

WINTER

Focus
2023



Empowering
people to live meaningful and productive lives.

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 Winter Focus

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

Locations

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1100 East Wyatt Earp
Dodge City, KS 67801
620.227.8803

WESTERN KANSAS DIVISION

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

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Nathan Receives InterHab Award



Nathan Schaller recently received the Outstanding Personal Growth award at InterHab's annual conference. Nathan has been continually knocking down barriers and finding success in many aspects of life, which is the reason he was nominated for this award.

Nathan celebrated his 13th year of employment at Boot Hill Casino. He began as a bus boy, and through his hard work and determination, he is now a prep cook. With consistent employment and the help of a payee, Nathan has learned to budget his expenses and enjoys saving for special trips, needed healthcare items, and hobbies. Nathan's latest adventure was to get his driver's license. He passed the written test with a 98% and went on to pass the driver's test. Nathan has a goal to save up money to purchase a vehicle.

Nathan continues to inspire those around him every single day and is truly deserving of this recognition.

“Nathan has worked hard to be successful. Everyone is so proud of him and his accomplishments,”

- said Andrea Stegman, Case Management Supervisor.

Ian's Story

Bubbles.....simple and mesmerizing, help support Ian's development, allowing the fun and excitement to guide his curiosity and learning.

Ian is a 15-month-old little boy who is happy, and his smile will light up the room. On a recent visit, Gwendolyn Leis, an Arrowhead West Infant-Toddler Services Early Childhood Educator, used bubbles to work with Ian on gross and fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, social, listening, and many more developmental areas. He loved the activity and showed off his progress since her last visit.

Ian was born at 35 weeks, weighing only 2 pounds 8 ounces, and was twelve and a half inches long. He spent most of the first year of his life in the hospital with serious health issues due to respiratory complications. Maria, Ian's mother, was concerned with his overall development and attended a screening clinic with him when he was four months old. Ian qualified and could benefit from Arrowhead West Infant-Toddler Services due to the risk factors of being born so small and the frequency of being admitted to the hospital.

Gwendolyn, Ian's primary provider, has been supporting the family through their medical journey and provides them with resources and various funding avenues. She also assists them in many other areas to help him meet his developmental milestones. Ian also receives support from Glenna Williamson, Physical Therapist, Kayla Strickler, Speech Language Pathologist, and Juliann Chau, Occupational Therapist, from the Arrowhead West Infant-Toddler Services team.

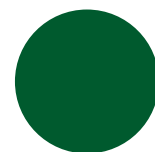
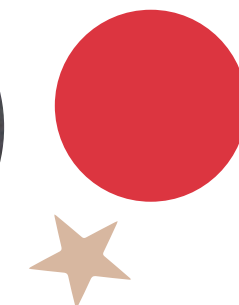
Since Ian has been healthier, Maria and the Arrowhead West team can work together to help create an environment for him to learn, explore, and develop in his home. The primary focus has been gross motor skills. The goal is for Ian to build enough strength to one day

crawl on all fours, walk, run, climb, and jump. Every visit, Ian is getting more robust and mobile, making so many strides in meeting these goals.

Maria is Ian's biggest cheerleader, giving constant praise. Whether it is reaching for his colorful balls and army crawling to catch them as they roll away or working on standing while popping bubbles, Ian will give you the biggest smile, showing how proud he is of himself.

The Infant-Toddler Services team supports families in helping their children meet developmental milestones. We offer 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 or need more information, you may contact our office at 620.225.5177 in Dodge City or 620.672.1005 in Pratt for a free screening.

"Ian started our program as an infant. Since being in our program, we have seen him grow into his toddler stage by loving to explore new things and crawl to whatever is in reach," said Gwendolyn Leis, Early Childhood Special Educator.



Residential Staff make a **Difference**

The largest puzzle piece of Arrowhead West services is our Community Living Program. Arrowhead West employs nearly 100 Community Living Instructors agency-wide. We have been blessed to have many long-term employees who embrace our mission and make a difference in so many lives.

