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Supporting over 50 Years of Excellence in Community Services

Summer Issue

Larned Recycling

When the city of Larned decided an outside entity could more efficiently provide recycling services in town, Sunflower didn't hesitate to assume the responsibility.

Sunflower Recycling will collect materials that are placed in bins at the city-owned building at the east edge of Larned on Highway 56/156. We have a history of expanding our recycling venture and jumped at the chance to accommodate Larned residents.

In the past, at least one city employee was at the building during regular hours of operation. Patrons now will use the self-serve bins at this same location at their convenience.



James Potter, left, and Steven Clarke transfer cardboard from a recycling-collection unit at Larned State Hospital to a truck. Potter and Clarke are Sunflower clients.

Sunflower is eager to add the city to its other Larned recycling sites. These include Larned State Hospital, Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility and the school district. We also serve private businesses in Larned and want to further expand this pick-up service.

While we are pleased to offer this community service, a big priority is creating jobs for people. There is no feeling like the self-satisfaction that comes with a paycheck. The people we serve deserve nothing less.

Incredible Years Preschool

Incredible Years Preschool staff members often hear positive feedback from parents and we wanted to share just a couple of recent examples.

Chrissy Genova said her son, Ethan, was extremely shy when he first came to Incredible Years. Today he is a "whole different kid. He hates it when he has to leave preschool." Chrissy praised the staff for their professionalism and patience, and noted that Ethan is well-prepared for kindergarten in the fall.



Liam Stone, left, and Ethan Genova have some fun while learning at Incredible Years Preschool.

Stacie Stone also described dramatic differences in her son, Liam. "He was extremely impatient and didn't like sharing. His lack of focus was affecting his learning and everything else.... He is interacting with all ages. He is the most friendly, outgoing little guy."

These are just two examples of the many, many comments we hear from parents on a regular basis. This speaks to our commitment to children and their families, and we couldn't be more proud of the preschool staff.

Westside Market

Sunflower's newest venture combines two of its priorities – employment for the people we serve and more opportunities for the community. Westside Market, 5523 10th, hosted a grand opening in April that included free tastings, prizes and a live KHOK radio remote.

Diane Ramos is the manager, and Sunflower clients work in maintenance, inventory, product stocking, cleaning and sales. Sunflower clients will produce items for sale, and outdoor space for a farmer's market is available.



Ronnie Lewis, Sunflower client, stocks earth-friendly products at Westside Market.

The inventory includes products made locally and throughout Kansas such as Yoder statuary; Heartland Farms yarns and other items; handmade soaps; salsa and spreads; frozen beef, pork and chicken; fresh meat sticks and sausages; old-fashioned candy; gourmet food mixes; bird feeders; reusable bottles and recycling bins; specialty pet treats; and Earth-message T-shirts.

Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. We encourage the community to shop for unique products in support of our neighbors with disabilities.

11th Annual Charity Gala

The community showed its support for people with developmental disabilities by raising \$53,000 at our 11th annual Charity Gala.

It's always gratifying to see the extent to which people will go to support their neighbors. Everyone who donated auction items, money, time or talent can be assured all proceeds stay here at home.

We are especially pleased that out of the 175 people who attended, 60 were newcomers. All of us were excited to share Sunflower's history and mission with new friends during this 50th anniversary celebration. And of course, our long-time supporters have our heartfelt gratitude.

Gala proceeds enable us to support infants and toddlers, and adults who want and deserve more independence.

Auctioneer Mike Niedens and Emcee Scott Donovan kept the crowd entertained, and Jane Isern and Gail Carpenter hosted our basketball arcade and Putt N Play. The Great Bend Events Center and Classic Inn also played instrumental roles in the Gala's success.

Everyone involved should be gratified to be directly responsible for supporting people in our communities.



Sunflower supporters raise funds at the Charity Gala.

Autism Team

Our Early Education Center has undertaken a huge initiative to make life better for families. Its new Autism Team promises to be a major building block in support of parents concerned about a child's development.

No one wants to waste valuable time and the Autism Team will allow parents to see a developmental pediatrician within weeks rather than many months.



Autism team members from left to right are McKinley Phillips, Holly Milligan, Chelsea Alexander and Heather Quillin.

Collaboration with the Technical Assistance Support Network Autism & Tertiary Behavior Supports is a phenomenal opportunity for Sunflower and our families. TASN-ATBS is a Kansas Department of Education program working in collaboration with the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Sarah Behrens of TASN-ATBS is lending her expertise and has high praise for our team. "This is a hard-working group that strives to do what is best for families," Sarah said. "They are eager to improve their understanding about children with autism spectrum disorder to help families find support as soon as possible. Their drive to succeed will take them far. This project is like no other in the country. Sunflower is taking the initiative to participate because its staff understands that the earliest intervention possible can make dramatic differences in children's lives."

Sarah's words are much appreciated. It is gratifying to know that an outside expert recognizes we have a professional, compassionate staff.

Sunflower Teamwork

It may have sounded impossible at first but Sunflower team members didn't let that stand in their way. The "impossible" was accomplished.



Service coordinators, Amanda Urban, Sarah Krom and Brandi Demel along with Residential scheduling Jessica Vasquez work together to find appropriate services and living arrangements for the new client. Not pictured, Case Manager Billie Crawshaw.

The situation began when we were informed an 18-year-old man would be released from Larned State Hospital and needed a home within a couple of days – yes, a couple of days.

The man, who had lost his father, had been living with a relative out of our area. There were some issues, and he underwent a psychological evaluation.

Sunflower received the call late on a Friday afternoon; this is when our amazing support team went into action. We found a way for him to move into a residence the following Monday with all the things he needs to be comfortable.

The man is working at our manufacturing plant and enjoying the opportunity to work and earn a paycheck. He also is making friends with his roommate.

Our staff members and clients see unbelievable teamwork first-hand every day. But this exceptional experience demonstrated we will always go the extra mile.

Push Day

Fourteen Sunflower clients and three staff members traveled to Topeka in March for Push Day at the State Capitol where they met with legislative decision makers. This is a great opportunity for lawmakers to meet face-to-face with people directly affected by their votes.



Advocates for people with disabilities from across Kansas gather at Push Day.

Individuals with disabilities also advocated for themselves at a microphone in front of the Push Day crowd. They talked about how important staff members are in their lives and emphasized that action must be taken to help the 3,500 Kansans on a waiting list for services.

Many who attend say it is an experience they will never forget.

A relatively new Sunflower staff member said Push Day allowed him to think more about governmental issues that directly affect how we do our jobs every day.

InterHab, our statewide advocate, sponsors the annual event, and we are always grateful for the opportunity to attend.

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
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 2016 through May 2016

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.

11th Annual Charity Gala

20/20 Optix

Aaron's Sales & Lease

Adams Brown Beran & Ball

Sister Celeste Albers

Alternacare Home Medical Equipment

Anderson Financial

Bob & Vicki Anderson

Jim & Kathi Armatys

Linda Arthington

Assurance Partners, LLC

Aaron Baldwin

Ashley Baldwin

Doug & Leslie Barrett

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Andrea Bauer

Chase Bauer

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Bayless Dry Cleaning

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Beautiful Beginnings

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Kathleen Collicott

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Crawford Supply

Jeff & Billie Crawshaw

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Kathy Daivs

Dawson Jewelers Designs by Dana

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Doerrs Ace Hardware

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Joan Dreher

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Dreschers Jewelry Design

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Eagle Radio

JoAnne Elder

Eldridge Fencing

Ellinwood Packing Plant Inc.

Enslinger Lumber Yard

Farm Bureau Financial Services

Farmers Bank & Trust

Fastenal

Carrie Feist

Saylem Felke

First Bank

Flame Engineering, Inc.

Calvin Fox

Deb Fox-Johnson

Michael & Deborah Freund

Brenda Friess

Fuller Brush

Steve & Debbie Giebler

Golden Belt Telephone Association

Great Bend Appliance Furniture & Sleepsource

Great Bend Community Theater

Great Bend Events Center

Great Bend Farm Equipment

Great Bend Regional Hospital

Jesse & Nicole Grove

Grove Chiropractic & Sports Injury

GTM Sportswear

Kenneth & Delores Hanhardt

Don Hardy

Dr. Stan & Ann Hatesohl

Christina Hayes

Hejny Retail Liquor Store

Shirley Higgins

Dale & Linn Hogg

Matt & Mary Hoisington

Holiday Inn

Holste & Bowers LLC

Bob & Tammy Holt

Home Lumber & Supply Co.

Myron & Catherine Huber

Sister Teresita Huse

Sister Joan Ice

Marilyn Ille

Jane Isern

J & M Georg Inc.

JC Penney

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Bud & Brenda Johnson

Darin Johnson

Jim & Judy Johnson

Mary Johnson

Jim & Pam Jordan

Kathy Kaiser

Kansas Doors & Exteriors Inc.

Kansasland Tire Co.

Karen's Kreations

Kat's Confections

Dr. Bill King

Karla Kirkman

Dr. Richard & Rita Krause

Krebaum Chiropractic LLC

John Kriss

Nick Kruse

LaCrosse Livestock Market

Larned Veterinary Clinic

DeAnn Lewallen

Nels & Karen Lindberg

Sister Judith Lindell

Little Giant Fittings Co. Inc.

LPL Financial Foundation

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Decky Makings

John Makings

Martinelli's Little Italy

Jason & Jayme Mayers

Medical Park Pharmacy

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Kenton & Gerrie Meyer

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Nekoma State Bank

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Alan & Jan Schremmer

Lester Seuser

Karen Shaner

Virginia Shawver

Brad & Sarah Shirer

Brad & Janis Smith

Chris & Julie Spray

Doris Spray

Kim Starr

Steifel Theatre

Straub International

Michaela Stephenson

Taber & Penny Stephenson

Bob & Sabrina Suelter

Nancy Sundahl

Sunflower Bank

Ty & Jill Swarts

Tabler Furniture Inc.

That New Place

The Nekoma State Bank

Contributions—January 2016 through May 2016 (continued)

11th Annual Charity Gala (cont)

Penny Thompson
Travis & Andrea Thompson
Timken Seed Farms, Inc.
Stephanie Titus
To Be Organized
Town & Country Supermarket
Carol Tranbarger
Amanda Urban
Craig & Kim Vink
Kenny & Cindy Vink
Anthony Vondracek
Charles Vondracek
Francis Vondracek
Richard & Rachel Ward
Brent & Lori Waters
Waters True Value
Monty & Kate Weber
Lee & Shannon Wilburn
Eloise Winkelman
Marissa Woodmansee
Sister Joan Wolf
Gene Wondra
Joanne Wondra
Theresa Wondra
Bailey Zink
Chris & Summer Zink

Sunrise Campaign

Bill & Ruth Baalman
Community First Foundation
Dominican Sisters of Peace, Inc.
Calvin & Debbie Finn
Dr. Jean Pringle
Craig & Mary Thurman
Larry & Jan Westfall
Morgan Wright

Contributions

Alternacare Home Medical Equipment
Anderson Financial
Alvie & Melinda Axman
Chris & Vicki Batchman
Dr. Mike & Lisa Burdett
Gary & Anna Burke
Christian Womens Fellowship
Garry Dassow
Joe & Glennnda Drescher
Encompass Financial Services, Inc.
Agnes Finger
Golden Sheaf Chapter No. 226
Great Bend Appliance Furniture & Sleepsource
Ann Haase
Kenneth & Delores Hanhardt
Tom Humburg
Jim & Judy Johnson
JOY Club
John Keltz
Ed & Margaret Kirk Family Endowment
Knights of Columbus #1187
Knights of Columbus #1500
Knights of Columbus #2630
Knights of Columbus #2970
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Dr. Jean Pringle
Tony & Judith Reynolds
Tony & Tomi Rues
Sanko's Auto Service
Curtis & Lila Schartz
Larry & Kathy Schugart
Ron & Barbara Tournear
Roy Weber
Loren & Phyllis Wright

Invest In Kids

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Scott & Lynne Bush
D & S Casing
Mike & Jennie Gordy
Leonard & Brenda Kaiser
Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency
Our Saviour Lutheran Church LC-MS
Lavina Scheuerman
Stoneridge Country Club

Restricted—Early Education Center
Pilot Club

Memorial—Flo Doze

Leslie & Twila Clayton
George Frisbie
Vic & Evelyn Hoffman
City of Hoisington
James Tindall
C. David & Lonetta Wahlgren

Memorial—Debbie George

Katherine George

Memorial—Nedra Sizemore

Bernard & Marilyn Appelhans
Barry & Lynette Bennington
Jean Blazer
Ralph & Debra Daniel
Gerald & Lupe Hudson
Art & Terri Keffer
Allen & Ellen New
Larry & Martha Risley
Jeff & Sandra Taylor
Vernon & Peggy White

Save The Date!

Sunflower Diversified Services Foundation

Have fun eating pancakes and be entertained by



All you can eat
\$5.00 per person



Thursday Sept. 15th 4 PM - 7 PM
Prince of Peace Parish Center (Broadway & McKinley in GB)

All proceeds benefit Sunflower Diversified Services