



## Time flies!



**WHAT A TEAM!** Bea Harris, Tom Litchfield, and Michele Ortiz smile as they prepare to greet hungry lunch patrons at Hy-Vee.

**A**s Tom Litchfield walks around the Hy-Vee kitchen, he is greeted by busy co-workers, patrons and occasionally some familiar faces (his mom and sister like to visit him from time to time).

Tom began his career at Hy-Vee more than

15 years ago and hasn't stopped working, or being a positive influence, since he took the job in 1994.

He is the jack of all trades in the kitchen, helping to take orders from the lunch crowd, cleaning dishes and making food.

*continued on page 3*

### inside this issue...

**4**

Fight for Your Rights

**5**

Think Beyond the Label  
campaign stirs the pot

**10**

Photo Gallery!  
Spring Fling Dance

**11**

Restyle Runway -  
back and more  
stylish than ever!



# Budget cuts abound

by Maury Thompson, JCDS Executive Director

The ramifications of the Great Recession appear - like the Energizer Bunny - to go on, and on, and on. It has become difficult to keep track of what has now become a

series of budget cuts by the State of Kansas; cuts shared by the developmental disabilities (DD) community.

The first action was taken by the 2009 State legislature, with the passage of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010 budget. That budget reduced community DD funding by \$6.8 million. The corresponding loss of funds totaled nearly \$535,000 to Johnson County. As a result of this loss of funding, three Johnson County residents lost funding for Supportive Home Care, one individual lost funding for Day Services, and 107 families lost access to Family Subsidy (a program that provides a meager \$2,500 a year to assist families in caring for their loved one while they wait - in many cases for years - for needed services.)

Then, in November 2009, as a result of state revenues that continued to plummet, the Governor announced allotments, or more budget cuts. That allotment action further reduced community DD funding by \$1.3 million. Johnson County's portion of that amount was \$106,000. Forty-two more families lost Family Subsidy.

At the same time, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services announced that as a result of projected overspending of their budget, they were eliminating dental services and reducing respite care for individuals on the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) DD Medicaid waiver - the primary funding source for those we serve.

Effective January 1, 2010, the Governor's allotment action also set into place, a 10% reduction in Medicaid payments to providers of those services.

That action caused another \$2.3 million re-

duction to the community DD system, BUT also forfeited \$5.5 million in federal matching funds - an astonishing \$7.8 million cut. However, as a result of Johnson County efforts to suggest consideration of alternative proposals - ones that didn't forfeit critical federal funds - we, along with many partners, were able to successfully advocate in the Kansas Legislature to eliminate the 10% Medicaid payment reductions to the HCBS Medicaid waiver. (For this we sincerely thank the legislature!)

But, like the proverbial bunny, the proposed cuts go on...

Now, as the Kansas legislature struggles to develop a balanced budget for SFY 2011, the budget committees are considering proposals that eliminate ALL remaining State General Funds (SGF) - the funds supporting individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid. That action would eliminate funding for the last 17 individuals currently served with SGF in Johnson County.

In other words, the State of Kansas would only provide funding to serve those who qualify for Medicaid - no one else. And, unless the State addresses revenue needs, the likelihood of the Medicaid payment reduction we narrowly averted surely will rise again.

If what I have shared concerns you, if it is not the path you believe the State of Kansas should continue to pursue to balance our budget, I urge you to make your concerns known to your State Representative and Senator.

As the State continues to purge people from service and support, we only add to the nearly 700 Johnson County citizens already waiting for critically needed services.

To contact your legislators, please visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org) and click on the "Find your Legislator" link under the "Hot Items" category. Also, visit [www.invisiblekansas.org](http://www.invisiblekansas.org) to send an email to your legislators and express your concern over these devastating budget cuts.

Another great resource is our blog, [www.johnsoncountydevelopmentalsupports.blogspot.com](http://www.johnsoncountydevelopmentalsupports.blogspot.com), which offers weekly legislative updates and news articles regarding recent legislative action.



