

Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc. Business Office Case Management Office



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Knights of Columbus Donation

When the Great Bend Knights of Columbus (K of C) donated more than \$3,200 to Sunflower, the timing was perfect. Our Early Education Center (EEC) needed new equipment for infant and toddler hearing tests and the donation allowed us to order it.

"The timing of our donation is something we are very pleased with," said Dennis Redburn, Great Bend K of C Grand Knight. "We are happy to help in whatever way we can."

The K of C is grateful to everyone who contributed to its recent Tootsie Roll Campaign; they are responsible for the \$3,261.86 donation. Wal-Mart, Dillons and Waters Hardware, as well as St. Patrick and St. Rose churches also accommodated the campaign.

We are so blessed by the community's generosity.

The cost of the Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) screening unit and printer is \$4,725.



Dennis Redburn, left, presents Jon Prescott with a donation from the Great Bend Knights of Columbus. Redburn is Grand Knight of the local K of C and Prescott is our chief executive officer.

As part of community screenings and evaluations of children in the EEC's tiny-k program, hearing and vision screenings are conducted. The OAE machine, which is often part of a newborn's screening, is one of the instruments used to determine how the inner ear is working.

Another instrument is used to look in the ear and yet another to see if there is fluid behind the middle ear.

When a child faces an unidentified hearing loss, it can greatly impact all areas of development, including communication and learning. Therefore, it is critical to identify a hearing loss early. We support families with services to help children reach developmental milestones.

For more information, visit www.soundbeginnings.org/families.htm.

16th Annual Charity Gala

Even though our traditional Charity Gala had to be canceled, a virtual substitute has been scheduled. The all-day event is set for Saturday, April 24, featuring silent and live auctions. The silent version will run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; the live auction from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

We continue to solicit items for both.

We are disappointed we had to cancel our 16th annual banquet. But the need to seek financial help for people with special needs can never be canceled.

Sunflower supporters are encouraged to order a To-Go Party Pack; the deadline is Friday, April 9. A donation of \$100 is required.

The Party Pack includes one large Take 'N' Bake Papa Murphy's Pizza; two 32-ounce Crowlers from Dry Lake Brewing; and two commemorative pint glasses, with chocolates.

The packs may be picked up from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 24 at 5605 10th, the former Pro-Tint location. You do not need a Party Pack to participate in the auctions. Everyone is welcome to bid.

We are referring to this event as Home Sweet Gala. You can support people with special needs at home or gather with family and friends. Please be comfortable and keep the bidding going.



Cody Harris arranges items for our Charity Gala auctions.

The Gala offers opportunities to donate funds specifically to Sunflower's Invest in Kids Club and Beautiful Minds Art Studio.

Live auction items include a Smith & Wesson doubleaction revolver manufactured between 1895 and 1909; a Napoleon TravelQ Series grill; and a signed University of Kansas basketball. Silent-auction categories include toys, household décor items, artwork and gift cards to local businesses.

DONATE ~ REGISTER ~ Get a "SNEAK-PEEK"

www.sunflowerdiv.com/home-sweet-gala

QUESTIONS? Contact Cody Harris ~ 620-792-1321

Personal Accomplishments—Cory

Cory Ruark's schedule is the perfect illustration of how a Sunflower individual is given all the resources necessary to lead a fulfilling and productive life.



Cory Ruark spends part of his work day collecting recyclables on our business pick-up route.

Cory, 37, is a huge help on our recycling route through towns in our five-county service area. But he doesn't stop there. Cory also works in the baling area of our recycling operation.

Again, he doesn't stop. Cory recently began working at the drop-off site a couple of evenings each week.

His home life is just as busy and rewarding. For example, Cory takes great pride in keeping his home clean and the lawn trimmed. He also is learning to cook more meals with a helping hand from our staff.

Cory realizes it is important to enjoy a little down time after working and performing a few household tasks. Therefore, he takes time to play games and watch his favorite TV shows with the company of his one roommate.

Since 2016, Cory has collaborated with staff in targeted case management, and day and residential services.

This teamwork between client and staff demonstrates the perfect balance of employment, basic chores around the house and just kicking back for a little relaxation.

Featured Department

Brandy Loomis, RN, is quick to note that efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 during 2020 and into this year have been a textbook case in teamwork.

As director of medical services, Brandy and her team work hand-in-hand with other Sunflower departments to tackle these new challenges.

"We all work closely together to protect clients and staff," Brandy said. "Those of us in medical services truly appreciate everyone in employment, day and residential services, as well as human resources, transportation and our recycling operation.

"Everyone came together to determine what needed to be done to protect all of us, which entailed a lot of out-of-the-box brainstorming. It has not been easy for anyone. The individuals we support have done a phenomenal job, even though their lives are affected in many ways. I am extremely proud of the efforts made to maintain health and safety in these trying times."

In addition to Brandy, the medical staff includes: Sonny Falck, medical operations manager; Jaclyn Smith and Theresa

Habiger, medical support assistants; and Diana Dove Long, certified medication aide.

Brandy compiled several examples of actions taken during the pandemic to protect clients and staff. They include:

- Modifying employment and training schedules to maintain social distancing;
- Relying on telemedicine appointments when appropriate;
- Scheduling Zoom and phone conferences for staff meetings;
- Mandating masks and temperature checks at the door;
- Limiting the number of visitors to Sunflower locations;
- Providing personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, shields and gloves;
- Tracking and ordering PPE, and reporting information to Barton County Emergency Management and Barton County Health Department weekly;
- Following all county and state guarantine guidelines;
- Ensuring individuals are tested when appropriate;
- Ensuring those who test positive receive the proper medical support quickly; and
- Collaborating with health departments and Heart of Kansas Family Health Care regarding vaccinations.



Brandy Loomis, RN, standing, director of medical services, collaborates with Tina Jackson, a client at Sunflower, as they prepare for Tina's telemedicine appointment.

Personal Accomplishments—Danasia

When Danasia started receiving early intervention services at Sunflower in June of 2019, she had limited communication skills, using only a few sounds and words. And she wasn't initiating or maintaining social interactions.

She was 20 months old at the time.

In February last year, Danasia received a diagnosis of autism. She began our Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy in July and began attending Helping Hands Preschool the following month.

Sunflower offers ABA for children with a medical diagnosis of autism up to age 5.

Danasia, who will turn 4 in September, is now using signs and some words to communicate. She also is imitating sounds and actions, initiating social interactions with peers and adults, and matching colors, shapes and pictures.

When she first came to ABA therapy, Danasia would often cry and/or fall asleep. Now she is happy to participate in the program and we are extremely pleased with her progress.

We are so thankful that we can offer ABA to families. The onsite therapy can make a huge difference in a child's life, which leads to a much brighter future.



Danasia is learning new information with the help of Allison Schwartz, intensive individual support provider in our ABA therapy program.

Personal Accomplishments—Bailey

Like many clients at Sunflower, Bailey Foster shares her abilities in a couple of our operations that provide employment opportunities.

Bailey works at The UPS Store, a division of Sunflower, a few afternoons a week and devotes her morning hours to our Recycling Center. She and her peers appreciate the many employment options available to them.

When leisure time rolls around, Bailey loves to spend time with family and friends.

Bailey's varied interests include swimming and taking walks with friends. The 23-year-old woman also enjoys target shooting with her dad and has



Bailey Foster labels a package at The UPS Store, a division of Sunflower. It is located in the Westside Market Building, 5523 10th.

participated in competitions. In addition, Bailey has taken dance classes.

She lives independently in the community with her sister and has received Sunflower Day Services since 2018. She has a contagious smile and is always willing to pitch in when someone needs a helping hand.

Bailey's work schedule, leisure activities and community involvement illustrate a high level of independence. We are eager to support Bailey as she continues to make great strides at work and home, while leading a rewarding and productive life.

Personal Accomplishments—Lesslie

Lesslie's vocabulary was limited to about 25 words when she came to us at age 2 for early intervention services. She spoke using simple words but Lesslie's parents still had to guess at what she was saying.

The family also was concerned with Lesslie's social skills because she didn't warm up to her peers, especially if they weren't playing as she wanted them to play.

Early Education Center tiny-k services resulted in dramatic changes. Lesslie's social and communication skills grew exponentially during the year she received services. She now uses phrases with several words when playing, talking with her family or requesting food.

Lesslie interacts with other children and loves to run and play at daycare.

Alejandra Velez, Lesslie's primary provider and social worker, collaborated with the family consistently. The toddler's mom,



Lesslie, who made great strides in our early intervention program, interacts with her mom, Rufina Castaneda

Rufina Castaneda, said our staff consists of "excellent people. They helped me a lot with Lesslie to improve her speech and find ways to interact with my daughter who was very hyperactive.

"They also assisted with Lesslie's pacifier use and taught me new skills so I can be an even better mother. There are so many things they helped us with; the list could go on and on. We are so thankful."

Lesslie has turned 3 and aged out of our services.

Alejandra and the rest of our early intervention team know the importance of collaborating with families. Lesslie's progress illustrates where this teamwork can lead.



Contributions—January through March 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

Beck Chiropractic Megan Bray Ty & Courtney Brunswig Charlie's Place Brent Clarke Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate Jim Daily

Linda Dougherty Eldridge Fencing Jodi & Rebecca Henrikson Kevin & Lori Keller

Karen Kramp

Ed & Margaret Kirk Family Endowment Knights of Columbus #2630 Ladies Auxiliary VFW #7271 Bill & Angela Maddy Marjorie Miller Oilfield Mfgs. Whse, Inc. Ann Parker Dennis & Kathy Pechanec Cheryl Pickle Todd & Tresa Rohr Larry & Kathy Schugart

Karen Shaner The Golden Sheaf Chapter #226 Of the Order of the Eastern Star The Univ. of Kansas Hospital Authority

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Restricted—Early Education Center

Knights of Columbus #862 Van Wyk, Inc.

16th Annual Charity Gala

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Invest In Kids Randy Cobb

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Sunflower Outstanding Performance Award

Audrey Koester was honored recently with an Outstanding Performance Award for her work ethic while shredding confidential documents for Sunflower Recycling. But her contributions to our operation don't stop there.

"Audrey always goes above and beyond," said Shawn Bates, director of production. "She will take on any task. Audrey loves a challenge and faces it head-on. She flourishes when she has the opportunity to perform at a high level."

The 34-year-old woman works at our CHS location, 1521 K-96, where a confidential-shredding machine is at her fingertips. She also has worked at the recycling drop-off site and manufacturing plant.

In addition, Audrey travels on our pick-up route to collect recyclables at businesses in central Kansas. She is very versatile.

Audrey is a 2008 graduate of Great Bend High School. She lived with her parents, Duane and Janet Koester of Hoisington, for a few years after graduation; she then chose to move into a Great Bend home with three roommates.



Audrey Koester earned the Sunflower Outstanding Performance Award for her diligence in shredding paper that is gathered in large bags.

Jodee Demel, CHS manager, pointed out that Koester has been working at CHS, instead of the plant, because of social-distancing guidelines.

She loves coming to work and is always ready to start the day. "Audrey likes for us to keep a tally on the number of bags she fills," Jodee said. "She has filled up to 73 bags in a week. Audrey deserves the Outstanding Performance Award on so many levels."



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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	Pledge NnOunts-SDs can invoice you! \$1 \$5 \$10 \$20 \$25



Save We

Sunflower Diversified Services Inc.

YOU ARE INVITED auction

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

SILENT AUCTION: 8AM TO 6PM LIVE AUCTION: 6:30PM TO 7:30PM

To-Go Party Packs

Donate \$100 by Friday, April 9 and receive a Party Pack the day of the event!

1 Lg Take 'N' Bake Papa Murphy's Pizza 2 32oz Crowlers from Dry Lake Brewing 2 Commemorative Pint Glasses & chocolates

Party Packs can be picked up 9am-3pm Saturday, April 24 5605 10th St (Former Pro-Tint location)

Visit <u>sunflowerdiv.com/home-sweet-gala</u>
for information on how to
donate, register & preview auction items

Questions about the auction? Contact Cody Harris, 620-792-1321

The 16th Annual Charity Gala proceeds support children and adults served by Sunflower Diversified Services, Inc.