Empowering

people to live meaningful and productive lives.

ARROWHEAD WEST Inc.

SUMMER FOCUS 2025

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

2025 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
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WESTERN KANSAS DIVISION
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620.225.4061

INFANT/TODDLER SERVICES
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620.225.5177

620 East Second Street
Pratt, KS 67124
620.672.1005

CENTRAL KANSAS DIVISION
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Wichita, KS 67212
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MID KANSAS DIVISION
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Pratt, KS 67124
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500 West Fowler
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104
620.886.3711

Find us on

BASEBALL, HOT DOGS & FRIENDSHIP

On a beautiful summer day, what could be more fun than enjoying baseball, hotdogs, and spending time with friends?

Arrowhead West recently hosted a gathering at the Wichita Wind Surge game for clients and staff agency-wide. It was a memorable day filled with excitement and engagement for everyone.

Many had a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones from other Arrowhead West locations.

Windy, the Wind Surge mascot, was the highlight for many as he joined the large group for photos, handshakes, and to cheer on the team. Everyone is looking forward to the 4th annual gathering next year!

SACK CONFERENCE

Clients, along with staff from Arrowhead West, had the opportunity to attend the statewide Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas (SACK) conference. The conference is an excellent opportunity for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities to meet, share, and learn from each other and experts in the field. Participants had the opportunity to choose from learning sessions on various topics. A motivating keynote speaker and other activities were also offered during the inspiring weekend of connection, learning, and celebration.

This year's theme was 'Inclusion Matters'. They explored what true inclusion looks like in our communities, workplaces, and lives—and why it's so important.

"I have been in this field for 30 years and have never seen anything like it. I was so proud and was very impressed with each individual," said Tracy Johnson.

"I enjoyed everything-especially the arts and crafts, painting, and dancing. I really enjoyed seeing friends I haven't seen for so long. I almost cried when I had to leave," said Alex.

The weekend was a success and an event to look forward to each year.

DALTON'S GOAL
becomes Reality

Dalton has always dreamed of getting a dog, and for it to become a reality, he set many goals to achieve this dream and worked hard to make it happen.

Dalton's plan was to have a schedule and routine, including getting up and being at work on time daily. A new dog brought responsibilities that he would have to take care of daily, such as walking, feeding, playing, and cleaning up after him.

After hard work, Tigger, Dalton's new boxer mix, became a reality. He is about two years old, and Dalton picked him up from the animal shelter. "My favorite thing to do is to play and wrestle with Tigger. I have also taught him how to shake hands. He is my buddy, and I couldn't live without him," said Dalton.

"Dalton has moved into a more independent setting and is accomplishing so many goals he had set for himself. He is truly living the Arrowhead West mission and vision," said Lori Lacy, WKD Residential Manager.

Valentina's JOURNEY

A smile is the key that fits the lock to everybody's heart. Valentina, a 20-month-old little girl, has the key to everyone's heart. Her big smiles are the biggest and sweetest one could get. She is one of six children born healthy into a large, loving family.

Valentia was growing well, meeting her milestones, and even had a new little sister on the way. However, when she was nine months old, a tragic accident abruptly altered her life. This incident led to a Traumatic Brain Injury, causing Valentina to suddenly lose all of her abilities to roll, sit, eat or drink by mouth, babble, and interact as she did with toys or people.

Her medical team referred her to all the possible therapies she could receive in her community. She began outpatient Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology. Next, Arrowhead West Infant-Toddler Services joined Valentina's team to provide supports in her home routines with an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan). In addition to the primary coaching services with joint visits from the multidisciplinary team, Valentina has also participated in aquatic therapy with Glenna Williamson, Physical Therapist. Melissa Schlegel, Developmental Vision Specialist with Kansas State School for the Blind, addresses her vision needs and supports the primary coach, Kim Chaussee, during in-home visits.

A strong family support system can significantly impact how individuals cope with challenges. A huge and vital part of Valentina's success has been the resilience of her entire family. Their interactions with her by practicing therapy exercises in home routines, maintaining a positive environment, and providing emotional support to each other by working together as a unit have been instrumental in her progress. The family dynamics show the true love and joy Valentina brings to every family member.

"Valentina is thriving and making consistent progress in all areas of development. Her family is absolutely amazing with advocating and following through with all recommendations provided by Valentina's medical and developmental team. It is such an honor to be part of the family's home and to witness the love and devotion they all share for her. Valentina's success is rooted in her strong family foundations,' said Kim Chaussee, Early Childhood Special Educator.

Now, almost one year later, Valentina has not only gained the skills that she lost, but she continues to meet new milestones. Valentina's progress is a testament to the power of love and support. She now finds joy in moving around her house, exploring toys, playing with her siblings, and eating and drinking anything she wants. Her family is looking forward to her next steps of walking and using more words, a journey that is filled with hope and promise.

"Unconditional love of a family creates a life for a child to thrive, and every path becomes possible to grow, explore, and succeed,"

said Kim Chaussee,
Early Childhood Special Educator.

CATiE's SUCCESS

"I enjoy my job. Learning to be a cashier hasn't been too difficult because the computer guides me through the process. My favorite part of my job is greeting and talking to customers," Catie shared.

