

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

We help people with disabilities shape their own future.



I find it difficult to believe that two years have passed since I began my journey with Cottonwood. As I reflect on this time, I find myself immersed in a multitude of emotions, experiences, and learnings. The past year has been nothing short of amazing and transformative, presenting both unprecedented challenges and unexpected opportunities. I continued to be awed by the tenacity, resilience and creativity of this amazing Cottonwood staff. In the face of slow cargo strap orders, the entire staff immersed itself in embracing change and innovation, finding alternative contract work, seeking out ways to streamline operations and processes all while fully embracing our mission of helping people with disabilities shape their own future.

The past year has been a profound learning experience, highlighting the importance of agility, adaptability, and empathy in navigating unprecedented challenges. As we look forward, we remain committed to continuous improvement, innovation, and collaboration, knowing that together, we can overcome any obstacle and emerge stronger than ever before. Also, Cottonwood's boards continue to demonstrate great leadership and vision for our organization. We are also blessed to have a wonderful community of partners with whom we can work to drive Cottonwood's mission and create a richer and more diverse world. Thank You All!

In summary, the past year has been a journey of resilience, adaptation, and growth. While the road ahead may still have some bumps, I am confident that with the dedication and determination of our team, we will continue to thrive and create a brighter future for our organization and all stakeholders involved. We are Cottonwood Strong!!

Colleen Zimmerberg



For over 50 years, Cottonwood has been providing quality supports and services for people with disabilities in Douglas and Jefferson counties. And 2023 was no exception. We opened a new community-focused day service, worked with more job seekers than ever through JobLink—placing over 280 people in jobs out in the community and winning the title of #1 Staffing Agency for the second year in a row! Cottonwood Industries brought in new automation to help increase efficiency on the production lines while also bringing in new contracts and thus allowing persons-supported to learn new skills and earn a valuable paycheck. As always, our staff goes above and beyond every day to make things happen and create positive experiences for persons-supported.

192 Staff unflinching drive Cottonwood's mission of helping people with disabilities to shape their own future every day!

Work Enrichment: **509** Community Outings **1,220** Learning Bursts



Retirement Enrichment: **393** Learning Bursts **511** Community Outings

Health Supports:
1,974 health-related
appointments scheduled for
persons-supported; **28,228**
miles travelled.
77 staff received med
delegation training



Consumers seen in clinic by nurse = **961** with monthly average of **80**
1,311 medication changes coordinated

Residential:
Day & Residential
Staff worked to-
gether to seamlessly
provide supports to
persons-served



Residential: serving **89** individuals in **42** locations



Targeted Case
Management:
391 people
receiving services



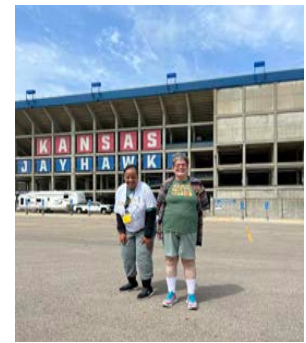
JobLink:
of people
served in jobs:
280
working with over
200 employers

JobLink Voted "Best Staffing Agency" in the Best of Lawrence competition

Cottonwood Industries Retooled / Rebranded / Revitalized



In July, 2023 Cottonwood launched a new service offering—CORE—(Community, Outreach, Recreation, and Enrichment). **110** Learning Bursts **189** Community Outings



Salute! 2023 proved to be the best Salute! event yet—raising over \$180,000 for Cottonwood. Yet again, all 3 events sold out!



Minimasters

We could not have asked for a better evening in late September for our annual miniature golf tournament for Cottonwood consumers, staff, and families. Lawrence Mini Golf set up a challenging course in our parking lot while folks were served a delicious dinner from Toppers Pizza. The Kona Ice Truck was on site for that just right sweet treat. It wouldn't be a Cottonwood party without the ever-popular street dancing and the fishpond! Our friend, The Balloon Man, returned to add to the festivities. And the new addition of an air brush tattoo artist really put the fun over the top!

Cottonwood Classies

No Cottonwood year would not be complete without our annual celebration of all things Cottonwood -The Cottonwood Classies. Congratulations to all of our award winners:

Shining Star Award

Jordan Platt & Robert Mitchell

Caring & Commitment Awards

Sandy Duersch & Lisa Totten

Distinguished Service Award

Zak Bolick

JobLink Employer of the Year

KU Memorial Union

Cottonwood Industries Business Partner of the Year

V.F.W.





"It makes me feel good to earn money so I can buy a Patrick Mahomes jersey." - Jordan

Jordan comes to work with a positive attitude every day. He has a great work ethic. He willingly tries out new jobs and is flexible if he's asked to change jobs, which is a huge asset to Cottonwood Industries. He keeps it light on the work floor. He's the one to crack a joke and lighten the mood. He is also very good at mentoring other consumers.

Jordan has self-advocated and expressed interest in outside activities like Coffee House and Acting 101 class through Lawrence Parks and Recreation. He has learned to ride the T-Lift and is learning to cook.

Shaping Futures

Shaping Futures

"I learned my lesson, quit drinking pop and walk around.
I lost 80 lbs." - Robert

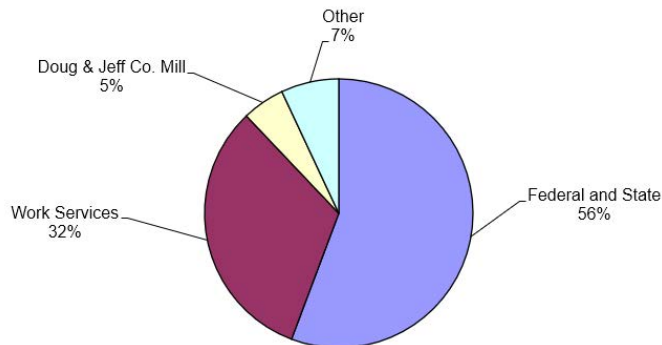
Robert is a completely changed person compared to where he was a couple of years ago. He has been supported by Cottonwood for 48 years. The strides he has made with his health and social interactions with people is just fantastic. He recently moved to a group home and was not too excited at first, but he has just shone in that setting. He has made good lifestyle changes; his physical health has improved. He decided one day that he was going to quit drinking soda and now he only drinks iced tea. He has lost 80 lbs. Robert lives close to Cottonwood and he loves walking up and visiting with old friends. He loves country music, old movies, and scary movies.

Robert

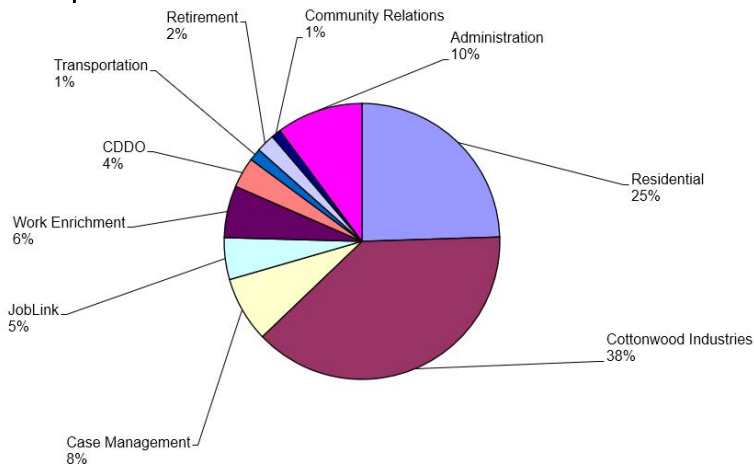


2023 Financials

Revenues



Expenses



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