

Reaching the

# PINNACLE

A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF KETCH

SUMMER 2009

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## KETCH Annual Awards: A Time For Pride, Joy And Tears

### Wilma Martin Pioneer Award

*Nominated by Melissa Bridges and Pattie Knauff*

A few years ago while visiting her brother at KETCH, Mary Pat Pitts noticed the Angel Tree in the lobby. She was worried because there were still tons of angels on the tree and few gifts under it. She feared there were many people going without things they needed for daily living. So Mary Pat took action by asking her friend Glenn, who is involved in the Special Olympics, if he knew about the tree. He had never heard of it. Mary Pat and Glenn then decided they



would take it upon themselves to make it a success for persons served by KETCH. They made a deal with each other to collect donations from anyone who was willing to give any small amount and to get others involved. Mary Pat collected donations and the angels and did the shopping. Glenn started raising money early each year (to pass on to) Mary Pat to shop, and their process has continued every year! Her Bible study group gets together for a wrapping party each year, where she cooks dinner and everyone wraps; then they eat and bask in their accomplishments. From that first year until now, it has become a tradition.

This tradition makes Christmas wonderful year after year for the persons served at KETCH. Some would not have Christmas presents without the kindness of Mary Pat and her church.

### Employer of the Year Award

*Nominated by Mimi Leonard*

Roberta Fazel, owner of Curves in Topeka, has been an excellent employer for KETCH. She has allowed Community Based Work Assessments to be done at her facility. Roberta has gone on to hire a KETCH consumer based off her assessment. This was a person that Vocational Rehab



had written off as a non-employable person due to the severity of her disability. Roberta and her crew worked with the consumer on her

facial expressions that were lost following brain surgery that left her unable to smile. Roberta and her crew also helped this consumer find her self-worth through constant praise and encouraging words.

Roberta has allowed other consumers the opportunity to work, asking for understanding from her clientele. Roberta has a son with Downs Syndrome, who has worked at a local pizza parlor for years. She also has another son that is a past KETCH consumer who was placed successfully and still holds that job today. She appreciates the placement program, as she has seen firsthand the improvement it can make in the life of a person with a disability. She saw the example set by the owner of the pizza parlor that allowed her son to work. Today she graciously returns the favor to the community by providing work opportunities for persons with disabilities. (Continued on page 4)

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# Update from the President

## Dear Friends of KETCH:



Dear Friends of KETCH:

At the very end of the legislative session, an across the board 2 ½% cut in state spending was approved in response to the revised projections of even further reductions in state revenue. This resulted in nearly a 50% reduction in funds available to serve persons who are not eligible for funding through the Home and Community Based Services Waiver. Initially, it appeared that funding could cease for about 60 persons served at KETCH.

At this time, it appears that services for all these persons will be preserved through proposed increases in funding by Sedgwick County. Recently, the Governor spared developmental disability services from further cuts, recognizing the harm that previous cuts had caused. However, during these times of economic uncertainty, we cannot assume that funding will be available at the same levels in the future.

Please remember to let your legislator and know of your interest in the services provided by KETCH and how harmful cuts from the state are for persons who are the most vulnerable to such cuts.

Sincerely,  
Ron Pasmore

## KETCH Holds Carwash to Benefit MDA

In an effort to give back to the local community, persons served by KETCH will do something new and different: raise money for another non-profit.

KETCH relies heavily on the community for donations and would like to show appreciation by doing something positive in return. Persons served by KETCH will participate with MDA by washing cars for donations, giving them a good experience in community service.

All proceeds will benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

**What:** KETCH Carwash to benefit MDA

**When:** Friday August 28, 10 am to 3 pm

**Where:** KETCH parking lot -1006 East Waterman

**Cost:** Donations are appreciated

# KETCH Champions' Golf Tournament: Six Years and Strong



*The giant blow-up wolf in front of Tallgrass Country Club represented 100.5 the Wolf's presence at the event.*

A giant inflatable wolf greeted golfers in the parking lot at the sixth annual KETCH Champions' Golf Tournament... "Driving the HERO in you". The wolf was there to represent the presence of the event's media sponsor, 100.5 FM the Wolf, Wichita's newest country station. Held May 18, at The Tallgrass Country Club, the tournament promised golfers more than simply a round of golf.

Before the tournament began, golfers enjoyed lunch from Carrabba's Italian Grill, a putting contest and shots at the driving range. Shortly after noon a shotgun start signaled the beginning of the game.

Perfect weather made for a pleasant afternoon on the course. Nearly half of the 18 holes held a contest for golfers, including a free shot at winning a Saturn Sky in a hole-in-one contest.

For the first time, a KETCH team played in the tournament. Persons served Dale and Jake were a part of that team who was sponsored by Vintage Construction.

"The day was great," said KETCH Vice President Sallie Jensen who assisted the KETCH team. "The individuals had so much fun and really appreciated being a part of the tournament. I had the best job of the day."

The tournament's major sponsors included: CBIZ Mayer Hoffman McCann, 100.5 FM the Wolf, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Saturn of Wichita, AT&T, Digital Office Systems, Hampel Oil, Wal-Mart, Donlevy Lithograph, House of Schwan, Wichita Vending Company, Heartland Pharmacy and ING.

The day concluded with a dinner and awards ceremony where our sponsors were thanked and recognized and golfers were awarded prizes. Dan Tooker and Colby Ericson from the Wolf emceed.

"We had a blast and would love to do it again next year," said Dan Tooker.

The tournament raised nearly \$18,000 in proceeds and 25 teams participated.

*A golfer tries his luck at the putting contest.*



*Carrabba's staff serves lunch to golfers. Carrabba's has provided lunch for the tournament since its beginning.*



## **Achievement At Home Award**

*Nominated by Amy Williams and Kendra Bruce*

In September of 2005 Kelly Kinkead tried moving out of his parents' home and moved into a KETCH group home in Derby. This was a short-lived experience for Kelly as he struggled to get along with his room-

mates and staff. In November of 2005 he moved back home with his parents while

KETCH tried to find a better setting for Kelly. In May of 2006 KETCH and Kelly tried yet again and he moved in with two other male roommates. Once again Kelly struggled to get along with the roommates and even the staff at home. In the winter of 2006 he moved to an apartment with staff support. At this time the team saw improvement with Kelly. With much planning and team work Kelly's team started preparing him for another move that would once again include roommates.

In October of 2008 Kelly moved into a three bedroom house with two male roommates. He has shown maturity and growth with this move, and tries to focus on his program and his responsibilities within the home. Kelly has not had any physical aggression with his roommates or staff since moving into this setting. The team has also seen him contact his staff to help him resolve issues in the home instead of him handling them in his own way.

Overall the team is proud of how much his maturity has grown in residing and dealing with roommates on a daily basis.

## **Achievement in Employment Award**

*Nominated by Patty Waters*

Michael Riddle graduated from Chisholm Life Skills on December 20, 2006. On December 26 he began working in the KETCH Filters department. To reach his goal of wanting more in life it didn't take long due to his good attendance, positive attitude, drive and determination. He was referred to Community Employment at KETCH, and in April of 2007, he started a Guided Occupational Training at Western Uniform, now called Unifirst Uniforms. The Guided Occupational Training ended and Michael was offered a job. Today Michael works 40 hours per week with benefits. His supervisor, Jeff Hader, a Kansas Elk, called KETCH when he saw a job opening appropriate for a KETCH client. (Michael started mostly sweeping the floor and cleaning. It didn't take long for his supervisors to see he could do a lot more.)

Jeff says Michael is one of his best workers because of his



good attendance and his ability to pay attention to details. Jeff also said Michael is one of the few employees that he can

count on to do his job without having to stand over his shoulder. Michael is a valuable member of Unifirst and one of the most reliable people working in the plant. Michael gets along well with his coworkers, has a wonderful personality and stays on task. Michael has worked in several areas at Unifirst and does all tasks exceptionally. In addition to learning job skills, he has also learned to ride the city bus and rides it to work.

## **Achievement in Day Program Award**

*Nominated by Adella Tatum*

When Targeted Case Manager Adella Tatum first met Dale Williams she worked in the Adult Life Skills program as a trainer. Dale was in another day program at the time, but was never interested in participating in it. Dale would wander the campus striking up conversations with everyone along the way. There were many times she would see him and think, "What in the world is he doing?" Dale never stayed in his area, didn't listen well to staff that would try to redirect him and rarely participated in group activities.

In mid 2008, everything changed for Dale. This is



the time when he moved to the Adult Life Skills program (ALS). He struggled at first with wanting to wander, so staff began finding

jobs for Dale to do that would allow him to move around the campus. Dale then received his very own badge with the title, "Staff Helper" on it. Now it is part of Dale's daily routine to go to the administrative building and assist staff with collecting ALS mail. He also puts lunches in the refrigerator for some of his peers. Dale can often be seen

holding doors for people or assisting a friend in a wheelchair. He enjoys many housekeeping tasks such as taking out the trash, vacuuming, and pushing chairs under the table. Dale is a leader for his friends during exercise and music times. He participates in games, outings into the community, and monthly celebrations.

Since attending ALS, Dale's daily routine has not only become much safer, but he has become more independent and able to do (so much more than anyone thought he could.) His cheerful hellos can be heard throughout the halls of KETCH all day long. While this has been a great improvement for Dale, everyone has breathed a sigh of relief to see that he has finally found his place.

### **Achievement at Work Award**

*Nominated by Del Rinehart*

Philip Knipp started working at KETCH in May of 2001, and in 2007 was referred to the KETCH lawn crew, a lawn mowing service for commercial and residential customers throughout Wichita. Philip was limited in his speech when he started on the lawn crew and the only piece of equipment that he could use was the walk behind push mower.

After three years on the lawn crew, his accomplishments are many. He is the lead person on his team. Philip does not need to be told what to do and is always on task. Sometimes job coach Del Rinehart will forget to check the trailer to see if everything is secured. Philip will stand outside of the van and point to the trailer to remind him that something was forgotten. Last year KETCH purchased new weed eaters. Philip was right there looking at the equipment and provided a lot of input on the selection.

To help Philip improve his speech, he received a set of false teeth last year. Also, last year he moved into Richmond Place and takes great pride in where he lives and in mowing the yard and lets everyone know what he does. When something goes wrong or equipment gets damaged, Philip is not afraid to let Del know what is going on which has made a big difference in safety on his team. For fun, the lawn crew plays a game called "Slug Bug". When someone sees a Volkswagen Beetle they will call out "Slug Bug (- the color -) and no slug backs". Philip would never say anything the first year, but last year after he got his teeth in place he started playing along. When he would get a "Slug Bug" he would just smile.



Philip always shows up for work neatly dressed. When he is not working on lawns in the off season, he is manufacturing binders in the work area where he proudly uses his skills.

### **Achievement in the Community Award**

*Nominated by June Schneider*

David Ingram was assisted in obtaining a job at the Hyatt in December of 1997 where he continues to work full time and performs several job duties. Starting out, David had a rocky beginning and almost didn't succeed. With the support of his team and his growing confidence, now David is an integral team member at the Hyatt. He continues to ride the city bus to and from his job. The walk to his bus stop is lengthy and quite challenging in inclement weather. He has spoken about Special Olympics as a Special Olympics Ambassador at a Hyatt meeting. He has built a natural support system with his co-workers and has played golf



with them. For any person working over ten years with one employer is an accomplishment and speaks strongly of his work ethic. Da-

vid also has excellent attendance and his supervisors and co-workers have always thought very highly of him and are very supportive.

David has attended PUSH Day at the State Capitol, where persons with disabilities advocate for funding to the Kansas Legislature. In March of 2009, David traveled to Topeka and spoke with the Kansas Legislature on increasing direct care wages and eliminating the waiting list. David did an excellent job speaking with them. An added bonus to the day, was getting his picture taken with Governor Sebelius. David is always willing to volunteer his time speaking on behalf of KETCH and he has told his TCM to tell Ron Pasmore that he is willing to talk anytime he is needed. David's job stability has enabled him to no longer be eligible for Social Security benefits and he lives solely on his job earnings.

Over the last 12 years, David has overcome fears to leave his comfort zone, and became a successful employee for the Hyatt. Now, he is the one encouraging others to spread their wings.

# 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 a 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 *03/01/09 to 05/31/09*

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## Tributes

*03/01/09 to 05/31/09*

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# Legislators Tour and Have Lunch at KETCH

On Friday April 24, 2009, two special guests were present at the spring KETCH potluck luncheon. Representatives Phil Hermanson and Gail Finney attended a three agency tour, from Starkey, to Envision, ending with a tour and lunch at KETCH. The tour was arranged by Pat Terick, Governmental Activities for Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation.

The luncheon was organized and hosted by Administration, Information Technology and Targeted Case Management departments. To celebrate spring, the luncheon had a picnic theme, complete with red and white checkered tablecloths, and sunflower center pieces assembled by individuals in the Encore program. The aroma of hotdogs and hamburgers grilling outside were complimented by a wide variety of goodies provided by staff.

Overall Hermanson and Finney were impressed with the presentation and tours and say they are supportive of disability services.



**From left: Representative Gail Finney, Representative Phil Hermanson, and KETCH President/CEO Ron Pasmore.**

## New Subcontract Provides Work for More Than 25 Persons Served

KETCH Work Services has taken on a huge project, which will provide work for more than 25 persons served. The subcontract job from Hayes Retail Services includes cleaning adhesives off fronts of shelves from Wal-Mart stores. The shelves will come from all Wal-Mart stores west of the Mississippi River. In addition, persons served will be removing old tags from pricing strips.

The project has just begun for KETCH. Director of Contracts Dan Jensen says they are looking for a way to increase production and meet the demands of 5,000 shelves per week. At the current time they are completing almost

3,000 and sending them back to Hayes Retail Services for painting.

"As we improve processes and technology we can increase the production," said Jensen.

The KETCH Work Services building located at 201 South Ida is currently being rearranged to improve efficiency and processes.

"The bottom line is to get more people working," said Jensen. "This is the type of work that can give more of our clients, regardless of disability, the opportunity to work."

<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>	<u>DONOR</u>
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	Rex and Betty Neff		Jim Hinson		Jack & Dorothy Lansden
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## KETCH Gets Involved in Kansas Elks Convention

The Kansas Elks held their state convention, starting with the Grand Exalted Ruler visit to KETCH on April 30. The Kansas Elks introduced GER Paul Hesel from Newark, Delaware to KETCH when they came for a luncheon and tour. Hesel remarked how impressed he was with KETCH and took great pleasure in constructing an air filter.

The next day many Elks, including Hesel, attended the KETCH Annual Meeting at the Airport Hilton. He was once again moved by persons KETCH serves and their accomplishments. KETCH opened the hospitality room following the meeting where Elks could enjoy refreshments.

Saturday morning KETCH President/CEO Ron Pasmore accepted a check for nearly \$20,000 from Jamie Malone the Ladies' Chairperson for the Elks Ladies' Major Project. Thank you to the Kansas Elks for all the money you raised to support KETCH transportation.



**GER Paul Hesel (center) celebrates the successful completion of an air filter in the KETCH filters workshop.**



**KETCH President/CEO Ron Pasmore receives a check from Jamie Malone the Elks Ladies' Chairperson.**

### 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.

KETCH is licensed by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and accredited by CARF, the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission.

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