THE LUNCH RUSH does not faze Tom as he puts food orders together. Tom has worked at Hy-Vee for more than 15 years.



Tom never forgets an order or a smile, his co-workers rave. "We like his sense of humor and he works very hard," Bea

Harris, kitchen supervisor, said. "He has a pleasant way about him and he is nice to everyone."

Tom's reputation for being polite and precise has gone beyond the kitchen. During the busy lunch hour, Tom is frequently flagged down by friendly shoppers who want to say "hello" to their favorite employee. Getting through this hectic period is one of the most stressful but rewarding parts of the job for Tom and his co-workers.

Taking obvious pride in his surroundings, Tom motions to the large kitchen area and says, "This is my office. I'm usually getting food ready and moving all around."

Bea said Tom is constantly

adding skills to his already impressive list of duties, even managing to sack groceries during a lull in the action.

"He is always willing to learn something new," Bea said. "He helps out in all departments and never complains."

But life is not all about work! After he folds up his apron and says goodbye to the Hy-Vee kitchen crew, he enjoys watching movies and TV shows. Perhaps not surprisingly, one of his favorite hobbies is cleaning his apartment!

His residential support staff, Constance Moll, said Tom is always enthusiastic about his job and keeping his place neat and tidy.

Way to go, Tom! Keep up the excellent work!

# If you wanna speak out, *Speak Out!*

Former JCDS consumers promote self-advocacy throughout Kansas



**FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS! SACK Training Coordinator Brad Linnekamp, front, speaks to JCDS consumers. SACK Coordinator Craig Knutson helps with the PowerPoint slides**

Harvey Fierstein said “Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one’s definition of your life; define yourself.”

Brad Linnekamp and Hal Schultz, former JCDS consumers, came by the Mark D. Elmore Center on three separate occasions to present their lecture on Rights and Responsibilities to various consumer groups. Working for the Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas (SACK), Brad, Hal and their coordinator, Craig Knutson, travel around Kansas to promote and encourage self-advocacy for people with developmental disabilities. To date, they have presented their Rights and Responsibilities training to more than 120 JCDS consumers.

Brad said after receiving services from JCDS for many years, he was offered a position at SACK because of his communication skills, his passion rights and responsibilities and friendly demeanor.

Hal also received services from JCDS, but became part of SACK in a different way. After hearing about the advocacy group at his synagogue, he wanted to be a part of this unique opportunity.

SACK is a statewide advocacy group made up

of adults with DD, the majority of whom receive services through the Kansas Developmental Disabilities Service System. SACK encourages and teaches people to speak up for themselves and achieve the highest possible level of independence.

The SACK group regularly interacts with legislators, urging them to pass legislation to fund services for people with DD in Kansas. They also have developed many training tools on self-advocacy, starting a self-advocacy group, self-direction and more.

To see Brad, Hal and Craig speaking to the crowd of JCDS consumers was similar to

witnessing a rousing speech by a political candidate. They worked the crowd, sprinkling the presentation with anecdotal wisdom and inviting them to speak up about their rights.

Brad frequently reminded the consumers; “You have a voice. Go ahead and use it.” Brad also told the crowd that he had recently purchased his own house, a life-long dream he thought would never come to fruition. He said buying a house was made possible by knowing his rights and taking responsibility for his future.

Topics covered during the presentation typically include the right to vote, privacy, making decisions, financial responsibilities, home safety, relationships and information about abuse and neglect.

Consumer Mike Manning said he left very impressed with the training.

“It was great to hear them,” Mike said. “I think they did a great job.”

To learn more about SACK, visit their website at [www.sackonline.org](http://www.sackonline.org). Also, a blog at [blog.sackonline.org](http://blog.sackonline.org) and a fan page at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

**FORGET THOSE MYTHS!**

**Think Beyond the Label!**

A new advertising campaign brings humor, and an important message, to encourage employers to hire people with disabilities. “Think Beyond the Label” campaign advertisements have been appearing in print, on television, and online since January 2010 to create a different approach of hiring employees with disabilities by putting comical labels on people who may already be employed but have “differences” in a workplace.

Ever know someone who was “pattern deficient,” a person who wears loud patterns that don’t seem to match? Or how about a co-worker who can’t dance to save his life, making him “rhythm impaired”?

The ad featuring the “rhythm impaired” man reads: “Just because someone moves a little differently doesn’t mean they can’t help move your business forward. The same goes for people with disabilities.”

The theme is repeated in the address of a special website, [www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com](http://www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com), where more information is available about, as the home page states, “just how silly labels can be.”

A section in the website seeks to dispel common myths about employing people with disabilities. One myth is that hiring workers with disabilities increases workers compensation insurance rates.

The fact states that insurance rates are based solely on the relative hazards of the operation and the organization’s accident experience, not on whether workers have a disability.

Another myth is that accommodating people with disabilities is expensive.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy, the majority



**WOULD YOU LABEL someone who mismatches their clothes “Pattern Deficient?” A new disability employment campaign shows how silly labels can be.**

of workers with disabilities do not need accommodations to perform their jobs, and for those who do, the cost is usually minimal. In fact, two-thirds of accommodations cost less than \$500, with many costing nothing at all. And available tax incentives make it even easier for businesses to cover accessibility costs.

In the past, campaigns encouraging employment of people with disabilities have taken a safer, more serious approach. The new approach is getting attention by advertisements that have run on ABC, CBS and NBC.

“Thinking beyond the label” means looking at people with disabilities differently. We encourage employers to embrace hiring people with disabilities to experience the rewards of a diverse and inclusive workplace.

## AGENCIES THAT CAN HELP

SRS Kansas City Metro  
Protection Report Center  
(KCM PRC)  
M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
1.866.215.9077

Kansas Advocacy &  
Protective Services  
(KAPS)  
1.785.273.9661  
Toll Free: 1.877.776.1541

Social Security  
Administrative Fraud  
Hotline  
To report misuse or abuse  
of SS funds  
1.800.269.0271  
or TTY 1.866.501.2101

Statewide Abuse Hotline  
(For After-Hours Reporting)  
1.800.922.5330

Anna McNamara, Quality Assurance  
for Johnson County’s CDDO  
913.826.2511



Ed Dehaemers and Maury Thompson



Alice Moseley and Maury Thompson

**MARK DEAN ELMORE  
VIP AWARD  
RECIPIENTS**

- Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan/Feb
- Ed Dehaemers, Building Maintenance Mechanic
- Alice Moseley, Records Clerk
- Chris Gamel, Residential Supports Assistant
- Millie Simon, Accounting Assistant
- Terri Wagers, Residential Team Leader
- Polly Hahne, Case Manager
- Rebecca Sandidge, Senior Employment Coach
- Jana Rhea Cartwright, Case Manager
- Brooke Roy, Senior Residential Provider



Millie Simon and Maury Thompson

**Mark Dean Elmore VIP Award honors Vision, Innovation and Performance**

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.

Recipients of the award receive a Certificate of Appreciation, a customized lapel pin symbolizing accomplishment, and their choice of either a \$100 bonus or a day off with pay.

Congratulations to the all the VIP Award winners and nominees!

VIP winners continued...



Carla Sadler, Chris Gamel and Maury Thompson



John Littleton, Terri Wagers and Dennis Tucker



Joanna Seaman, Jana Rhea Cartwright and Dennis Tucker



Joanna Seaman, Rebecca Sandidge, Polly Hahne and Dennis Tucker



Allison Foss, Brooke Roy and Dennis Tucker

**Service Excellence Award**

Recognizes outstanding contributions in Johnson County

More than 1,300 children and adults with developmental disabilities are currently receiving services from more than 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 their 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.

Service Excellence Recipient for **November 2009** – Meredith Funkhouser, Independent Case Manager

**December 2009** – Deb Bartholomew, Sharon Holley and Rebecca Sandidge, JCDS Day and Employment Team

**January 2010** – Kari Lucas and Nathan Quinn, CLO Direct Care Staff

**February 2010** – Janice Godsey, Arcare

**March 2010** – Carmalita Brown and Bernadette Cohen, JCDS

Images launches new series . . .

## Guardianship 101



What, exactly, is a “guardian?” The 2010 edition of the Random House Dictionary defines guardian as, “A person who guards, protects, or preserves;” and “A person who is entrusted by law with the care of the person or property, or both, of another, as a minor or someone legally incapable of managing his or her own affairs.”

Guardianship is an attempt by the state to provide a way to help and protect a person when that person is incapable of self-care or of acting in his or her own best interest. A person who has a guardian is called a “ward.” While intended to be helpful, a guardianship also may place the most severe restrictions on a ward’s freedoms that a court of law can impose. For that reason, a guardianship should only be used as a last resort, to be considered only after all other less restrictive alternatives have been exhausted.

Alternatives to guardianship may include informal community intervention through family, friends or volunteers to help with grocery shopping or paying bills. Professional assistance can be found through agencies offering social services, payee services, home and community based services, and case management.

One important aspect to keep in mind is that a guardianship is not necessarily intended to be forever. The goal, however unlikely it may seem, is to have the ward return to complete decision-making ability and to close the guardianship as

soon as possible.

To appoint a guardian, a petition must be filed with the district court. A petition is a legal document prepared by an attorney that is filed by any adult asking that the district court appoint a guardian for an adult. Kansas law intends to provide for orderly legal and judicial procedures that ensure the rights of individuals.

In making decisions on behalf of the ward, the guardian is responsible for considering the expressed desires and personal values of the ward to the extent known to the guardian. The guardian should also strive to assure that the personal, civil, and human rights of the ward are protected, act in the best interests of the ward and exercise reasonable care, diligence and prudence at all times.

Finally, the guardian must file reports with the court concerning the status of the ward and actions of the guardian as the court directs.

Kansas law intends to provide for orderly legal and judicial procedures that ensure the rights of proposed wards. However, the topic of guardianship is complicated, giving rise to many questions.

In upcoming issues of Images, we will explore some of the issues surrounding guardianship through this new Guardianship 101 series.

For more immediate information, visit [www.ksgprog.org](http://www.ksgprog.org), look under the publications tab, and click on the Guide to KS law link.

## SRS grants full licensure to JCDS for 2010



In January, JCDS received notification of unconditional FULL LICENSURE awarded by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Licensed areas include Day, Residential and Case Management Services.

This represents a superior level of commitment by JCDS staff to provide high quality services that enhance the lives of Johnson County residential with intellectual disabilities.

JCDS Deputy Director Dennis Tucker, Ph.D said being awarded full licensure means that the JCDS staff is doing an exceptional job at empowering our consumers to “achieve the life they want.”

Congratulations on a job well done!

## Day at the Capitol a huge success!



Thanks to all the members and advocates who participated in the annual Interhab Day at the Capitol events on March 3rd. Interhab is

a state-wide advocacy organization which provides leadership to support people with disabilities. Participants met with legislators and provided them with informative material regarding the DD funding cuts. More than 40 legislators also attended an evening reception which featured a powerful presentation from Pat and Aldona Carney, parents of a young man with developmental disabilities.

Beginning on Saturday, March 27th, InterHab will launch a statewide walk/run/roll relay titled “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” which will invite citizens of Kansas to walk, run or roll a route spanning a significant portion of the state. Their goal will be to cover a total of 4,330 miles; one mile for each of the 4,330 children and adults who currently wait on the State’s DD waiting lists.

The statewide relay will end in Topeka on Wednesday, April 28th – InterHab’s Push Day event in Topeka.

For more information on Push Day, please contact Community Relations Manager, Lurena Mead at 913.826.2212 or [lurena.mead@jocogov.org](mailto:lurena.mead@jocogov.org).

## Santa’s helpers pull off a holiday miracle



**NOT-SO SECRET SANTAS! Residential staff Stefani Domenico, John Fehlandt, PEARL employment coach Gail Bennett and Robin Snyder pose next to gifts bought for some individuals in need.**

The spirit of giving was alive throughout the holiday season at JCDS, thanks to some Peer Assistants and helpful staff! Peer Assistants Chris Turnbull and Robin Snyder

expressed their interest in “adopting a family” as a volunteer project for the holidays. Peer Assistants are JCDS consumers who help others participate fully in JCDS’ Life Enrichment programs.

Life Enrichment coach Gail Bennett heard about five people served by JCDS who had come up short for holiday gifts. Using money raised by the Life Enrichment fundraising programs, Robin and Chris bought presents for all five individuals, wrapped them with love and care and prepared to deliver each on Christmas Day.

But, as the snow and ice fell, plans for the adopted family get-together seemed to melt. With the transport van stuck in the JCDS parking lot, little hope remained. Thankfully, residential provider Stefani Domenico and her husband decided to brave the cold conditions to visit each person individually! They delivered each and every gift, truly orchestrating a holiday miracle.

Thank you, Peer Assistants and Stefani and Vince Domenico for going above and beyond during the season of giving!

## SPRING FLING DANCE!

March 22nd marked the date for a fabulous Spring Fling dance held at the Lenexa Community Center. Springtime flirtations were in full bloom as consumers danced the night away, enjoyed tasty treats and hung out with friends!

The event was funded by the Friends of JCDS.



Above: Ron Dilks and Sarah Hamilton  
 Above right: Michelle Rosborough and Stefanie Vaughan  
 Bottom right: Jean Paul Hammen and Greg Currie

## Conservation Corner

2009 was the first full year of JCDS' participation in an aggressive, county-wide waste reduction/recycling campaign spearheaded by Johnson County's Environmental Department. Under the leadership of Lori Patterson, JCDS' sustainability coordinator, getting green is the goal! Here's a brief summary of JCDS waste reduction and recycling results in 2009:



In the last year, JCDS has saved 140 trees by implementing a process for shredding confidential documents! Did you know that 140 trees equal 14,000 pounds or 7 tons?



The paper reduction campaign is also in full swing, with JCDS using only 194 cases of paper in 2009 compared to 236 cases in 2008!



To further reduce our carbon footprint, JCDS recycled 11 tons of cardboard, 4 tons of paper, 570 pounds of plastic wrap and 476 pounds of aluminum. The plastics from 4 bins are emptied 3 times a week!

JCDS employees are doing their part to keep Johnson County ahead of the sustainability curve!



# FRIENDS of JCDS

Building Resources for People with Disabilities



**GET READY FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL PARADE OF REVAMPED FASHIONS!**

Mark your calendars and spring ahead to the most eco-friendly, fashionable fundraiser in town! On May 7, Friends of JCDS will unveil the second annual "Restyle Runway" event, featuring a unique fashion show and competition. The show's theme will demonstrate how re-used and restyled clothing can be new, hip, and fun again-- as well as economical!



**TV personality Holly Starr will wow the crowd as a catwalk model at Restyle Runway!**

They have been invited to join this juried design competition, and challenged to create collections of 3-6 complete ensembles using clothing from area Goodwill Industry stores.

Collections will selected for the fashion show after being judged by local fashion gurus including Jennifer Hermon, founder of Haute Market.

### SHOW DETAILS

When: Friday, May 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.  
 Where: Sheraton Overland Park Hotel  
 6100 College Blvd.  
 Overland Park, KS 66211  
 Cost: \$75 per person  
 Info and tickets: (913) 826-2670 or visit our website at [www.friendsofjcds.com](http://www.friendsofjcds.com)  
 Bonus: Celebrity judges and models, plus appetizers and drink ticket

So far, 22 students from Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska have eagerly accepted the challenge! Scholarships will be awarded to the following winners: First Place \$1,000, Second Place \$750 and Third Place \$500. Judging will be based on competition guidelines that require each collection to include outfits that consist of

- Clothing embellished with buttons, trims, or fabric supplied by the designer, and
- Outfits that have been reworked, re sewn, and/or combined with other garments (all from Goodwill).

Each student will be assigned his/her own team of models, with most teams including a model with developmental disabilities served by JCDS.



**Restyle Runway emcees Fox 4's John Holt and Mix 93.3's Jenny Matthews!**

In addition, local celebrities including Fox 4 news anchor John Holt, Mix 93.3 on-air personality Jenny Matthews and 38 The Spot's Holly Starr will lend their talents to this year's show. So far, there are also 15 professional models who will grace the runway.

We hope to see you at this fashion-forward, one-of-a-kind event!



# Welcome Aboard!

Friends of JCDS welcomes three new board members

**M**ake new friends, but keep the old...

Friends of JCDS has recently ushered in three new

board members! We extend a warm welcome to Sue Storm, Jace McClasky and Mike Hughes.

Each person has a passion for improving the lives of adults with developmental disabilities and we are thrilled they have joined our dynamic and diverse group!

Sue Storm was elected to the State Board of Education in November of 2008 to represent District 2. Prior to joining the Board, she served for 12 years in the Kansas House of

Representatives, representing District #22 in Overland Park.

Sue said joining the Friends of JCDS board proved to be a perfect fit after she had retired from teaching and serving in the Kansas Legislature.

"I was a special education teacher in Shawnee Mission for a long time," Sue said. "Your population has always been important to me. When I was in the legislature, I talked a lot with Mark Elmore and learned specifically about Friends from talking with Maury Thompson."

Sue said she looks forward to serving and making a difference on the Friends of JCDS board.

"I really think JCDS provides a wonderful service for families in this county," Sue said.

Jace McClasky is an attorney for Short, Borth & Thilges law office in Overland Park. After taking a tour of JCDS through Leadership Overland Park, Jace said he left wanting to learn more.

"I was really trying to understand what JCDS did, and who the people were who were receiving services," Jace said. "I realized I wanted to help

out and it was a unique opportunity to give back."

Jace recalled growing up seeing one of his good friend's siblings who had a developmental disability. Watching the lengths the family went to in order to take care of their son made a lasting impression on Jace.

"I want to learn more about JCDS and also

think of different ways to assist (JCDS consumers)," Jace said. "I think it's important to get the word out about Friends and our fundraising efforts to help connect with more people. I'm very excited to be a part of the board."

Mike Hughes has more than just a casual interest in giving back because his wife, Jean, served two terms on the Friends of JCDS

Board of Directors, including two years as Chairman. After working at Sprint for more than 22 years in Kansas City, Mike is now Director of Operations at SKC Communications in Shawnee.

After Jean joined the board, Mike said he attended several events and became interested in the mission of Friends.

"I've always believed in the importance of giving back to the community and helping others out,"

Mike said. "I'm impressed with the caliber of people associated with Friends and wanted to be a part of a high-energy, action-oriented group of people who do great things for others."

Friends is honored to have talented and motivated people to help serve on the board!



**Sue Storm**



**Jace McClasky**



**Mike Hughes**



**Friends of JCDS' mission is to enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities**



## Memberships and Donations

October 2, 2009 - March 21, 2010

### WISH

Barry & Pat Kramer  
Homer & Eva Jean Lewis  
Roy Mersereau Estate

### GRACE

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Fedotin  
Tim & Lori Patterson  
John & Sandra Topolewski  
Knights of Columbus,  
Holy Cross Catholic  
Church, Council #11534

### FRIENDS

Thomas Bean  
Bruce & Joanne Berry  
Cindy Beverlin  
Friends at Bill's Floor  
Covering  
Linda Bosilevac  
Sena Brewer  
Rick & Becky Brucker  
Arthur Butler  
John & Barbara Chaplin  
Juanita Collins  
Megan Combs & Miles  
Tugman  
Keith Corkran  
Shelby Miller & David  
Courtwright  
John & Vicki Currie  
Patty Davis  
Frederick & Constance  
DeSieghardt  
Charles Dorfman & Jo  
Licausi

