

Reaching the

PINNACLE

A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF KETCH

WINTER 2011

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PINNACLE

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KETCH continues to work toward increasing affordable housing opportunities

Affordable and supportive housing opportunities are in short supply for people with disabilities in Sedgwick County. KETCH has been actively working to increase the number of units available and rehabilitate existing ones. A donation from the Goebel Family Charitable Trust will help continuing the effort possible.

The lack of housing is due to the specific needs of persons with disabilities. These needs include physical accessibility, below market-rate rent, access to the community, and specific fire and life safety features. Housing developed for the general public does not incorporate the degree of physical accessibility normally required by persons with developmental disabilities. High occupancy and low turnover rates also increase the demand for affordable housing.

"The individuals we serve do not move out for 20, 30 and 40 years, leaving housing turnover very low," said KETCH President/CEO Ron Pasmore. "As new people come into our services, new housing usually has to be developed."

Goebel Family Charitable Trust has donated \$20,000 over four years to KETCH to assist in the development of housing for persons with disabilities. This donation will be applied to the construction and renovation of Country Acres, an apartment complex owned by KETCH. The apartment complex is comprised of two 10-unit apartment buildings built in 1984. The two existing buildings have been renovated and a third 10-unit apartment building is being constructed on the same property.

Members of the Goebel Family Charitable Trust toured the KETCH campus to experience first-hand what KETCH

clients do and the work that is done to support adults with disabilities.

"Our visit to the KETCH campus was insightful. To witness the value of our donation at work with the number of clients preparing mailings, filters, wood stakes and binders was rewarding," said Jennifer Stephens, treasurer for Star Lumber & Supply Co., Inc. "To see our dollars at work at such a worthwhile organization was truly a blessing."

Staff have been working to move individuals into their new apartments as the buildings are completed at Country Acres. Some tenants have already been moved into the 351 building at Country Acres as well as the new building. More moves will be completed by mid-January. KETCH is now also focusing on another housing project on 10th Street which is expected to be completed sometime this summer.

"To see our dollars at work at such a worthwhile organization was truly a blessing."

*- Jennifer Stephens,
treasurer for Star Lumber &
Supply Co., Inc.*



The 10th Street Project is making great progress. This housing development is focused on individuals with behavioral challenges.

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Update from the President



Dear Friends of KETCH,

As we begin 2011 I would like to thank those who join with KETCH in our mission of helping persons with disabilities to live successful lives in the community. Last year proved to be difficult for many and 2011 is predicted to be even harder. KETCH has been fortunate to be able to continue in our efforts to develop quality housing for persons with disabilities through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and purchase two existing homes. While unemployment continued to be very high, we were able to assist 15 persons in finding employment in the community. We also were able to expand the

Encore retirement program by relocating to a new location capable of serving more people.

The Country Acres project is nearly complete. This project renovated two existing apartment buildings and added a new building bringing the total to 30 apartments to serve low income residents with developmental disabilities. We are in the process of qualifying tenant incomes and should have all the apartments leased after the first of the year. KETCH broke ground on a second new project, 10th Street Apartments, in early December. This project is also funded through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, adding 10 new apartments in the midtown area of Wichita, adjacent to KETCH's 10th Street group home. The completion date on this project should be some time next summer. Additionally, KETCH was able to purchase two existing homes, one in east Wichita and one located in a suburban setting near Clearwater. One serves as a transitional setting for assessment of needs for new referrals to our residential program. The setting near Clearwater is to better serve individuals with more challenging behaviors. In all, these acquisitions increased KETCH's residential capacity by 48.

As the down economy continued throughout the year, we remained committed to helping persons we serve to become employed in the community. Some persons we had placed in jobs in the past were laid off from their jobs and the number of referrals of new persons looking for employment slowed. However, KETCH successfully placed 15 persons in new jobs during 2010 and provided services to 129 persons either employed or seeking employment. KETCH was involved throughout the year in Kansas' Employment First initiative, designed to increase employment as the preferred outcome as a result of developmental disability community services. In 2011, KETCH will be participating with the Sedgwick County Development Disability Organization in a new grant from Kansas Rehabilitation Services designed as a systems change grant to increase successful employment outcomes for persons with developmental disabilities.

Beginning in January, KETCH's Encore retirement program will relocate to a setting that will greatly increase their space. The building is located one block east of KETCH's main campus on Waterman. Encore has always maintained a waiting list because they were located in a very small building next to our Adult Life Skills program. Their new location will allow us to eliminate that waiting list and be capable of serving new persons choosing Encore without having to wait. The old location will still be utilized by KETCH as an expansion for KETCH's Adult Life Skills 2 program.

