



Shy and soft spoken, Larry Mills (right) typically appears a little uncomfortable around others. But he becomes a different person when participating in an InterPlay class! His interactions become confident as he demonstrates his stories through big, bold movements. Here he's joined in movement by InterPlay instructor Devi Wetterer and Maureen Collins.



Cindy Anderson impatiently waits her turn as Jennifer Personett scores a coveted autograph from Will Shields during his recent visit to JCDS. Shields owns and operates 68 Inside Sports, a gymnasium and sports facility that hosts the InterPlay classes offered to JCDS consumers.

Movement classes unlock creativity of people served by JCDS

Each Friday at 10:00 a.m., a group of JCDS day service recipients piles eagerly into a Johnson County transit bus, accompanied by three support staff. It takes no coaxing to get them on board!

The source of this enthusiasm is a new program called InterPlay. Thanks to a grant from Accessible Arts and in partnership with Will Shields 68's Inside Sports fitness center, ten individuals from JCDS enjoy the opportunity to participate in this inclusive, creative movement class.

InterPlay has been touted as an activity in which virtually anyone can participate, regardless of size, shape, ability, color, background, gender, orientation, belief, or nationality. It is devoted to fun, movement, expression and connection. All that is needed is a desire to participate—and that's one thing JCDS consumers have in abundance!

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MAURY THOMPSON, JCDS Executive Director

Reflecting on accomplishments at year's end

The last quarter of 2010 found Johnson County Developmental Supports under the magnifying glass as we became the subject of several third-party reviews. And, I am proud to report, we came through with flying colors!

During the month of September, we welcomed three surveyors from CARE, an international accrediting commission of health and human service providers. Peer reviewers from across the United States converged upon JCDS for three days to scrutinize our administration and services. The administrative review included leadership, strategic planning, input from persons served and other stakeholders, legal requirements, financial planning and management, risk management, health and safety, human resources, technology, rights of persons served, accessibility, information measurement and management, and performance improvement.

The services review evaluated community and employment services, including housing, integration (older adults), services coordination, supported living, job development, job supports, job-site training, and organizational employment.

At the conclusion of their on-site review, surveyors shared the preliminary results of their work, citing nineteen specific areas of strength and only three recommendations for improvement. This outstanding accomplishment adds to a long history (eleven previous reviews) of success in achieving CARF accreditation.

Then in November, the Community Developmental Disabilities Organization (CDDO) was reviewed by a

group of peers, customers, and regulators for compliance with state regulation. Again, this review team noted many areas of demonstrated strength in our management of the catchment area and adherence to regulation. They noted one area for improvement. I am pleased to report CDDO staff is already addressing this item.

And finally, but surely no less significant, was the notification we received in December of the issuance of another full license from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for our provision of licensed services--Day and Employment Services, Residential Services, and Case Management Services (service coordination) for 2011.

These reviews of our administration and services indicate the continued hard work of an exemplary group of staff and board working together to “build resources to meet the needs and enhance the lives of those we serve.”

With an impending farewell to 2010, I thank each of you who have contributed to the accomplishments I've acknowledged above. Whether as a board member of JCDS or the Friends of JCDS, a volunteer, staff member, donor, parent, employer providing a job for someone we support, or someone helping us strive to achieve our mission in some other way, please know that your contribution is making a difference in the lives of those we support.

I look forward to joining with each of you as we continue to evaluate and improve ways to carry out the mission of JCDS throughout 2011 and beyond.

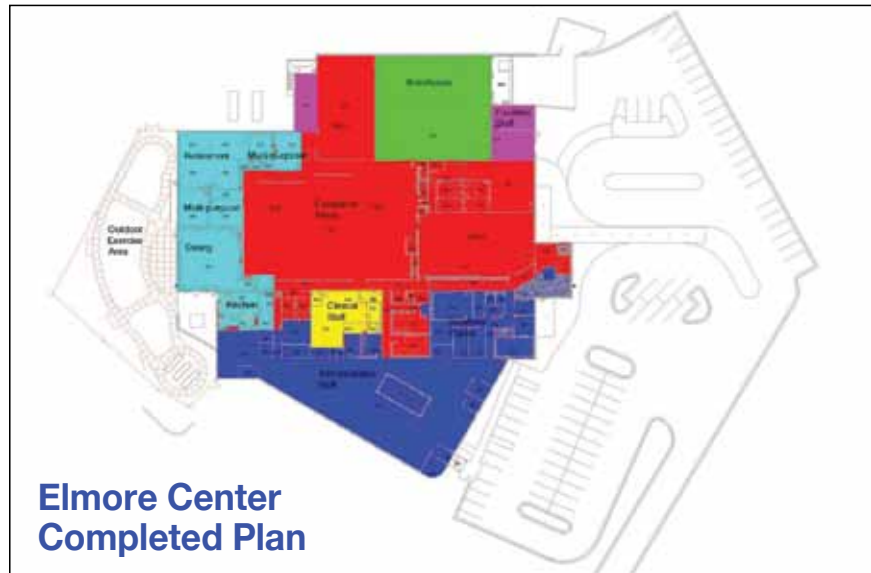
What's going on at the Elmore Center?

Although not yet visible from the outside, a major construction project is now underway at JCDS!

Over the next 12-15 months, the project will touch almost every part of the Mark D Elmore Center. When finished, the Center will boast a parking lot that better segregates drop-off activities from parking, and a vestibule that accommodates both client entrance and a visitor/staff entrance. A commercial kitchen adjacent to an expanded dining facility will provide convenient access for meals, and dining room windows opening to an outdoor exercise area and patio will create a more expansive atmosphere for diners.

Team areas will also be more open to each other, with enclosed spaces available for special activities. Additional meeting room spaces will be clustered in a Business Center. The Clinical staff will be located just across from the client areas.

Apart from the functional layout changes, the infrastructure will be vastly improved. The mechanical ductwork is being completely replaced, and new air handling equipment added. A lighting control system and building management system will enable more energy-efficient control of lighting, temperature and humidity. And a new card access system for JCDS staff use will relegate door keys permanently to the recycle bin!



Since work in an occupied building comes with a lot of noise, smells, and dust, a number of things are being done to reduce these irritants. Although normal working hours for the construction crew are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., a number of activities will occur on overtime hours to minimize noise disruption. Dust barriers will be kept in place to segregate construction areas from work areas. In addition, the design team has selected such things as paints with zero off-gassing compounds and carpet installed without glue to minimize smells.

Because we are replacing the mechanical system, there will be periods of time where the heating or cooling may be disrupted. The replacement will mostly be done after hours to minimize

any negative impact on operations.

The reconfigured parking lot and the new outdoor area on the north side of the building will be done as the weather allows. The outdoor area will be started this winter, and the parking lot will be done in two phases during the spring and summer of 2011. Also during this portion, the current garage drop-off area will be converted to the new entry for clients and staff. This will require a lot of coordination and communication with client's families as each timeframe approaches.

We appreciate your patience during this time, and look forward to sharing the results with our families, friends and the entire Johnson County community!

CDDO MONTHLY AWARD

Service Excellence Award recognizes outstanding contributions in Johnson County

Over 1,300 children and adults with developmental disabilities are currently receiving services from over 400 providers in Johnson County. These individual and agency providers carry out the complex tasks of helping to meet the individual support needs of people with DD and their families each and every day.

Needless to say, many contributions are made that deserve recognition.

Johnson County's Service Excellence Award honors outstanding performance in the areas of Day and Residential Services, Family Support, and Case Management. All Johnson County affiliate providers are invited to submit nominations throughout the month prior to the award date.

2010 Service Excellence Award recipients

■ JANUARY

Kari Lucas and Nathan Quinn, Community Living Opportunities (CLO)

■ FEBRUARY

Janice Godsey, Arcare

■ MARCH

Carmalita Brown and Bernadette Cohen, JCDS

■ APRIL

Dallas Williams, New Alliance Provider

■ JULY

Crissy Stumbo, Community Living Opportunities (CLO)
Alternative Solutions

■ AUGUST

Allison Foss, JCDS Case Manager

■ SEPTEMBER

Laura L. Christine, Independent Case Manager

■ OCTOBER

Shepherd's Quest

■ DECEMBER

Tanishia Hinton, Supportive Home Care Provider



JCDS consumer John Paul Hammen celebrates "Cinco de Mayo" with a taco salad while also supporting Feed the Need. The taco bar was organized by JCDS' residential services team as one of several successful JCDS staff-sponsored fundraising events benefiting local food pantries.

JCDS helps Johnson County achieve record Feed the Need donations

Johnson County's 2010 Feed the Need campaign has ended with success.

The campaign established a new record by collecting almost 187 tons in food donations and cash to benefit local food pantries. The collections edged out the previous record of 186.5 tons that was set in 2009.

JCDS certainly played a part! Throughout 2010, many caring JCDS employees organized a series of fundraisers at the Elmore Center, including a Cake Walk, drawings for gift baskets, Cinco de Mayo taco salad bar, Feed the Need BBQ, and root beer float sale.

By the time all was said and done, JCDS achieved a six-ton award for cash and food donated to the 2010 campaign.

The annual Feed the Need campaign benefits ten Johnson

County food pantries in nine cities, including five pantries at multi-service centers operated by the Department of Human Services. Through June of 2010, the county's five outreach food pantries had served 3,071 households representing 12,543 individuals. For the same period a year ago, 2,835 households, representing 8,386 people were served. That represents an 8 percent increase in new households served.

Johnson County has been a lead participating organization in the annual metropolitan Feed the Need campaign since 1988. Feed the Need is a regional effort coordinated by the Mid-America Regional Council, the Mid-America Assistance Coalition, and Harvesters International.

President signs bill removing ‘Mental Retardation’ from federal lexicon

President Barack Obama has signed into law Rosa’s Law, which will change references in federal law from mental retardation to intellectual disability, and references to a mentally retarded individual to an individual with an intellectual disability.

The bill passed in the Senate by Unanimous Consent on August 5 and in the House of Representatives by voice vote on September 22, 2010.

Rosa’s Law is expected to impact health, education and labor policy at the federal level. Under the measure, individuals with disabilities would retain the same rights they currently have, but the terminology would be swapped as laws and documents come up for revision over the next several years. As a result, the measure is not expected to incur any cost.

In an effort to remain consistent with established terminology and current thinking, the JCDS governing board approved a revision to the JCDS Mission statement that replaces “developmental disabilities with “intellectual and developmental disabilities.” This change was made on October 26, 2010.

