



October 2019 Issue

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1521 K-96 Hwy., Great Bend, KS 67530
(620) 792-1325 Fax (620) 792-9119

Dialing For Dollar\$

Sunflower supporters are asked to be ready for a special phone call or text between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30.

During this 6th annual Dialing for Dollar\$ event, they should expect to hear from Sunflower staff, or a member of our board of directors or board of trustees, requesting a donation to our Invest in Kids Club.

All proceeds from this crucial fundraiser directly support Early Education Center infants and toddlers, as well as students at our Incredible Years Preschool.

Our professional therapists and teachers make life-changing differences in families' lives every day. They help alleviate or overcome developmental problems, which means many children may not need expensive special education later.



While this year's Invest in Kids goal is \$39,000, we hope to collect at least \$25,000 of that during Dialing for Dollar\$. Last year the event raised \$21,493.38. Donations raised during our Charity Gala and Krispy Kreme fundraisers also are earmarked for Invest in Kids.

Scott Donovan of Eagle Radio will host two live remotes this year; Nex-Tech Wireless also helps with this event.

The needs for our infant/toddler programs continue to increase and we trust that friends of Sunflower will be generous again this year. Our families are counting on us.

Sunflower Diversified Services Pancake Feed

Thanks to the central Kansas community, staff and volunteers, the recent pancake dinner and raffle raised \$4,000 in net profit. Equally important, the popularity of this 19th annual event enhances the awareness of our many services and programs for infants, toddlers and adults.

We served 532 guests at the dinner with the help of Prince of Peace Parish, Scott Donovan, DJ Cain, Chris Cakes and many other friends of Sunflower.

Our gratitude also goes to volunteers Brad and Sarah Shirer who once again sponsored the raffle. Winners were Renee Heaton, Nolan Taton, Emily Schroeder, Gene Wondra, Will Keffer, Jennifer Schartz, Barry Bowers and Wally Eldridge.

Prizes included gift cards for local restaurants and other businesses. We couldn't do this without the support of our sponsors in the business community.

All proceeds are used directly for the benefit of the children and adults we serve every day. We cannot thank our supporters enough.



Sunshine Norris & Alex Juarez enjoy the entertainment and the pancakes at the 19th Annual Sunflower Diversified Services Pancake Feed.

Personal Accomplishments—Jessica

Jessica Beal's to-do list paints a picture of a rewarding and productive life, with a wonderful balance of leisure and work.

Jessica, who has been with Sunflower for about three years, lives with one roommate in a house of their own. She pitches in with menu planning and meal preparation, and enjoys shopping for groceries.

When she is not dealing with daily household chores, Jessica attends community activities with her boyfriend and likes to hang out with her peers.

But she also knows the importance of earning her own paycheck. Jessica works at our manufacturing plant and helps clean the dining area. She also has a knack for a variety of recycling-operation jobs. These include sorting, baling and traveling on the business recycling pick-up routes.



Jessica Beal tidies up in the dining area.

Jessica also is known around Sunflower for her outgoing and caring personality. She always has a beaming smile for her friends and staff.

Jessica demonstrates every day that clients can excel because of their abilities and the support of our professional, compassionate staff.

Stafford Event

Since the mayor of Stafford wanted to help raise awareness about Sunflower, she extended an invitation. Mayor Julie Lyon invited Sunflower clients and staff to the Stafford Community Free Swim and Hot Dog Feed.

"I wanted the people of Stafford to be more aware of the services Sunflower provides," Julie said. "It is a great organization that benefits Stafford and the surrounding area. By interacting with clients and staff, our community can build and maintain a strong relationship with Sunflower. It was nice to have the leaders of the agency meet local residents, and cook and serve the meal."

Julie also noted other recent collaborations with Sunflower. These include: Community Leader Luncheon in Stafford; addition of a confidential paper-shredding box in the local library; discussions about further recycling improvements; and a weekly General Public Transportation route for Stafford.

