

Host Homes and Extended Family Homes Provide Enrichment



(Above) L to R- Jeanne Aldrich, Michelle Aherns, Ricky Neuman, and Robert Aldrich enjoy time together in the Aldrich's home.

“We can make an impact on someone’s life,” said Jeanne Aldrich a Host Home provider subcontracting with VODEC. Jeanne and her husband Robert have always been involved in helping others and opening their home to them. Jeanne’s parents were foster parents throughout their lives and instilled in her and her two adoptive siblings, both of whom have disabilities, that we need to be of service to others. When her parents were no longer able to care for her siblings, Jeanne took guardianship of them and continued their care.

Jeanne and Robert wanted to continue to help others and that got them connected with VODEC. Both the Aldrich’s and VODEC felt that there was a need for a family-based setting in Council Bluffs and in Omaha and decided to offer that program. Host Homes in Iowa and Extended Family Homes (EFH) in Nebraska, offer persons with disabilities an opportunity to live with a family instead of on their own or in a group setting. Similar to VODEC’s other residential settings, Host Homes and EFH’s provide consumers all the supports of living with a family. This program offers a win-win situation for both the consumer and the family hosting them. The consumer gets a loving and caring home and family support and the family has the opportunity to provide a stable home and be a part of a larger community.

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Elm Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary with luncheon

“What a wonderful time of reflection on how passion, hard work and determination was able to give our special needs young adults an environment of stimulation, challenges, and a place of acceptance and belonging. We as parents thank VODEC for taking a chance on developing a program to fit our needs. It is our wish that we never stop dreaming of what we want for our children and to continue making ELM better and better as needs often change,” commented Chris Havekost, whose daughter attends the Elm program .

VODEC celebrated the 10th Anniversary of its Elm program with a celebration at the Ralston Arena on October 13th. The event, sponsored by ProCare3, Heartland Therapy Group, and Linda Janeczko, PT, provided

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(Above)- VODEC consumer Kate Klemmensen enjoys the day with her parents Julie and Mark.

Thank You FOR YOUR HELP

ADM Crop Risk Services Steve & Mary Hodapp
Darst, Brune & Associates Linda Janeczko
Koley Jessen Daron Kruse
ProCare3 Rebecca Lepin
Jamie Brown Erin Lucas
Chado Carrillo Rachel Olmstead
Richard Buttner Mark Stromer
Gwen Hartford-Stick

*This list reflects donations received between
9/06/2013 and 10/15/2013*



Donations Made in Memory of Jayne Tate

Alice Adams
Steve & Mary Hodapp
Sharon Hurley
Kerry Spady
Rick & Teresa Wagelie

From the Desk of CEO Steve Hodapp

When a person lives as independently as possible there is a sense of self-worth achieved. If you've never needed residential supports you take it for granted. But when a person transitions from getting residential supports to living with fewer of them or without them, there's elation.



VODEC provides residential supports in various settings and in a scope appropriate to an individual's needs. But regardless we strive for a feeling of being part of community. We're adding another setting towards that goal of community.

The setting is a Host Home (in Iowa) and an Extended Family Home, or EFH (in Nebraska). The major difference is in name. The concept of both is similar: foster a good match of consumer and family home in which the family acts as a primary care giver by including the consumer in the normal life of the family. The family does this as a sub-contractor of VODEC. VODEC monitors quality of care regularly using the appropriate state's regulations and our policies and procedures. Short of someone living alone without supports, either the Host Home or EFH setting is about as community-inclusive as it gets.

We're happy to make this family-based setting available. We feel this is a wonderful opportunity to support our mission.

Host Homes and Extended Family Homes Provide Enrichment

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For those consumers that have no other family, Host Homes offer a connection to a family unit. For consumers that do have a family like Michelle does, the Host Home or EFH providers try to mesh Michelle's family with their own.

"We will not replace her family but we will help care for her as if she was our own," said Jeanne and she continued, "It is always a learning process and lots of work but we couldn't live without them now." Jeanne and her family have opened their home and their hearts to Michelle and in return Michelle has enriched their lives.

