMed  
Johnson Electric Motor Winding  
Bill & Vicki Keffer  
Dr. William King  
Richard & Anne Linenberger  
Tom & Shirley Lytle  
Marjorie Miller  
Ann Parker  
Lois Replogle  
Rita Schilling  
Sunflower Electric Power Corp.  
The 10th Street Eyecare Center  
Don & Sharon Urban  
Larry & Jan Westfall

Special thanks to all who have purchased Trailblazer ACTIV raffle tickets!

**Sunflower**  
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, INC.



**BUY TICKETS TO WIN THIS RIDE  
AND HAVE PANCAKES ON THE  
SIDE!**

**\$8 ALL YOU CAN EAT**

**\$25 - 1 TICKET  
\$100 - 5 TICKETS**



**HELP  
US "DRIVE" FOR  
INDEPENDENCE BY  
SUPPORTING THE INDIVIDUALS  
OF SUNFLOWER!!!**



Support the children and adults at Sunflower!  
Purchase raffle tickets at Westside Market,  
[www.sunflowerdiv.com](http://www.sunflowerdiv.com)  
or scan the QR code!