While proud of what was accomplished in 2010, I know that despite our best efforts 2011 will bring challenges as our economy is predicted to continue to worsen and State revenues that we depend upon for much of our funding will be short. It is my wish that you will continue to stand with KETCH, helping to support the work we do.

Sincerely,

Ron Pasmore
President/CEO

Cargill Cares awards KETCH with another large donation

People with developmental disabilities have an increased nutritional risk and thankfully, someone understands that. Cargill Cares has donated \$20,000 to KETCH to assist in providing persons with disabilities adequate nutritional food.

Laura Roberds, VP over Community Living said, “persons with developmental disabilities are at increased nutritional risk due to metabolic disorders, drug-nutrient interactions, decreased mobility, feeding problems and they also have a higher risk of developing secondary illnesses. Proper nutrition helps to offset the risks of acquiring these conditions typically caused by a poor diet”.

KETCH will use the money to purchase nutritional healthy foods like fruits and vegetables and it will also help to keep the individuals’ pantries stocked. This donation will have a positive impact on the lives of the 150 people served in the Community Living program at KETCH with increased learning abilities, job opportunities and quality of life. This donation will help the served in the Community Living program at KETCH.

“Our committee took a tour of the KETCH campus [manufacturing and day programs] and saw first hand the work that is done to support adults with disabilities. The KETCH organization uses an approach that provides a good model we believe in. We could see the great need for their services for the people served and for the Wichita community,” said Allan Young, from Horizon Milling at Cargill Corporation. Young served on the Cargill Cares Committee, which is made up of several members from across the various companies under Cargill Corporation.

KETCH is recipient of Ad Astra Award for Richmond Place

KETCH was awarded an Ad Astra Award for Special Achievement in Affordable Housing Development-Urban by the Kansas Housing Conference. They received the award for their housing development, Richmond Place. The 20-unit development provides nice, accessible studio apartments for individuals with developmental disabilities.

“KETCH is very grateful to all of our partners in the development of Richmond Place,” said KETCH CEO/President Ron Pasmore.

The Ad Astra Awards honor those who “demonstrate outstanding excellence in developing affordable housing, shaping housing policy and creating innovative housing solutions to the daily needs of low and moderate-income Kansans.”

The acceptance ceremony was held on Sept. 9, 2010 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. KETCH’s President/CEO Ron Pasmore accepted the award on behalf of the organization. Developer/Contractor Mark Cox, of Vintage Construction, and Midwest Housing Equity Group, who served as the syndicator, also accepted the award.

“Housing developments like Richmond Place are designed to serve the poorest of the poor and those least able to help themselves, but when you attend a ribbon cutting ceremony you see KETCH clients look like the happiest people on Earth,” said Cox. “Thanks to Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) and our other partners, we have a second development with KETCH currently under construction and a third set to start soon.”

Aside from Richmond Place, KETCH provides housing in 21 single-family homes and two apartment buildings.

You’ve Got Mail!

Would you rather receive this publication via email? Let us know by filling out the information below or email your information to aruckman@ketch.org.

Name: _____

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Mail to: Ashley Ruckman, KETCH
1006 E. Waterman, Wichita, KS 67211



Richmond Place after its completion.

KETCH Carnival and Talent Show provides for fun-filled day

Hot dogs, ring toss, and a talent show? What more could you ask for on a Friday? KETCH's annual Carnival and Talent Show was held Sept. 24. The day was filled with food, games, and fun.

If games are your thing, the carnival had plenty to offer. From a Hole-in-One to a ring toss, there was surely a game for you. And a carnival isn't a carnival without prizes. From pens to stuffed animals, which were all donated, there were hundreds of different prizes to choose from.

Even if games aren't your thing, there was still plenty to do. For one dollar participants were given a chance to win one of many themed baskets. An Avon basket, a Halloween basket and other various baskets were put together with items that had been donated. A couple of African masks and an iPod were also given away for a dollar donation. After working up an appetite, it was time to please your palate. The carnival had hot dogs, chips, nachos, popcorn, and soda for sale. Canopies were set up with tables underneath so people could sit and mingle while enjoying the carnival food.

The carnival ended with the most anticipated part of event, the talent show. The theme for this year's show was "Evolution of Music and Dance". With 25 acts, there was plenty of talent to see. From singing to rapping to dancing, the performers had the audience cheering and having a good time.

"Everyone looks forward to this every year and it



Fred shows off a prize he won at the the Carnival.

gets better every year," said Caroline Goodall, who was in charge of the event. "To see the happiness and confidence that it brings to the clients is like nothing I've ever experienced."

This was the fourth year for the talent show and the ninth for the carnival, since the first one in 2001. "The carnival is a day for everyone to interact together and have fun," said Goodall.

The carnival was able to raise approximately \$2,600. All proceeds go to the KETCH Cares fund, which was started several years ago for KETCH clients who have unmet needs due to unfortunate circumstances such as lack of finances.

