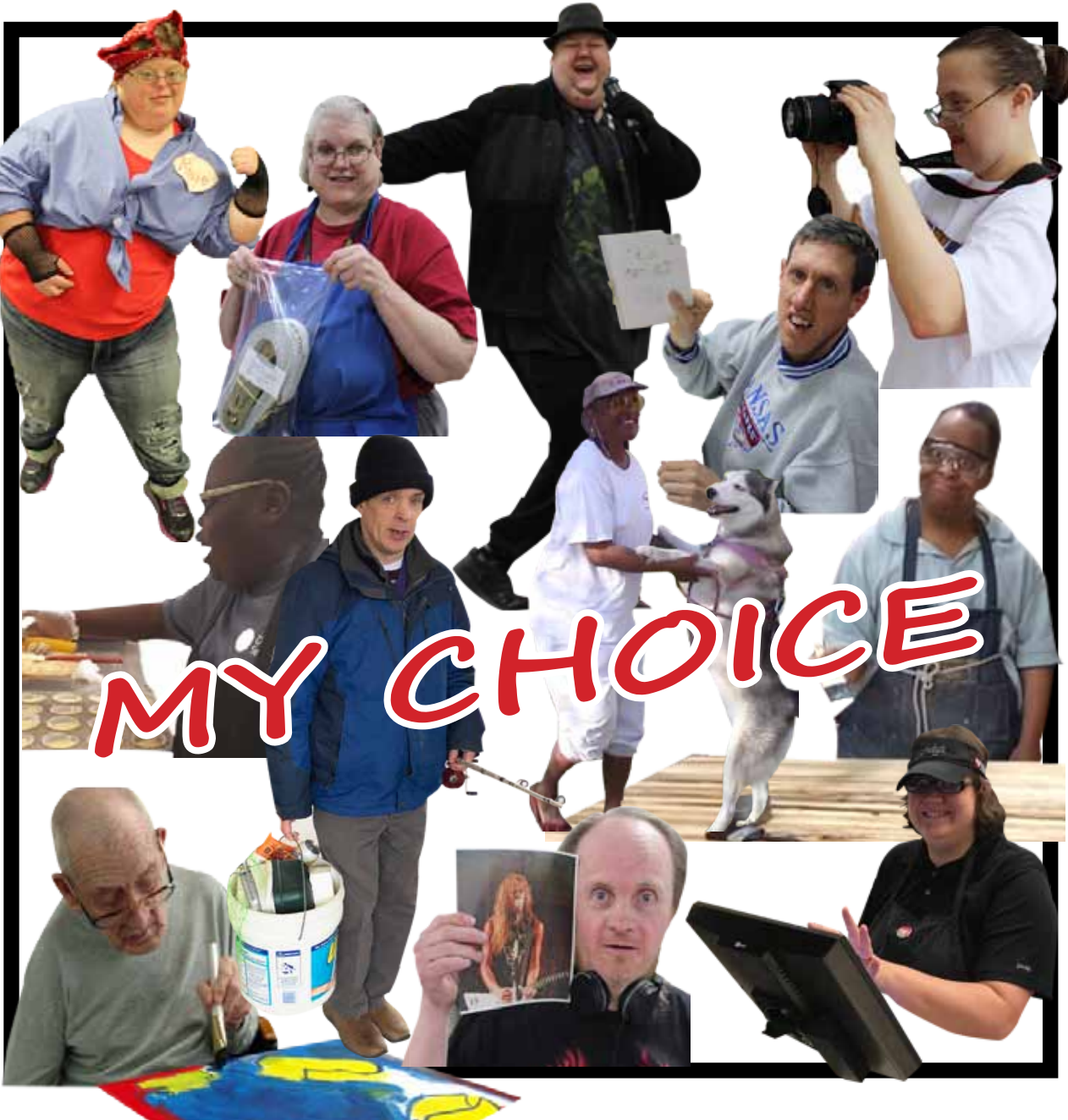


# CONTACT



Spring 2019

In touch with all things Cottonwood...



**COTTONWOOD**  
INCORPORATED

We help people with disabilities shape their own future.

# A Message from Our CEO



Cottonwood's mission is to "help people with disabilities shape their own future". Over the years, our commitment has been and continues to be to offer an array of both day/employment and residential service options for the people we support in accordance with the preferences and the needs of each individual. There is no one size fits all solution. Each of us has different likes, dislikes, preferences and needs. We all want choices! Years ago, there were

limited options for people with disabilities. Now there are many more options available. Choice is a determinant in personal development and choice is the freedom to consider the possibilities and deciding what is best for oneself.

This issue of the CONTACT focuses on many of these choices—whether it be where one wants to live, which community activities to participate in, or a choice of employment options. For some, that means having a part-time job that JobLink has helped them secure at a local business. For others, it means working at the Work Center (Cottonwood Industries). Many of the people that we support enjoy both options, working at the Work Center as well as at a local business.

Please enjoy this issue of CONTACT and see how having options makes life better for everyone we serve—helping the people we support to shape their own future.

*Sharon Spratt, CEO.*



Tana Ahlen  
Hank Booth  
Brad Burnside  
Kristin Eldridge  
Susan Esau  
Michelle Fales  
Harry Gibson  
Kurt Goesser  
Mark Gonzales  
Brian Iverson

Tom Larkin  
Nancy Longhurst  
Oliver Minnis  
Allison Vance Moore  
Martin Moore  
Miles Schnaer  
Jon Smiley  
Sharon Spratt  
J. Taylor  
Andy Vigna  
Richard Zinn



Steve Atzeni  
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Webster Golden  
Luke Livingston  
Carl Locke  
Tim Marshall  
Shirley Martin-Smith  
Tom Mulinazzi  
Gary Rexroad  
Jeff Sigler  
Steve Tesdahl  
Craig Weinaug  
Paul Werner

## Board of Trustees

CONTACT is published for the friends and supporters of Cottonwood, Inc. by the Community Relations and Development Department: Ettie Brightwell 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 other parts of 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. 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](http://www.cwood.org).





## Congratulations to these 2018 Employees of the Quarter!

Employees of the Quarter are nominated by their peers for their excellence in service and performance and their demonstrated support of Cottonwood's mission and values:

- Customer Satisfaction
- Self Determination and Personal Growth
- Teamwork
- Community Partners
- Courtesy and Respect
- Support

Thank You All!



1st Quarter  
Pam Ludwick  
Director of Support Services



2nd Quarter  
Kathy Ziesmer  
Work Services Supervisor



3rd Quarter  
Mary Williams  
JobLink Employment Consultant II



Rob Wurtz, Rick Falley, James Wachira, & Gregg Norwood share the 4th quarter's Employee of the Quarter award because of their unified willingness to care for a consumer throughout his terminal illness. These four men drew upon their maturity and experience to make this individual's last days meaningful, peaceful, and full of dignity. We are grateful for their commitment, kindness, skill, and love.



# COTTONWOOD Industries



The amount and variety of work opportunities has been great at Cottonwood Industries! \$413,674 was paid out in wages to the consumers of Cottonwood's work program. For the 58th consecutive month there has been over 99% work availability. The jobs include many opportunities for the people we support to earn a paycheck and do meaningful work for a wide variety of businesses.



- Bulk Mail
- Fulfillment
- Manufacturing
- Assembling
- Packaging
- Shipping
- Receiving



Choose Cottonwood Industries to perform all the jobs in your order fulfillment cycle, or choose just those jobs that we can perform most cost-effectively for you. Contact us today to discuss your needs. Robert Bieberle, Cottonwood Industries Business Development Manager, at 785-842-0550 or [rbieberle@cwood.org](mailto:rbieberle@cwood.org).



## Congratulations to our JobLink Employees of the Month!



**November - Annelise**

"I have worked at Pawsh Wash for over 1 year. I clean kennels, dog washing stations, and windows. My advice about being a good employee is to get your work done on time."



**December - Robyn**

"I have worked at One of a Kind Daycare for 1 year! I read, assist in playground duties, and assist teachers in taking care of the children. I like being around children, and enjoy seeing my boss and co-workers every day."



**January - Geraldine**

"I have worked at Voight since October, 2013. I package caps used to seal containers of medicine. My job makes me happy! My advice is to be nice to people, work hard, and be on time."



**February - Raquelle**

"I have worked at Neu Physical Therapy since August, 2016. I keep everything neat and clean. My favorite task is folding laundry. I work with nice people!"

## Employers of the Month

November - Pizza Hut

December - Arizona Trading Co.

January - Christal K-9

February - Lawrence Humane Society

March - KU South Dining Commons

April - Culver's

"Keep an open mind, be creative in deciding how the individuals can serve your organization. Approach this from a positive way. Don't ask why, ask why not?"

-Lawrence Humane Society

"Our JobLink employees help to alleviate pressure with my other staff by doing tasks my other staff do not have time to do. This is well worth the benefit."

-Pizza Hut (6th Street)



**March - Larissa**

"I have worked at Voight since September, 2017. I break down large batches of vial caps in to smaller packages. I count the number of items by weighing them on a special scale."



**April - Trent**

"I have worked at Lawrence Douglas County Housing Authority for 8 years. I clean 2 buildings. I love to mop/clean, and I am really good at it. I am saving my money for a trip to Branson. Working hard helps me to travel."

"Be on time, take your work seriously, and do a great job. People rely on you, so be there to help them."


-Advice from Trent

**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. For more information contact Phil Bentzinger 785-842-0550 or pbentzinger@cwood.org.


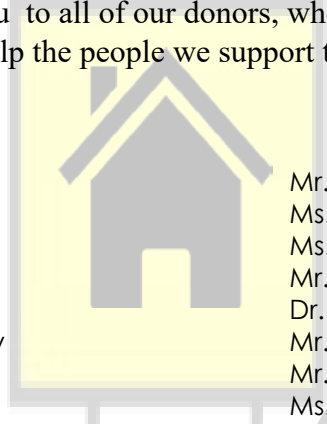
# COTTONWOOD INCORPORATED

# ON THE GO SHAPING FUTURES

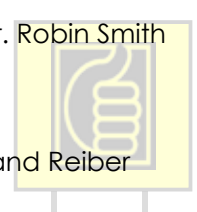
As the people we serve age or come to us with greater support needs, our vehicle needs now include more storage for wheelchairs, walkers, etc. as well as ramps or lifts. Thank you to all of our donors, whose generosity on our Annual Fund Drive enabled us to purchase a new accessible van to help the people we support to participate in a variety of activities and become more fully included in our community!



Ms. Lindsey Ahlen  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Ahlen  
Dr. & Mrs. David Ambler  
Mr. & Mrs. Darron Ammann  
Anonymous  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Atzeni  
Mr. Roger Bain  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Baker  
Ms. Jill Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Baloga  
Mr. & Mrs. Smitty Belcher  
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Bentzinger  
Ms. Martha Berger  
Ms. Marilyn Bittenbender  
Dr. & Mrs. Lee Bittenbender  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bjorge  
Mr. & Mrs. Zak Bolick  
Mr. & Mrs. Cary Brightwell  
Ms. Theresa Browning  
Ms. Lois Brubaker  
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Bruner  
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Bryan  
Mr. Craig Bryant  
Mr. & Mrs. Gayle Bryant  
Ms. Agnes Burns  
Mr. Josh Campbell  
Ms. Linda Campbell  
Ms. Mary Carson  
Mr. & Mrs. V.A. Chamberlin  
Ms. Judy Culley  
Ms. JoAnne DeGraffenreid  
Mr. Andrew Dierks  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Duncan  
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Mr. & Mrs. John Esau  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Fales  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Flory  
Ms. Jan Fox  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Frey  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Furlong



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Ms. Jane Getto  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Gibson  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gibson  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gish  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Glasgow  
Mr. Steve Glass  
Ms. Charlee Glinka  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Gonzales  
Dr. & Mrs. Captain Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. John Haase  
Mr. & Mrs. Al Hack  
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Ms. Delma Hitchcock  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Hodge  
Mr. Barney Hubert  
Drs. Eric and Pamela Huerter  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Ingles  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Jacobs  
Dr. Rosemary Jones  
Mr. Bernard Judge  
Ms. Audrey Kamb-Studdard  
Ms. Pat Kimbrough  
Ms. Eunice Kuhlmann-Grieder  
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Goesser  
Leadership Lawrence  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Leines  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lienhard  
Mr. & Mrs. David Livingood  
Mr. & Mrs. Luke Livingston  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Locke  
Mr. Daniel Logan & Ms. Gladys Cofrin  
Mr. & Mrs. John Lungstrum  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Martinez  
Ms. Shirley Martin-Smith & Mr. Robin Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Meyer  
Mr. James Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Moore  
Mr. Martin Moore & Ms. Durand Reiber  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mulinazzi



Mr. Thomas Murray  
Ms. Andrea Norris  
Ms. Mary Ruth Petefish  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Peters  
Dr. & Mrs. Laurance Price  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwane Richardson  
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wenger  
Ms. Cindy West  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Whitenight  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Wiese  
Ms. Cindy Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Willis  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Windholz  
Ms. Eleanor Woodyard  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Zinn  
Mr. & Mrs. David Zupancic



# Thank you!



# Welcome!

## Welcome New Board Members!



New Foundation Board Members, Tom Larkin and Brian Iverson enjoy a tour of Cottonwood

**Brian Iverson** and his wife, Sue, moved to Lawrence in 1989 from Denver, CO. At the time, they thought they would stay a couple of years and then go back to Denver, but it's 30 years later and they are still here! Brian and Sue have a wonderful son, Max, and a fulfilling life in Lawrence.

Brian works as a Commercial Lender for Intrust Bank, and dabbles in business valuation in his spare time. He enjoys giving back to the community. In addition to the Cottonwood Foundation Board, he currently serves on the board of Family Promise of Lawrence. He has served on the boards of Health Care Access, Trinity In-Home Care, United Way of Douglas County including Campaign Chair, and the Leadership Lawrence advisory board.

**Tom Larkin** grew up alongside three brothers in Garden City, Kansas. He was from a Jayhawk family, so he attended the University of Kansas and received an undergraduate degree in Architecture, before going on to earn a graduate degree in Environmental Design from Michigan State University. Tom worked in the golf industry for a few years, designing and building golf courses around the world based out of Bend, Oregon. After getting married to Mallory in 2013, they began planning a return to the Midwest and landed in Lawrence in 2014. Tom worked in real estate upon his return, primarily focusing on redevelopment efforts in East Lawrence as well as Kansas City and a number of other Kansas and Missouri communities. Tom started Foxtail Real Estate Company in January of 2017 with his business partner, Patrick Watkins, and their works divides them between Lawrence and Kansas City. Mallory and Tom have really fallen in love with the Lawrence community. Their first child, Charlie, was born on December 1, 2018 and the chances are good he will be a Jayhawk someday as well.

### Craig Weinaug

Craig grew up in Lawrence. Since 1975, he has served in local government administration in five communities in four different states. He recently retired after 26 years as the County Administrator for Douglas County. Craig also serves on the boards of Independence, Inc. and Peaslee Tech as well as serving in an ex officio capacity on numerous local boards. Craig is an avid bicyclist and now that he is retired from the County, he looks forward to riding more and spending more time with his wife, SallyDon, and his 4 grandchildren (for whom he has already picked out bikes).



New Inc. Board Craig Weinaug with Sharon Spratt (CEO, Cottonwood) & Tom Mulinazzi (Cottonwood, Inc. Board of Trustees President)



# Driver Appreciation Day

We celebrated Driver Appreciation Day at Cottonwood in February. Thank you, First Transit and Independence Inc. for going above and beyond every day, being a positive influence, and keeping our folks safe. Many of our consumers that work at Cottonwood also have jobs elsewhere in the community. Cottonwood's JobLink division books over 400 rides per week. The Paratransit System plays a key role in getting the people we support to and from their jobs. Thank you drivers!!!

WE  OUR DRIVERS!

**First**  **Transit**







We had a great time at the Lawrence Parks & Recreation Spring Arts & Craft Fair. We have many artists at Cottonwood. Our Retirement program has been working with the Lawrence Arts Center creating beautiful printmaking pieces. We also sold magnets, coasters, and jewelry.



Our artists are very proud of their work and happy to show it off! All proceeds went to the artists.



