Empowering

people to live meaningful and productive lives.

SUMMER FOCUS 2024

ARROWHEAD WEST Inc.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Arrowhead West, Inc. is to empower people to live meaningful and productive lives.

VISION

The vision of Arrowhead West, Inc. is to provide outstanding service that leads to making informed choices about:

- Independence
- Employment
- Community Participation
- Healthy Lifestyles

2024 SUMMER FOCUS

A publication from Arrowhead West, Inc.
Nadine Lampe, Development Manager.
Arrowhead West, Inc. is a non-profit organization serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

LOCATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1100 East Wyatt Earp
Dodge City, KS 67801
620.227.8803

WESTERN KANSAS DIVISION
Andrea Stegman
231 San Jose
Dodge City, KS 67801
620.225.4061

INFANT/TODDLER SERVICES
Erica DeAnda-Soltero
401 Edgemore
Dodge City, KS 67801
620.225.5177

620 East Second Street
Pratt, KS 67124
620.672.1005

CENTRAL KANSAS DIVISION
Rachel Ryan
613 North Ridge Road
Wichita, KS 67212
316.722.4554

MID KANSAS DIVISION
10315 Bluestem Blvd.
Pratt, KS 67124
620.933.2212

500 West Fowler
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104
620.886.3711

Find us on

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

AWI hosted a "Memory Tree" ceremony on Arbor Day in Dodge City to remember our special friends who passed away last year.

We planted a Canadian Choke Cherry tree in memory of Roy Baxter, John Kewish, and Merlene Nilhas. This is the 19th year we have planted a tree on Arbor Day.

Brenda Boone and Betty Jones will be recognized in Pratt, Don Goetz in Medicine Lodge, and Robert Beavers in Wichita at a later date.

Many were long-time clients receiving services from Arrowhead West for over 40 years. Arrowhead West clients, staff, and friends will miss all those we have lost and who were special to each of us.

InterHab Advocacy Day

Each year Arrowhead West clients and staff attend InterHab's annual Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in Topeka. Advocacy Day is an annual event for attendees to call on legislators to enact laws and policies that will improve and sustain services provided to Kansans with disabilities; services necessary for them to live independent and inclusive lives in their home communities.

This year, nine individuals representing Arrowhead West were joined by nearly 800 people at the Kansas Capitol, making it the biggest and most successful Advocacy Day yet! The advocates from all over the State met at the rally to listen to special guest speakers about how to better the lives of Kansans with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). Following the event, they had the opportunity to visit one-on-one with their local legislators, deliver handwritten letters, and share the essential needs and priorities of those with disabilities.

In April, Governor Laura Kelly signed the legislature's 'mega' budget bill for Fiscal Year 2025, which included 500 slots for I/DD waivers. This bill will fund 500 individuals on the I/DD waiting list to receive critical services such as in-home care. This is a step in the right direction. Currently, there is a waiting list for funding for more than 5,200 Kansas adults and children with I/DD. Individuals continue to wait over ten years to come off the State's waitlist. Meanwhile, we continue to push for long-term solutions that expand the capacity of disabled service providers, such as Medicaid expansion and the Community Supports Waiver.

Arrowhead West recently met with State Representative Jason Goetz at the Western Kansas Division office in Dodge City to tour and discuss issues affecting I/DD during this legislative session. Before touring, many subjects were discussed, such as the waiting list, employment, piece rate wages, case management, and Community Developmental Disability Organization, among others. Rep. Goetz understood our concerns and will follow up with the appropriate committees to voice our concerns and suggestions.

During the tour, Rep. Goetz recognized some faces from InterHab Advocacy Day and commented on our presence at the rally. "Thank you for the great tour and conversations. Thank you to your team for the amazing work you do," said Goetz.

Arrowhead West understands the importance of strong advocacy efforts and will continue to do our part.

TRIPLE the Fun

Birdie, Dottie, Vada

The decoration on the family room wall states, 'Live a Good Story.' Chris and Cheyenne are doing precisely that! It might get a bit chaotic, but the story they are living is good.

A year ago, Chris, Cheyenne, and their 18-month-old son, Copeland, welcomed identical triplets, Birdie, Dottie, and Vada. Cheyenne delivered at 31 weeks, and their new baby girls spent 39 days in the NICU before arriving home.

The babies were each born with torticollis. Torticollis is a condition where your baby's neck muscles cause their head to twist and tilt to one side. It is common in babies born in multiples because they have limited intrauterine space.

Once the family was settled in at home, an evaluation was completed, and the children were determined to benefit from services provided by Anita White, Arrowhead West's physical therapist. Anita works with creating an individualized therapy plan focusing on stretching, strengthening, positioning, and reaching milestones for each of the girls.

Their development progresses at different stages. When Birdie is doing something first, the next time Anita visits, Vada or Dottie has passed her up. While on a recent visit, Anita was working with them on cruising. As Birdie and Vada were showing off their cruising skills, Dottie chose that moment to free-stand for the first time. It was time to celebrate her moment.

"Birdie, Dottie, and Vada epitomize that although multiples, each has their own personality, communication, and motor skills. They keep everyone on their toes!! Born prematurely with variable sequelae, excellent family engagement with support from early childhood intervention has facilitated their infant-to-toddler progression," said Anita.

As the girls continue to grow, Arrowhead West Infant Toddler Services staff will assess them to ensure they reach new milestones and provide additional services and resources if necessary. Screening clinics are also held in communities in our service area to determine if your child is meeting age-appropriate milestones. Screenings include all development areas: speech/language, motor, self-help, vision, and hearing. Copeland recently attended a clinic to learn he is proudly meeting age-appropriate milestones.

Chris and Cheyenne are a team, and together, they are 'Living a Good Story.' They are handling the size of their family doubling overnight like champs.

"We could not be more thankful for Arrowhead West and Anita! She has been with our girls since we began our life outside of the NICU. Having her as a constant cheerleader and positive light for our triplet girls since day one has meant the world to us, and we can never repay her for everything she's done," said Cheyenne.

MEET SCOTT

Mr. Achiever

Mr. Achiever is the best way to describe Scott. When Scott commits to something, you can guarantee he will give it his all and achieve his goal.

Scott has an attitude to work hard, be reliable, and do the best you can, all while being kind and helpful. This attitude has taken Scott a long way in life.

Scott has worked at the United Wireless Arena for the last three years. He helps set up and tear down for conferences, weddings, and concert-type events. He also works at the concession stand and proudly tells you he counts everyone's change back to them. He is a very sociable person and enjoys the people at the events.

Scott worked at Beck Sales for three years and at FedEx for 18 years prior to that. His longevity at his job has proven him to be a very loyal and hardworking employee and certainly someone you would want on your team. Learning all aspects of his job is important, allowing him to learn new skill sets to succeed.

Scott has worked hard to become more and more independent. He recently earned enough money to purchase an electric bike. The bike has also given him more independence, allowing him to go places on his own schedule, such as the store, Special Olympic practice, and to and from the Day Program. If the weather does not allow, he schedules public transportation.

Community participation is important to Scott. He enjoys going to ballgames, movies, fishing, concerts, rodeos, biking, and visiting friends. He also enjoys participating in the Special Olympics.

Community volunteering is also an area that Scott excels in. If there is a volunteer project that he can help with, you can be sure Scott is there. He has volunteered to work at the concession stand during the rodeo, assisted at Friendship Feast, helped deliver Meals on Wheels, and helped with many projects. If you need an extra hand and Scott is near, you can guarantee he will jump in to help.

Arrowhead West Supported Living Program gives Scott the independence to live in his own home. He has claimed the title of 'head cook' for the household. Scott shops for his own groceries to cook his favorite things: turkey, chili, and pie.

Mr. Achiever, aka Scott, dreams of saving money for a trip to Disney World. We have no doubt it will happen. He truly exemplifies Arrowhead West's mission by living a meaningful and productive life and the agency's vision to provide outstanding service that leads to making informed choices about independence, employment, community participation, and healthy lifestyles. Scott has knocked each one out of the park.

"Scott is very helpful and a hard worker. He always has a smile and is willing to help others," said Michelle Jolliff, Community Employment Supervisor.

LIFE SKILLS INSTRUCTORS

Make a Difference

A Life Skills Instructor (LSI) is about making a difference in someone's life every day. Arrowhead West (AWI) employs 46 LSIs, many of whom are long-term employees. They provide guidance and assistance to clients in our Day Program to help them learn life and work skills.

Zandra Garcia

In her 16 years at AWI, Zandra Garcia has done it all. The clients are her number one priority. She strives to help them reach their greatest level of independence and encourages them to experience new things. She has a level of clarity when working with clients and co-workers. They respect her and look to her for guidance and direction.

Zandra is passionate and trustworthy and excels in whatever situation you put her in. She fills in often in the Residential Program, goes to the weeklong camp with the clients, can often be found volunteering her free time supporting them in the community, and even took a group to the Superbowl parade in Kansas City, to name a few. She is loyal and dedicated to AWI and those we serve.

"Zandra's consistent performance and dedication are pillars of our team's success. Her ability to collaborate and elevate is remarkable. AWI is incredibly fortunate to have an employee like her. Every department needs a Zandra. I am so thankful for her relentless efforts and commitment to our clients, her co-workers, and the agency. She is truly a special gift to everyone she encounters. I am blessed to have her in my department," said Alicia Edwards, Program Manager.

Jan England

Jan England has impacted so many lives during her 21 years of service as a Life Skills Instructor. One might tell you she is motivated by white chocolate, but it is the clients who motivate her.

Jan is known as the "craft queen" of the direct care staff. She has a vision to pick projects that teach clients to use their skills to create something they can be proud of. She continually finds activities everyone will enjoy, including decorating the building in a seasonal theme.

Jan has a teacher inside her and consistently teaches practical skills in everyday activities. She finds pride in watching the clients gain confidence from what they are being taught. Her years of service, knowledge, and ability to juggle multiple tasks have allowed her to help wherever she is needed in the Day Program.

"Jan always has a caring heart and loves seeing clients succeed. She is dedicated, artistic, and creative and has brought to life many projects for our program. I bounce ideas off her, and she has a vision to make them happen. She is simply amazing," said Desi Bain, Program Manager.

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ARROWHEAD WEST Inc.
P.O. Box 1417
Dodge City, KS 67801

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

This newsletter was labeled and sealed with pride by the persons served.

Make an Impact by Volunteering

Have you ever considered volunteering? Volunteering can be a fulfilling experience, and the most valuable assets you can bring are compassion, an open mind, a willingness to pitch in wherever needed, and a positive attitude.

Do you have a special skill or talent you could share in our Day Program, such as arts and crafts, yoga, cooking classes, or gardening? Have you ever considered spending one-on-one time with a client for a recreational activity, attending church, running errands, or even lending an extra set of hands during a program activity?

If you are interested in volunteering and making an impact in someone's life, please contact our Human Resource office at 620.227.8803.