Rosa’s Law is important for several reasons. It changes how people with intellectual disabilities are labeled and creates a stopgap on the insidious process of dehumanization. Proponents maintain that once a term that diminishes human dignity is used, other factors that lead to mistreatment and abuse are allowed to emerge. Not the least of these is an indifference to the conditions, well being and needs of the people being branded.

Rosa’s Law replicates a law recently adopted in the state of Maryland. The family of Rosa Marcellino, a nine year-old girl with Down syndrome, worked with their state representative to pass the legislation in the Maryland General Assembly. Shortly before it passed the Assembly, Senator Mikulski met Rosa’s mother Nina Marcellino at a roundtable on special education. Senator Mikulski promised that if Rosa’s Law passed in Maryland, she’d take it to the Senate floor.

For more information about Rosa’s Law, visit the website of the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/pcpid/.

“What you call people is how you treat them. What you call my sister is how you will treat her. If you believe she’s ‘retarded’ it invites taunting, stigma. It incites bullying and it also invites the slammed doors of being treated with respect and dignity.”

*— 14-year old
Nick Marcellino,
Rosa’s brother,
in testimony to the
Maryland General
Assembly*

JCDS MISSION

To build resources to meet the needs and enhance the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Pete Jafferis looks very much the free spirit at his retirement celebration, held September 21, 2010 at JCDS.



PETE JAFFERIS RETIRES

JCDS bids fond farewell to long-time employee

Pete Jafferis has dedicated his entire career to helping others. For the past 31 years, Pete served Johnson County's residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Pete began his long career as a vocational tech in the sheltered workshop at Johnson County Mental Retardation Center, now known as Johnson County Developmental Supports (JCDS). His responsibilities increased over time to include rehabilitation specialist, employment advisor and senior employment coach.

During his tenure, Pete has been honored with several awards. In 1983, he was named Employee of the Year. Pete has twice received the JCDS

VIP (Vision, Innovation, and Performance) award which recognizes employees who have demonstrated exceptional performance in support of the agency's mission to enhance the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

In addition, Pete received a Van Gorkom Scholarship in 2003. Established by Betty Van Gorkom in 2001, the Scholarship provides personal and/or professional development opportunities for JCDS direct support professionals and demonstrates appreciation for each recipient's contributions to the quality of services provided to the people served by JCDS.

Pete's co-workers have come to

know Pete as a humble, easygoing guy who truly cares about his consumers and peers. Pete said his time at JCDS has definitely been rewarding, fulfilling and "always interesting." Pete plans to continue his relationship with JCDS by giving of his time to volunteer on the work floor with consumers. He'll also be adjusting to married life after tying the knot on August 8, 2010 and getting more involved with the Astronomical Society of Northeast Kansas.

The agency held a retirement celebration for Pete on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at the Mark D. Elmore Center, 10501 Lackman Road in Lenexa.

JCDS Accolades



JCDS Annual Report garners NACIO award

Janet Hoffman, Ph.D. (center), Director of Community Relations and Resource Development for JCDS, was recently recognized by the National Association of County Information Officers with a 2010 NACIO Award of Excellence in the “Excellence” category for the 2009 JCDS Annual Report. BOCC Chairman Annabeth Surbaugh presented the award to Janet and JCDS Executive Director Maury Thompson during an August 19 awards ceremony.

JCDS receives Full License from State of Kansas

JCDS is pleased to announce that the agency has again received a Full License from the State of Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. This signifies that JCDS has demonstrated substantial compliance with all Kansas Administrative Regulations (KAR 30-63-01 et seq) as a licensed provider of Day and Employment Services, Residential Services, and Case Management Services (service coordination).

Through the license renewal process, the State of Kansas has recognized the quality of services provided to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who depend on JCDS to maintain productive, inclusionary and safe lives in the Johnson County community.

AGENCY STANDS TALL AGAINST EXTERNAL STANDARDS

Johnson County Developmental Supports receives 3-Year CARF accreditation

Johnson County Developmental Supports (JCDS) has been awarded a three-year full accreditation from CARF (the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities).

CARF is an independent, nonprofit organization that accredits health and human service agencies for service quality and satisfaction of persons served. Through accreditation, CARF assists service providers in improving the quality of their programs, demonstrating value and meeting internationally recognized organizational and highest quality of program standards relating to various service areas and business practices. The accreditation process took place September 27-29, 2010 during an exhaustive on-site review and evaluation of all aspects of services.

JCDS was awarded a three year accreditation (the highest honor) which demonstrates the distinguished service delivery system and commitment to the satisfaction of individuals served. It is the eleventh consecutive three-year award received by the agency.

JCDS received commendations for the variety of community employment opportunities, client participation in volunteer activities, use of technology for business support/client programming, and integration of JCDS-operated homes into neighborhoods. Accolades were given as well regarding the governing board, executive director and well-trained, tenured and enthusiastic staff.



The virtual world gets more user-friendly

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns announces new website!

Although the address stayed the same, the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC) website has a fresh look and up-to-date resource information.

Visit www.KCDCinfo.com for new content about everything from employment and school to daily living, play or leisure, youth, and disability history.

SRS offers new on-line option for reporting child and adult abuse or neglect

Effective December 10, 2010 the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) announced that the Kansas Protection

Report Center (KPRC) is now offering mandated reporters the option of reporting suspected incidences of abuse, neglect or exploitation (ANE) on-line.

Mandated reporters may access the on-line report form at: <http://www.srs.ks.gov/Pages/HotlineNumbers.aspx>

In addition to on-line reporting, these current options remain available to make a report to KPRC:

By telephone: 1.800-922.5330

By fax: KSPRC 1.866.317.4279

By e-mail: KSPRC@srs.ks.gov

By mail: Kansas Protection

Report Center

Docking State Office Building

915 SW Harrison, 5th floor

Topeka, KS 66612

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Overland Park, Kansas SRS office at 913.826.7300 or KPRC at 1.800.922.5330.

Johnson County, Kansas website gets new look, tools

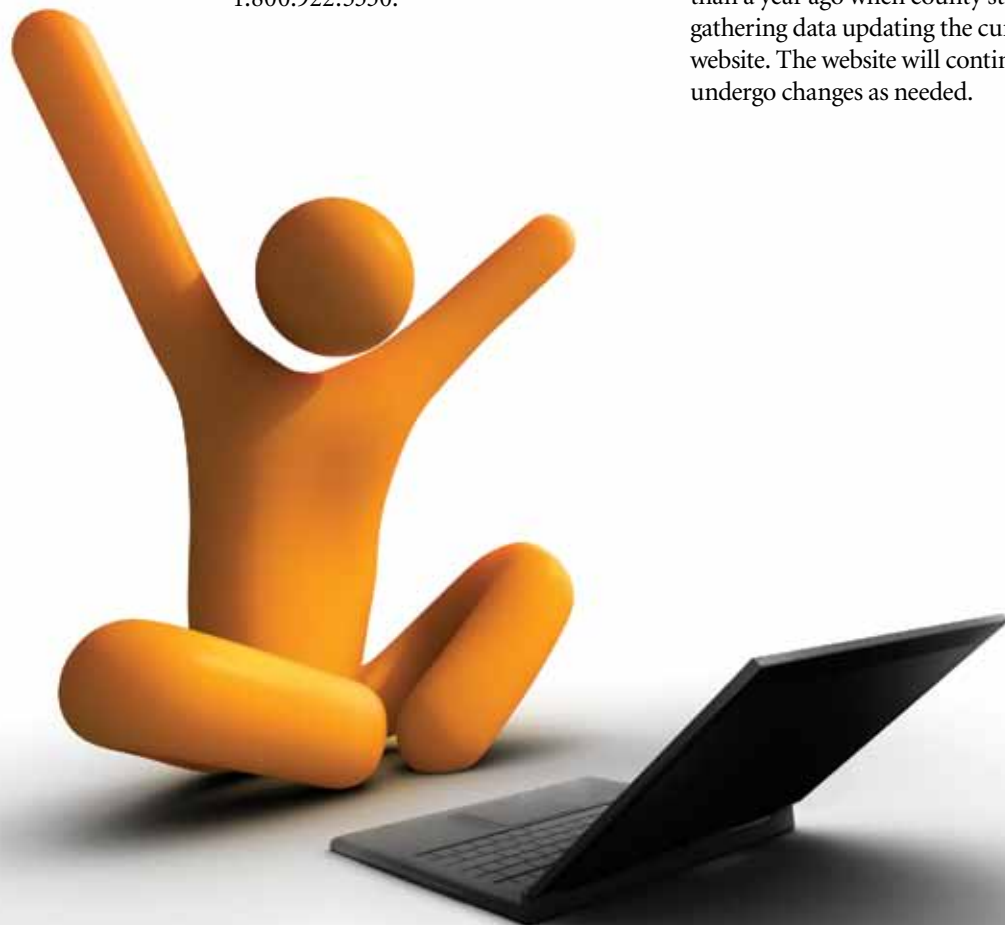
Johnson County's main website has a new look.

The redesigned website was announced Monday, Nov. 29 by Johnson County Manager Hannes Zacharias. The Internet connection to Johnson County Government offers the public a stream-lined website that's easier to use, with simpler navigation, new content, social networking support, and interactive features.

The county's website address remains unchanged at www.jocogov.org.

"We created the new Johnson County website with our top priority being an informative, useful site for the general public. We want to make it easier for Johnson County residents and others to find information about Johnson County government," Zacharias said.

The redesign process began more than a year ago when county staff began gathering data updating the current website. The website will continue to undergo changes as needed.



Mark Dean Elmore VIP Award winners take center stage at JCDS

Each quarter, JCDS employees have an opportunity to participate in a program to recognize their peers for exceptional performance in support of the JCDS mission.

The VIP program offers a formal process for recognizing staff and saying, “thank you” for a job well done based on information shared by co-workers and others familiar with their work.

The award was named after Mark Elmore, the agency’s long-time Executive Director, who passed away in May 2005. The Mark Dean Elmore Award celebrates excellence in making our Vision a reality, Innovation in work processes or consumer care, and excellence in work Performance.

Each VIP award recipient receives a Certificate of Appreciation, customized label pin symbolizing accomplishment and his or her choice of either a \$100 recognition bonus or a day off with pay. Winners are selected each quarter from a group of worth nominees.

Congratulations to all VIP award winners and nominees for the last half of 2010!



Heather Bertram with her supervisor, Dan Schluter (left) and Deputy Director Dr. Dennis Tucker



Allison Foss with her supervisor, Joanna Seaman and Dr. Dennis Tucker



Diane Wendte with (from left) Dr. Dennis Tucker, Danielle Bougher and her supervisor, James Jenkins

MARK DEAN ELMORE VIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

■ 3RD QUARTER 2010

Heather Bertram, Sr. Residential Provider
Allison Foss, Case Manager
Diane Wendte, Accounting Assistant

■ 4TH QUARTER 2010

Kelli Roberts, Sr. Residential Provider
Residential Team Leaders:
Marshall Bass
Vince Bruce
Kendra Clark
Christi Little
David Murphy
Jenny Paxton
Dan Schluter



Big-hearted Santas

For the eighth consecutive time, an extraordinary group of big-hearted community volunteers led by Rich and Cindy Hayward have played “Santa” to JCDS consumers in need. This year, the names of 35 individuals ranging in age from 3 to 63 were submitted to JCDS Volunteer Coordinator Debby Land by case management staff, along with a “wish list” for each. Upon receiving the list, the volunteers draw names and went shopping! When the gifts were delivered to JCDS for distribution, they are all beautifully wrapped and neatly tagged. Thank you, Giving Party members!

Movement classes unlock creativity of people served by JCDS

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Accessible Arts, Inc. (AAI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to unlocking the arts for children and adults with disabilities. Advocacy, education and collaboration are essential components in accomplishing the organization’s objectives. Through the arts, participants develop critical thinking skills, take risks in a safe environment and experience successes.

From the perspective of Emily Vowiell, Accessible Arts Executive Director, the collaboration between InterPlay, JCDS and 68’s Insides

Sports is a natural fit. “68’s Inside Sports is a spacious, fully-accessible facility,” she said, “and Accessible Arts’ instructors are skilled facilitators of free and creative movement who also excel at working with all types of people.”

Lurena Mead, JCDS community relations manager and President of the AAI Board of Directors, attests to InterPlay’s infectious nature. “It’s impossible for me to just sit still and observe an InterPlay class. I end up moving, playing and connecting with consumers and staff alike. It’s all about self-expression and realizing that in life, we are all connected.”

DIRECT SUCCESS!

Since being introduced at the beginning of 2010, the direct deposit option for paychecks has really caught-on with JCDS consumers. More than 240 consumers have signed up and are now enjoying the ease and convenience of direct deposit.

Tim Arnold, JCDS Chief Financial Officer, said he is thrilled by the popularity and credits most of the success to word of mouth.

“It was great to have people spreading the word about how easy it is,” Tim said.

David Redel, who works in the JCDS cafeteria, said he signed up for direct deposit a few months ago.

“I like it,” David said. “I don’t have to go to the bank anymore and it’s much easier!”

Another fan is JCDS consumer Patti Pennington, who said she signed up and is recommending it to her peers at JCDS.

“I think people should go ahead and get direct deposit like I do!” Patti said.

Consumers interested in direct deposit can contact Diane Wendte in her office, room 172, or by phone, 913.826.2673.

CALLING ALL ADVOCATES!

With over 4,000 individuals on the statewide developmental disability (DD) waiting list, grassroots legislative advocacy has never been more important!

If you’d like to “be in the know” and kept abreast of current legislative activities, please send your email address to Lurena.Mead@jocogov.org. You’ll receive a weekly update sharing what is happening on legislation and DD funding.

You won’t be solicited or hassled... just informed!

Proclamations



JCDS Consumer Jamie Cureton (right), Maury Thompson and Johnson County's Accessibility Program Manager Jim Swain accepted a proclamation from BOCC Chairman Annabeth Surbaugh celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The BOCC celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act with a proclamation on July 15. The declaration publicly recognized the ground-breaking legislation that was signed into law in 1990 to reduce barriers through equal access to inclusive education, gainful employment and full participation in leisure and social activities. The ADA has proven to be one of the most successful and compassionate reforms in our nation's history!



Mark Smith (left) enjoys working in the community and was pleased to join Maury Thompson in accepting a 2010 Disability Employment Awareness Month proclamation from BOCC Chairman Annabeth Surbaugh.

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

For Americans with disabilities, employment is vital to independence, empowerment, and quality of life. In October, the BOCC recognized observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This year's theme, "Talent has no boundaries," highlights people with disabilities as a tremendous source of capable employees, and recognizes the many contributions people with disabilities make to our community.



(From right) Annabeth Surbaugh, Chairman of the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners presented a proclamation honoring DSPs to JCDS Executive Director Maury Thompson, JCDS consumer Sharon Nickerson and JCDS employment coach Annie Hickcox.

DSP RECOGNITION WEEK

The BOCC proclaimed the week of September 12-18, 2010 Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Week to commend their many contributions, and acknowledge the integral role DSPs play in Johnson County's long-term support system.



(From left), Donna Hayes and her son, Ryan join Maury Thompson in accepting a Down Syndrome Awareness Month proclamation from BOCC Chairman Annabeth Surbaugh on September 30, 2010.

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

October is also Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and JCDS was on hand to accept the BOCC's proclamation. One in every 733 children is born with Down syndrome, representing approximately 5,600 births per year in the U.S. People with Down syndrome possess a wide range of abilities and are active participants in educational, occupational, social and recreation community activities. During October and the rest of the year, JCDS encourages citizens to work together to promote respect and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome and to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions.