# Arts & Crafts Fair





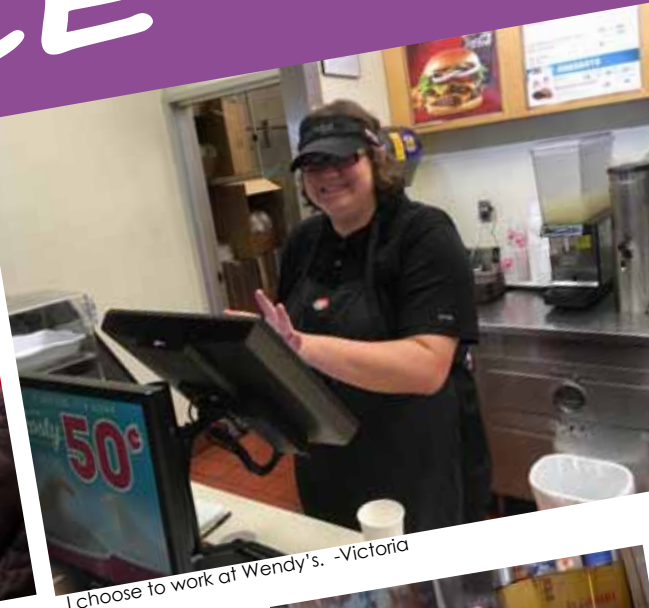
# MY CHOICE



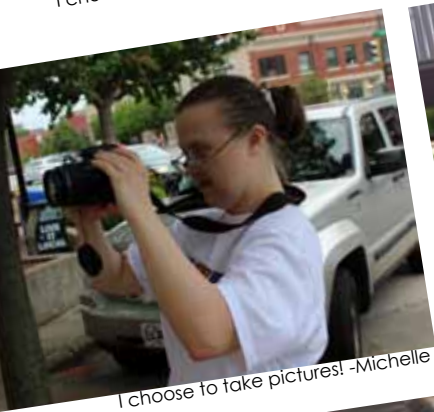
I choose to dress up for Halloween! -Lisa



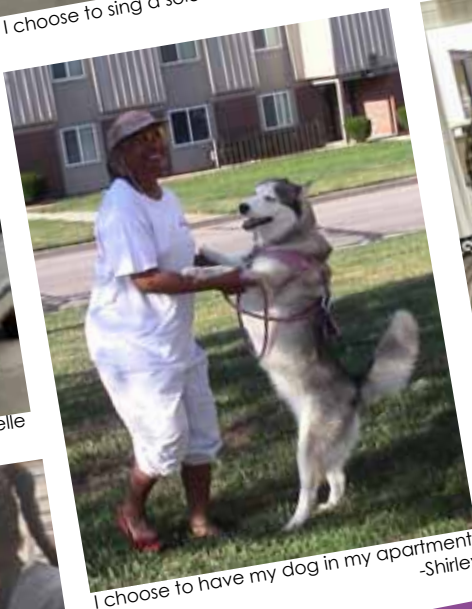
I choose to sing a solo in the talent show. -Jordan



I choose to work at Wendy's. -Victoria



I choose to take pictures! -Michelle



I choose to have my dog in my apartment. -Shirley



I choose to go fishing. -Chris



I choose to do woodworking. -Hans Eric



I choose to bake and love my job at KU Dining Services. -Ayesha

I choose to shape  
my own future.



I choose work at Cottonwood Industries and Arterra Event Gallery. -Sheryl



I choose to paint. -Eldon



I choose to work at Cottonwood Industries. -Matt



I choose to listen to heavy metal music. -Wade



# Celebrate



**Salute! – A Festival of Wine and Food** is a three-day benefit that offers something for wine lovers of all levels and tastes. Every year, more than 1500 people travel from near and far to attend the celebrated event.

2019 marks the 20th year for Salute! The proceeds from this unique event benefit Cottonwood. Funds raised from events such as Salute! help Cottonwood to provide additional services to the people we serve. Now in its' 20th year, Salute! has raised over one million dollars for Cottonwood, Inc. Thank you to our presenting sponsors, Standard Beverage Corporation, and the Oread Hotel, and all of our other fabulous sponsors and donors for helping to make this such a special event.



**Mass Street Mosey** July 11  
**Winemaker Dinner** July 12  
**Grand Tasting /Auctions** July 13

**Tickets on Sale June 3rd**  
**[www.salutewinefest.com](http://www.salutewinefest.com) or 785-840-1604**

Attendees at all events must be at least 21 years of age with valid ID.



## Steering Committee

**CHAIRCOUPLE** - Miles & Paula Schnaer

**STANDARD BEVERAGE CORPORATION** - Carrie Mulligan

**RESTAURANT Chair** - Peggy Wallert

**VENUE** - Nancy Longhurst, Whitney Webber, & Aaron Stehman

**AUCTION Co-Chairs** - Stephanie Day & Anne Marie- Leiszler

**SPONSORSHIP Chair** - Michelle Fales

**MASS ST. MOSEY Co-Chairs** - Sarah Kurien & Erica Gascon

**COTTONWOOD** - Sharon Spratt, Ettie Brightwell, & Kari Bentzinger



Presented by:





Douglas County Public Works



Edward Jones - Kansas Football



The Oread Hotel

# Tours

We are very proud of the work that is done at Cottonwood to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Come see for yourself all that Cottonwood does. If you are interested in finding out more about Cottonwood and/or touring our facilities, please contact Ettie Brightwell, Director of Community Relations/Development at [ebrightwell@cwood.org](mailto:ebrightwell@cwood.org) or (785) 842-0550.



Sigler Pharmacy



Sigler Pharmacy



Sigler Pharmacy



Free State High School IPS Class



Heather Hoy-Dg. Co. Community Foundation



Aetna Better Health of Kansas





Laurie Hart - KU School of Social Welfare



Kinedyne Corporation-Fred Stipkovits & Steve Atzeni



Kinedyne Corporation-Fred Stipkovits



Lawrence High School IPS Class



Lawrence High School IPS Class



Susan was very pleased when her boss and co-workers from Double Tree Hotel came to tour Cottonwood.



Tom Larkin & Brian Iverson



LMH Health



Megan Hill - Boys & Girls Club



# Advocacy Day

## 2019



On Tuesday, March 26, 2019 over 60 Cottonwood persons served and staff headed to the State Capitol in Topeka to participate in Advocacy Day. Our Cottonwood contingent joined over 500 other participants actively advocating for a variety of issues affecting the Kansas I/DD community. These issues include the Direct Support Professional Workforce Availability Crisis, Provider Capacity, and advocating for a 2% rate increase for all Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers. After a lively rally in the Capitol rotunda, the attendees had a tasty picnic lunch followed by visits to legislators' offices to personally advocate for our issues. Thank you to our friends at InterHab for organizing this amazing and motivating day!



## Why I Give

"Life is a funny thing. When I was little, I always just wanted to make as much money as I could when I grew up. I wanted to be rich. As I have grown and matured, I have learned what is really important. And that is making relationships with people that you can learn from. I want my three boys to see that when you invest in your community, through service to others, the community will invest back into you. I want them to know that people that are different from themselves are no better or worse. I want them to learn that the relationships you build throughout your life will define your life. I use that in my business relationships, in my community relationships, and with my Cottonwood family as I have served on the Board since 2011. I love the history and the mission of Cottonwood, and the people that they serve have taught me so much about what is important in life! They are always smiling, they enjoy the small things, they love life for what it is. They LOVE the work they do! They LOVE having a choice. And that is why I give financially and my time to Cottonwood. Join me and my family in supporting Cottonwood, whether it is a one-time gift or a monthly contribution. If you have never been to Cottonwood, let me host you for a tour to see the amazing things that happen each and every day at this wonderful organization."



**"I love the history and the mission of Cottonwood, and the people that they serve have taught me so much about what is important in life!" - Zak Bolick, Cottonwood, Inc. Board of Trustees**



# Shaping Futures

## 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.



**ONE-TIME GIFT** Your gift makes a big difference!



### MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM

Honor your loved one with a gift today.



### MONTHLY GIVING

Help shape the future of the people we support year-round with a monthly automatic gift.



### QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS

Individuals who've attained age 70 1/2 may make QCDs.



### PLANNED & ESTATE GIFTS

Learn how to leave a legacy through a Will or Trust.



### Company Match

Many companies offer a company donation match.

Contact Ettie Brightwell, Director of Community Relations/Development, for more information.  
ebrightwell@cwood.org or 785-842-0550.

## You can make a lasting difference!

The Cottonwood Foundation is a charitable organization, and gifts are tax deductible. Contact Ettie Brightwell, Director of Community Relations and Development, at (785) 842-0550 to learn more about how you can have an impact on the lives of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities by making a donation. For more information about Cottonwood, Inc. as well as the Cottonwood Foundation, visit [www.cwood.org](http://www.cwood.org).



### Community Rewards Giving More Back to the Community!

Dillons is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Dillons Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy...all you have to do is shop at Dillons and swipe your Plus Shopper's Card!

Sign up today! Visit [www.dillons.com](http://www.dillons.com)



AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to Cottonwood, Inc. Support Cottonwood, Inc. by shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

## Follow Us! Like Us! Share Us!



Cottonwood, Inc. & Salute Festival of Wine & Food



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cottonwoodincorporated





**COTTONWOOD**  
INCORPORATED

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Lawrence, KS 66047-3049



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Lawrence, Kansas  
Permit No. 115



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **July 11-13, 2019**

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Thursday, July 11th 5-8pm  
**Mass Street Mosey**

Friday, July 12th 6:30pm  
**Winemaker Dinner**  
The Oread Hotel

Saturday, July 13th 6:30-10pm  
**Grand Tasting & Auctions**  
The Oread Hotel

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Tickets on Sale JUNE 3rd  
[www.salutewinefest.com](http://www.salutewinefest.com) 785-840-1604

Attendees at all events must be at least 21 years of age with valid ID.