The goal of this program is to enable persons served to have the best possible quality of life through necessary support for daily living skills, develop independence, and improve health and wellness. Depending on the type of assistance a client needs, we provide supervised living, supported living, or independent living. Services range from 24-hour care to weekly check-in with minimal support.

Linda Clark has been with Arrowhead West for 28 years. She began working part-time as a second job, and now, many years later, she continues to work full-time; she wouldn't have it any other way. There isn't a job more perfect for her. "I enjoy working in the different houses and especially the many different personalities of the clients I work with," said Linda.

Linda is reliable and promotes client independence and self-advocacy. She has been described as "does it all". She has helped clients plan vacations and has accompanied many to make a lifetime dream trip a reality. Linda has even helped when a client's vehicle needed maintenance. There is no job too large for her.

When asking Amanda Bibens how to describe her job best, she said, "the clients are like family." Amanda feels like they are part of her family because she works in a home atmosphere. We eat together; we go out in the community together.

Amanda has worked for Arrowhead West for 11 years and sees the importance of being active in the community and involved with their neighborhood. They have had fun with their own version of "you have been ducked" by anonymously placing little ducks on someone's vehicle or office. Many neighbors, friends, and staff have enjoyed the fun while building community relationships. They love putting smiles on others' faces.



Linda enjoying a nice day with Maria and Janet.



Amanda with Merlene, Allana and Margaret running errands in the community.



"I am blessed to work with so many amazing direct support professionals that work day in and day out to improve the lives of people with disabilities. They inspire me to be a better leader and a better person,"

- said Lori Lacy, Dodge City Residential Manager.



meet Wendy

A "social butterfly" describes someone who's socially oriented, outgoing, and often very charismatic and charming. There isn't a better term to fit Wendy.

Wendy loves to be active and involved in as much as possible, whether volunteering, working, or community activities.

Wendy recently celebrated her 12th year of employment at Dillons. She is proud of her job and looks forward to working her shifts. Her favorite part is bagging, gathering the carts, and, of course, getting a paycheck. Wendy has also gained independence by using public transportation to and from her employment. She calls and coordinates her ride with them each day.

Wendy also earns a paycheck from Arrowhead West as part of the work service program. She cleans at the Infant-Toddler location and the Mid-Kansas Division office. These jobs allow her to do other things she is passionate about doing.

Arrowhead West's Supported Living Program gives Wendy the opportunity to live in her own home and do the many things she enjoys in her free time. She attends the local high school and college sporting events, attends church, and makes cards for her friends and family with her vast marker collection. She is also an avid WWE fan!

Wendy loves being involved in everything she can be. She participates in recycling, picks up trash at the local lake and parks, and assists with bingo at a local assisted living community, to name a few of her volunteering projects. Wendy also has attended InterHab Advocacy Day, urging lawmakers to address important issues Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) face today. She has enjoyed attending SACK conferences, an opportunity for people with I/DD to meet, share, and learn from each other and experts in the field. Wendy also has participated in Aktion Club, a service club for adults with disabilities. If that isn't enough, Wendy has even taken a college course.

Arrowhead West's mission is to empower people to live meaningful and productive lives. The vision statement is to provide outstanding service that leads to making informed choices about independence, employment, community participation, and healthy lifestyles. Wendy is a true testament to our mission and vision. With Arrowhead West's support, Wendy has truly flourished into a social butterfly.



DONORS SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

June 1 to September 30, 2023

DEDICATIONS AND MEMORIALS

Virginia Adkins Memorial

Arrowhead West, Inc.