Cartridge King proves to be great employer for KETCH clients

KETCH understands that jobs for persons with disabilities are scarce. So when a company opens up to provide more jobs for persons with disabilities, KETCH staff jump at the opportunity to seek out employment for clients.

Cartridge King of Kansas, Inc. was started in 1994 because the previous CEO of Multi-Community Diversified Services wanted there to be respectable jobs for persons with disabilities. Not only do they provide job opportunities for persons with disabilities, but they produce quality toner cartridges. "We take each one apart and clean everything. If anything does not pass inspection, it is replaced. We test each cartridge to assure the best quality," said Kathy Shadrack, production manager at the Wichita branch.

On average they have about fourteen to seventeen people working. KETCH Employment Services has job placed three of the people who currently work at Cartridge King's Wichita location. All three

have successfully transitioned into community employment and no longer need KETCH job coaching services.

According to Robing Johnson, job coach at KETCH, employees at Cartridge King learn to utilize skills that can be used in other environments. Their job tasks include disassembling, cleaning, assembling and packaging printer cartridges. Through these tasks they learn to work closely with co-workers and learn the value of teamwork.

"Their positions work in a circle so if one position gets behind they all will," said Johnson. "They have learned to work as a team to keep the circle going."

"[Cartridge King] has been a very good fit for all of them and they really enjoy [their jobs]," said Johnson.

KETCH has been working with Cartridge King of Kansas, Inc. since they opened their Wichita location about eight years ago.

KETCH Day Program News For You

This new section is a compilation of stories from the new Day Program Newsletter, edited by Caroline Goodall, ALS Coordinator. The newsletter is sent out monthly to parents/guardians of individuals served in KETCH day programs to inform them of what clients are doing in their programs and/or community. In each edition of the Pinnacle we will be featuring as many stories as space allows.

Adult Life Skills (ALS)

As the sights and sounds of the holidays rapidly approach, 'tis the season for giving. The Adult Life Skills program distributed bags to all of KETCH staff and some local businesses to collect food for the Non-Profit Chamber's Annual Food Drive to benefit the Kansas Food Bank. Staff and clients enjoyed the opportunity to give back to the community that does so much for them.

On November 3, ALS celebrated "National Sandwich Day" by building their own sub sandwiches for a tasty, but healthy lunch. A couple of days later "National Donut Day" included a much anticipated trip to Krispy Kreme.

ALS also visited The Museum of World Treasures, Great Plains Nature Center, Starbucks, Wal-Mart, The Library, and The Alley. The seniors in the program went to the Zoo on the 10th and a small group went out for breakfast at Village Inn on the

22nd. To show their support for all those who have and continue to serve our country ALS made patriotic pins for Veterans Day.

The month was wrapped up with a "Pajama Party" on the 19th which included makeovers, popcorn, and a karaoke contest. The 24th was spent watching Christmas movies, munching on snacks, and planning for a Christmas decorating contest. ALS clients spent a November afternoon looking through catalogs and making Christmas wish lists.

Of course, Thanksgiving was a feast to remember. ALS joined with Community Connections and threw down quite a spread. Instead of traditional turkey, they opted for fried chicken with all the fixings; including potato salad, macaroni and cheese, deviled eggs, green bean casserole, cheesecake and pumpkin pie.

Encore (retirement program)

The individuals at Encore are focusing on wellness. They did Tai Chi every day in the program and also played another game to promote upper body movement. Everyone sat in a circle and tossed a ball around. Each time someone would catch the ball, they had to perform some type of action with their upper body. Not only did it get the folks moving, but also worked some gross motor skills. As a volunteer project the Encore program did a coat drive for Oaklawn Community Center. They decorated for Christmas with a beautiful gold and red Christmas tree. Encore played Bingo at the Downtown Senior Center and attended an art class at ARC where they made snowflakes out of construction paper and doilies. On

the 22nd the group went to Linwood Senior Center to watch the Music Makers perform a Christmas concert. Santa came to visit on the 23rd with Rudolph in tow. After the visit the program had a Christmas party with a gift exchange and finger foods. They enjoyed cantaloupe, grapes, cheese and crackers, and a variety of chips and dip. On the 30th Encore made New Year's hats with streamers that sparkled. The program continues to enjoy their beloved birds, Elvis and Priscilla. They play lots of games and enjoy group reading. One client in particular who used to work on cars likes to check under the hoods of Encore staff's cars at least once a week to make sure everything is functioning as it should.

If you have information or contacts of new places to visit or opportunities for volunteering in the community please notify cgoodall@ketch.org.

COMMUNITY STRENGTH

Engaging persons with disabilities in work skills, community living skills, and daily living skills are some of the most important factors leading to future full of opportunities and independence. At KETCH, we do just that. Through our Employment Services programs, Community Living Services, and Adult Life Skills programs, KETCH is successful at developing comprehensive programs that teach adults with disabilities how to work and live more independently.

DONORS: 09/01/2010 to 11/30/2010

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Save the Date!

8th Annual KETCH Champions' Golf Tournament!

...Driving the HERO in you!

Monday, May 23, 2011

Tallgrass Country Club
2400 Tallgrass St.
Wichita, KS 67226



For more information contact

Ashley Ruckman at
316-383-8889 or email
aruckman@ketch.org.

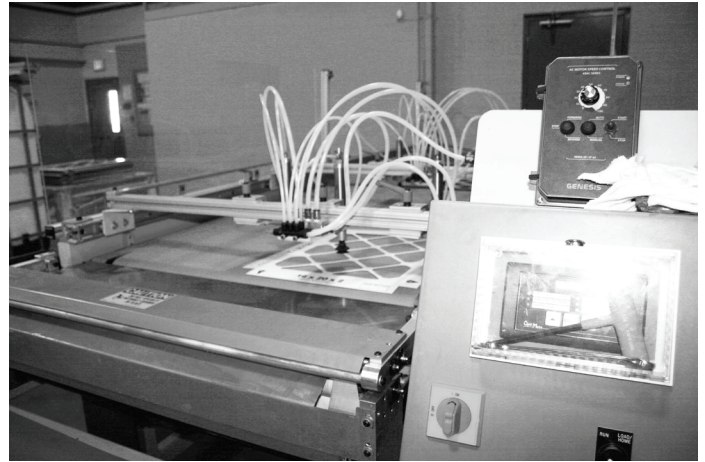
New filters machine speeds up production, creates new opportunities

Increase capacity. To most organizations that statement can simply refer to a goal to increase the production output of staff. To an organization like KETCH, though, where persons served come first and staff follow at a close second, the goal to increase capacity can also refer to providing more work opportunities for clients.

The catch-22 though is that in order to provide more work opportunities KETCH needs more contracts to provide more jobs to persons served. In order to get contracts, KETCH needs to be able to compete with companies who rely on machinery to speed up their production rates.

The KETCH board approved the funding for a new addition to the filters production line. The new machine has been up and running since early last year and already gives KETCH a competitive edge. Not only can the new machine substantially increase production rates but it also allows for a higher level of quality and waste reduction, therefore reducing cost to KETCH and ultimately the customer.

While the machine reduces cost by cutting back on the amount of glue used to make each filter it has the potential to bring in significant revenue for KETCH. According to Dan Jensen, director of operations, the machine can produce standard filters three times as fast as the typical production line. KETCH is now in a position to produce, package, and ship larger orders at a greater speed. The higher production rate now af-



The new filters machine will increase production and gives KETCH a competitive edge.

fords KETCH the opportunity to provide other real-life job training to persons served. According to Jensen, in the competitive workforce many of the jobs available to persons with disabilities are in warehouse positions such as material and package handling.

“[The clients] will have practical experience in warehouse material handling and shipping,” said Jensen.

The KETCH sales team is working hard to inform businesses of our new filter production capabilities and is looking forward to bringing in more contracts and orders soon.

Giving the gift of support

Most adults with disabilities will rely on KETCH services their whole lives. Whether they use our community living program, where they seek a safe, affordable, and easily accessible living environment, or our work services program, where they seek a safe job skills learning environment that provides an accessible work station, they need skilled support everyday of their lives. You can ensure the longevity of KETCH programs for many years to come. Through planned giving gifts, you give the continued support to adults with disabilities that they will need for a life time. Consult your attorney or CPA today. You can become the life support for over 500 adults with disabilities that rely on KETCH every day.

For more information about planned giving, contact Kim Roskam at 316-383-8884.

*****This material is intended for educational purposes only. For more information, consult with a designated financial advisor or attorney.**

“Being disabled should not mean being disqualified from having access to every aspect of life.”
- Emma Thompson



Stay up to speed with KETCH happenings by becoming a fan on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/supportketch

Our Mission:

To promote independence for persons with disabilities through innovative learning experiences that support individuals' choices for working, living, and playing in the 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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Palette to Palate

A wine tasting & art auction to benefit KETCH

Saturday, February 19th
Wichita Scottish Rite

6pm Meet the artist hour & live auction preview

7pm Wine tasting & silent auction

8pm Live auction
Sponsored by Ron Allen Auction Service

Co-Chairpersons
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Emcees
Bonnie Bing & Tracy Cassidy

Entertainment
Johnny Q & The Classics · Live performance art by Mike Potts

Tickets
\$60 Meet the artist hour, live auction preview, wine tasting, silent & live auctions
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Purchase tickets at www.ketch.org/winenart or call 316.383.8700

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