

Empowering

people to live meaningful and productive lives.



SUMMER

FOCUS 2023

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

2023 Summer Focus

A publication from Arrowhead West, Inc. Nadine Lampe, Development Manager. Arrowhead West, Inc. is a non-profit organization serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Giving Back to Our Communities

15,717 - That is the number of hours AWI clients volunteered in the communities they live in during 2022. It equals 393 40-hour work weeks or 1,965 workdays.

Volunteering in the community is a very important part of our Day Program, and the clients have many ways to volunteer each day, week, and/or year. Among them are delivering Meals on Wheels, assisting at the Friendship Feast, helping at the Humane Societies, making toys for the animals, assisting at events during the holidays, giving to the Blessing Boxes, working at the rodeo concession stand, watering flowers and cleanup in the downtown community, and so many more.

We are very proud of our volunteer projects, and we take pride in giving back to the communities that are so generous to us.

Locations

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1100 East Wyatt Earp
Dodge City, KS 67801
620.227.8803

WESTERN KANSAS DIVISION

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

Marcus Gonzalez
10315 Bluestem Blvd.
Pratt, KS 67124
620.933.2212

500 West Fowler
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104
620.886.3711

Find us on



InterHab Advocacy Day

Arrowhead West clients and staff joined over 600 other Kansans at the Statehouse on March 15th for InterHab's Advocacy Day. Advocacy Day is a day for Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), their friends, families, and advocates to have an opportunity to educate and urge lawmakers to address the important issues they face today.

Those in attendance, including Governor Kelly, attended a rally at the rotunda as part of InterHab's annual event. They shared their personal stories and experiences during the rally to guide policymakers as they examine laws and policies with the potential to improve the quality of life for Kansans with I/DD.



The 2023 Legislative priorities included areas of concern they communicated with the legislators.

Financial Sustainability - I/DD service providers need to be kept in pace with the rising costs they experience. They also need a sense of stability as they plan for upcoming budget cycles.

Targeted Case Management - The reimbursement rate for Targeted Case Management (TCM), a critical core service, had not been adjusted in more than a decade.

Complex Needs - Today's I/DD system serves a population with much more complex needs than it was initially designed to serve. Serving individuals with these complex needs consumes a great deal of the I/DD system's resources. In April, Governor Kelly signed the "mega-budget" bill. The budget bill included several items for the Kansas I/DD system:

- Funds to increase Targeted Case Management reimbursement rate.
- Funds for behavioral health grants for the I/DD system.
- Proviso language directing KDADS to conduct an I/DD funding study incorporating inflationary indexes for the 2024 Legislative Session.
- Proviso language directing KDADS to develop a new Community Support Waiver for the I/DD system.
- Funds to be used for dentures for Medicaid populations.



Thanks to the strong advocacy efforts, several needed resources were brought to the I/DD service network.

Today 9,000 Kansans with I/DD currently receive benefits through Medicaid. About 4,500 people in Kansas who qualify for I/DD services are on a waiting list for funding. Currently, the waitlist to access services is about nine years.

Arrowhead West was well represented, with 15 individuals attending, representing our 14-county region. It was the first time for some, and they enjoyed the experience. The clients could not meet individually with legislators but left information with the representatives from their area to share their concerns.

Meet MariJayne



MariJayne's (MJ) home is a very busy household. She is the youngest of five children, and there is no lack of love and support that she gets each and every minute of the day. MJ loves to dance to music, drive her pretty pink car, and can do the fastest bear crawl in town, all while her family encourages her as she masters new skills.

One year ago, MJ began showing delays in her development and missing milestones. Her parents were concerned and weren't sure what to do next until hearing from a friend who accessed Arrowhead West Infant Toddler Services (ITS) developmental screening clinic and services. Maggie, MJ's mother, attended the free developmental screening clinic with MJ. The Arrowhead West team determined eligibility after screening her, and together, they made a plan.



Recently, MJ was diagnosed with Down syndrome. Everyone worked towards outcomes for her and the family while the coordination with a medical team was being provided. MJ has regular visits with Arrowhead West's Early Childhood Special Educator and joint visits with a Physical Therapist and Speech-Language Pathologist while also having access to the entire Arrowhead West team. In addition to the Arrowhead West staff, MJ has since grown her team of specialists to help her in the very best way possible.

MJ is mastering her next steps, and her family is learning something new every day with her. Next for MJ is heart surgery at Children's Mercy Hospital. Everyone is staying positive about how she will continue to thrive.

"The Arrowhead West team helped us when we were feeling overwhelmed with everything. They helped back up our concerns, assisted in setting up appointments, and guided our way through the medical jargon," said Maggie.

Maggie is a great example of a mother following her intuition and accessing local resources. Arrowhead West ITS team offers free developmental screenings in our 13-county service area. The screenings are a great source to gauge if your child's development is age-appropriate and celebrate their development. If you have a concern about your child, you may contact our Dodge City office at 620.225.5177 or 620.672.1005 in Pratt. Our team can provide you with resources and services to support your child's development.



"MJ's family and support system are phenomenal. Her parents are always in tune with her needs and advocate for her wellbeing. It is so fun to witness everyone's involvement cheering MJ on," said Kim Chaussee, ECSE.

RETIREMENTS



LIZ DEMUTH

Liz Demuth, Dodge City Division Manager, retired after nearly 27 years of service.

“Liz has been an extraordinary leader for our agency. Her commitment and dedication to assisting each person supported in achieving their best life and focus on developing a strong team committed to serving others leave a lasting legacy to inspire others,” said Andrea Polf, VP of Client Services.

