

Country music concerts are a Must for Joyce and Kathy



(Above L to R) VODEC consumers Joyce Donahoo and Kathy Craig at the Carrie Underwood Concert.

Joyce and Kathy don't like to miss any of the good concerts! From the moment they hear of a new concert coming to town they inform VODEC residential supervisor Jennifer Koedam who helps them purchase the tickets and arranges transportation for them. Joyce and Kathy take it from there planning the rest of the evening before the concert. They usually begin with dinner, at Sam's Italian Villa in Council Bluffs. From there they go to the venue early so they can decide on what t-shirt to purchase and to get to their seats early. "Both have t-shirts from every concert they have attended. Joyce dances throughout most of the concert," says VODEC staff member Jennifer Koedam.

Over the last two years, Joyce and Kathy have attended nearly thirteen country music concerts including Brooks and Dunn, Reba McEntire, Kenny Chesney, Keith Urban, and Lady Antebellum just to name a few. VODEC staff has attended all the concerts

with them and that allows them the freedom to be as independent as possible.

Without the assistance of VODEC staff, Joyce and Kathy would be unable to attend concerts or other events due to lack of transportation and even the inability to purchase the tickets. With the help of services like the one's VODEC offers, these ladies are able to enjoy all the same social events that any other country music fan would. "I love going to concerts. They are so much fun! I like going with Joyce and VODEC staff. They help us get everything together so we can have a great time," says VODEC consumer Kathy Craig, and Joyce Donahoo added, "I enjoy spending time with my wonderful friends, Kathy and Jennifer. I also love to dance and sing with Jennifer during the concerts. It is a lot of fun."

Joyce and Kathy will be attending another concert in a couple of months and plan to continue the tradition to going to as many as they can with the help of VODEC staff.

Community Worksite's New Employee of the Month

"It's very fun. The best part was getting the certificate. It was a big accomplishment. I earned it by being good worker and having great attendance," (Above) Consumer Dean Petersen said Dean Petersen about winning this April's Employee of the month award.



Dean has been at the community work site for a bout a year and a half and has enjoyed every moment of his time there. He normally works in the returns area on the computers logging in product that has been returned to the company.

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Thank You to our Donors

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*This list reflects donations received between
4/21/2013 and 5/21/2013*

VODEC reaccredited for another 3 years

CARF International has announced that the Vocational Development Center, or VODEC, has been accredited for a period of three years for its Community Services, Community Integration Services, Employment Services, Community Employment Services, Job Development Employment Services, Job Supports Employment Services, Job-Site Training Employment Services, and Organizational Employment Services programs. The latest accreditation is the 5th consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to VODEC.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

"We're incredibly proud of this achievement," said Steve Hodapp, CEO. "Our goal is to meet and exceed expectations in every service we offer. Because of our exceptional and dedicated staff, VODEC offers the highest level of services to our clients."

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of persons served. Founded in 1966, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

From the Desk of the CEO Steve Hodapp



Independence is an interesting concept. It infers to be alone, not needing anyone. Merriam-Webster says it's "freedom from outside control or support." Everybody wants the extreme version, especially teenagers (yes you did). No interference. Nobody telling you . . . you fill in the blank. You get the idea.

Us in the business love to use the word 'independence.' We use it as a program goal and in the goal's objectives in the program plan. We use it in organizational mission and vision statements. We pepper our professional dialogue with it. But do we ever explain it to a consumer?

What does independence mean to a consumer? He hears the word a lot. The inference is it's a good thing; that it's desirable. "Don't you want to be independent? You want to be independent, don't you?" Do we ever explain it?

Like if you're independent you won't need anyone to help you learn life skills or job skills? No one will check in on you. No one controls you but no one will support you, either. It sounds lonely. Thinking about it now I'm not sure I want to be independent in the vein of this one-sided conversation.

I think we should exchange 'independence' with 'natural supports.' There should be mission statements, goals and objectives written around helping identify natural supports and then around helping access and engage them. Need a ride to work? Do a deal with a co-worker. And so on.

Likely I'm oversimplifying this. It's a bit more difficult than that. But it's not impossible. And it's 'real world.' Now there's a goal: Let's get real.

Community Worksite's New Employee of the Month

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Dean's goal has been to learn as many different jobs as possible at the community work site and he does a great job in each area that he goes to. Dean has met and exceeded all the criteria to be April's employee of the month and is striving to do it again in the future.

Tom Westrom, one of the work site's Vocational Services Coordinators, says "Dean is a great influence on his co-workers and is always ready to lend a helping hand."

OmahaGives! Big Success



*(Left) Billy the Buffalo and Celeste Ring pose for a photo.
(Above)- L to R Papillion Buffalo Wild Wings store manager David Borcherding serves up some wings for Donald Lily.*



(Above Left)- VODEC consumer Donald Lily makes it to first after a great hit.

(Above Center)- Store Manager David Borcherding , District Manger Brett Krebs, and “Billy” the Buffalo Hayden Bradley, pose for a photo after the days events.

(Above Right)-Residential Services Manager Erin Lucas helps Scott Wright hit a double!

“Today was absolute sunshine, in spite of the rain. Everyone played hard, laughed a lot, and sang even. And this is what VODEC does—and how your support helps us make it happen,” said Community Relations Director Cynthia Bruneteau. Buffalo Wild Wings and Dr. Pepper/Snapple partnered to provide food and drinks for a baseball game between Iowa and Nebraska VODEC consumers and members of local Masonic lodges in an effort to raise awareness for intellectual disabilities and to coincide with OmahaGives!, a 24-hour charitable challenge sponsored by the Omaha Community Foundation in which VODEC was able to raise over \$1,400. Buffalo Wild Wings provided

wings, chips and salsa, and a full salad bar to feed the hungry players and spectators, and Dr. Pepper/Snapple offered up soda and water to keep them all hydrated.

The first pitch was thrown by the Buffalo Wild Wings mascot, Billy the Buffalo. And since he was such a hit, he stayed out on the field and threw for the entire first inning, much to the crowd’s delight. Billy also took time to take as many photos as possible with the participants and spectators. “Thank you for allowing us to be a part of the softball game today. It is awesome to get out into the community and help others out and see the faces of those you affect,” commented Buffalo Wild Wings General Manager Brett Krebs.

Vocational Development Center, Inc.

VODEC

612 South Main Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Return Service Requested

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:

612 S MAIN ST
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!



VODEC IS ON GoodSearch!

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

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: