



Sunflower Diversified Services 21st Annual Pancake Feed

Mark your calendar & purchase tickets for the
**Sunflower Diversified Services
21st Annual Pancake Feed
Thursday, March 21st from 4pm-7pm**



February 2024 Issue

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

Final Fridays

While Sunflower offers numerous options for daytime activities on a regular basis, the staff brainstormed some ideas about scheduling special events now and then.

One of the ideas from this brainstorming is called Final Fridays. On the last Friday of every month, clients and staff participate in gatherings that always have a dedicated theme.

Examples include a karaoke party, tailgate party and an ice cream social. "But one of the favorites so far was our Renaissance Fair," said Sarah Stromski, advocacy training and activities manager. "Our great staff and leadership team came together to make this happen. There was cooperation across the board; everyone was willing to jump in and help."

Renaissance offerings included homemade bread bowls for serving stew, pot roast, cider and individual cherry pies. Music from the Renaissance Era played in the background.

"We also simulated sword fights from the era, which was very popular with everyone," Sarah commented.

Amanda Urban, quality and compliance director, noted that the Final Friday idea arose as a result of COVID. "The pandemic set the tone for this. People got used to staying home. They have always enjoyed options for activities but we wanted to kick-start programs that would allow more people to get up and get moving."

"We have always been innovative but we stepped it up a notch," Amanda continued. "And it is working. For most people, Final Fridays are very attractive."

Staff continues to add to regular daytime options that encourage people to be active. A few examples are bowling, cooking and baking classes, bingo, lunch at a local restaurant and visits from a massage therapist on spa days.

"Sunflower's philosophy remains the same," Amanda emphasized. "We do our best to offer as many choices as we can. This is one way to make a real difference in people's lives."

"Our philosophy guides us in everything we do – whether we're talking about employment, leisure time or community inclusion."



Evan Harders participates in a simulated sword fight during Sunflower's Renaissance Fair.



Staff and individuals served take time to pose for a group picture in front of the themed backdrop during Sunflower's Renaissance Fair.



Personal Accomplishments-Grady

When Grady began receiving services at 26 months of age, he was using fewer than 10 words and would pull his parents to what he wanted because of a significant speech delay and suspected childhood apraxia of speech (CAS). Times have certainly changed.

“Grady’s parents were all in from the beginning,” said Heather Quillin, Sunflower Early Education Center speech/language pathologist. “They took each recommendation and ran with it. Grady made rapid progress and there are no concerns that he may have apraxia.”



Heather Quillin, our speech/language pathologist, spends time with Grady, whose speech problems have significantly improved.

Childhood apraxia of speech is a motor speech disorder in which a child’s brain has difficulty coordinating the complex oral movements needed to create words and phrases. The brain knows what it wants to say but cannot properly plan and sequence the required speech-sound movements.

This may result in inconsistent speech errors when attempting to talk. When Grady turned 3 in November, he was talking in sentences and his parents’ concerns had greatly diminished, Heather reported.

Kacey Beck, Grady’s mom, said her son’s communication skills “have progressed significantly with Heather’s help. Our family is grateful for the guidance and resources provided through these EEC services.”

“Last year we started the process of Grady’s evaluation and I remember feeling so helpless when we thought outpatient speech services were our only option,” Kacey added. “It would have been a huge financial burden and we are forever grateful to Heather and Sunflower.”

Early-intervention services are free.



Grady decorates a cookie.



SHOP ~ Westside Market
SHIP ~ The UPS Store

Division of Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc.

Personal Accomplishments-Jorden

Jorden Meyers has found the perfect ingredients for a full, productive and rewarding life during his almost four years as a Sunflower individual.

“He has blended independent living with work, leisure and community service,” said Tina Harkness, director of Case Management.

“Jorden lives independently in his own apartment with minimal staff support,” Tina commented. “He participates in day services, and loves working on the baler and being part of the crew on recycling pick-up routes. He wants to stay busy and be a valuable part of the Sunflower team.”



Jorden Meyers enjoys his job in Sunflower’s recycling operation.

In his free time, he is active at The Center for Counseling & Consultation where he collaborates with peer groups.

“Jorden participates in counseling groups with peers who advocate for one another,” Tina said. “In addition, he attends cooking classes and belongs to a community-involvement group.”

During the evenings, Jorden enjoys hanging out with friends; he also is eager for summertime to roll around so he can take a dip in the swimming pool.

“And to top it off,” Tina remarked, “Jorden has a great sense of humor and is willing to help his friends and co-workers whenever he can. This well-rounded life is the perfect example of Sunflower making a difference.”

Sunflower Diversified Services
21st Annual Pancake Feed

**THURSDAY
MARCH 21
4 P.M. TO 7 P.M.**

**PRINCE OF PEACE PARISH CENTER
4100 BROADWAY**

ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!



PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, & DRINK

\$8 A PERSON

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY:
DJ CAIN

Employment Opportunities

Sunflower offers a wide variety of employment opportunities to individuals, and with the community's help, we can offer even more.

"Many of the people we serve are involved in each aspect of our recycling operation and when we secure more contracts, new opportunities open up," said Mandy Grizzell, director of Production and Recycling. "Individuals enjoy the rewards of earning a paycheck and being productive as they sort, bale and clean the recycling center."

Recycling duties keep people hopping on the 122 routes for pick-up and the five contracts for trailers that are delivered to Sunflower for unloading. In addition, eleven confidential-shredding contracts are in place.

"These are great jobs and people look forward to having employment be part of their regular routine," Mandy commented.

Manufacturing-plant contracts also result in attractive job opportunities. "For example," Mandy noted, "we have much-appreciated contracts with Flame Engineering and Redbarn. Plant employees also lend a helping hand to the recycling operation, in addition to performing tasks such as assembly and packaging."