"We are thankful for all Sunflower does," Julie said. "I look forward to working with them in future endeavors."

Sunflower representatives were happy to attend this great event and give back to a community that supports what we do. We are grateful to Julie.



The city of Stafford and Sunflower hosted the Stafford Community Free Swim and Hot Dog Feed. Approximately 70 people attended.

Personal Accomplishments—John

Since the only words 19-month-old John Beugelsdijk was using were "mama" and "dada," his mom, Jaimee, referred him to our Early Education Center (EEC). John was babbling a little and seemed to understand others but he was not picking up on expressive language skills.



Jaimee and her son, John, use sign language to communicate

The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers screening was conducted and John scored in the high-risk category for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Our EEC autism diagnostic team completed the assessment and referred John to Dr. Valarie Kerschen at KU Pediatrics in Wichita. He received a diagnosis of ASD in June this year.

Since then Jaimee has been working on OASIS parent training through KU with the assistance of Alyson Burkhart, EEC early childhood special education teacher and autism specialist.

John has made considerable gains in his ability to communicate with sign language by using several signs consistently. He also is interacting more with his siblings.

In addition, John can identify many pictures and is beginning to follow one-step directions. He is expected to make gains in all developmental areas.

John's progress is the perfect example of what can be accomplished with Sunflower professionals and a loving family working as a team.

Featured Employee—Jaimie

Jaimie Stevenson wanted to work for an agency that helps people and she got her wish. She has been with Sunflower only three years and already has excelled to the point that she is our featured employee of the quarter.

As a Human Resources specialist, Jaimie manages applications, backgrounds and pre-employment paperwork, while teaching new employees about everything from benefits to raises to the time-keeping system.

"I track everything that flows through Human Resources and manage our HR database," Jaimie said. "I also guide new people on tours of all Sunflower facilities. I keep pretty busy but I thoroughly enjoy helping our staff. They are dedicated to the people we serve and I am happy to answer their HR questions."

Jaimie recommends Sunflower as "a great place to work. There is opportunity for personal growth and skill development. It is more than a job; it is a career."

Vicki Keffer, director of HR, said Jaimie is the glue that holds the department together. "If there was a poster child for multi-tasking, Jaimie would be it," Vicki commented. "She keeps multiple projects rolling along and keeps us all organized.

"Jaimie coordinates applicant interviews effortlessly, while handling all her other tasks. She has an amazing desire to support Sunflower employees as they support clients. I am fortunate to have her working side-by-side with me on the HR team."



Jaimie Stevenson, Human Resources specialist, is Sunflower's featured employee of the quarter.

Community Involvement

During the last couple of years, Sunflower has been even more involved in community events as a way of expressing gratitude to our supporters.

Four recent examples come to mind: Party in the Park, Business Showcase, Women's Expo and Stafford Community Free Swim and Hot Dog Feed.

Participation in these and many other community events throughout the year is our way of giving back to the five counties we serve. Residents of Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford have demonstrated their support for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and delays in many ways over the years.

Central Kansans are known for being gracious and generous in sharing their time, money and talent. We couldn't be more grateful.

And just as important, when the people we serve attend these events they realize the broad scope of support that comes from our local communities. They love being welcomed with open arms and interacting with their neighbors.

All of us thoroughly enjoy spreading the word about Sunflower's philosophy of independence and lifestyle options.

Personal Accomplishments—Cody

Cody Day is a testament to Sunflower's philosophy of independent living. He resides in an apartment by himself and enjoys working at his jobs, performing household duties and pursuing his hobbies.



Cody Day stacks chairs in the Sunflower dining area.

In our recycling operation, we count on Cody to sort and bale recyclables; he also pitches in on our pick-up routes.

Some of Cody's household duties line up nicely with his hobbies. For example, he is quite talented at gardening and likes to grill food and cook from scratch. Cody also goes to the farmer's market when he needs fresh produce.