"What I like most about living here is that there is no staff. I am part of family," said Michelle about her life with Jeanne and Robert. "Host Homes offer the opportunity to receive residential services in a family home setting. Since the person lives with the provider family, we feel this is a good option for individuals that thrive in a family setting," said Iowa Services Operations Director Mark Stromer. For more information on becoming a Host Home Provider for VODEC please contact us at 712-328-2638.

Elm Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary with luncheon

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the opportunity for those families that currently participate within the Elm program to reconnect with the families, educators, and other professionals who helped create the program 10 years ago. The program was developed at the request of parents who were seeking a new program that suited the needs of their children, many of whom had multiple disabilities. While working with the local service coordination office, they were introduced to Colleen Peterson, who at the time was working for PTI of Nebraska. After meeting with several other community providers, VODEC CEO Steve Hodapp was asked to develop the ELM program. Hodapp agreed and worked closely with the parents, Service Coordinators, and J. P. Lord Principle Mike Dotson and his staff to open the program on July 1st, 2003. "It is a partnership that I hope continues to meet

the needs of our adult population," said Cheryl Henkenius, whose daughter is in the Elm program. "It's gratifying to have had a connection to the Elm start-up ten years ago and that the program has successfully been sustained. Elm obviously continues to meet the needs brought forward to VODEC by its founding families 10 years ago," said CEO Steve Hodapp.



(Top Right)- Gail and Kristy Cherry. (Middle Left)-Maggie and Marcia Riley. (Middle Right)-Cheryl and Allison Henkenius. (Bottom Left)- VODEC CEO Steve Hodapp. (Bottom Middle)- Jonathan and Dave Hancock. (Bottom Right) Chris and Emily Havekost and Day Services Supervisor Cari Allen.

ANNUAL REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2013

A Summary and Financial Report about
the Period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

By Steve Hodapp, CEO

Resiliency and strength come to mind about VODEC's reactions to some events which bled into FY2013 from the prior fiscal year and some running into FY2014. Sometimes I visualize VODEC as an organization with a group of employees becoming a huge thick rubber band stretching and twisting but never snapping.

Resiliency

In FY2013 there was financial recovery from 2012's negative change to net assets, the latter caused by a buyout of a lease.

Some of our employees' and consumers' patience and mettle were tested as the reassembly of a building finally was completed in April 2013, almost to the day a year after it was broken and flooded.

In Iowa Senate File 2315's passage in late FY2012 led to speculation, planning and pro-activity in 2013 and runs into 2014. The plan in progress is a reduction in the resources supporting center-based employment training and an expansion of resources in our Iowa day habilitation program we call CARES and in our community employment program.

Attacks from single-focus folks flared against center-based employment programs such as one of VODEC's programs. The attacks' emphasis is on a one-size fits all 'throw the baby out with the bath water' model of only offering community employment programs. Our stance is that community employment is good. However community employment needs to be part of a full menu of choices available to meet individuals' varying needs and as can be supported adequately financially. Our reaction is to continue and strengthen our community employment program.

Strength

And there were records set in FY2013 -
Total number of persons served in a fiscal year:
615;
Total Support and Revenue: exceeding \$10.7 million, including records in Program and Contribution Revenue: over \$9.7 million and Workshop Fees (aka Production Fees): \$808,873

The records are indicative of the results of our outreach efforts. Our outreach is atypical by not selling

VODEC but rather educating about VODEC. The records also reveal what can happen when exemplary services are provided: people appreciate our services, people talk about our services, and more people come for our services. All of this supports our position of not growing for growth's sake but growing as a result of doing good stuff.

There was also a positive change in net assets. This is a sign our Supervisors, Managers and Directors take seriously the charge not to spend more than what comes in, and that there must be some reserve built to be prepared for the unknown and to be able to react to opportunity. It's also an outcome of prudent fiscal procedures for accountability as practiced by our finance team.

Our Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) in Iowa received a maximum three-year re-certification from Iowa Dept. of Human Services. We're told most of the re-certifications are for less than three years so we are very gratified by this outcome.

Our Nebraska services received a maximum two-year re-certification. We were holding our breath after the review because this review was on new rules under new processes, and others had not fared as well at the time as was our outcome.

Our Iowa and Nebraska center-based and community employment programs and day habilitation programs earned a maximum three-year re-accreditation from CARF.

We also hosted visits by a number of elected officials including United States Senator Mike Johanns (NE), United States Representative Lee Terry (NE), Iowa State Senator Mike Gronstal, and Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanafan. And so far in FY2014 United States Senator Deb Fischer (NE) has visited. Their visits were prime opportunities to share about the outcomes of what we do and our message to keep choice and support front and center.

What does the future hold for us? That's a really good question. My crystal ball only works half the time but my best guesses include:

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ANNUAL REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2013

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More people entering our CARES day habilitation program, particularly in Iowa, as funding for center-based employment programs shrink.

More people getting employed through our community employment program and our financial base for it will broaden to make it more diverse.

More supported offsite-worksites coming online to build a bridge between center-based and community employment programs.

More residential service options becoming available through additional supported and assisted settings, and our new involvement in family-based Host Homes (Iowa) and Extended Family Homes (Nebraska).

More training for employees to continue making consumers' experiences with us the best they can be and to help towards successfully reaching planned service outcomes.

Fewer people in our Iowa center-based employment programs as financial support for it dwindles.

Continued attacks on center-based employment programs and on piece rate wages' policies approved by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

More interactions with consumers' families and

care givers about problem-solving and forming solutions, including forums about estate planning which won't cause unintended hurtful consequences for consumer/beneficiaries.

More people seeking our services who come with more diverse diagnoses and challenges to their independence.

Financial Report

The Summary of Statement of Financial Position and the Summary of Statement of Activities are pulled from the Audited Financial Statements for FY2013 prepared by Schroer & Associates of Council Bluffs, Iowa. It shows the outcome of strong financial guidance from VODEC's Board of Directors and the sense of fiscal responsibility felt by our employees.

Each month's financial report is carefully reviewed by the Board of Director's Finance Committee and the Board of Directors. Each report is also presented and discussed by supervisory, management and director-level personnel in monthly open-book meetings. The Audited Financial Statements are thoroughly reviewed by the Board's Audit Committee and by the Board. All this review is part of our fiscal accountability process and is compliant with our internal fiscal policies and procedures.

Summary of Statement of Financial Position

	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY12</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Total Current Assets	2,362,189	1,921,687
Property & Equipment	4,002,643	3,797,885
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,501,619)	(1,330,270)
	2,501,024	2,467,615
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Security Deposits	7,199	10,167
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>4,870,412</u>	<u>4,399,469</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Current Liabilities	892,052	839,196
Long Term Liabilities	1,001,556	1,060,232
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	2,949,804	2,461,791
Temporarily Restricted	27,000	38,250
<u>Total Net Assets</u>	<u>2,976,804</u>	<u>2,500,041</u>
<u>Total Liabilities & Net Assets</u>	<u>4,870,412</u>	<u>4,399,469</u>

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ANNUAL REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2013

Summary of Statement of Activities

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	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY12</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets		
Program & Contribution Rev	9,731,840	9,384,253
Workshop Fees, Net	808,873	693,550
Other	145,441	153,713
Net Assets Released from Restriction	<u>38,250</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Support & Revenue	10,724,404	10,231,516
Expense		
Program Services	9,065,577	9,046,583
Supporting Services	<u>1,170,814</u>	<u>1,802,077</u>
Total Expenses	10,236,391	10,848,660
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	488,013	(617,144)
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets, Grant Income	27,000	38,250
Net Assets Released from Restriction	<u>(38,250)</u>	<u>0</u>
Change in Net Assets	476,763	(578,894)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>2,500,041</u>	<u>3,078,935</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>2,976,804</u>	<u>2,500,041</u>

IN CONCLUSION

In comparison with some prior years FY2013 was relatively calm. Some would say the storm is coming then. I prefer to say we had (and have) a great team in place to handle any challenges. I thank each of our team members who showed up every day, gave it their all, then did it again the next day, and over and over again.

