



**Sunflower Diversified
Services, Inc.
Business Office
Case Management Office**



January 2021 Issue

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

Incredible Years Preschool

A child joined the Peanuts class at Incredible Years Preschool and “what happened next was a beautiful thing,” said Shari Schneider, preschool director.

The goal was for the child to learn from the teachers and ABA autism services, as well as by observing and interacting with peers.

ABA, or Applied Behavior Analysis, is a new program for children who have a medical diagnosis of autism. It is available at Sunflower Early Education Center until a child enters kindergarten.



Students at Incredible Years Preschool enjoy spending time together and learning from one another inside and outside the classroom.

The beautiful thing is the growth and learning was not one-sided. Some preschool peers embraced the differences and immediately included our new student.

Others wondered about the differences and asked many questions; some were initially skeptical about inclusion.

“Quickly, however, even the most reserved classmates were including our new friend in play and helping with the learning process,” Shari commented.

This is the perfect illustration of how helping

children grow comes in many forms. Learning social skills early is extremely important because we hone these skills throughout our lives.

We are blessed to be able to offer professional teachers and provide the ABA expertise to children and families. All of us will be better for it.

Charity Gala

Even though we cannot host our annual Gala in the typical fashion this year because of COVID-19, we have found a nice substitute.

We are planning a five-day virtual auction that is scheduled for early March; the exact dates will be announced soon. March was chosen because it coincides with Sunflower’s 55th anniversary.

Cody Harris, our new director of planned giving and community supports, has been soliciting donations and sponsors for the auction. We are seeking about 40 items that will attract people with any sized budget.

If you want to donate or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Cody by calling 620-792-1321.

The Gala is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we count on its proceeds for countless services every day. We must rely on private donations to fill many financial gaps for medical and dental services and adaptive equipment.

Local and state tax dollars go only so far to support infants, toddlers and adults with special needs.

More details will be announced soon with the help of our cooperative local media outlets. In the meantime, please jot down a reminder of this 16th annual event on your March calendar.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to our long-time supporters. And, of course, we welcome newcomers who want to learn more about how Sunflower enhances the lives of children and adults in central Kansas.

Personal Accomplishments—Carla

While Carla Byer enjoys her life every day, one of the high points each week is a comforting massage. This service has been provided for years with the help of Sunflower's staff and others.

The massages help Carla with added stimuli to her muscles. We know she is grateful because she hums softly during each session.

Whether Carla is at our CHS building during the day or at home in the evening, she likes to interact with her peers and staff and listen to music.

Two of her favorite things are eggnog and chocolate.

Carla is 55 years old and lives in one of our two group homes. She has received Sunflower services since 1996.

Those who support Carla said she is a sweet lady and makes your heart melt whenever she is around. We are blessed that Carla is part of our Sunflower family.



Jessica Williams of the Wholistic Health Center in Great Bend pays a visit to Carla Byer. Part of this visit includes Carla's weekly massage.

Personal Accomplishments—Aidan

When we first began working with Aidan in July 2020 at age 2 ½, he was having trouble communicating his wants and needs and his family was having difficulty understanding him.

Aidan would pull his family toward what he wanted or would point to it. At times, he would say a few words clearly when asked to imitate but never when requesting what he wanted. Aidan often rambled in his speech, as if trying to tell a story, though it was never understandable to others.

Since working with the Early Education Center staff for the last several months, Aidan's speech has flourished. He now requests his wants and needs using clear words that his family comprehends. He is even using three- and four-word phrases throughout the day independently.



Aidan and Jessica Kraisinger, Sunflower early childhood special education teacher, play with mega blocks. Aidan has made great progress with his speech.

Aidan is a very smart little boy and is starting to describe things around him by size, color and number. For example, he likes to say the color of Legos as he plays, and will even count them at times. Even though there are times it is still difficult to understand what Aidan is saying, he continues to learn and use new words every week.

Aidan's mom, Celina Rios, said she appreciates the Tiny-K services "coming into my home and helping Aidan prepare for his future. My family is grateful for all you have done for us."

Personal Accomplishments—James

James Johnson may be new to Sunflower but he has already made an impression on our staff and his peers.



James Johnson shreds paper, while social distancing from others.

He is quite the talker and a real jokester, which keeps everyone on their toes. But he is also a hard worker - whether he is operating an individual paper shredder, packaging dog treats at the plant or performing recycling tasks.

After the work day is done, James enjoys hanging out with his roommates at one of our two group homes.

His schedule is the perfect example of the nice balance between his jobs and his leisure time with friends.

James, 19, has been with us only about six months. We are eager to learn more about his awesome personality and where it will take him on the road to more independence.

Featured Department

Vicki Keffer and the rest of the Human Resources team wanted to enhance employee-recruiting efforts and the result is several videos that received approximately 9,000 Facebook views as of mid-December.

This is just one of many reasons Human Resources was selected Featured Department of the Quarter.

In the first video, Vicki simply talked about Sunflower and its many job opportunities. Since that received almost 1,700 views, she decided to create more videos that zeroed in on specific jobs.

Included are General Public Transportation; the fiscal team; case management; direct support of individuals; and sleepover staff. There is also a video on general employment.

Collectively, the videos received about 9,000 views by mid-December.

“The videos really boosted our online presence,” Vicki said. “They were shared nationwide because staff and friends wanted to help spread the word.”

Julie Mazouch is the new HR director; in addition to Vicki, the team consists of Dallas Arp and Carol Anderson. “They put forth extra effort and go the extra mile,” Vicki commented. “We want to ensure prospective and current Sunflower employees get what they need in a timely fashion.



Human Resources team members, from left to right, are Dallas Arp, Carol Anderson and Julie Mazouch, who is the new HR director. Vicki Keffer, compliance, is not pictured.

“HR is similar to the Wizard of Oz. Like him, we are behind the scenes to help everyone find answers to their questions.”

But most important, HR trains and empowers all employees to be prepared to provide support to the people Sunflower serves. “This is vitally important because a caring, professional staff helps clients achieve the highest level of independence possible.”

The pandemic created new challenges that HR is meeting head-on. “For example, we track quarantine orders to help limit exposure to the virus,” Vicki said. “And we immediately found ways to safely manage in-person training. Our new processes are flowing well.”

Great Bend Coffee Angel Tree

Sunflower and Great Bend Coffee teamed up again to make the Christmas season a little brighter for children who might not otherwise have had a package to open.

Infants and toddlers served by Sunflower Early Education Center’s (EEC) three programs – Tiny-K Early Intervention Services, Incredible Years Preschool and the newly developed ABA Autism Services – along with some siblings benefitted from the Christmas tree at Great Bend Coffee, 2015 Lakin.



The Christmas tree at Great Bend Coffee was adorned with ornaments that represented children in our early intervention programs and Incredible Years Preschool. Pictured from left to right are: Allison Schwartz, Applied Behavior Analysis service provider, and LaResa Likes, Great Bend Coffee owner.

Great Bend Coffee has been our partner in this special Christmas tree display for quite a few years now.

We are so grateful to LaResa and Eugene Likes and others in the community that support the children and families we serve.

“We are serving approximately 100 children right now across our three programs,” said Heather Quillin, children’s services coordinator. “It is gratifying that parents are seeking early intervention and education even during these unpredictable times. It is the best route to achieving developmental milestones.”

Contributions—October through December 2020

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

William & Ruth Baalman
Beck Chiropractic
Megan Bray
Christian Women's Fellowship
Tom & Marcia Coleman
Carole Edwardson
Estate of Vera Elliot Finnin
Farmers Bank & Trust—Great Bend
Farmers Bank & Trust—Larned
Calvin & Debbie Finn
Mrs. Lloyd Fundenberger
GBCF Giving Tuesday
Golden Belt Fire & Safety, Inc.
Great Bend Children's Clinic
Jessie Habiger
Dr. Stan & Ann Hatesohl
Stuart Hutchinson
Normalee Isern
K.D. Lodge
Wanda Karst
Knights of Columbus #1187
Knights of Columbus #2970
Dale & Paul Knop
Beverly Komarek
Marjorie Miller
Bryan & Melanie Mosier
Ann Parker
Dennis & Kathy Pechanec
Presbyterian Women of Great Bend
Jean Pringle
Queen Esther Chapter 32

Contributions cont.

