



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Last year at this time, we were in the height of dealing with COVID-19, waiting for vaccines to become available and pretty much shutdown in our services. Now, one year later, we are slowly getting back to a “new normal” although no one really knows yet what that will be. All in all, we can take comfort in the success that we achieved and we look to the future with optimism. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the hard work, resiliency, creativity and courage of staff, the people we support and our boards of trustees. Your trust and confidence as we navigated through some scary days will always be treasured.

2021 saw the retirement of Jill Baker, the Administrator of Services, after 44 years of service. Kara Walters, former Director of Residential Services, transitioned into the position and Heather Poort was then named the new Director of Residential Services.

A key accomplishment this past year included receiving full compliance with Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) for the CMS Final Rule settings. We also achieved excellence in the many other regulatory reviews and audits that we undergo on a regular basis. A specific area of emphasis in 2021 focused on enhancing technology and modernizing various business systems. Combine all of that with two successful fundraising events made for a very good year and sets the stage for 2022 and Cottonwood’s 50th Anniversary.

As I reflect back on my career with Cottonwood, I couldn’t be prouder of all of the changes, advancements and quality services that I have had the honor of being a part of. My sincere appreciation to you, our supporters, volunteers, local businesses, neighbors, and our fellow citizens who have helped us along the way to realize our potential. You empower us with your generosity and compassion. Please know that you make a difference and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

Please take a moment and enjoy our 2021 Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Sharon Spratt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sharon" and last name "Spratt" clearly distinguishable.

Throughout 2021, we traversed another year of uncertainty amid a global pandemic. It was not a year any of us expected, yet amidst the ever-changing, often contradictory circumstances, Cottonwood pulled together and met the obstacles head on. As new need and challenges arose, the Cottonwood team sprang to action, found workable solutions and pressed on to provide the much-needed supports for our consumers.



198 AMAZING STAFF

Staff, in true Cottonwood Strong style, never wavered from the course of imaginatively and compassionately caring for the people we support. One thing we learned during the past two years is how to be nimble and flexible when it comes to providing quality supports. While there were instances of pre-pandemic “normalcy” throughout the year, there were also occasions when Day Services seamlessly transitioned to a Group Home-based service provision and back again.

Our newly developed capacity to provide day services in the group homes when conditions demand it, proficiency with Zoom technology, hybrid office/home work schedules, and a relaxed dress code proved to be effective, efficient and positive outcomes of the pandemic—helping us to always remaining COTTONWOOD STRONG!

Life Enrichment: Serving ~49 people



Community activities and opportunities slowly and safely returned, including print making classes at Lawrence Art Center, Music Therapy via Zoom, van rides, community strolls and park activities when possible.

Residential:
serving 95 individuals in 45 locations

Health Supports: 836 persons-supported seen in the clinic by HS Nurse

Health Supports: 2,028 health-related appointments scheduled for persons supported (25,409 miles traveled to transport persons-served to health-related appointments)

Nearly 100% of both persons-served and staff have received COVID vaccinations!



In early 2021, COVID vaccines became available for people at high risk, which included the people with I/DD and the staff that support them. Cottonwood hosted 4 on-site vaccine clinics with nearly 100% of persons served in Residential and CW staff receiving the vaccination.



Case Management: 283 people receiving services



JobLink continues to excel at supporting people with barriers to employment to find good jobs

JobLink:
 # of people served in jobs: 237
 # of people served seeking jobs: 49

Work Services: 100% work availability over the past 92 months even with a global pandemic and supply chain issues

MAP continues to grow. MAP is a program designed to expand Cottonwood's workforce to include people with ALL types of significant disabilities



Salute! 2021 successfully reimaged yet again, raising over \$120,000 for Cottonwood

Salute Events:

- Mass Street Mosey sells out!
- Wine Maker Dinner sells out!
- No Grand Tasting but a wonderful event to honor our fabulous sponsors!



MiniMasters comes “home” to Cottonwood. The annual miniature golf tournament for Cottonwood consumers, staff and families returned in 2021 on a beautiful September evening on the Cottonwood grounds. Lawrence Mini Golf set up its new course in our parking lot. Dinner from Toppers Pizza and the Kona Ice Truck added to the festivities. Old favorites, the street dance and the fish pond returned to the delight of all. Can't wait until next year!

Cottonwood Classies returned to an in-person event, much to everyone's delight. Congratulations to the 2021 winners!

Caring & Commitment Awards

Ladina Miller & Delilah Tidzump

Shining Star Award

Sam Branson & Karrie Metzger

Cottonwood Industries Business Partner of the Year

Churchill Container

JobLink Employer of the Year

Heartland Homecare Pharmacy

Distinguished Service Award

Tom Mulinazzi



Sam

Shaping Futures

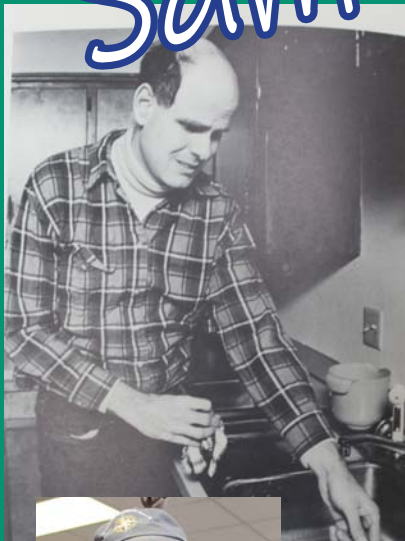
Sam has received support from Cottonwood since 1974.

Sam is one of the kindest consumers around. He is always thinking about people he cares about, where they are, what they are doing, whether they are feeling good or bad.

Sam loves being involved in any activities whether it's going on a Parks & Rec trip to Branson, the state fair or to a KC Royals game, Sam doesn't want to miss out! He loves to take van rides around town and enjoys telling staff which way to go since he is great with directions.

Sam showed amazing flexibility over the last 2 years of COVID. He accepted we do not always have a set answer for him as he is a very routine oriented person.

Sam has a close relationship with his sisters and talks to them every week. He is excited for any holiday that gets him to see his family.



Shaping Futures

Karrie

Karrie is very positive and fun to be around. She is always so proud of herself for whatever she is doing well at the time. Karrie has grown to be an outstanding self-advocate and a fiercely independent lady. Karrie does well living on her own and maintains her apartment. Karrie says she likes living on her own because she doesn't have to deal with roommates- she can just deal with the neighbors, who she enjoys.

Karrie has worked at Target for 18 years and has a countdown to retirement. She is looking forward to her retirement party!

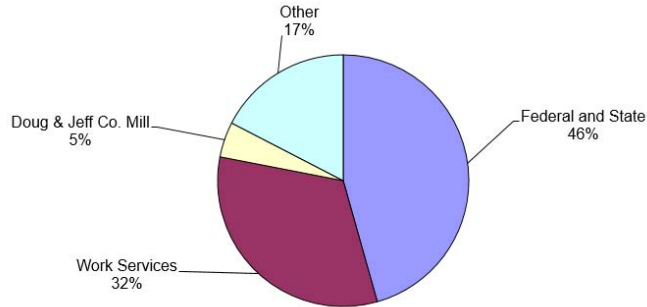
Karrie loves rock and roll and has enjoyed going to many concerts over the years, including KISS.

Her consistent positive attitude, outstanding work ethic and her endearing personality truly make her a shining star.

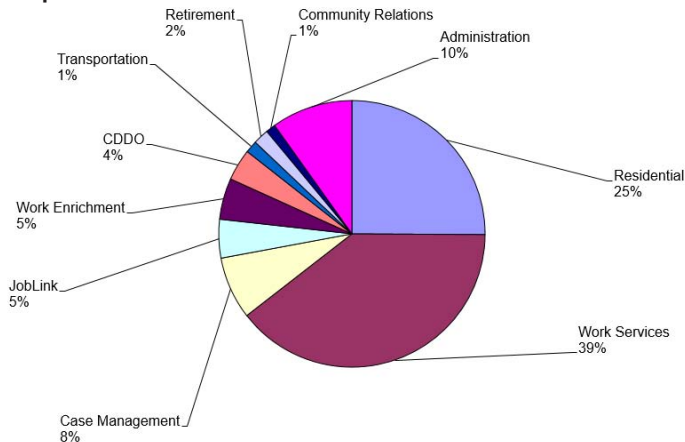


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Revenues



Expenses



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 \$

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Expiration: __/__/__ Signature: _____

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Invoice me

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THANK YOU!

2021 was a remarkable year for Cottonwood, in many ways. Challenging and rewarding. And always, working together to provide the best possible services and supports for the people we serve—and continuing to be COTTOWOOD STRONG!



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Cottonwood, Incorporated is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization that serves individuals with developmental disabilities. Cottonwood provides employment, residential, and community support 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 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.





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