Ed & Jan Eilert  
Robert & Kathryn Flegal  
Sherry Forsee  
Julie Frasher  
Paula Graves  
Dorothy Grindinger  
Mitchell & Lisa Hamburg  
Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Hammond  
Ed Johnson, Beth Simpson  
& Friends at Heartland  
Homecare  
Eva Hicks  
Diane Hill  
Doug Brott & Sharon Hilt  
Betty June Hodges  
A.W. & Kay Jones  
Donald & Anita Kaiser  
Kenneth & Doris Kovach  
John & Charlene  
Krzysztof  
Rick & Kathy LaCroix  
Mel & Lore Mallin  
Thelma Maze  
R. G. & Sandra Meroney  
David & Debra Metzler  
Matt Miller & Kris Kappel  
James & Kim Mitchell  
Robert & Crystal  
Nederman  
Patricia O'Bryan &  
Ronald Herford  
Jerry & Sunny Overstreet  
Juanette Pierce  
Claire Powell  
James Rains  
Jim & Loretta Rock

Rita Rosano  
John & Corrine  
Rosborough  
Ling Shiao  
Fred & Dorothy Sivyer  
Charlie Skillman  
Melvin Smith  
Sharon Ann Stasi  
Mark Stevermer  
Stephen & Nancy  
Swenson  
Skip & Pidge Talley  
Fred & Sandy  
Tebbenkamp  
Cynthia Martin Thomas  
John & Sandra Topolewski  
Scott & Carolyn Tschudy  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor Vidals  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Weger  
Roland Wills  
Ed Wolfrom  
Howard & Dorothy  
Wolfrom  
Pat Yancey  
Mary J. Zahner and Friends  
at Zahner Insurance Agency

### IN MEMORY OF...

**Joan Bowman**  
Ed Bowman  
**Jerry Crouch**  
J.R. & Marjorie Hammond

### DONOR GIVING LEVELS

<b>FRIEND</b>	\$0 — \$499
<b>GRACE</b>	\$500 — \$999
<b>WISH</b>	\$1,000 — \$2,499
<b>HOPE</b>	\$2,500 — \$4,999
<b>JOY</b>	\$5,000 — \$9,999
<b>FAITH</b>	\$10,000 — \$24,999
<b>LIFE</b>	\$25,000 — \$100,000

### Jeff Davis

David & Tonya Gast

### Faye Geyer

Fred & Betty Geyer

### Caleb Hostetler

J. Michael Lowe

### Ruth Swanson Kuder

Dr. & Mrs. Alan Kreuger

### Richard Skylar

Phylis Schachter

### IN HONOR OF...

#### Mike Daniels

Members of the Trinity  
Lutheran Church Naomi  
Circle

#### Chris Johnston's 40th Birthday

Jim & Pat Bramich  
Howard & Carolyn Jones

#### Mrs. Harvey Nadel

Phylis Schachter

#### Molly Nehring

Chuck & Adrienne Nehring

#### Thomas Schmidt

Jack Schmidt

### 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).

- Pledged to be paid \$\_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.*

#### 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 : \_\_\_\_\_

## March

**25** Friends of JCDS Board of Directors Meeting  
11:45 a.m.  
JCDS Annex  
15046 W. 106th St.  
Lenexa, KS

**19** Monthly Birthday Bash for Consumers sponsored by Friends of JCDS  
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.  
Mark D. Elmore Center

## April

**21** Monthly Birthday Bash for Consumers sponsored by Friends of JCDS  
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.  
Mark D. Elmore Center

**20** Friends of JCDS Board of Directors Meeting  
11:45 a.m.  
JCDS Annex

**25** JDCS Governing Board Meeting  
5:30 p.m.  
Mark D. Elmore Center

**27** JCDS Governing Board Meeting  
5:30 p.m.  
Mark D. Elmore Center

**27** Spring Fest Picnic for Consumers sponsored by Friends of JCDS  
6 - 8:30 p.m., Sante Fe Commons  
8045 Santa Fe Drive  
Overland Park, KS

**28** Interhab's Push Day at The Capitol All-Day Event  
Topeka, KS  
Contact Lurena Mead for details 913.826.2212

## June

**16** Monthly Birthday Bash for Consumers sponsored by Friends of JCDS  
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.  
Mark D. Elmore Center

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

## May

**7** Restyle Runway fashion show to benefit Friends of JCDS  
6 - 9 p.m.  
Cottonwood Rooms 2 & 3 Overland Park Sheraton Hotel,  
6100 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS

## WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES

Help us save money and in turn, help benefit our consumers! We are compiling a list of Images readers' email addresses. Please contact Holly Carrington, 913.826.2508 or holly.carrington@jocogov.org with your email address so we can start sending you an e-version of Images.

Save a tree, save money, save time! Thank you!

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Johnson County government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of services. JCDS is an agency of Johnson County government. JCDS' programs and services are partially funded on a contractual basis with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. JCDS is accredited by CARF, an international rehabilitation accrediting commission.

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## Friend of JCDS Purchases 11th Home for Accessibility Renovations



Welcome! New Friends of JCDS will be renovated for wheelchair accessibility for people with developmental disabilities.

Early this year, the Friends of JCDS purchased a single family ranch-style home located in the City of Shawnee.

The home represents the organization's 11th project to expand affordable, accessible living options for people with physical as well as intellectual disabilities in Johnson County.

When completed, the home will boast wider hallways and doorways, first floor laundry, a fully-accessible bath with roll-in shower, and residential fire sprinklers on both the main and lower levels.

Improvement to the home's entry and a rear ramp will assure convenient access and safety for future residents who use wheelchairs.

The barrier-free housing project uses a combination of private sector support and federal Community Develop-

ment Block Grant funds awarded by Johnson County government to finance the project.

Through the wonderful joining of volunteer effort, public/private financial resources and a shared commitment, the Friends of JCDS is helping to build a more accessible and inclusive community – one home at a time!



Friends of JCDS has won a "Philly Award" for its 2008 Annual Report, "Just Look at the Lives We've Touched!" Philly Awards honor excellence in nonprofit communications based on the ratings of a blue ribbon panel of judges selected from

local nonprofit professionals.

The 2008 Annual Report was edited by Dr. Janet Hoffman and designed by volunteer Jenny Nichols. "Philly's" are awarded annually by Nonprofit Connect, the greater Kansas City chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). Their mission is to link the nonprofit community to education, resources and networking so they can more effectively achieve their missions.



Friends of JCDS Chairman, John Holt, graciously accepted money raised by JCDS consumers during their Valentine's Day carnation sale. All proceeds went to the Friends of JCDS. A sweet Valentine's Day indeed!

## 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!



To find us, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Friends of JCDS."



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## JCDS to host performance of The Barn Players' The Boys Next Door



**M**ark your calendars! On Thursday, June 10, JCDS will host a special dedicated performance of the Barn Players' production, *The Boys Next Door*

The play is a poignant, heartwarming comedy about four intellectually disabled men living in a group home. The men are supervised by Jack, an increasingly overworked social worker, who is struggling between earnestly caring for these men and trying to live an ordinary life

The play calls us to question our own defi-

inition of what "normal" means, and enhances awareness of how many things in everyday life we take for granted.

The Barn Players Theater was founded in 1955 by Earl Altaire, a prominent Kansas City interior designer and theater devotee. He personally guided the renovation of a large barn at the Wolf Farm near 83rd and Mission Road, turning it into a comfortable theater seating 225 people. Commercial development forced The Barn Players to leave its original "barn" in 1971, and it has been housed at several locations since. The theatre's current location is 6219 Martway in Mission.

Performances for *The Boys Next Door* open on Friday, June 4 and run through Sunday, June 20 (go to [www.thebarnplayers.org](http://www.thebarnplayers.org) for complete scheduling information). Thursday, June 10 is "JCDS Night" – discounted tickets are \$10 each. Please contact Patti Combs at [patricia.combs@jocogov.org](mailto:patricia.combs@jocogov.org) to make reservations for this special performance!