

Reaching the

# PINNACLE

A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF KETCH

APRIL 2012

## Palette to Palate Exceeds Goals

One of the most exciting aspects of special event planning and fundraising, for everyone involved, is totaling up all the dollar signs post-event. Those of us behind the scenes have put the calculators down. With your help we were able to exceed our goal by \$20,000. The Second Annual Palette to Palate raised over \$82,000.

The second annual Palette to Palate, held on Saturday, March 3 at the Drury Broadview Hotel, drew over 500 guests. Attendance more than doubled from the first year.

"It was truly amazing to see the wonderful support from the community," said Brenda Keeler, director of development. "Everyone had a great time!"

The auction ranged from art donated by talented local artists, wine from private collectors, as well as other items including an autographed WSU Men's Basketball, and a trip to Napa Valley with exclusive tours of Rudd Estate and Futo Winery.

The wine tasting, sponsored by Standard Beverage Corporation, included eight different tasting stations. Vendors such as Larkspur Bistro & Bar, The Hyatt Regency, Corporate Caterers, Culinary Catering, Newport Grill, Cero's, Velvet Cream Bakery, Bocconcini Italian Eatery, and Luca Italian Kitchen were all featured in the tasting.

A special thank you to all of our amazing sponsors, donors, artists, food vendors, and everyone who attended for your involvement and generosity. An event of this magnitude would be impossible without the help of wonderful volunteers. Thank you to all the committee members and event volunteers for your hours of work. We hope you had fun, because we sure did!

KETCH is already planning for next year and hope to make this a signature Wichita event. If you're interested in getting involved, volunteering or joining the planning committee please call 316.383.8889.



### Thank You To Our Sponsors:

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Top: Image of Louis Armstrong is of a painting completed by Live Performance Artist Michael Potts at Palette to Palate.



## More individuals working on production line thanks to USD 259 contract

Q: Every three months what should you do on your home/business maintenance checklist?

A: Change your heating/air filters.

Q: Where is the best place to purchase air filters for your business/home in Wichita?

A: At KETCH!

Yes, that's right. Businesses have been purchasing air filters from KETCH for years. Filter purchases are booming and in the past year KETCH has expanded its filters production line significantly. A primary reason for the expansion comes with a new contract with the USD 259.

Over the past few years the KETCH production department has conducted research on ways to improve the quality of its air filters. After learning of the improvements made to the air filter line, USD 259 began a review of the air filters produced by KETCH in 2011. This resulted in a contract with USD 259 for 100 schools with filters ordered every 30 days for one third of the schools.

Previously, the standard filter production line provided work to approximately seven adults with developmental disabilities in Work Services. After the expansion, approximately 25 individuals are working on the standard filter line. The USD 259 contract is allowing KETCH workers to obtain new skill sets as well as seeing larger paychecks due to the increase in work.

"USD 259 is able to work with a local vendor that employs unique workers with the skills sets necessary to develop and provide a quality product," said Darren Muci, director of division of operations for USD 259. "We are pleased to be able to procure a quality product while receiving high quality service."

If you are interested in purchasing filters from KETCH, visit [www.ketch.org](http://www.ketch.org) or call customer service today at 316.383.8770.

## **A helping hand:** We can all become a valuable member of the community

Spring is the season of doing. After long cold winters, we are all ready to get out of the house and get moving. With National Volunteer Week in April, not only is it a great time to lend a hand to your favorite cause or organization, but to celebrate those who volunteer year-round.

Volunteering is a favorite activity for many in KETCH programs. Whether it's packaging River Festival buttons or visiting a nursing home, there is always a group of individuals at KETCH getting involved. One individual, Jason, has gone above and beyond, volunteering over 83 hours for Habitat for Humanity.

During his two hours per week schedule, Jason's volunteer responsibilities include loading and unloading items donated for ReStore, Habitat for Humanity's resale outlet. After unloading, Jason also sorts, processes, and prices the donated items. He often helps customers locate items and ensures items are displayed in the correct location.

"Jason is very serious about donating his time," said Wendy Seymour, director of Behavior Services. "He has become a valuable community member."

This volunteer job has also taught Jason valuable skills. In addition to the customer service skills he's obtained, he is conscientious about being dependable and has a good work ethic.

"Jason now pursues new experiences and ways to be helpful," said Seymour. "He is always happy to go volunteer and happy when he leaves."



*"I am only one, but still I am one, I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."*

*~ Helen Keller*



# Did You Know?

There's been a great deal of media coverage about the Brownback Administrations plan to reform medicaid services in Kansas with a new system called KanCare, in order to reduce spending. This might have you wondering what the true cost of services is per person for individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Q:** Has the cost to provide community based Intellectual Disability/Developmental Disability Home and Community Based Services skyrocketed?

**A:** A University of Minnesota longitudinal study of ID/DD service costs reports that community-based long-term care services (funded by Medicaid) cost per person increased from \$34,533 in 1993 to \$36,224 in 2009. That is less than a 5% increase in 16 years.

**Q:** Have medical costs for persons with ID/DD receiving HCBS services increased?

**A:** According to the Kansas Legislative Research Department, Medicaid costs during the years from 2008 to 2011 decreased 16.8%.

**Q:** Is Managed Care an effective tool for controlling medical costs in Medicaid?

**A:** Economists find that there are savings by utilizing managed care plans—in both private insurance and Medicaid—due to lower payments to providers. However, managed care doesn't necessarily provide more appropriate or more efficiently-delivered care.

## Could your next co-worker or employee be hired through KETCH?

KETCH was founded on the simple philosophy that everyone, disability or not, could learn valuable vocational skills and ultimately become employed in the community. Nearly 50 years later KETCH continues to operate under its founding philosophy and is actively focusing on and participating in initiatives to establish an Employment First culture. What exactly does that mean, you ask?

Employment First is just that. The term simply means employment should be the first option for those served with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Great Expectations Initiative (GEI) is designed to shift the focus of the developmental disability service system in Sedgwick County and increase competitive, integrated employment (20 hours or more per week). As part of GEI, KETCH has teamed up with the Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization (SCDDO), and Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

"GEI uses more of a team approach from the beginning," said June Schneider, director of employment and day services. "Instead of being reactive, we are trying to be proactive."

KETCH Targeted Case Managers and employment staff attended trainings on the program locally and at Virginia Commonwealth University, considered to be the birthplace of supported employment. Targeted Case Managers are responsible for informing individuals of the program and will initiate the referral to Vocational Rehabilitation Services. KETCH and the additional partnering agencies' employment staff then use their business connections – maybe that's you - to assist in job placements.

"More persons served, their families, teams and service providers are viewing employment differently," said Schneider. "There is a set expectation."

To date KETCH has received 40 referrals through the program. Job placement positions range from pushing carts at Wal-Mart to jewelry making/beading.

The Sedgwick County GEI project set a goal to help 90 individuals obtain competitive employment over a two year period.

**Our Mission:**

To promote independence for persons with disabilities through innovative learning experiences that support individuals' choices for working, living and playing in their community.

KETCH, the Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped Inc., is a private, not-for-profit organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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**NEW DATE**

**KETCH GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Monday, September 24, 2012

Rolling Hills Country Club • Wichita, KS  
(new location)

Watch your mailbox for the brochure this summer!