

CONTACT



In touch with all things Cottonwood...

Fall 2016



 **COTTONWOOD**
INCORPORATED

We help individuals with disabilities shape their own future. Real People. Real Lives.

A Message from Our CEO



Fall 2016 brings another change in seasons. And no matter the season, being part of the community is important for all of us. This issue of the CONTACT highlights some of the activities enjoyed by individuals supported by Cottonwood over the past few months to further our mission of “Helping individuals with disabilities to shape their own future”—fun trips to the State Fair and Branson, fundraising events, tours of Cottonwood, working out with the KU Football team, and Jobs, Jobs, Jobs. We have a wonderful time at Cottonwood. We hope that you will enjoy this issue of the CONTACT and the opportunity to stay in touch with all things Cottonwood.

Sharon Spratt, CEO.

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CONTACT is published for the friends and supporters of Cottonwood, Inc. by the Community Relations and Development Department: Peggy Wallert and Kari Bentzinger.

Cottonwood, Incorporated is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization that serves children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Cottonwood provides an array of employment options, onsite and in the community, residential, and case management services. Cottonwood is a member of Interhab, the Resource Network for Kansans with Disabilities.

Cottonwood is partially funded on a contractual basis with the Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services. Cottonwood receives some funding from Douglas and Jefferson Counties. Some funding is also received from United Way of Douglas County. Cottonwood is accredited by CARF, the rehabilitation accreditation commission. Cottonwood is an affirmative action equal opportunity employer. We do business in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law. (The Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1998).

Labeling and mailing services for this newsletter have been provided by men and women of Cottonwood. An adapted version of this publication and other materials are available by calling 785.842.0550 or by visiting us on the web at www.cwood.org.



COTTONWOOD Classies

The 15th Annual Cottonwood Classies took place on Monday evening, September 26 at Free State High School Auditorium. It was a wonderful celebration of the people who make up Cottonwood—the people we support, our staff, our exceptional business partners and community leaders who volunteer their time. The Classies truly shows what Cottonwood is all about—helping people with disabilities to shape their own future.



Shining Star Award - *Drew Logan*



Lifetime Achievement Awards
Gary Sollars & Dick Zinn



JobLink Outstanding
Community Employer
The Olivia Collection



Caring & Commitment Award
Susan Davis



The Cottonwood Choir



Shining Star Award
Shirley Thompson



Caring & Commitment Award
Alyson Wingert



Cottonwood Industries Business Partner - *Pennington & Co.*



COTTONWOOD Industries



2016 is again a very good year for our Work Center. The folks who are working there have had many different and interesting jobs—and it is a very busy place! Cottonwood Industries is truly a fulfillment center for a wide variety of businesses in our region.

Last year (2015) was a record year with \$369,256 paid out in consumer wages, for work done at Cottonwood & our Cottonwood Industries work crews. 2016 is currently projected to beat this number and set another new record.



- Bulk mail processing
- Manufacturing
- Shipping
- Fulfillment
- Assembling
- Receiving
- Packaging
- Warehousing

If you are wondering how Cottonwood Industries can help your business, please contact Robert Bieberle, Cottonwood Industries Business Development Manager, at 785-842-0550 or at rbieberle@cwood.org.



JobLink

Pennie - May

I have worked at Longhorn Steakhouse for a year and a half. I like my job because people are nice. Having a community job feels really good because I get to be around other people. Longhorn is a nice place to work at. The food is good too! Work hard, do as you're told, and mind your own business.



Drew - June

I have worked at Fuzzy's Tacos for 1 year. I like cleaning tables there. I like my job because I make more money. My advice about being a good employee- I am a good employee by working hard and have a good work habit and do what you are supposed to do.



Kelly - July

I have worked at Chick-fil-A for 1 year (I also have been at Popeye's for 3 months). I cashier, clean the lobby, refresh beverages, take care of customers. I like to get to know the customers and their names. I like my job because it gets me out and about in the community and I'm saving for a car. JobLink was very helpful in helping me find my jobs.



Kelsey - August

I have worked at LMH for 4 years. I am a housekeeper there. I like it when my routine is different and I like helping others at work. I like my job because it keeps me busy and I have money. My advice for being a good employee is to be on time, know what is expected of you on the job, be nice and respectful to your co-workers and boss.



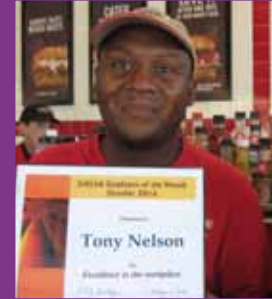
Andie - September

I have worked at KU's Grab 'n Go for 1 year. I do food prep in the kitchen. I like my job because it's fun and I have a good boss. My advice is to be on time, work fast, and be nice to customers.