Conservation Corner

KEEP YOUR LID ON

Gas cap check conducted to help reduce air pollution

On Thursday, July 24, the county checked JCDS vehicles for leaky gas caps.

Jennifer Logan, Ozone Reduction Campaign Coordinator from Johnson County's environmental department, went through the parking lot and tested employee and county vehicle gas caps. JCDS employees placed red fliers on their vehicles if they wanted their cars checked.

The test takes only minutes and requires taking the cap, attaching it to the equipment and pressurizing the seal to check for leakage. A gas cap can fail on any vehicle, old or new.

Lori Patterson, JCDS Quality Assurance Manager, said a bad gas cap

can leak as much as 30 gallons of gasoline every year, which costs money and contributes to air pollution. With gas around \$3 a gallon, that can add up to nearly \$100 a year!

Jennifer tested 22 county and 20 personal vehicles. Of the 22 county vehicles, five failed the test. Of the 20 personal vehicles, only one failed.

The environmental department has been checking county and employees' vehicles for the last three years and found more than one out of every ten gas caps leak. If a cap leaks, about 175 pounds of pollution are escaping into the air every year. With over 1.5 million vehicles in the metropolitan area, that's over 13 tons of ozone causing pollution being emitted every year from leaking gas caps.

What's a good solution for a leaky gas cap? It's as easy as purchasing a new one at an automotive sales store for about \$10.



Jennifer Logan, Ozone Reduction Campaign Coordinator for Johnson County's environmental department tested a total of 42 JCDS staff and agency vehicles for leaky gas caps. Just one leaky cap allows about 175 pounds of pollution to escape into the air every year.

Eagle Scout volunteers talents to aid recycling effort at JCDS



Andy Pate (left) poses proudly with his brother, David in front of just-delivered recycling center and display cabinets. David constructed the items for JCDS to fulfill requirements of an Eagle Scout leadership service project. Andy has the right idea: THANK YOU David!

Thanks to the capable hands and volunteer spirit of David Pate, JCDS has a new recycling center for plastic bottles, aluminum cans and bottle lids!

David constructed the unit as an Eagle Scout volunteer project to meet Eagle Scout leadership service project requirements – and to benefit JCDS' ongoing recycling efforts. David is the brother of Andy Pate, who receives services from JCDS.

The process began with development of a project proposal that David then submitted for approval. Once given the green light, he proceeded to draw up construction plans, complete with dimensions, finish details, a complete list of required materials/supplies and construction schedule.

While he was at it, David also designed and built two display cabinets to showcase anything from work products produced by JCDS consumers to agency awards and recognition plaques. The results were outstanding!



FRIENDS of JCDS

Building Resources for People with Disabilities



Those yard debris had to go! The group also arranged for the back yard to be aerated and re-seeded by Ryan Lawn and Tree.



As is so often the case, prep work takes the most time!

Volunteers apply elbow-grease to Friends home

As fall approached, a group of community-minded volunteers from Farmers Insurance Group answered the call to spiff up one of the barrier-free homes owned by Friends of JCDS. Their challenge? Scuffed interior walls, weathered deck and a badly overgrown back yard.

About a dozen recruits, all training to become Farmers Insurance claims agents, gathered on a beautiful Saturday morning and immediately set to work. By the close of the day, pristine walls beckoned the home's residents, the yard and been tidied up, and the back deck protected with a coat of sealant. *Thank you!*



Farmers Insurance Group volunteers report for duty! The Friends home improvement project, submitted by Marcus Meoli (front row, left) was selected from several proposals.

Friends celebrates 10th anniversary of the Dorothy K. Dorfman Picnic & Funfest

Held Thursday, September 23, this year's Dorothy K. Dorfman Annual Picnic and Funfest offered an extra measure of fun and festivities honoring the event's 10th Anniversary.

Treats for picnickers included BBQ catered by Jack Stack's, balloon art created by John Perry, a visit from KC Wolf, and plenty of opportunities to boogie to DJ Craig Rostorfer's perfect play list. Tenth Anniversary balloons and cupcakes added special touches this year.

A presentation to Dorfman family members commemorated the occasion that included art plaques, hand-crafted flowers, and a giant "thank you" card created by JCDS day program participants.

Nearly 40 volunteers lent willing hands and generous hearts to the serving lines and trash detail. For the 10th consecutive year, this wonderful event was underwritten by the Dorothy and Allan Dorfman Fund, Jewish Community Foundation.

**Friends-
sponsored
events
bring joy
to every
season!**



Members of the Dorfman family were on hand to help celebrate the Dorothy K. Dorfman Picnic's 10th anniversary. From left, Charlie Dorfman, Paul Herman, Marcia Dorfman Herman, and Jo Licausi are joined by JCDS staff members Patti Combs (front row), Janet Hoffman (back row) and Executive Director Maury Thompson.



Joanna Seaman, Director of Case Management Services had the sweet task of handing out cupcakes commemorating the Dorfman Picnic's 10th Anniversary.



The festive fare gave rise to a cacophony of feasting and flavors!



Turkey or brisket? Deputy Director Dr. Dennis Tucker and JCDS Governing Board member Dale Chaffin serve it up at the Dorfman Picnic.



Rod McGruder and Michelle Quick hang out during picnic festivities. Balloon artist John Perry created the wonderful monkey hat adorning Michelle's head.

Snowflake Ball brings warmth to winter's chill

The first ever Snowflake Ball was held on Wednesday, December 15 at the National Guard Armory in Lenexa. Despite winter's chill, around 150 turned out to enjoy light refreshments and DJ John Todd's special mix of seasonal and classic hits. All quarterly dances throughout 2010 were coordinated by JCDS case managers led by Marie Figoni Daniels.

Mark your calendars: Cupid's Ball, the next Friends-sponsored dance, will take place on February 9, 2011 at the Lenexa Community Center!

BOO BASH delivers more treats than tricks!

A peek through the doors of the Lenexa Community Center on the night of October 30 revealed throngs of JCDS consumers and staff in Halloween costumes ranging from creative to fabulously frightening! The occasion was JCDS' annual Boo Bash sponsored by the Friends of JCDS.

A crowd of over 300 consumers, staff and family members shared refreshments and a whirl around the dance floor to "Monster Mash" and other tunes spun by DJ John Todd.

A sincere thank you goes to all who help make this party a "phantastic" success.



No one does Halloween better than Dawn Bangston (right) and Tracy Brown.



Andrea Hill (left) and Kathy Sivyer are charmed by the long-stemmed red roses handed out at the Snowflake Ball.



Roommates Chris Johnston (left) and Sean Grant do the honors at a ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of Friends of JCDS' 11th barrier-free home.

Friends and JCDS roll the welcome mat out at House # 11

With accessibility renovations complete, the Friends of JCDS and JCDS hosted a community Open House on October 21 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. to show off its 11th barrier-free property, located in the City of Shawnee.

Around 75 guests came out to tour the home and enjoy a ribbon-cutting, refreshments and a housewarming toast led by JCDS Executive Director Maury Thompson. Among the attendees were representatives from the Friends Board of Directors, JCDS Governing Board and BOCC, as well as family members, neighbors, JCDS consumers and staff.

Four happy residents now call the property “home.” The 11 barrier-free properties owned by Friends of JCDS are collectively providing barrier-free accommodation to nearly 50 people with intellectual and physical disabilities served by JCDS.

Friends 2009 annual report wins first place “Philly” award!

Friends of JCDS has won a “Philly Award” for its 2009 Annual Report, Everyday Caring, Extraordinary Stories. The report was edited by Friends of JCDS Executive Director Janet Hoffman and designed by Jennifer Nichols of CommunityAmerica Credit Union. Philly Awards honor excellence in nonprofit communications based on the ratings of a blue ribbon panel selected from local nonprofit professionals.

This year’s “Philly’s” are handed out at the 8th Annual Philly Awards Luncheon held November 9th at the Overland Park Convention Center. In addition to annual reports, awards are given in 12 categories including print and e-newsletters, fundraising appeals, brochures, video and website.



Jennifer Nichols (left) and Janet Hoffman accept a 1st place Philly Award recognizing their work on the 2009 Friends of JCDS Annual Report. Jenny’s artistic talents were contributed by her employer, CommunityAmerica Credit Union.

Are you a Facebook fan yet?

In the world of social media, there are Facebook fans and there are bystanders! Become a “Fan” of Friends of JCDS on Facebook. Our page is updated regularly with news stories, Friends event photos, and informative links for all our Friends!



Go to www.facebook.com and search for “Friends of JCDS.”

Michelle Gressel and Maury Thompson enjoyed the employer recognition celebration held December 11 at Blue Hills County Club in Kansas City, MO. The event was developed as a "thank you" to area business partners who have provided employment opportunities for JCDS workers.



Employer recognition event salutes JCDS business partners

On December 11, nearly 100 business partners, community employment staff members, JCDS consumers and other friends gathered at the Blue Hills Country Club for an evening celebration that came complete with a sumptuous buffet dinner.

The program recognized the support of area employers in providing much-needed job opportunities for the willing workers who receive employment supports from JCDS.

In addition to a special video highlighting community employment

successes and activities, testimonials to the advantages of hiring workers with disabilities were offered by Chuck Burton of Foreclosure Management Company (FMC) and Rob Wheeler of Mar-Beck Appliance Parts & Service. Friends of JCDS board member Michelle Gressel emceed the event, and choral music was provided by the Blue Valley North chamber singers.

JCDS Community Employment Team hosted the event, which was co-sponsored by FMC and the Friends of JCDS.

Friends of JCDS Board of Directors selects 2011 officers

The following individuals have been elected to leadership positions on the executive committee of the Friends of JCDS Board of Directors for the term January 1 – December 31, 2011:

- John Holt, Chairman
- Mike Cochran, Treasurer
- Tammy Nigus, Vice Chairman
- Maury Thompson, President
- Mike Hughes, Secretary

In addition, Marcia Tammeus and Brenda Youness were elected to serve three-year terms on the board effective January 1, 2011.

Heartfelt thanks to these community volunteers for continuing their service to the Friends of JCDS.

Mark your calendars

early for these 2011 Friends-sponsored events!

- CUPID'S BALL
February 9, 2011
Midwest Premiere Event Center
10635 Floyd Street
Overland Park, KS
- SPRING FLING DANCE
May 25, 2011
Santa Fe Commons Park
8045 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park, KS
- BOO BASH
October 26, 2011
Lenexa Community Center
13420 Oak Street
Lenexa, KS
- SNOWFLAKE BALL
December 14, 2011
Lenexa Community Center
13420 Oak Street
Lenexa, KS



Mark your calendars now for Restyle Runway 2011!

