Empowering

people to live meaningful and productive lives.

ARROWHEAD WEST Inc.

SUMMER FOCUS 2026

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

2026 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
Season Kemp
10315 Bluestem Blvd.
Pratt, KS 67124
620.933.2212

500 West Fowler
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104
620.886.3711

Find us on

★ Trevor Lampe Named Most Inspirational Athlete ★

Special Olympics has always been a special event for Trevor Lampe. This year's Special Olympic Kansas Summer Games were extra special as he was chosen as the Most Inspirational Athlete. We are very proud of Trevor for receiving this deserving honor.

Trevor has participated in multiple events during Special Olympics for many years. If he is not competing, he can always be found enthusiastically cheering on his Dodge City Dodgers teammates. He has also kicked off many of the games by singing the Star-Spangled Banner.

Just over a year ago, Trevor faced a life-threatening medical challenge. Through courage, perseverance, and the support of his amazing family, he fought his way back and continues to inspire everyone who knows him. His mom, dad, and sister have been by his side every step of the way, and celebrating every victory along the journey.

Truly deserving of this year's Most Inspirational Athlete honor, Trevor has shown strength, resilience, and a positive spirit.

★ ★ ★

Technology and Interactive Learning

Create New Opportunities

Technology continues to transform the way individuals learn, connect, and grow, and for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), interactive learning tools are opening doors to exciting new opportunities every day.

The Day Program in Pratt has recently introduced a Kibu, a new interactive learning platform filled with ready-to-use lessons focused on everyday life skills. The platform includes more than 500 lessons designed for accessible learning opportunities and created specifically for individuals with I/DD.

Since implementing the Kibu program, clients have enjoyed participating in learning activities such as personal hygiene, budgeting, yoga sessions, mindful stretching, self-defense, cooking classes, online dance parties, Jeopardy-style games, and many others. They are also learning sign language to help communicate with others in the program. Staff members are planning future lessons on topics such as weather safety, job training, emotional communication, and additional independent living skills. These activities not only help clients build knowledge but also encourage confidence, social interaction, and greater independence.

The Day Program in Medicine Lodge recently received an Obie interactive projector thanks to proceeds from a Cox Communications grant. The innovative technology has quickly become a favorite among clients and staff alike, creating engaging experiences that combine education, movement, and fun.

The Obie projector adds another layer of engagement by transforming walls, floors, and tabletops into motion-activated interactive surfaces. Using projection and motion-tracking technology, the device promotes motor skills, cognitive development, and social participation in a fun and immersive environment.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Obie is its versatility. The device can be used in regular lighting, although clients especially enjoy the vibrant colors displayed in darker settings. Participants have already explored activities involving the solar system, horse racing simulations, a paint studio, and many interactive experiences that encourage movement and teamwork.

The response from clients has been overwhelmingly positive. The combination of technology and interactive learning creates meaningful opportunities for engagement while making education enjoyable and accessible for everyone.

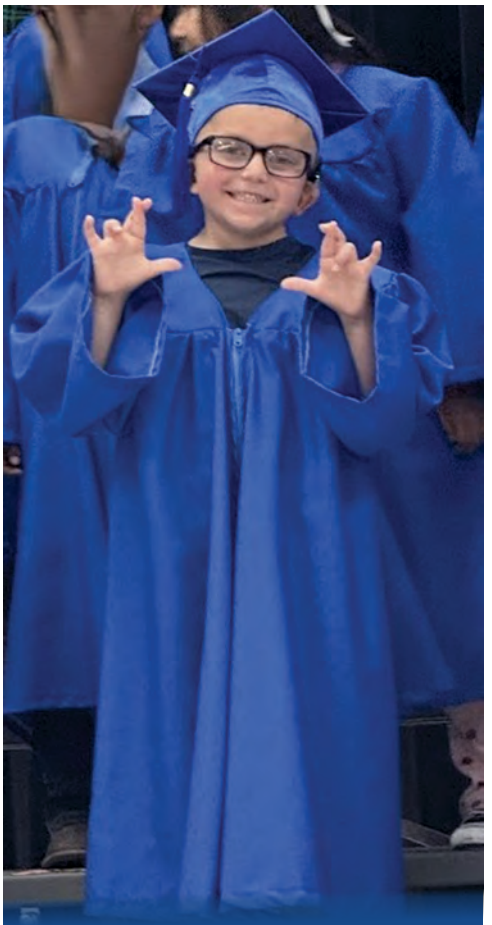
As technology continues to evolve, programs like these demonstrate how innovative tools can enhance learning experiences and improve the quality of life for individuals with I/DD. By combining creativity, education, and therapeutic technology, these programs help individuals build skills, confidence, and connections that extend far beyond our program.

"These platforms are remarkable and have activities and lessons about everything we want clients to know and learn,"

said Season Kemp,
Mid Kansas Division Manager

Gramm's Success

The Power of Early Intervention



Gramm's success is more than a personal achievement — it is proof that early intervention certainly changes lives! - Gramm's Mother, Cori Gonzales

One of the first steps in Gramm's inspiring journey came through a routine hearing screening at the hospital shortly after he was born. He was referred for further testing. A final test provided results that Gramm was born with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss. His family immediately began utilizing all available supports to assist him. Early identification led to receiving education and services right away. Now, Gramm has thrived far beyond expectations!

At just one and a half months old, Gramm began early intervention services through Arrowhead West Infant Toddler Services and the Kansas School for the Deaf. Although he was born with sensorineural hearing loss and would naturally rely on alternative language learning, his family also wanted him to have every opportunity to participate in the hearing world if, and when possible. At seven weeks old, he was fitted with hearing aids and began to access sound, stimulating his hearing nerve and ultimately contributing to his overall success with cochlear implants. By the age of two years old, Gramm received cochlear implants, giving him access to spoken language and sounds that the hearing aids could not provide with his level of hearing loss.