Sunflower individuals tidy up in their recycling operation.

"Those who contract with Sunflower are impressed with our customer service," Mandy added. "Recycling-route customers enjoy meeting our amazing drivers and crews, while people who bring their materials to us see first-hand the individuals' commitment to their work."

Anyone interested in learning more about being a partner with

Sunflower is strongly encouraged to contact Mandy by calling 620-792-1321.

General Public Transportation

A 2023 Diamond van is the newest addition to the General Public Transportation (GPT) fleet, and three other vehicles are on order.

"We appreciate having a current fleet of eight vehicles that offer a lifeline to Sunflower individuals, as well as anyone from the general public," said Christina Jimenez, director of Transportation. "We are here for everyone."

"Our buses and vans will get you where you need to go – whether it's to work, the grocery store or a medical appointment. Maybe you just need a ride to the home of a family member or friend. We'll be there when you need a lift."

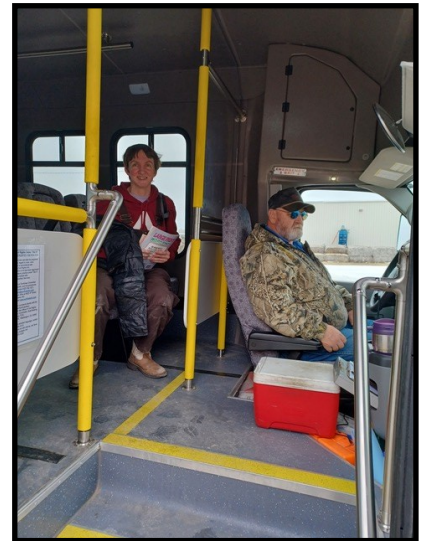
Last year, GPT traveled 280,909 miles, which indicates many people are using this valuable service. "But we can accommodate more. We encourage members of the general public to consider this great service," Christina emphasized.

A passenger who needs a ride out of town should put in a request 24 hours in advance. "If your destination is in town, you can call the same day, even though it is better with the 24-hour notice. This helps ensure that we are available when you need us."

Hours of operation are 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays; Saturday and Sunday hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To make a reservation, call 620-792-7797.



Audrey Koester, Sunflower individual, takes advantage of the General Public Transportation service. The driver, George Lewis, transports people to various destinations.



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**

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

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Return Service Requested

Contributions ~ August 2023 through December 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.

Charity Gala

10th Street Liquor Stop LLC
A440 Musical Instruments
AA Fishing Tool
Alli Adams
Alternacare
American Plains Coop
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Freedom Claims Management
Jacob & Tessa Fryberger
Larry & Nancy Gale
Gidget's Dazzle Dog Spa, LLC

Charity Gala Cont.

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Golden Belt Bicycle Co.
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Patty Grauer
Great Bend Appliance Center
Great Bend Coffee
Great Bend Dairy Queen
Great Bend Public Library
Great Bend Recreation
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GTR Limousine & Party Bus
Services
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Gidget Hagans
Todd Hamby
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Gary & Linda Harkness
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The Buckle
The Farmhouse
The Historic Wolf Hotel
The Sugar Leopard
Dillon & Addie Thompson
Travis & Andrea Thompson
Toe Tags LLC
Topgolf
Town & Country Super Market
James & Cindy Trombley
TruStage
Turkey Knob Farm
Kirk & Amanda Urban
Urban Air Adventure Park

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Richard & Rachael Ward
Ricky & Kimberly Warnken
Taylor & Chelsea Warnken
Waters Hardware
Jill Weber
Jamie Welch
Wichita Thunder
Carey & Juanita Wilken
Theresa Wondra
Brian & Sheri Yager
Yeraldi's Boutique
Rocky & Cindy Zecha
Juan & Shelby Zuniga

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Dennis & Kathy Pechanec
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Larry & Kathy Schugart
Stueder Contractors, Inc.
The Golden Sheaf Chapter #226
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Giving Tuesday

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Tommy & Shawn Suppes
Susan Thacker
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Marcia Westhoff
Curtis Wolf

Invest In Kids

Jim & Kathi Armatys
Catalyst Therapy & Sports Rehab
Randy Cobb
Carole Edwardson
Glenda Gaunt
Normalee Isern

Contributions ~ August 2023 through December 2023 Continued

Invest in Kids Cont.

Keller Real Estate & Insurance
Helen Lee
Rosemary Linn
Norbert & Cheri Moeder
Pilot Club of Great Bend
Carol Pospishel
Lois Replogle

Sunrise Campaign

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William & Ruth Baalman
Henry & Carolyn Burmeister
C & V Home Improvement, Inc.
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Turkey Trot

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Clara Barton Hospital
Double D Ranch
Edward Jones-Kris Sundahl
Heartland Taxes
Krebaum Chiropractic LLC
Marketing Maven Consulting LLC
Turkey Trot Cont.

NKD Services
The Fieldhouse
Tire Dealer Warehouse
Juan & Shelby Zuniga



**Thank you for
your continued
support!**

Employee of the Month Recognition

August 2023

Employee of the Month
Jennifer Wehmeier
Runners Up
Emma Kelly
Todd Becker



September 2023

Employee of the Month
Sofia LaRocque
Runners Up
Alli Adams
John Lichter



October 2023

Employee of the Month
Lisa Sterba
Runners Up
Carol VanDegrift
Chet Nienke



November 2023

Employee of the Month
Tina Harkness
Runners Up
Jade Wissing
Monic Guierrez



December 2023

Employee of the Month
Andrew Rincon
Runners Up
Margaret Flint
Amanda Moore