I also have to acknowledge the volunteers who make up our Board of Directors. Each Board member gave unselfishly of his or her talents and expertise. As a group the Board provided to me appropriate guidance and direction

**Happy
Thanksgiving!**

Nebraska Cares Program gets ready for Fall

“It was very exciting to visit the Bellevue Berry Farm. The group had so much fun, they enjoyed the haunted cabin and just had a blast all around. All the people we support were given one pumpkin to take home and enjoyed the wonderful Halloween decorations,” said VODEC staff member Julissa Rosales. Our Nebraska Cares Program recently spent the day at Bellevue Berry Farm getting ready for fall and picking out pumpkins. While at the farm consumers enjoyed the Western Barns, Wild West Towne, Port Shipwreck, and Barn Yard where they say many friendly animals. “I had too much fun in the Haunted Cabin, I got a free pumpkin, and just had a good time,” said consumer Bill Fenner about his day. Consumer Raquel Stewart added, “The Farm was good I liked it so much, I saw all the animals there and got a pumpkin.”



(Above-L to R back row)- VODEC consumers Ryan Damm, William Fenner, Norman Menrad, Raquel Stewart, and Michaela Thinnes. Front Row Jose Orozco.

Hard does Not Mean Impossible

By Daryn Richardson, Services Development Director



(Above)- Elm anniversary Parents/Supporters photo.

Recently, I received a call from a man who was looking for a day care for his five year-old daughter. His daughter required a care provider that was specialized in serving children with high needs. His wife had been providing care for the child, but had tragically passed away. Without a care provider that could meet the needs of his son, he would not be able to return to work. He asked if VODEC could do anything to help.

We receive calls from families needing help on a regular basis. In another recent call, a family lost funding for services because of a pension plan that wasn't structured properly. Now the young adults were sitting at home without the level of support that they and their family needed. Most of these calls are for services or advice that we don't offer or are not qualified to offer. The situations that families face vary a great deal, and it is hard to know what the perfect resources are for every situation.

However, as we say in the VODEC Family, “Hard does not mean impossible.” This simple saying reminds us that just because something is hard to accomplish doesn't mean it is insurmountable. In the last several months, I have met with a group of parents that played a key role in our agency's history. I listened to how they were able to support each other by sharing resources and experiences. As I listened, I was reminded of how our “VODEC family” was started so many years ago. It was a group of families that got the community together to help each other by creating VODEC. It happened again when a group of parents created the first community-based residential program of its kind, Care Homes, Inc (since merged with VODEC). Ten years ago it happened when a group of parents helped each other by encouraging VODEC to create the ELM program. Our “family history” is riddled with similar examples. It is in our VODEC DNA.

And that may be the answer. We will try to keep parents talking to each other. That is when positive changes happen. With that in mind, I have been charged with creating a Parents Forum before the end of the year. This will be an opportunity for parents to meet with other parents to find solutions to common issues and get little group support as well. I will be contacting parents that are involved with our Agency with more details shortly. In the meantime, if anyone reading this is interested in the Parent's Forum, please contact me at drichardson@vodec.org or by phone at 712-328-2638.

Vocational Development Center, Inc.

VODEC

612 South Main Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

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Contact us @ 712-328-2638 to
sign up for the digital
version of the VODEC Voice
instead of the print version

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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COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503
PH: 712-328-2638
hodapp@vodec.org



GoodSearch is a Yahoo! search engine that pays charities you select a penny per search! Go to www.goodsearch.com and add GoodSearch to your browser. Then select Vocational Development Center as your designated charity! And pass the news on to your friends and family! Over 15,000 searches have benefited VODEC so far! It's easy and it works!

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: