

What Did You do Last Summer at VODEC?



left to right. Andrell, Jason, & Aaron at Lauritzen Gardens

This summer VODEC's Day programs were joyfully active. Supervisors and coordinators worked intensely to develop activity calendars that kept everyone busy throughout the summer. Some of the more popular outings from the Nebraska Cares Program were Lauritzen Gardens, Union Pacific Railroad Museum, and It's Your Pottery (a local make-and-take pottery store). In addition, the Cares program went to many parks. "Fishing and picnics are two of the many activities that we enjoy at the parks," said Jennifer Lindley, Cares Coordinator, "One of our favorite parks is Elmwood Park. Our consumers have fun with the adult exercise and swing equipment at Elmwood." According to Jennifer, It's Your Pottery is the favorite. "They all had a wonderful time painting and decorating the pottery they picked out to paint," added Jennifer.

The Elm Program also had a busy summer. "A majority of Elm's outings this summer were to the local

parks, including but not limited to Seymour Smith Park, Pipal Park, Ralston Park, and Memorial Park," states Robin Stix, Day Services Coordinator at Elm, "We also enjoyed going to Ralston Library as well as to Dairy Queen. For Elm, our most popular outing was probably our cookout at Ralston Park."

Staff at the Elm and CARES programs state the summer outings are critically important for the consumers to build self-esteem, makes them feel important, increase independence and provides an opportunity for consumers to self-advocate. It is also a great opportunity for the consumers to be able to learn and enjoy new things while in the community. "It gives them an opportunity to experience new and different things, outside of their everyday routine" added Robin.

To keep up with the Elm and Cares programs, follow our FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/vodecinc> and our activity calendar on our webpage at www.vodec.org.

From the Desk of CEO Steve Hodapp



Our mission is inclusive. We serve persons with disabilities. We care about the person. We don't care about the person's age, sex, religion, ethnicity, etc.

And we don't care if a person has or hasn't graduated from high school. In fact

we serve a lot of high school students. This is important to us to be able to do that.

We believe access to our services is critical to high school students. Students gain skills in our community employment programs to successfully get employed and work towards independence. They learn independent living skills in our transition program to be able to live on their own.

And doing this before they graduate (which does not need to happen until they are 21) may help them be able to avoid entering services for adults after they graduate. Or could use adult services short term while hardening the skills they may have been introduced to in school by VODEC.

So is it important for a school to align itself with VODEC? I think it is. Such alignment supports other activities offered by the school. It leads to student success in school and after graduation. It provides a well-rounded program for the students with disabilities.

This is why we work hard to fulfill our mission and to be accessible to all persons with disabilities. Even high school students.

Meet Hensley Stewart, VODEC's new Business Development Director

Hensley Stewart was born and raised in the Caribbean. In 1988, Hensley came to America to attend the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, graduating in 1992 with a degree in Business Administration, International Business and Marketing.

Hensley has been in the sales, marketing, and business development field since 1993. He has done a wide variety of sales in both service based and manufacturing industry with a focus on local, regional, national, and international markets. Hensley has developed clients and professional business

relationships all over the world within a variety of industries.

Hensley is a community & business relations leader and entrepreneur with numerous years of experience in business growth and development of growing businesses, contract negotiations, Public Relations, social media, SEO, major account acquisition, and management of Channel Partners on a National and International scale. He has the ability to identify, focus, and execute pivotal priorities, attain and exceed goals, maintain productivity, and consistently ensure quality work in an ever-changing workplace. He has also founded and is the President of networking groups within the Metro areas with up to 100 Business Professionals.

As Business Development Director his focus is to improve the organization's market position and achieve financial growth. He will be directly responsible for long-term organizational strategic goals, build key customer relationships, identify business opportunities, negotiate and close business deals and will maintain extensive knowledge of current market conditions as a respectful professional. Hensley also accepts complex projects with profitable results. He is a dedicated leader and confident achiever who communicates with diverse people, analyzes concerns and makes appropriate decisions on time. Hensley is a detail-oriented professional, who exceeds goals, plans procedures and welcomes new opportunities.

Hensley is humbled and grateful to be part of the 'Team Vodec' and is looking forward to meeting everyone and learning from them. He believes that everyone has a story to tell and a lesson to teach.



THANK YOU for your support

Howard Rudloff
Ronald LeSieur
Pamela Miller
David Dickinson
Fred Gannon
Raymond & Donna Talacko
Rob Mead
Applebee's
Darst, Brune, & Associates
Ronald Finkel
Alex Mueller
Miles & Crystal Havekost

*This list reflects donations received between
7/22/2014 and 8/26/14*

4th Street Renovations

The Council Bluffs Housing Trust Fund awarded VODEC two grants totaling \$49,000 to complete necessary renovations to the 4th Street Duplex. The renovations being done include an upgrade to the sewer system and remodeling of five bathrooms in need of repair and accessibility updates. Bids were received and Rybin Plumbing and Heating Co., of Omaha, NE was chosen to complete the plumbing and remodeling work.

The sewer system upgrade has included plumbing installation, waste line updates, and removal of the existing cast iron lines, which will be discarded and recycled by Rybin.

The essential bathroom renovations include demolition and removal of the existing plumbing fixtures, installation of a cast iron bath tub, a tub/shower combination, faucet fixtures, an accessible toilet with seat, a wall hung lavatory, new quarter turn shut off stops, supply lines, p-trap, closet bolts, wax ring, wall sheeting, ceramic tile floors and subfloors, tub surround, shower grab bars, the framing lumber, lighting outlets and fixtures.