Today, at six years old, Gramm uses sign language confidently while also benefiting from sound through his cochlear implants, which help him communicate in the hearing world around him. Recently, he celebrated a major milestone, graduating from kindergarten confidently and super proud! His family's dedication to the support of early intervention professionals was clearly reflected in his kindergarten academic scores, which demonstrated remarkable success and growth.

Gramm's story is a powerful reminder of how critical early intervention can be for children with developmental or communication challenges. The earlier support begins, the better opportunity for children to build language, communication, and academic skills that serve them throughout their lives. In today's world, where screens often occupy much of children's attention, they can unintentionally lead to overlooking signs of developmental delays. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to continue actively engaging with their children, observing milestones, and seeking guidance and support when and if concerns arise.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's development, reaching out immediately can help transform your child's learning, as it did for sweet Gramm. Arrowhead West Infant Toddler Services is available to help families navigate concerns and provide support during the earliest and most important years of development.

Advocacy Day

Kansas lawmakers approved a 6% increase in provider reimbursement rates for Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers during the 2026 legislative session. The increase will take effect July 1 and is expected to strengthen disability services across the state.

For years, Kansas providers have faced workforce shortages, rising operational costs, and challenges recruiting and retaining direct support professionals, while families continue to experience long waiting lists for services. By increasing reimbursement rates, lawmakers aim to better align funding with the actual costs associated with delivering quality care and support services in community settings.

Advocacy efforts played an important role in the legislation's success. Clients and staff from Arrowhead West joined advocates at InterHab's Advocacy Day at the State Capitol to share the importance of adequate funding for I/DD services.

As the July 1 implementation date approaches, providers and families across Kansas are hopeful this investment signals a continued commitment to improving services and supports for some of the state's most vulnerable citizens.

Autism Awareness

Clients and staff in Medicine Lodge recently recognized Autism Awareness Day with a special two-week project focused on creativity, inclusion, and learning. Together, they created a large 7-by-7-foot puzzle that allowed everyone to decorate their own puzzle piece in a unique and personal way.

Each participant designed a piece that reflected their individuality, creativity, and personality. Once all the pieces were completed, the group assembled the giant puzzle and proudly displayed it on the wall at the Day Program.

Throughout the project, everyone also participated by wearing blue and learning more about autism and the importance of acceptance and understanding. The puzzle served as a meaningful reminder that every person is unique and experiences the world differently. Just like the puzzle pieces, people think, learn, communicate, and express themselves in their own special ways.

The group plans to enter the completed puzzle in the Barber County Fair this summer. If you are in Medicine Lodge, be sure to stop by and see their wonderful creation.

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JANUARY 1 TO MAY 31, 2026

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Building Independence, Friendship, and a Home Together

Travis, Justin, and Matt are proving that a home is more than just a place to live; it is a place where friendships grow, independence develops, and shared interests bring people together. Coming from different backgrounds and lifestyles, the three roommates are settling into their new home in Wichita and making it uniquely their own.

Although they have never lived together before, Travis, Justin, and Matt are learning to live more independently and with less supervision each day. They work together by following charts of responsibilities that include cleaning, cooking, and other household tasks. These responsibilities are helping them build confidence, teamwork, and important life skills as they continue focusing on becoming more independent.

Their home quickly became known as the "sports fanatic house." Together with staff, the roommates created a personalized Kansas City Chiefs art piece to proudly display in their living room. The artwork reflects their personalities and shared love of sports. During the holidays, they even decorated a sports-themed Christmas tree, adding even more team spirit to the home.

The roommates enjoy spending time together watching movies, cheering on the Kansas City Chiefs, and sharing pizza during game nights. They often talk about wanting a bigger TV so they can enjoy sports together even more. Their shared interests have helped create a strong bond and a welcoming atmosphere in the house.

Outside the home, Travis, Justin, and Matt stay active in the community. They participate in Special Olympics activities, attend dances, and recently spent a week at camp enjoying fun activities and reconnecting with friends. These activities help them gain independence and confidence as they navigate the community.

Another important part of their journey is participating in the My25 Program. The program focuses on nutrition, preventive health, menu and mealtime planning, and grocery shopping, tailored to each person's unique goals, budgets, and needs. Through the program, the roommates are learning healthy habits and practical skills that support independent living.

As Travis, Justin, and Matt continue building their lives together, they are creating more than just a shared living space. They are building a home filled with laughter, teamwork, friendship, sports, and personal growth — a place they are proud to call their own. Through these experiences, they continue focusing on becoming more independent while building a home they truly enjoy sharing.

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Delivering Meals, Meeting New Friends and Building Friendships

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

Alicia's Success & Independence

Meet Alicia! She worked hard to learn new skills and gain experience as a volunteer at the library. Through her dedication, determination and the help of Arrowhead West's Community Employment Program she developed the knowledge and confidence needed to earn a job on their team. Today, Alicia is proud of her position and enjoys receiving a paycheck for her hard work.

At the library, Alicia helps by checking books in, returning them to their proper places on the shelves, and keeping the tables and shelves clean. She takes pride in completing her responsibilities and being a member of the team.

Alicia has also gained greater independence in her daily life. She has learned to call for a ride on public transportation to return to the Day Program after work. This achievement has helped her become more self-reliant and confident.

Alicia's success shows how hard work, perseverance, and independence can lead to meaningful accomplishments. She is proud of what she has achieved and looks forward to continuing to grow in her job and community.