“With the support of a dedicated team who believe in our mission and vision as much as I do, I’ve been blessed to serve amazing people for almost 27 years. Knowing they will carry on and continue to support those we serve makes my transition to retirement comforting. I’ll miss my work family, but I’ll be around and continue to serve as I can,” said Liz.



LUPE KENDALL

Lupe Kendall, Wichita Residential Manager, retired after nearly 10 years at Arrowhead West and many more prior to the I/DD community.

“In my career, I have encountered some genuinely amazing people! Doing this work hasn’t always been easy though I am proud of what I have done; there have been many challenges and successes. This kind of work makes a difference in people’s lives,” said Lupe.

“Lupe has done great things for the clients and staff. She has made our residential department one of the very best in Sedgwick County and surrounding areas. Her expertise, problem-solving skills, and countless contributions will be missed,” said Rachel Ryan, Division Manager.



MIKE PENDERGAST

Mike Pendergast, Dodge City, retired after nearly 12 years of service as a Life Skill Instructor.

“Mike was reliable, easygoing, and levelheaded. He was very caring for the people we serve and known to bring donuts for the client’s birthdays, even on his day off,” said Brett Post, Program Manager.

“I enjoyed my work at Arrowhead West and the client’s capabilities always amazed me. Thank you to the staff and clients for 12 great years,” said Mike.

Mike will be greatly missed by so many clients and staff. We congratulate him on his retirement and wish him the very best.



DEBBY CLARK

Debby Clark, Wichita, had been with Arrowhead West for 21 years. She worked in Dodge City for 10 years. After being gone several years, she was hired in Wichita and has been a Community Living Instructor since.

“I absolutely enjoyed my 21 years with Arrowhead West. I have made many good friends along the way. It’s been a privilege to have served so many wonderful people,” said Debby.

“Debby was an awesome staff member you did not have to worry about not doing her job. She went above and beyond for those she provided services to,” said Lupe Kendall, Residential Manager.



SHERYL RADAR

Sheryl Rader, Wichita, began at Arrowhead West as a Community Living Instructor in 2008 and retired after 15 years of service.

“Sheryl has done it all at Arrowhead West. She worked several locations, was very flexible, and always went where she was needed even at the last minute. Sheryl will be greatly missed. I wish her all the best as she retires,” said Lupe Kendall, Residential Manager.

“We have been blessed to have Sheryl on our team for so many years and thank her for her hard work and dedication,” said Rachel Ryan, Division Manager.

NEW HIRE



MARCUS GONZALEZ

Marcus Gonzalez recently accepted the Mid Kansas Division Manager position in Pratt. He previously worked as a Case Manager for Arrowhead West.

Marcus moved to the area from Idaho to finish his bachelor’s degree in leadership at Barclay College. He previously worked for five years as a probation officer with at-risk individuals with disabilities.

“I am privileged to work with such great people who have a passion to support others. I desire to continue supporting the Mid Kansas Division with the tools necessary to make Arrowhead West a great agency for our clients,” said Marcus.

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January 1 to May 31, 2023

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MEMORIAL AND DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Arrowhead West has had many thoughtful donors over the past 46 years. Their donations have been the cornerstone of our success and have helped build the foundation of our client's lives.

John and Juanita Jillie were generous supporters of Arrowhead West. A plaque in memory of their daughter, Joan, was placed in the Western Kansas Division building where Arrowhead West was privileged to serve Joan for 23 years.

We are very grateful for the generosity of John and Juanita and the many others who believe in those we serve.

If you are interested in donating in memory or honor of someone special to Arrowhead West, please contact Nadine Lampe at 620.227.8803 or nlampe@arrowheadwest.org.

Honoring others with a dedication will remind future generations of your belief in our mission to empower people to live meaningful and productive lives.



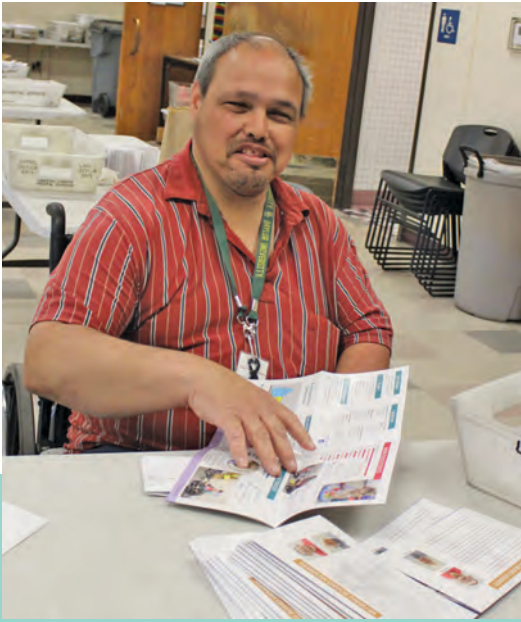
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This newsletter was labeled and sealed
with pride by the persons served.

TREE MEMORIAL

Remembering Our Friends

Friday, April 28th, was Arbor Day. Each year Arrowhead West plants a tree on this day in memory of individuals in our services that we have lost during the year. This was the 19th year this tradition was held.

A swamp white oak was planted in Dodge City in honor of Wayne Blauvelt, Michael Pratt, and Carolyn Stude. Harold Baldwin, Michael Murphy, and Wes Shackelford will soon be honored in Wichita.

Arrowhead clients, staff, and friends will miss these individuals, as they were each special in so many ways. The "Memory Tree" symbolizes the strong community foundation of supports and services that allows Kansans with disabilities to grow toward the sky and reach for the stars.