Roy Baxter Memorial

Dr. Alice White

Terry Brake Memorial

Rancy & Sandy Hastings
Vanesca McDermott
Melva Schmitt
Becky VanNahmen

Isaiah Cervantes Memorial

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Don Goetz Memorial

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Tim & Denise Thielen

Mickey Hoskins Memorial

Dr. Galen Boehme
Rita Brown
Margery Herrick
Mary Jane Herrick
Glessna King
Jim King
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Eleanor McManes

Eleanor Jarrett Memorial

Tom Cornwell

Norma Jarrett Memorial

Tom Cornwell

John Kewish Memorial

Rita Brown
Ronald & Donna Just
Lori Lacy
Lori Pendergast
Mike & Gwen Pendergast
Mike & Coleen Stein

Coy Noble, Sr. Memorial

Arrowhead West, Inc.

Joe Schwarz Memorial

Tom & Yvonne Schwarz

Phyllis Smith Memorial

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Lori Lacy

Beaumont, TX

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Larry Berger
Angela Bradford

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John Clouse

Lewis

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Spearville

Carl & Jane Hubbell
John & Berna Mae
Stegman
Bruce & Cindy Vierthaler
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Amanda Stoddard
Kelli Stubby
Vivian Tapia
JoAnna Tarango
Angela Turner
Kristin Williams
Nandina Wilson
Terry Woodward

Memorial and Dedication Opportunities

Arrowhead West has had many thoughtful supporters over the past 47 years. Their donations have been the cornerstone of our success and have helped build the foundation of our clients' lives.

Mike Pendergast has been a generous supporter of Arrowhead West for many years and worked with the clients as a Life Skills Instructor at the Western Kansas Division Day Program for nearly 12 years. Mike wanted to show his support to those we serve by dedicating a plaque in the area where he helped support many clients.

We are very grateful for the generosity of Mike 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.



Mike Stein, President (left), accepting the plaque dedicated by Mike Pendergast (right).

AWARDED GRANTS

Arrowhead West, Inc has been awarded grants from the following organizations. We greatly appreciate their support of Arrowhead West and our mission!

The Community Foundation of South-Central Kansas provided funds to purchase picnic furniture to be used at our Pratt Day Program.

Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation recently granted 700 toothbrush kits to Arrowhead West clients. The kits are used to encourage good oral health habits.

Dodge City Women's Chamber awarded Arrowhead West funds to assist in purchasing supplies for our greenhouse gardening project.

Walmart Foundation (Dodge City) provided funds to our Western Kansas Division in Dodge City to purchase a patio swing that is used in our residential services.

Walmart Foundation (Pratt) granted our Mid Kansas Division in Pratt funds to purchase supplies for activities to be used in our Day Program.

The Ability Experience provided a grant to Arrowhead West from the funds they raised while bicycling across the United States raising awareness for individuals with disabilities. The funds will be used in our new park area in Dodge City when it has been completed.

The Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas awarded us funds to purchase a greenhouse for our new gardening project in our Day Program.

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



Thank you
for your continued **SUPPORT!**



P.O. Box 1417
Dodge City, KS 67801

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

RETIREMENTS



Wanda Waldman

Wanda Waldman began her long journey as a Speech Language Pathologist at Arrowhead West as a new graduate and retired 44 years later. She has made a difference to an incredible number of children and their families over the years, and she will be greatly missed.

“My time at Arrowhead West has been a wonderful adventure from the very first day. I have gotten to know so many good people and have been able to watch children from the beginning of their lives to adulthood. I am so proud of the part I have played in supporting children and their families over the years,” said Wanda.



Denise Socall

Denise Socall, Mid Kansas Program Assistant, began her 24 years of service at Arrowhead West as a Job Coach before being the Division Secretary for many years. Denise recently retired after being the Program Assistant for the last ten years, ending her 24 years of service.

“Denise will be greatly missed! Her years of experience working in multiple positions have been a great asset to Arrowhead West. Her passion for the clients and willingness to go the extra mile was always valued! We were fortunate to have such a great person to be a part of our work family. Wishing her the best in retirement,” said Marcus Gonzalez, Mid Kansas Division Manager.