Catie celebrated her 10th anniversary at Dillons this year, showcasing that hard work, responsibility, and a sense of pride in one's work are key to success in the workplace.

She began her journey at Dillons as a courtesy clerk and has taken on various responsibilities over the years. Most recently, Catie has transitioned to a cashier position. Her dedication to learning the necessary skills for this promotion, such as mastering the cash register and counting money, reflects her commitment to professional growth, and she takes pride in her accomplishments and the opportunities for advancement.

One of Catie's most cherished aspects of her job is the relationships she forms with customers, many of whom have become friends. They eagerly greet her each time they visit. Her efforts have been recognized with 'Perfect Shop' pins, awarded for her friendly and caring attitude, her commitment to maintaining a fresh appearance, and her ability to build genuine connections with customers. These accolades are a result of evaluations by mystery shoppers, who assess employee performance and customer shopping experience.

"I am very proud of Catie and how she embraces new challenges in her job to achieve success. She is always helpful and friendly," said Michelle Jolliff, Community Employment Supervisor.

In her free time, Catie is always on the go. She enjoys participating in community activities, attending church, and dining out with friends, among other interests. She also is an avid crafter and has recently taken up crocheting hats for others.

Catie eagerly looks forward to showcasing her musical talents. She plays in the Dodge City Cowboy Band every Tuesday during the summer and on the Dodge City Days parade float. She also participates in the Dodge City Community College jazz band, showcasing her musical talents on the clarinet, bass clarinet, or saxophone, depending on the band and music genre.

Catie's commitment to volunteering in the community is truly commendable. She helps in various roles at the Depot Theatre, Friendship Feast, Carnegie Center of the Arts, Mainstreet Dodge City cleanup days, and her favorite, delivering Meals on Wheels, among many others. Catie also saves her money to attend REACH Camp for a week each summer and enjoys the Special Olympics activities, which she has participated in for many years.

Catie's hard work, sense of responsibility, and pride in her achievements extend beyond her job; she embraces these values in every aspect of her life.

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JANUARY 1 TO MAY 31, 2025

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Nandina Wilson
Terry Woodward

RETIREMENTS

SHIRLEY BOURNE

Shirley Bourne, Administrative Assistant, has worked for Arrowhead West for 40 years and has been a valuable member of the administrative team witnessing many changes and growth in the organization.

"I found a job 40 years ago that I love and will always be proud to say I worked at Arrowhead West. I have met a lot of amazing people who support Arrowhead West's mission," said Shirley

"For over 40 years, Shirley has been an instrumental part of Arrowhead West. Her dedication to our mission, to our staff, and to the clients and families that we serve has been the hallmark of her career with AWI. Her legacy of professionalism and committed service will forever be a part of Arrowhead West," said Mike Stein, President.

TROY POLLARD

Troy Pollard, Wichita Community Living Instructor, is leaving Arrowhead West after 26 years of service.

"I have been in this field 40 years and worked with many different types of clients. I have worked with interesting co-workers with many multi-faceted personalities over the years. It has been an incredible 26-year ride. Arrowhead West has been very good to me, and I will never forget that fact. Thanks for the memories", said Troy.

"Troy has been a solid and dependable co-worker. He is calm, consistent, helpful, respectful, dedicated, knowledgeable and even an underpaid comedian. His wisdom in the field helped many learn more about serving individuals with disabilities and his presence truly made a difference," said co-workers.

TERRY WOODWARD

Terry Woodward, Medicine Lodge Job Coach, retired after 21 years of service. She began as a Life Skills Instructor and after a short time became a job coach.

"Terry has been a pure heart and steady hand of our Mid Kansas Division for so many years. She has brought warmth, patience, and a whole lot of heart to everything she's done, whether it was supporting the people we serve, mentoring new staff, or just showing up with a smile and a listening ear. Her impact here goes way beyond the job, and her presence made Arrowhead West feel more like family. We're going to miss her so much, but we're also cheering her on as she heads into a well-deserved retirement," said Season Kemp, Mid Kansas Division Manager.

"Working at Arrowhead West was my calling. I have made many friends along the way and will miss them all," said Terry.

BOBBIE OWENS

Bobbie Owens, Wichita Community Living Instructor, retired earlier this year after nearly 7 years.

"Bobbie's tenure at Arrowhead West was marked by her adaptability to various work environments. She not only learned logistics but also trained to work at almost all the locations. Her versatility helped the team, enabling her to seamlessly transition to different work settings as per the need. Bobbie's flexibility was also commendable, as she could work at short notice and during various shifts," said Joyce Salazar, Residential Manager.

We thank Shirley, Troy, Terry, and Bobbie for their dedication to serving others and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

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

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

TREE MEMORIALS

Arrowhead West hosted "Memory Tree" ceremonies in Pratt and Dodge City to remember our special friends who have passed away since last Arbor Day.

Doug Rhodes and Aaron Marsh were remembered in Pratt by their family and friends while planting an Autumn Blaze Maple tree in their memory.

This year was the 20th year Arrowhead West planted a tree on Arbor Day in Dodge City in collaboration with the City of Dodge City. In memory of our special friend, Jere Rosson, we planted a John Pair Maple tree.

Cindy Schafer, Patricia Owens, Ray Morain, Kim Mast, Ami Robbins, and Katie Barton will be recognized in Wichita at a later date.

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