Leisure-time activities include playing video games, fishing and just savoring the great outdoors. Cody also shares his time with the community by participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Rush Center and the Christmas Parade in Great Bend.

Cody has been with Sunflower for about four years.

His schedule demonstrates how rewarding life can be for the people Sunflower serves. Cody's positive outlook on life and our programs are a great combination.

Krispy Kreme

Sunflower supporters raised \$2,200 in net profit for our Invest in Kids Club when they purchased 400 dozen Krispy Kreme donuts recently.



Krispy Kreme van loaded with 400 dozen donuts.

All proceeds go to our Early Education Center and Incredible Years Preschool.

Invest in Kids is critical to many families in our five-county area. The early intervention and educational services we provide every day enhance the lives of children and their families.

This is our third Krispy Kreme fundraiser and we are planning the fourth for next spring. So far, we have sold 19,200 of the original glazed donuts and hope that number continues to grow.

Our sincere gratitude goes to everyone who participated in any way.

Personal Accomplishments—Scottlyn

Scottlyn Knoche's life began with a few medical difficulties, such as laryngomalacia, which caused her to not get as much air as she needed. Her vocal folds wouldn't always open fully, causing noisy breathing.

She has undergone surgeries in the attempt to correct these issues.

When Scottlyn began receiving early intervention services from Sunflower Early Education Center (EEC) in April 2018 at age 16 months, she said "dada" inconsistently and occasionally repeated words she heard others say.

Even though Scottlyn started walking at 11 months, she continued to appear to be a new walker with her arms held high. She also frequently fell, primarily to the left.

Scottlyn is now walking very well inside and outside without losing her balance. She also uses a variety of words in short phrases and sentences to interact with others so that her needs are satisfied.

She is sometimes difficult to understand but this situation improves weekly. Scottlyn has learned to repeat what she is trying to say when others don't understand right away.

Our EEC staff knows Scottlyn will continue to thrive. Her devoted family and our compassionate professionals make a great team.



Scottlyn Knoche and Kylie Moritz, Sunflower speech/language pathologist, enjoy a little play time.

CALENDAR

Oct 2— pick up Krispy Kreme donuts

Oct 4— SDS and Barton County Health Dept. flu clinic

Oct 5— SDS participating in Stafford Oktoberfest

Oct 9— SDS radio show airs on KVGB 1590 AM and 97.7 FM

Oct 10— SDS hosts Hoisington Chamber Coffee

Oct 16— Disability Mentoring Day, 10 to 3 at GB Events Center

Oct 26— SDS at Zoo Boo

Oct 30— 6th annual Dialing for Dollar\$

Nov 7— KFC fundraiser all day

Nov 13— SDS radio show airs on KVGB 1590 AM and 97.7 FM

Nov 16— SDS Larned Theater Night

Nov 27 to Nov 29— EEC closed

Nov 27— Thanksgiving celebration at the plant and CHS

Nov 30— SDS in Holiday Parade

December — SDS participating in Trail of Lights

Dec 11— SDS radio show airs on KVGB 1590 AM and 97.7 FM

Dec 23 to Jan 2— EEC closed

Dec 24— afternoon Christmas social at the SDS plant

Please call 620-792-1325 for more details on any of these events.



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KFC FUNDRAISING

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BENEFITING

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WHEN: Thur, Nov 7th - Open to Close

WHERE: Great Bend KFC
2917 West 10th St (620) 793-8226

HOW: Redeem this flyer with your purchase & 20% will benefit Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc.! \$10 minimum sub-total purchase. Good on carryout and dine-in orders.

*The printed/digital flyer must be redeemed with purchase to count towards fundraiser earnings. Distribution of flyers at KFC location is prohibited.

KFCGIVESBACK.COM



Contributions—July through September 2019

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.

Contributions

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd.
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Bauer, Pike, Bauer,
Wary & Carroll, LLC
Beck Chiropractic
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Dialing for Dollar\$

Nex-Tech LLC

Invest In Kids

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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.



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\$ _____ Thank You

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