October

Employee of the Month - Tony Nelson



I have worked at Firehouse Subs for over 2 years. I help on the food line, wash dishes. My favorite part is holding the sign outside. I like my job because it's stress free and I leave work feeling good.

October

Employer of the Month - Westside 66



Employers of the Month! Thank you for your partnership!

- May - Royal Crest Lanes
- June - Wild Territory
- July - Pawsh Wash
- August - Checkers
- September - Menard's
- October - Westside 66

JobLink candidates have a variety of skills and abilities with an array of educational levels and work experience.

JobLink is your employment agency resource for dedicated and talented employees in the Lawrence, Kansas area. You'll find that we share your commitment to quality.

Contact Phil Bentzinger 785-842-0550 or pbentzinger@cwood.org for more information.



The Championship Flight -
Charles Derby, Terry Spriggs,
Ryan & Harley Catlin



Cottonwood Classic Golf Tournament

The Cottonwood Classic Golf Tournament was held on Monday, June 20 at Alvarado Golf Club. And it was HOT! But the almost 120 golfers had a great time and enjoyed the special camaraderie of the afternoon outing. The Championship Flight was won by Harley & Ryan Catlin, Charles Derby, and Terry Spriggs. The Maybe Next Year Flight winners were Tim Mock and the Truity Credit Union team.



Maybe Next Year Flight Winners
Truity Credit Union



Tee Time!

The MiniMasters

The Cottonwood putt-putt tournament was again held at The Lodge in Baldwin City. John Schmidt was the 2016 winner with Ralph Landreth as runner-up. The MiniMasters is so much fun for all who participate! The hamburger meal was delicious and our Fish Pond was again a huge hit. The wagon rides provided by Dunn's Landing are so much fun for everyone. But, the most fun might well have been the dancing in the The Lodge's lobby with Peach!



2016 Champion
John Schmidt



Salute!

Salute! A Festival of Wine & Food

This year Salute was held July 7-9. The weather was wonderful for all three events—the Mass St. Mosey, the Winemaker Dinner and the Grand Tasting. The Mosey was so much fun for the nearly 600 people who participated. The Winemaker Dinner featuring wines from Jackson Family Wines was held at Maceli's. Chef David Nigro and his staff prepared a delicious meal!



The Grand Tasting at The Oread Hotel was, once again, a fantastic evening of fun and food combined with wonderful items in the Silent and Live Auctions. Salute continues to be our biggest fundraiser with over \$196,000 raised for Cottonwood. A special thank you to all our sponsors, participants and volunteers for making this our best Salute ever!





Rock Chalk Jayhawk!

Head Coach David Beaty and the 2016 Kansas Football Team welcomed us to Memorial Field for a fun afternoon football experience on August 13. The entire team was on the field helping all of the Cottonwood visitors have a memorable time learning how to perform specific skills like throwing a football, tackling, and running down the field. We truly thank all of the team members (and Coach Beaty)—they are exceptional young men who gave our folks the experience of a lifetime. Rock Chalk!!!



Shaping Futures



The four women who live at Drum Drive know what it feels like to grow their own produce! A member of the United Methodist Church, Ron Miller, knew of the desire of one of the women in particular who wanted to garden, but she needed a raised bed in order to fully enjoy the experience. The church donated the supplies to build the bed and the soil to fill it. Mr. Miller brought the bed to the home and saw that it got into place. The garden has produced lots of veggies and herbs—and is still producing tomatoes! The ladies have been eating what they’ve grown and have all really enjoyed tending to the garden and harvesting their crops!

Fit For Life



Jon works out 2 days a week with certified fitness specialists Deb and Mike for one-on-one instruction and guidance with a variety of cardiovascular and strength equipment to help Jon reach his fitness goals. Jon utilizes a total of 8 different machines at every one hour session. Exercise instructor Mike has this to say about Jon, “Jon is very focused, listens well and concentrates on every machine. Jon has made great progress. On one particular machine, Jon has gone from 5 pounds to 15 pounds! He is a role model for others.”



Jon is enrolled in Fit Assist, where individuals who need assistance to exercise are matched with volunteers who can give the appropriate help.

DSP Week



September 12th - 16th was designated as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) Week for 2016. What are DSPs? They are hardworking professionals who work directly with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The aim is to assist these individuals in becoming integrated into his or her community or the least restrictive environment. Although our DSPs are appreciated daily, special recognition occurred during this week in their honor.

Thank you, DSPs, for all you do!

Thank you McDonald's for donating breakfast for our DSPs!



Welcome!

Please welcome the new Health Support Team to Cottonwood, Inc. We are so pleased to have them in their respective jobs to provide health care coordination to the people we serve.



Shown left to right- Joanie Meier-Honea, Health Support RN, Jenny Ricks, Health Support Manager, Heidi Rios, Health Support Specialist, Robin Wood, Health Support Specialist, Mimi Strother, Call in (PRN, as needed) RN, Abigail "Abby" Bair, Health Support Clerk, and Chelsea DeSoto, Health Support LPN.

Out and About



Individuals supported by Cottonwood lead very active lives. They participate in many community activities like concerts, trips to Branson, the State Fair and the Renaissance Festival.



BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA



Many individuals had a wonderful time at the Blind Boys of Alabama performance! Thank you, Black Hills Energy for the tickets. The food was delicious and the seats were fabulous. Thanks to you, the people who benefitted from your gift did not let the performers down. Thank you for sharing that brilliant evening with us!



Art Show

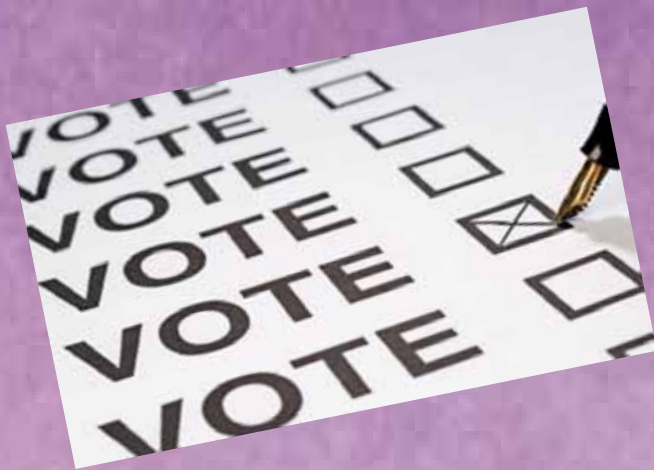


The artists of our Retirement Services program have been very busy preparing for their annual art show. This year's show is titled "Mixed Media Masquerade". The show will open at The Lawrence Art Center on Friday, October 28.

Retirement Services are offered to adults over the age of 62 who no longer want or need full-time, work-oriented services and who have been approved to enter services by the Admissions Committee. Our center is located downtown which allows us to participate in a variety of community events.



Vote!



Help to decide your future. Be sure to vote Tuesday, November 8th.

Opportunities to shape the future

The Cottonwood Foundation is a separate but affiliated 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization established to facilitate the contribution of funds for the benefit of Cottonwood, Inc. The Foundation's purpose is to promote and further the advancement of services at Cottonwood. With increased competition for limited philanthropic funds, gifts have become even more critical to help ensure a long, healthy future for Cottonwood, Inc. Contributions to the Cottonwood Foundation can be made in a number of ways, including cash, securities, real estate and personal property, life insurance, retirement plans, in-kind gifts, and planned gifts through a will or trust. Each contribution makes a difference and helps ensure the future of Cottonwood.

The Cottonwood Foundation is a charitable organization, and gifts are tax deductible.

To learn more about how you can have an impact on the lives of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities by making a donation to the Cottonwood Foundation, contact Peggy Wallert, Director of Community Relations and Development at (785) 842-0550. For more information about Cottonwood, Inc. as well as the Cottonwood Foundation, visit www.cwood.org.

You can make a lasting difference!

Tours



Lawrence Women's Network

We are very proud of the work that is done at Cottonwood to support people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you are interested in finding out more about Cottonwood, please contact Peggy Wallert, Director of Community Relations/Development at pwallert@cwood.org or (785)842-0550.



Cottonwood Foundation Board of Trustees Nancy Longhurst brought staff from The Oread Hotel.



Civitan Group



Cottonwood Foundation Board of Trustees Kurt Goeser brought family, friends and co-workers to tour.



Cottonwood Foundation Board of Trustees Tana Ahlen and KPR staff.



Lawrence High School Interpersonal Skills Class (IPS)





**COTTONWOOD
INCORPORATED**

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SAVE THE DATE

**The 17th Annual
Cottonwood Life Enrichment Services
Art Show**

**Retirement & Work Enrichment
Presents:**

THE MIXED MEDIA MASQUERADE

October 28th, 2016

Lawrence Arts Center

5:30pm to 8:00pm