

Empowering

people to live meaningful and productive lives.

WINTER FOCUS 2024



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 WINTER 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



INTERHAB ART WINNER

John submitted an exceptional piece of artwork to InterHab and emerged as a winner in their annual art contest. His art project, a resin paint pour similar to the one pictured, was a unique and captivating creation. The addition of metal pieces added an extra texture, making it a truly one-of-a-kind piece.

Every year, InterHab organizes an art contest for the individuals served by its members. John's award-winning piece was displayed at the annual conference and presented to an award winner in another category.

John's entry was truly exceptional, earning him a well-deserved Amazon gift card. Congratulations, John! Your art piece was not just extraordinary but also a source of inspiration for all of us.



Sweet 'Lil Ana might be a little shy, but once she warms up, she loves to show you everything she has learned. Ana was born with spina bifida. Spina bifida is a condition that affects the spine and is usually apparent at birth. This happens when the neural tube does not close all the way, causing the backbone that protects the spinal cord to not form and close as it should, often resulting in damage to the spinal cord and nerves.

Shortly after Ana's birth, her family was referred to Arrowhead West Infant Toddler Services. Erica DeAnda Soltero, Ana's Primary Service Provider and Family Service Coordinator, works in close partnership with the family to provide them with support for her development along with a wealth of community, medical, and funding resources. Ana also has access to the expertise of our team of professionals, including a Speech-Language Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, and Early Childhood Special Educator. This comprehensive support system ensures that Ana and her family are never alone in their journey.

Ana is nearly two years old and has not let anything slow her down; instead, she and her family continually find ways to adapt. Currently, speech and language, motor, and social are the main areas of focus; however, we are keeping an eye on all areas of development. She is learning words like more, eat, hurt and help in sign language to communicate her needs while learning to speak. Also, while developing new skills, Ana enjoys imitating animal sounds and engaging in social play groups.

Ana is learning to use her reverse walker, even though she prefers her toy stroller, shopping cart, or crawling. The walker provides support, which allows her to stand more upright. Twister cables aid in keeping her legs pointing in the correct direction, and she has learned to position them correctly when reminded. Ana can pull the walker while standing within its support base. Once she perfects using the walker, she will learn new independence. They have found that offering purposeful incentives helps get her excited about using it. She loves to be in the yard with her walker while waiting for Daddy to get home from work. Ana also enjoys cruising around the deck while using the boards for support. This has helped build strength and support for her legs.

"Arrowhead West has helped us navigate and better understand the community and medical resources available to us," said Yessenia, Ana's mother.

Ana is a happy little girl who is destined to overcome barriers and do great things, and we will cheer her on along the way.



"I love working with Ana and her parents. Ana is a very intelligent and charismatic girl who is progressing in her development. Her parents are very receptive when given new strategies to practice between visits during their daily routine,"

Erica DeAnda-Soltero, Infant-Toddler Services Manager

MAKING A Difference



“Alicia manages a top-notch day program that is a true gem in rural Kansas. She provides a consistent and challenging environment that allows all people to thrive in. I have learned a lot from Alicia and I am very honored to work with her,” said Andrea Stegman, Western Kansas Division Manager.

Energetic leadership is the name of the game for Alicia Edwards, Program Manager at Arrowhead West. You cannot find a more dedicated individual than Alicia, who believes in our mission of “empowering people to live meaningful and productive lives.” Her passion, empathy, and unwavering commitment are the driving forces behind her leadership.

With over 33 years of service at Arrowhead West, Alicia has honed her role to perfection. Her team, built on integrity, accountability, and reliability, shares Arrowhead West’s vision of providing outstanding service and enabling informed choices about independence, employment, community participation, and healthy lifestyles.

Giving back to those who give to us by volunteering is very important. Alicia is very involved in community activities and organizations, including the Dodge City Chamber of Commerce and the Women’s Chamber of Commerce. She has worked closely with both organizations to involve the clients in volunteering work such as community projects, delivery of items to chamber members, and especially their work during Dodge City Days. Each morning during the festival, they assist at the concession stand by filling condiments, cleaning, and restocking at the rodeo grounds. Allowing the clients to show off their skills led to many of them working at the concession stand during the evening PRCA rodeo and even jobs in the community. Alicia’s belief in each of them has given them a sense of pride in their success.

The Gingerbread House Party is Alicia’s passion project. Each year, the clients and staff host a party for the community to bring their family and friends and decorate a gingerbread house before the holidays. They are currently preparing for the 6th annual event. Last year, approximately 400 community members attended. The clients are hands-on through the entire process, which is a great experience. Everyone participated in shopping, putting the kits together, creating gingerbread land decorations, cutting, painting, handing out flyers, and being in the community telling people about it. The clients love the event, and the proceeds go to the Client Assistance Fund, helping those in need with financial assistance.

Alicia is not just an advocate, but a cheerleader and believer in the clients she works with. Her belief in their potential drives her to move mountains, ensuring they succeed and achieve their dreams of volunteering, finding a job, or becoming more independent. Her work not only benefits the clients but also enriches our community. We are proud to have Alicia make a difference in the lives of those we serve every single day.

NEW DIVISION MANAGER

Arrowhead West welcomes Season Kemp, who recently began as the new Mid Kansas Division Manager in Pratt.

Season comes to us with more than 10 years of experience in nursing and rehabilitation, two years of experience as an activity director and a degree in health administration/management from Wichita State University.

“Season’s commitment to helping others shines through, and I feel she will make a positive addition to the Arrowhead West team! I am excited for everyone to experience her enthusiasm for caring for people and helping them live their best lives,” said Andrea Polf, VP of Client Services.



SEASON KEMP

“Everyone at Arrowhead West has been extremely friendly and encouraging. The satisfaction that comes from not only seeing the wonderful influence that we have on our clients, but also their positive impact on us is indescribable,” said Season.

WICHITA DIVISION INCREASES CAPACITY



“Having the addition of this duplex gives us the opportunity to expand our residential services capacity in Sedgwick County by six individuals. We are very happy with the location and the accessibility it brings,”



said Rachel Ryan,
Wichita Division Manager.



The Central Kansas Division in Wichita is thrilled to announce the completed purchase of a new duplex, a project made possible with the support of our community. Six individuals will soon call this home, a testament to our collective commitment to providing outstanding services for those in need.

The newly constructed location marks a significant milestone in our journey. It will increase our residential availability for individuals receiving services in Wichita to 23 addresses, offering a total of 58 beds.

We strive to ensure the needs of the individuals residing in the home are met and will allow them to live in the most integrated setting possible. The duplex is part of the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver program of Medicaid that helps to integrate persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities into the community.

This new project is a testament to Arrowhead West's unwavering mission to “Empower People to Live Meaningful and Productive Lives”. It inspires us to continue our efforts and make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

DONORS SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

DEDICATIONS AND MEMORIALS

Tony Bartello Memorial
Dr. Stephen & Jane Stein

Don Fitzsimmons Memorial
Mark & DeKeta Schuckman

Doris Friesen Memorial
Mark & DeKeta Schuckman

Eleanor Jarrett Memorial
Tom Cornwell

Norma Jarrett Memorial
Tom Cornwell

Steve Mead Memorial
Laurel Banks

Jere Rosson Memorial
Tom & Terri Armstrong
Sandie & Muriel Bonsall
Norma Fugit
Kalen Hahn
Anne Kaiser
Mike & Gwen Pendergast
Martha Pfannenstiel
Reita Roetzer
Mike & Coleen Stein
Randy & Suan Tuxhorn
Mike & Mary Jo Weber

Joe Schwarz Memorial
Tom & Yvonne Schwarz

Cindy Schafer Memorial
Dudley & Teresa Baker
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Anthony & Cynthia Hedrick
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Debra Evangelidis
Sidney & MaryAnn Strohl
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Rachel Ryan
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Mike Stein
Amanda Stoddard
Vivian Tapia
Angela Turner
Kristin Williams
Nandina Wilson
Terry Woodward

Beaumont, TX
Arlene Grantham

Dodge City
John & Shannon Benish
Doris Fowler
Neola Herrman
Mariana's Cookies for Good at
Community Foundation of
Southwest Kansas
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Swaim Funeral Home

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Deb Price

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Pratt
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Jeff & Sandy Taylor

Spearville
Greg & Ginny Werner

Wichita
Dan & Cindy Cammack
Jack & Kathryn Flesher
Diane Meitner

Passion for the Mission

Liz Demuth has always had a deep passion for Arrowhead West's mission statement. Her retirement last year as the Western Kansas Division Manager after nearly 27 years did not diminish her commitment. In a gesture that will be remembered, Liz dedicated a beautiful bench engraved with the Arrowhead West mission statement. The bench was placed in front of the Western Kansas Division location and symbolizes her unwavering support to those we serve and those who choose the mission.

We thank Liz for her generosity and passion for Arrowhead West.



AWARDED GRANTS

Arrowhead West, Inc. has been awarded grants from the following organizations. We cannot express enough how much we appreciate their support of Arrowhead West and our mission! Their generosity is truly invaluable!

Grain Belt Express, an Invernergy Transmission Project, provided funds to purchase a sound system with microphones for events such as singing at nursing homes, schools, and gatherings.

The Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas awarded us funds to purchase a hearing screener to screen children during screening clinics and visits in their homes. The screener helps detect hearing loss and helps identify any needs a child may need to prevent delays.

The Community Foundation of South-Central Kansas provided funds to purchase furniture for clients in the Pratt Day Program outdoor sitting area.

Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation recently granted 650 toothbrush kits to Arrowhead West clients. The kits will be used to encourage good oral health habits.

Dodge City Women's Chamber awarded Arrowhead West funds to assist in purchasing supplies for our Gingerbread House Party held for the community.

Walmart Foundation (Dodge City) provided funds to our Western Kansas Division in Dodge City to purchase barbeque grills for use in our residential services program.

The Ability Experience provided a grant to Arrowhead West from the funds they raised while bicycling across the United States, raising awareness for individuals with disabilities. The funds will help purchase outdoor benches for our Day Program.

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund to Russell Child Development - Professional development opportunities and other resources were made possible by funding through a Building Blocks Early Childhood block grant.

UnitedHealthcare provided funds to assist in hosting Disability Mentoring Day, a nationwide effort to promote career development for students with disabilities through hands-on career exploration.





P.O. Box 1417
Dodge City, KS 67801

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

RETIREMENTS



Linda Clark, Dodge City Community Living Instructor, has worked for Arrowhead West for 29 years. She worked in all areas of the residential program and with nearly every client.

"Find a job you love, and you will never work a day in your life. I really loved this job and will miss the people," said Linda.

"Linda is an amazing staff who works with everyone to increase their independence. She will be greatly missed," said Lori Lacy, Residential Manager.



Kathy Hayes, Dodge City Infant-Toddler Services (ITS) Secretary, retired after 24 years.

"Kathy worked hard every day. Her work ethic was impeccable, and her efficiency was admirable. She and all she did for the team will be missed dearly. We wish the very best in her new chapter of life," said Erica DeAnda-Soltero, ITS Manager.

"Although I am very excited about retirement, I will truly miss my co-workers and the friendships I have made with so many people at AWI," said Kathy.



Rochelle Turner, Wichita Community Living Instructor, retired after nearly 11 years.

"Rochelle is an incredibly compassionate individual who takes pride in her ability to build rapport with clients and is not afraid to jump in and help when needed," said co-workers.

"I appreciate the opportunity Arrowhead West gave me to share my compassion for the clients. After ten years, it's time for me to retire and spend time caring for myself and my loved ones," said Rochelle.