

WhyArts? and VODEC bring in the Arts



WhyArts? Instructor Courtney Stein and consumer Jonathan Wietfeld.

“From time to time I hear voices from the disability community who share their concern regarding a lack of opportunities for interaction with area professionals, and to develop creative thinking skills and a genuine appreciation of the arts,” said Services Development Director Daryn Richardson. “However; when I hear these voices I am happy to remind them that the *Why Arts?* program provides these opportunities and more. The *Why Arts?* team listens to our needs and is able to accommodate those needs easily and efficiently,” he continued.

WhyArts? has partnered with VODEC over the last few years to bring the arts to VODEC consumers. Through small weekly workshops and larger monthly events *WhyArts?* has exposed VODEC consumers to painting, sculpture, theatre, music, and other art disciplines in an effort to educate and expands the consumers world. The arts is a vital part of everyone’s life as it teaches creativity, expression, and also independence as each consumer is responsible for their own project. “Visual Arts! Dance and Movement! Theatre Games! Improvisation! Music! *WhyArts?* artists have had many hours of wonderful experiences with the clients at VODEC over the past years--singing, dancing and “acting out”. The artists usually have a better time than the participants---there are always lots of

smiles and laughter in the workshops. *WhyArts?* feels very fortunate to have this strong partnership with VODEC and looks forward to many more hours and years together in the arts!” commented Carolyn Anderson, director/ *WhyArts?*.

VODEC and *WhyArts?* is also looking to expand its partnership to include other opportunities.

“Most importantly, the people we serve benefit greatly. Opportunities existed where there were none before the *Why Arts?* program. Those that we serve are currently able to interact with local artists; participate in a host of activities involving the visual and performing arts; develop creative thinking skills and show a unique appreciation of the arts. We are currently working with *Why Arts?* to take these activities to the next level. Exciting projects being planned as we speak, so stay tuned!” continued Richardson.



(Top)- Consumer Maurice Hayward works on his dancing skills. (Above)- Consumer Bryan Allison shows off his sculpture.

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*This list reflects donations received between
7/17/2013 and 9/5/2013*

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Halloween Dance October 23rd

VODEC's Annual Halloween Dance and Costume Contest will be held on October 23rd and the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs from 7 to 9pm. Refreshments will be available with the \$10 entry fee paid at the door. RSVP no later than October 14th to 712-328-2638. So get your costumes ready and dancing shoes shined and join us on October 23rd for a great night of music, food, and Halloween Horror!



From the Desk of CEO Steve Hodapp

Why Arts? That's a good question. It's also a great partner. Why Arts? has been partnering with VODEC for several years as a way to introduce the arts to our consumers. The result has been participation in dance, music, painting, puppetry and more. Without the Why Arts? involvement our consumers would have missed many opportunities to expand their experiences.



Some consumers too shy to dance, as one example, have instead been able to find ways to constructively express themselves through other arts outlets. Any number have discovered a love for something in the arts he or she otherwise would have missed. Expression through arts enhances their lives and provides a well-received add-on to VODEC programs.

All of us look forward to the next Why Arts? activity. What will it be? We'll have to wait to find out! But it will be enriching and fun for all participants.

UNO Brings Students to VODEC

For the past seven years Dr. Nordness has been bringing a group of graduate and undergraduate students from UNO, who are taking his class on Transition Planning, to visit VODEC with Daryn Richardson. The purpose of these visits has been to bring the students out into the community to learn about the services provided by VODEC and to tour the facility.



*Above-Dr. Philip
Nordness*

In his course, Dr. Nordness emphasizes the need for his students to get out into the community to see what agencies have to offer students and families with disabilities. Dr. Nordness believes that the more aware his students are of services in the community, the more likely it is they will share those resources with the students and families they work with in the schools. On his course evaluations, Dr. Nordness says the field trips into the community are always rated as an integral part of the course. Dr. Nordness greatly appreciates his partnership with Daryn and VODEC, and looks forward to his visits every fall.

Cares Consumers go to Vala's Pumpkin Patch

"I had fun, I liked jumping on the air pillows," said VODEC consumer Lisa Snipes about her trip to Vala's Pumpkin Patch in September. Lisa along with many other consumers and staff spent the day at Vala's exploring the Bunny Ranch, Vala's Mine, Haunted House, and Fairy-Tale Land. Those were just a few of the over 50 attractions Vala's has to offer. Consumers also enjoyed snacks from the food stands and had the opportunity to feed some of the animals on the property.

The highlight of the day for many of the consumers was the chance to jump on the large air pillows at the far end of the patch. Both consumers and staff bounced and challenged each other to see who could bounce the longest and the highest. VODEC staff member Travis Porter said, "It was a new experience for me and several of the consumers. It was a blast".



Top Right- Consumers Adam Doner and Dan Reid both fit into the large rocking chair. Right- Consumer Lisa Snipes poses with her cow. Bottom Left- Consumer Greg Foster spends some time with Vala's scarecrow. Bottom Right- L to R Consumers Norma Hammer, Conner Lott, and David Steinhoff see who can go the highest.



Vocational Development Center, Inc.

VODEC

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Contact us @ 712-328-2638
to sign up for the digital
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The mission of VODEC is to provide services to persons with disabilities in order that those persons may live, work and participate in the community in the least restrictive environment to achieve their full potential.

The purpose of VODEC is to support and advocate for persons with disabilities so those persons have opportunities to develop to their fullest potential, to interact with society, to experience a sense of belonging, and to contribute something of themselves at their own levels of ability.

Vocational Development Center is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations may be tax deductible. Vocational Development Center is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants for services or employment are considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability.
We are a certified provider of day and residential services by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.
We are approved by the Iowa Department of Human Services to provide waiver services to individuals with intellectual disabilities, brain injuries and we are an approved habilitation service provider.
We have accreditation from CARF for Community Employment Services, Organizational Employment Services and Community Integration.



VODEC is a proud member of:

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For more information on VODEC services please contact Darryn Richardson or Michelle Nelson at 712-328-2638 or by email at dtrichardson@vodec.org



VODEC IS ON GoodSearch!

1. Be at least 16 years old for any vocational program
2. Have behavioral needs within VODEC's scope of service
3. Have medical needs within VODEC's scope of service
4. Have transportation needs within VODEC's capability to provide
5. Have adequate funding in place (including service hours' authorization or private payment in place) for services being requested
6. If applying for an in-home service, the applicant's home must meet basic health and safety requirements

An applicant must meet the following criteria to be considered eligible for any VODEC service: