



**SUNFLOWER**  
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, INC.

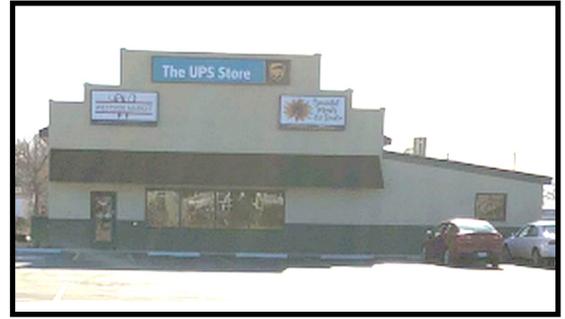
February 2022 Issue

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

## Sunflower Diversified Services Westside Market/UPS Store

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5523 10th St.  
Great Bend, KS 67530



### 17th Annual Charity Gala

Sunflower's Cody Harris and his colleagues have been in the thick of planning our in-person Charity Gala, which is set for 5:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, February 26 at the Great Bend Events Center.

"We are so excited to host our biggest fundraiser of the year in the company of our many supporters," Cody said. "Our online event was successful last year but there is nothing like meeting in person."

Those who want to donate items to the silent and/or live auctions are encouraged to do so soon. Items donated after February 14th may not be listed in the auction program.

Cost is \$100 per person for a fun evening that starts with a social hour and silent auction. Ellsworth Steakhouse will cater the 7 p.m. dinner; the live auction will follow. An open bar is available throughout the event.

Scott Donovan is the emcee and Mike Niedens is the auctioneer. "Scott and Mike are always entertaining, while keeping the crowd engaged," Cody said. "Their commitment to the people Sunflower serves is exceptional."

"We encourage other long-time supporters and newcomers to contribute to this most worthy cause by donating auction items, becoming a sponsor or serving as a volunteer. The infants, toddlers and adults we serve are counting on us."

For more information, contact Cody by calling 620-792-1321.



### Upcoming Retirement

Jon Prescott has been the leader of our Sunflower family for almost five years but retirement is calling. He has been gracious enough to remain at the helm on a three-day-a-week schedule until his replacement is named.



"It has truly been a blessing to serve individuals with disabilities and delays from cradle to retirement," Jon said. "I am so proud to be part of this

one-of-a-kind entity in central Kansas. Our non-profit agency has been providing services for almost 56 years and will continue to do so in the years to come.

"Our staff strives every day to help children and adults reach new levels of skill and independence, while the support we receive from individuals and businesses is remarkable," Jon continued. "Because central Kansans are generous with financial donations and volunteer efforts, we can support individuals every day while finding new ways to enrich their lives."

Long-time services include Sunflower's recycling operation, manufacturing plant, General Public Transportation, and residential and day services. "These programs continue to grow, thanks to staff and local and area residents," Jon said.

But, equally important, are the new additions to Sunflower in recent years. These include Beautiful Minds Art Studio, Westside Market and the popular UPS Store. "We couldn't have tackled any of these projects without staff and our supporters," Jon said.

In addition, Jon is impressed yet again with the Sunflower Board of Directors. "They are being prudent in their search for a quality, heart-driven chief executive officer. The board completely understands the importance of finding a leader who will continue our legacy of support for infants, toddlers and adults far into the future, with no expectation of getting rich."

## Personal Accomplishments—Leon

Leon Ostrander is probably a familiar name to many Sunflower supporters throughout our five-county service area. After all, he has been involved with our non-profit agency for more than three decades.

Leon, 53, began receiving day services in 1991 and case management started the following year.

He lives by himself in a house with staff support for just a few hours each evening. This is his choice and we are happy to accommodate.



*Leon Ostrander, helps a customer at our recycling center.*

Leon divides his working hours between our manufacturing plant and recycling operation. In addition, he is a member of the Aktion Club and actively participates in its projects. He also serves on Sunflower's Behavior Management Committee.

Anyone who spends time with Leon quickly learns that he knows everyone at Sunflower. He is quick with a joke, full of information and displays a huge smile whether at work or at play.

His independent living style and work ethic is a testament to what Sunflower's staff strives for every day.



## Remodeling Project

Sunflower's Community Habilitation Services (CHS) now offered at the 1521 K-96 Highway location will soon move to the main facility, 8823 4<sup>th</sup> Street, near the Great Bend Airport.

"Our goal is to have more of the people we serve under one roof," Executive Director Jon Prescott said. "Not only will this move provide more efficiency, it will also bring clients closer to our Medical Services Department.

"In addition, it will be much more convenient for the people who want to take advantage of the many employment opportunities at the manufacturing plant."

One-fourth of the west side of our 4<sup>th</sup> Street facility is being remodeled at a cost of approximately \$35,000.

Sunflower's K-96 neighbor, First Christian Church, is taking ownership of our building to accommodate their congregations growth. "These improvements are a win-win for everyone involved," Prescott commented.



*Members of the maintenance team, Randy Greathouse and Willie Ayers, work on installing trim in the recently remodeled service area at the manufacturing plant.*

CHS includes physical therapy, hydrotherapy, human-senses therapy, massage therapy, cooking classes, outdoor and retirement activities, and support services. Wellness clinics also are conducted for clients.

"These are vital services to many of the people we serve," Prescott noted. "We look forward to providing all of them in the new location."

### **Email Delivery of Newsletter**

**Our July 2022 issue of the newsletter will be delivered via email.**

**To receive a copy in your inbox email us your address!**

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



## Personal Accomplishments—Conner

Conner Hill had been a little hesitant in expressing his thoughts in a group at our Incredible Years Preschool.

“My, how things have changed,” said Shari Schneider, preschool director. “Conner is now very comfortable and often adds some interesting thoughts to our class discussions. He listens carefully and has a wonderful sense of humor.



*Conner Hill shares his excitement during an activity at Incredible Years Preschool.*

“Conner applies himself at home and school, practicing letter recognition and printing. He is as proud of his many accomplishments as we are.”

Conner is in his second year at Incredible Years and is currently in the pre-kindergarten class. He is a country boy through and through, and loves everything about farming and family.

Early on Conner experienced difficulty in separating from family in the mornings but, over time, he learned that school can be fun too. “Now he arrives each morning with a big smile,” Shari commented.

Conner is friendly with everyone and his peers often follow his lead during playtime. As a result, pretending to be cowboys or bulls is now a daily activity on the playground.

After finishing an activity recently, Conner stated that he is a “genius.” He followed that comment by stating that he also is a genius at taking care of his calf. There is nothing like building self-confidence.

## Employee of the Month

Sunflower Diversified Services has implemented a new “Employee of the Month” program which kicked off in January 2022. Employees and/or persons served may nominate a staff person working in any department for the employee of the month designation by completing a nomination form and submitting it to the Human Resources Director by the 15th of every month. Members of the Sunflower Value Team will

review the nominations and choose the Employee of the Month and two runners-up.

The Employee of the Month will receive a reserved parking space at each of Sunflower’s facilities for the month along with 8 hours of paid time off. Runners-up will be awarded a \$25 Chamber gift certificate. These deserving staff will also be recognized in the Great Bend Tribune, on social media, text/email alerts to all Sunflower staff and this newsletter.

January 2022 tipped off the new program and Sunflower would like to congratulate Ashley Howell, Plant-Day Services Manager, who was nominated by her peers and selected as the inaugural winner. Ashley came to work for Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc. in March of 2020, and was recently promoted to manager of the Plant-Day Services division in July of 2021. Ashley leads her team through often difficult days of staff shortages and ever changing client schedules. She plans ahead, organizes her day, prioritizes her responsibilities, and maintains an unwavering positive attitude through it all. We at Sunflower, appreciate Ashley and ALL of our staff for a job well done.

Runners-up for the January Employee of the Month are Jennifer Wehmeier, Day Services/ERT, and Willie Ayers, Maintenance.



*Jon Prescott presented Ashley Howell with the January 2022 Employee of the Month award at the monthly leadership meeting.*



*Jon Prescott presented Willie Ayers and Jennifer Wehmeier with the Employee of the Month runner-up awards for January 2022.*

## Contributions—October 2021 through December 2021

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.

### Contributions

Mike & Lisa Burdett  
 Karma & Steve Byers  
 Christian Women's Fellowship  
 Carole Edwardson  
 Charles & Marita Elliot  
 Dave & Betty Evers  
 Farmers Bank & Trust—  
 Great Bend  
 Farmers Bank & Trust—Larned  
 Delores Funderberger  
 Hope Lutheran Church Women  
 Dale & Paula Knop  
 Chris & Rose Leiker  
 Fred & Pat Lohrey  
 Tom & Shirley Lytle  
 Marmie Motors, Inc.  
 Marjorie Miller  
 Ann Parker  
 Dennis & Kathy Pechanec  
 Jon & Jodi Prescott  
 Queen Esther Chapter 32  
 Yvonne Robbins  
 Roy & Rosemary Robl  
 Sherry Schminky  
 Layne & Barbara Shirk  
 Joleen Tammen  
 Don & Sharon Urban  
 Roy Weber

### Invest In Kids

BTI—Great Bend  
 Randy Cobb  
 Marilyn Davis  
 Carole Edwardson  
 John & Nancy Francis  
 Neil Frieb  
 Isern & Carpenter Law  
 Helen Lee  
 Rosemary Linn  
 Bill & Yvonne Robbins  
 Victory Barber Shop

### EEC Angel Tree

Jim & Kathi Armatys  
 Todd Armatys  
 Jeff & Kathi Barnes  
 Mark & Cathy Esfeld  
 Daryl & Kelly Henning

### Dialing For Dollar\$

Jim & Kathi Armatys  
 Jeff & Kathi Barnes  
 Chris & Vicki Batchman  
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 C & K Oil, LLC  
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 Clarke Well & Equipment, Inc.  
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 Jimlo Auto Glass, Inc.  
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 Jeff & Katherine Keller  
 Keller Real Estate & Insurance  
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 Mobile Imaging, Inc.  
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 Kyle & Jami Renner  
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 Troy Rohr  
 Rita Schilling  
 Brett Schwartz  
 Seeman Farms  
 Dennis & Jann Sherman  
 Spectrum CPA Partners LLC  
 Linda Steiner  
 Charlotte Stos  
 Tommy & Shawn Suppes  
 Jim & Kathy Vopat  
 Marcia Westhoff

### Sunrise Campaign

Melinda Axman  
 William & Ruth Baalmann  
 Michael & Diane Bender  
 Marlene Carr  
 Creative Touch  
 Dave's Roofing Service  
 Dominican Sisters of Peace  
 Delores Funderberger  
 Katherine George  
 Randall & Molly Hildebrand  
 Mary Johnson  
 KD Lodge  
 Dr. William King  
 Lois Krier  
 Rita Kurtz  
 Jon & Marlene Lange  
 Richard & Anne Linenberger  
 Mac\*Clet Electric  
 Marjorie Miller  
 Ivan & Lisa Milton  
 Edward & Diane Nemnich Trust  
 Ed & Carol Oborny  
 Dennis & Kathy Pechanec  
 Carol Pospishel  
 Lois Replogle  
 Virginia Schneider  
 Marvin & Karen Sessler  
 Layne & Barbara Shirk  
 Sunflower Electric Power Corp  
 Don & Sharon Urban  
 Ricky & Kimberly Warnken  
 Washington Roofing & Insulation

### Memorial—Billy Krom

City of Great Bend  
 Steve & Debbie Giebler  
 Jim & Judy Johnson  
 Nex-Tech, LLC  
 Mike & Donna Petz

### Memorial—Glendora Schmidt

Katherine George

### Restricted—EEC Playgound

Jeff & Kathi Barnes

### Plant Remodeling Campaign

Henry & Amy Burmeister  
 Normalee Isern  
 Bill & Vicki Keffer  
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 Dennis & Kathy Pechanec  
 Dennis & Marla Redburn  
 Chris & July Spray  
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Division of Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc.

5523 10th St., Great Bend, KS 620-796-5326



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 developmental delays. You may donate annually, quarterly or monthly, whatever works best. 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!

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you are cordially invited to attend  
***Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc.***  
***17th Annual Charity Gala***

supporting children and adults with developmental disabilities



Reservations—Feb. 26, 2022 ~ 5:30 to 10pm ~ Great Bend Events Center

Number Attending at \$100 Each: \_\_\_\_\_ (Tables of 8 available)

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

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

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In lieu of attending I would like to: Donate Items  Sponsor/Donate