Yvonne Robbins
Roy Robl
Layne & Barbara Shirk
Jolene Tammen
Larry & Charlotte Wagner
Roy Weber
Shirley Willhaus
Nick & Theresa Younker

Sunrise Campaign

Achieve Rehab, LLC
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Melinda Axman
Clint & Lynn Barger
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Dominican Sisters of Peace, Inc.
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Thomas & Shirley Lytle
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Mobile Radio Service
MRT Communications Inc.
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JC Schnittker
Robert & Denise Schreiber
Marvin & Karen Sessler
Dennis & Jann Sherman
Layne & Barbara Shirk
Darwin Siefkes
Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
Joleen Tammen
The University of Kansas Health
System—Hays Med
Don Urban
Roy Weber
Marc & Diana Webster
Sue Wells
Todd & Lillian Zimmerman

Did You Know?

Human Resources is the department everyone counts on. But few of us know the extent of its responsibilities. This behind-the-scenes look might help Sunflower supporters better understand what HR is all about.

- Interviewed more than 250 job applicants in 2020;
- Increased the monthly employment count every month in 2019 and 2020;
- Currently Sunflower employs 144 staff;
- Manages enrollment and billing for a dozen benefits. These are group life, individual life, health, dental, vision, Aflac, Allstate, retirement plan, flexible spending, childcare reimbursement, health-reimbursement account and Club One Fitness;
- Tracks all in-house training needs for all employees to make sure everyone is properly trained and certified;
- Advertises employment opportunities in eight different ways;
- Created videos about different positions within Sunflower that were viewed more than 9,000 times as of mid-December; and
- Tracks all employees' quarantine orders since the beginning of the pandemic. Sunflower had 138 tracked events between March and November because of being exposed by family members, friends or personally positive.

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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.

Dialing For Dollar\$

10th Street Liquor Stop LLC
Jeff & Kathi Barnes
Beugelsdijk Chiropractic PA
Darrel & Mary Bieker
C & K Oil, LLC
Clarke Well & Equipment, Inc.
Comfort Pro, Inc.
Lori Crowther
D. McMillen, Chtd.
David & Vicki Dreiling
Eldridge Fencing
Estes Trash
First Kansas Bank
Francis Financial Services, Inc.
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Bob & Patsy Hiss
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Jimlo Glass Center Inc.
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Candice Quillin
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Troy Rohr
Rick & Jane Schreiber
Schroeder Homes & Remodeling LLC
Scott's Welding Service, Inc.
Dale & Audra Seeman
William Seybert
Karen Shaner
Dennis & Jann Sherman

Dialing For Dollar\$ cont.

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Spectrum CPA Partners LLC
Chris & Julie Spray
Doris Spray
Joseph & Linda Steiner
Terry & MelEesa Stueder
Tommy & Shawn Suppes
Tatum Brooks DDS LLC
Khris & Rachel Thexton
Kevin & Audra Thompson
Travis & Andrea Thompson
Velocity Truck Alignment, LLC
Jim & Kathy Vopat
Brent & Lori Waters
Marcia Westhoff
Brogan White
World Pest Control/Sunflower Services
Zip Stop, Inc.

Invest In Kids

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Randy Cobb
John & Crystal Cross
Patricia Degner
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Chris & Janell Fellers
Isern & Carpenter Law
James & Helen Lee
Chris & Rosalie Lieker
Rosemary Linn
Mark & Lori McLeland
Caleb & Marissa Schultz
Victory Barber Shop

Restricted—Early Education Center

Jeff & Kathy Barnes
Carole Edwardson

Facebook Riddle Contest Sponsor

Brad & Sarah Shirer

Memorial—Gary Bradford

Doug & Linda Terry

Memorial—Jim Thurman

Randy Cobb—restricted to Invest In Kids

Angel Tree—Children

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

Angel Tree—Adults

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Batchman Investments LLC
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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.



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 _____