



612 South Main Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

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New Wheelchair-Assessible Van Improves Vodec Transportation

Have you seen our new mini-bus making stops around Council Bluffs? It's wheelchair-accessible and enables more consumers with mobility issues to have access to more frequent community inclusion opportunities. Consumers with mobility challenges have been afforded community access using our wheelchair-accessible minivans, but the mini-bus positively expands that access.

Join us on Social Media!



Help us "Go Green" and sign up for The Voice online at www.vodec.org or by emailing Mike at mwatkins@vodec.org.



Vodec Turns 50

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transition services for high school students.

We also diversified its geography outside southwest Iowa to include Omaha and central Iowa.

I've had the privilege of being with Vodec for 21 of its 50 years. The years have been challenging but rewarding.

More fun times are coming, and I invite you to tag along to learn more of Vodec's story.

Steve Hodapp
CEO

THE Voice

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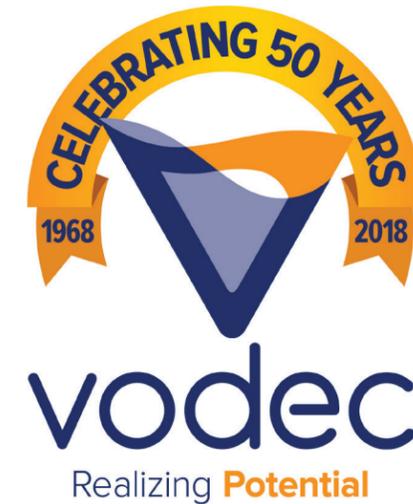
Vodec's Roots Grew from Family Love

When Winifred Seaman was asked to join the board of the newly-formed Vocational Development Center — Vodec's predecessor — in 1968, she had no idea how much her and her son, Tom's, lives as well as the lives of thousands more would be positively impacted over the years.

She was one of several family members who saw and acted on a need for employment opportunities for their adult children after high school graduation.

Now, 50 years later, Vodec continues to take the necessary steps to position itself to serve thousands more over the next half century.

"We diversified from our original sheltered work service to the multi-layered and diverse menu of services focused on employability skills training, community



employment, individual and group residential services, day habilitation and transition services for high school students," said Vodec CEO Steve Hodapp, who's been with the organization for 21 of these 50 years. "More fun times are coming, and we hope you will join us to learn more of Vodec's story."

Disability Employment Awareness Recognizes Consumers, Community

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which recognizes the value of disability employment and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Each year, Vodec helps our consumers prepare for, find and keep employment opportunities in Council Bluffs, Omaha, Urbandale and the surrounding communities.

We are thankful for our community partners that see the tremendous value and reward in employing Vodec consumers in a variety of capacities and on a wide range of business projects and needs.



A Gift from the Community

Pottawattamie County Community Foundation President & CEO Donna Dostal (pictured, right, with Vodec's Andrea Smith) and Director of Operations Kelly Dix presented a check to Vodec August 22 to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Vodec was Here, There and Everywhere this Summer



Top left: Our Nebraska CARES consumers had an exciting time exploring the art at The Kaneko in downtown Omaha in September; **Top right:** Iowa Democratic candidate for governor Fred Hubbell (left) visited Vodec's headquarters in September to discuss healthcare challenges and opportunities with staff, including CEO Steve Hodapp (middle) and Services Development Director Daryn Richardson, board members and consumer family members; **Bottom right:** Everyone loves visiting the zoo, right? Sometimes it's even better when the zoo comes to you — as it did for our Urbandale Iowa day habilitation consumers; **Bottom left:** Council Bluffs Cares consumers visited Lincoln, Neb., in August and toured Memorial Stadium. They had a fantastic time — especially getting to be on Tom Osborne Field.

Vodec Entrance Criteria:

- ▶ Be at least 16 years old for any employment training program
 - ▶ Have behavioral needs within Vodec's scope of service
 - ▶ Have medical needs within Vodec's scope of service
 - ▶ Have transportation needs within Vodec's capability to provide
 - ▶ Have adequate funding in place (including service hours authorization or private payment in place) for services being requested
 - ▶ For in-home service, an applicant's home must meet basic health and safety requirements
- For more information, or to apply for Vodec services, contact Daryn Richardson at drichardson@vodec.org or call (712) 328-2638.

Vodec is certified by:

- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation Services



Vodec is affiliated with the following organizations:

- Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce (IA)
- Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)
- Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP)
- Iowa Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP)
- Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM)
- Omaha Chamber of Commerce (NE)
- Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce (NE)
- Urbandale Chamber of Commerce (IA)

Vodec is an authorized provider in the following:

- Iowa HealthLink networks:
- Amerigroup
- United Healthcare



From the CEO's Desk:

Happy 50th Birthday to us!

It's been an amazing 5-plus decades!

Our birth year was 1968. That was a year with lots of national noise over the Vietnam War, including anti-war protests at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, and the premiere of the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

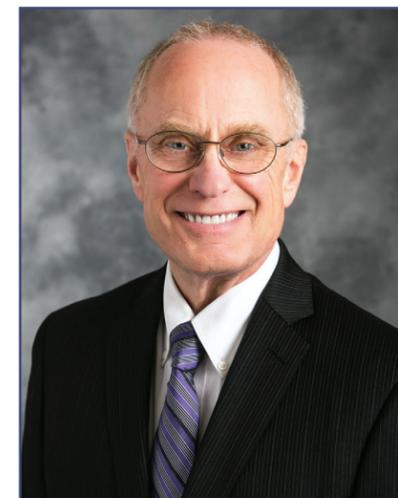
Despite all that was going on, a group of local families focused on opening the Vocational Development Center, Inc., more commonly called Vodec today.

What were those families thinking? Well, they were thinking there needed to be a safe and respectful environment for their family members with disabilities.

So, they started a workshop where the clients, as they were called at the time, could learn employability skills. That's what many clients did for many years.

Services were initially funded by Pottawattamie County, as the original clients were from this county.

Later, services would be funded through the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) as it's known today. There was a Purchase of Service (POS) contract between



Steve Hodapp
Chief Executive Officer

DHS and Vodec.

In the 1980's, federal Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) were introduced to Iowa. Iowa's HCBS was managed by DHS and HCBS waiver services were funded by a mix of Medicaid and local county and state money.

This was when the county of origin for the consumer, as the reference name changed now, participated in the funding mix. These were the county of legal settlement days.

In the late 1990's, the POS contracts were replaced by shifting more control over a consumer's life from DHS to the county of legal settlement. This was the start of county case management.

And that was ultimately revised in the early 2000's to a regional

case management system. Regions were designed by DHS.

The county of legal system determination for local funding changed in those times to a county of residency system.

This transferred the obligation of local funding to the consumer's county of residence at the time of service.

The Iowa regions still exist, but most of their case management of persons with intellectual or development disabilities has shifted to new players in the state.

These are the managed care organizations, or MCOs. They came on the Iowa scene in April 2016. These are for-profit companies subcontracted by DHS to manage most of the federal Medicaid money coming to Iowa.

That's a really down and dirty brief explanation of highlights of this industry in Iowa over the last 50 years.

As you see, there were very significant events shaping how services are provided today.

How did Vodec survive all that you might ask?

We diversified from its original sheltered work service to the multi-layered and diverse menu of services focusing on employability skills training, community employment, individual and group residential services, day habilitation and

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Thank you! To all of our Valued Supporters*

Donna Bush

Paula Danker

Tim Daugherty

Jeremy Dunkirk

Jacque Evans

Miles and Crystal
Havekost

Steve Hodapp

Terry Howell

Maria Mabe

Mindy Miller

Sarah Miller

David Randolph

Andrea Smith

Marianne Smith

Zachary and Samantha
Winter

Suzanne Winter

Nicole Wright

*Mid-July to Mid-September 2018