DATE:
Friday, September 23, 2011

PLACE:
Overland Park Convention Center



Memberships and Donations

June 19, 2010 — November 30, 2010

JOY

Dorothy and Allan
Dorfman Fund, Jewish
Community Foundation
of Greater Kansas City

HOPE

Homer & Eva Jean Lewis

WISH

C. J. & Sara Alexander
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GRAACE

Wayne & Esther Brandt
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Eleanor Abrams
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Sharon Hilt
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Wolfrom
Patricia Yancey

IN MEMORY OF...

Jerry Crouch
J.R. & Marjorie Hammond

Caleb Hostetler
Amanda Hostetler &
Jeremy Mai
Bob & Elaine Hostetler

Phillip Kaplan
Phylis Schachter

Angelica Rogers
Dawn Bankston
Carol Berry
Twyla Church
Thomas & Denise
Gaughan
Alice Gregory
Ann Harity
Church Family of Mount
Olive Baptist Church
Joseph Pitts
Bruce & Patricia Plumhoff

Simon & Elizabeth Quint
Roseann Sanders
Staff & Friends from JCDS
Jeffrey & Kathryn Teefey
Ronnie Thompson
Valdena Vincent-Burrell

Joseph Schmidt
Susan Duval

Thomas Schmidt
William Bowden
Margaret Bryant
Corporate Counsel Group,
LLC
John & Sally Doane
Friends at The Forum at
Overland Park
Louise Jamison
Mary McCarthy
Barbara Merrifield
Dale & Anita Parker
Marilyn Redinger
Lynn Schutte, DDS
Robert & Sally Surridge III
Marilyn Uppman

John Wead
Janet Thompson

IN HONOR OF

**Mrs. Dorothy
Greenberg**
Dr. Michael & Mrs. Ruth
Fedotin

John Wills
Roland Wills

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GRACE	\$500-\$999
WISH	\$1,000-\$2,499
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Save a tree, save money, save time! Thank you!

JCDS Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 17** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Elmore Facility Closed
- 20** Friends of JCDS Board of Directors Meeting
11:45 a.m., JCDS Annex
- 25** JCDS Governing Board Meeting
5:30 p.m., Mark D. Elmore Center

FEBRUARY

- 9** Cupid's Ball
Midwest Premiere Event Center
10635 Floyd Street,
Overland Park
- 22** JCDS Governing Board Meeting
5:30 p.m., Mark D. Elmore Center

MARCH

- 17** Friends of JCDS Board of Directors Meeting
11:45 a.m., JCDS Annex

- 22** JCDS Governing Board Meeting
5:30 p.m., Mark D. Elmore Center

APRIL

- 26** JCDS Governing Board Meeting
5:30 p.m., Mark D. Elmore Center

MAY

- 19** Friends of JCDS Board of Directors Meeting
11:45 a.m., JCDS Annex
- 24** JCDS Governing Board Meeting
5:30 p.m., Mark D. Elmore Center
- 25** Spring Fling Dance
Santa Fe Commons Park
8045 Santa Fe Drive,
Overland Park
- 30** Memorial Day
Elmore Center Closed

2011 JCDS Governing Board

CHAIRMAN

Joseph Vader

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Dale Chaffin

SECRETARY

Gayle Richardson

TREASURER

Michael Lally

MEMBERS

Jessica Dain
Scott Tschudy
Patricia Scott

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maury L. Thompson

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maury L. Thompson

EDITOR

Janet Hoffman

images

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Johnson County Developmental
Supports
The Mark D. Elmore Center
10501 Lackman Road
Lenexa, KS 66219 -1223
913.826.2626 FAX 913.826.2627
e-mail: jcdsinfo@jocoks.com

FRIENDS OF JCDS Membership Form

I WANT TO JOIN FRIENDS OF JCDS:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250
 \$500 Donor Tree "Grace" \$1,000 Donor tree "Wish" _____

MY MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE:

- Enclosed (*Make checks payable to Friends of JCDS*). Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.
 Pledged to be paid \$ _____ per _____

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE MY GIFT AS:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

PLEASE BILL MY CREDIT CARD:

- Mastercard Visa

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

\$ _____

Amount _____ Signature _____

- I'm not joining Friends of JCDS at this time but am enclosing a donation to Friends in the amount of \$ _____

My gift is made in memory of in honor of _____

Please send notification to _____

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Year-end event recognizes consumers

Fun and team spirit for all

December 3 marked the date for an all-day consumer recognition party held at the Elmore Center.

This year's theme, Teamwork, involved consumers in various group activities including a Wii bowling tournament, bingo, Frisbee golf, basketball/beanbag tosses, and a Tooth Fairy movie thrown in for good measure. Stylish caps designed by consumer artist Paul Studebaker further accented the theme.

Service awards for consumers celebrating 15, 20, 25, 30 and 40 years with JCDS opened the festivities; the packed schedule also featured a seasonal concert by the JCDS consumer choir and live dance music by the band Harvest Moon. Since no party is complete without food, a pizza lunch was also provided.

The event was planned by JCDS day and employment staff and funded by the Friends of JCDS.



Day and Employment Services Director Beth Stockwell recognized Gary Eilert with a special award honoring his 25-year tenure at JCDS. The all-day celebration, held December 3 at the Elmore Center, was funded by the Friends of JCDS.