The repairs to the floors and subfloors will prevent water damage and the installation of the sustainable, eco-friendly in-tub showers, low flow toilets, and new safety measures required for use by persons with disabilities which allows the residents to live in a safer environment.

Ride For Full Potential



left to right, Matt Dickinson and his father Ron

Ron and Matt Dickinson spent the summer journeying across America on their bicycles. The journey lasted just over 10 weeks. They started in Virginia, and went across the country through the Appalachian Mountains, the Colorado Rockies, and eventually finished in Oregon.

The trek from the East coast to the West coast was to raise money that contributed to the matching requirement to the Iowa West Foundation grant which is paying for the remodeling of the ATP teaching kitchen and a fitness area for the IA CARES program at VODEC.

The teaching kitchen is currently under construction. When completed, the kitchen is going to help the individuals at VODEC learn to cook simple, healthy meals.

Ride for Full Potential helped to bring awareness about the healthy living challenges of people with intellectual disabilities and VODEC. Ron felt the journey with his son, Matt, was not only great bonding time, but also essential for a good cause. "It's just a way to contribute. We were going to do this, and it was enjoyable for us, a big challenge for us, but why not help somebody else along the way?" Ron says.

VODEC is still asking for donations to help finish the teaching kitchen. If you'd like to help, visit www.vodec.org.

Adult Transition Program

ATP will be starting on the 28th of August. We will have one assistant returning (Felisha Neighbors), and one new assistant (Lindsay Putnam). We will also be adding another assistant as soon as we find the right candidate.

“The Adult Transition room will be freshly painted with brighter colors. The new teaching kitchen will be done, and we will make full use of that in our living skills lessons” states Chado Kreo, Day Services Supervisor.

With the construction finished in CARES students will have access to the new fitness, crafts, and computer training rooms.

Many field trips are in the works, which include trips to the Pottawattamie County Jail, City Hall, Vala’s Pumpkin Patch, and the Rottella’s Bakery.

The staff are eagerly awaiting the return of the new students and cannot wait to embark on the new school year!

ATP teaches employment training skills. They develop a resume, learn how to search for jobs, participate in a mock interview, complete a W-2, receive work benefits, learn skills to respect and cooperate with superiors and co-workers, and develop positive work habits (time management).

The students also learn personal health and hygiene skills, money management (payee/purchasing items), how to clean their home and cook their meals. Students learn their rights, learn about insurance (health and renters) and how to search for an apartment/house. Students are provided knowledge on procedures for applying for community resources (food aid, case management, section 8, ect.), how to be safe in their homes and community, and administering their own medication.

Students are taught communication skills in life decision making, phone skills and how to make appointments, following directions, make important life choices, how to interact in public and private situations, discover leisure opportunities, utilize public transportation, how to utilize the library, bank, and shopping centers, develop skills to plan and celebrate holidays and other events, technology skills, go on field trips and much more.

Katie Works with Suzie



left to right, Katie & Susie

Kathryn “Katie” Foster, DSA, has been working with Susan “Susie” McIntosh, Elm consumer, since February 2013. Since Katie did not know Susie very well, it was a rocky start. Over the past year, however, Katie has done a great job building a strong, trusting relationship with Susie while they work on numerous skills to help gain strength. Some of these skills include propelling her wheelchair, army crawling on the floor, standing to bear weight, and taking steps with staff support.

It has been roughly ten years since Susie was able to walk. She continues to work with her therapists to use her walker. Katie works with Susie to get in her stander three times a day to help her strengthen her back and legs and is there to assist in transfers. For the past few months, Susie has been working on taking steps with the Katie’s aid as well as the bench program where she has to maintain an upright sitting position for as long as she can. “To see her come so far since her surgery a few years ago and know that I got to help in any way is amazing” said Katie, “It’s never a dull moment working with her”.

Katie is dedicated in building strong relationships with all the consumers she works with. This is evident to Susie which has given her the confidence she needs and trust in Katie which allows her to feel comfortable when working on these new skills. Katie consistently discusses various programmatic ideas to help Susie continue to progress with her skill level with her supervisors and does a great job of communicating with Susie’s parents



left to right, Katie & Susie

HALLOWEEN **Dance**

WHEN: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2014

TIME: 6PM-8PM

WHERE: MID-AMERICA CENTER COUNCIL BLUFFS

COST: \$10.00 CASH AT THE DOOR
(NO CHARGE FOR SUPPORT STAFF)

Sponsored by:

Access Bank
American National Bank
Council Bluffs Savings



Music will be provided by EJS Lights and Sounds!

Costumes are encouraged.

Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP to Clarissa Conolley at cconolley@vodec.org or call 712.328.2638

VODEC

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Return Service Requested

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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.



VODEC is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations may be tax deductible. VODEC 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 Medicaid Enterprise to provide waiver services to individuals with intellectual disabilities, brain injuries and we are an approved habilitation service provider. We are a provider of Host Home services in Iowa and Extended Family Homes in Nebraska. We have accreditation from CARF for Community Employment Services, Organizational Employment services and Community Integration.



VODEC is a proud member of:

drichardson@vodec.org

For more information on VODEC services please contact Daryn Richardson or Michelle Nelson at 712-328-2638 or by email at



VODEC IS ON GoodSearch!

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!

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



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