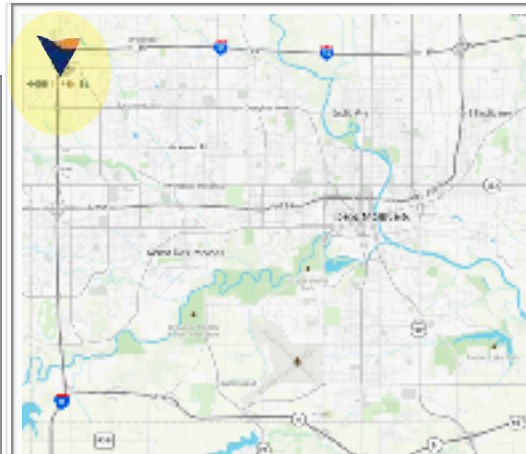


Vodec Expanding to Urbandale, Iowa



Above: Vodec's new Urbandale location in the Greater Des Moines area.

Left: Walk-through team moments before getting the keys to Vodec's new Urbandale Center. (L-R) Steve Hodapp [CEO] Heidi Hall, [Central IA Services Manager], Daryn Richardson [Services Development Director], Mark Stromer [Iowa Operations Director], Tyler Johnston [IT Network Administrator], Andrea Smith [Quality Control Director], Jeremy Dunkirk [Production Director]

Less than one year after starting to provide Services in Dallas County, Vodec's Central Iowa operation is expanding and relocating to Urbandale. The move adds considerable space to manage and administer a full range of residential, day habilitation, pre-vocational and community employment services. It's a good deal for a much wider population of consumers and potential consumers in Polk and the surrounding counties. We're excited!

The new Center is located in Building 15 of the Aurora Business Park. Address: 4406 114th Street, Urbandale, Iowa 50322. It has easy access from I-35. The management company still has a bit of remodeling and touch-up work to do before the doors open, but Iowa Operations Director Mark Stromer says the priority for what moves first is based on what can help Vodec get the most people served.

"What I'm concerned about is getting the service moved over from Adel. We have teams working on getting people transported. It'll be a process. But once our programs have relocated to

Urbandale, we're going to start seeing pretty substantial referral and growth, because it's in a much more populated market."

The Urbandale facility has about 8,900 square feet of space. Vodec CEO Steve Hodapp beams that it's not just the size, the openness and convenience caught his eye.



"It's all accessible to get into the building, there are no barriers. Within the building, no barriers. It is reachable to anybody with a disability," he describes. "Plus there's good, natural light coming in on two full sides. The facility has parking available in the front and rear. It also features a spacious kitchen area and conference room facilities.

Our year in Dallas County has been marked by tremendous growth. Almost 40 employees will transfer to Urbandale. Projections call for more hiring almost immediately. If you or someone you know is looking for employment, and want to learn more about a Vodec job, start on Careerlink.com. Vodec advertises all our of opportunities under the employer code "Vodec." We have frequent openings in front line support, but as Urbandale grows, keep your eye on listings for supervisory and management positions as well.

This move won't affect any of the consumers currently being served in our Council Bluffs or Omaha work centers.

(URBANALE ... Continued on page 4)



Supported Employment Making Big Strides in Iowa and Nebraska



Since the Federal Government passed the Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act in 2015, Vodec teams have been hitting the bricks, talking to companies, and getting Vodec consumers hired and stable at businesses all around your community. Grace Richardson supervises the Iowa team, and she credits not only the hard work, but the process with this company-wide success.

"The first thing we do is meet as a team. The family, the case managers, residential staff; anybody that can provide input about where the consumer is at is part of the team."

The process begins with an assessment of a consumer's skills. Vodec serves people with a wide variety of disabilities and skill sets.

Having a baseline for what a specific person needs, and WANTS is an important part of hitting the target of finding an appropriate job for them.

Armed with a good idea of the type of environment a person is most suited for, the team hits the streets.

"Sometimes a person has said specifically, "I want to work at this company, or in this kind of job," Richardson explains. "But most of the time it is a matter of finding a good fit."

That fit depends on businesses willing to commit to adapting a job to an individual's needs. "We can show companies how to tailor a task or job to work within the abilities of the consumer."

Once a company has agreed to hire a Vodec consumer, a job coach accompanies the new employee. Coaching can involve literally standing shoulder to shoulder with someone and making sure they understand how a job is to be done to specific company standards.

Nicole has been working at McDonalds for three months. She's a great example of a successful job placement. Three days each week she buses tables, cleans windows, and polices the parking lots for trash. The manager and staff during her shift beam when they talk about her work ethic and job performance.

Nicole's face lights up when she talks about the opportunity to work. "I like McDonalds. A lot!"

Samantha, her Vodec coach on the day we visited was able to sit quietly out of the way for the first half of her shift. Nicole is getting close to being able to work without an on-site coach.

Its important for more people to see this kind of service in action. Nicole is not only making money, she has a full schedule of things to do, and places to go. The job allows her more access to the community.

Both Iowa and Nebraska were top-ten States for placements of people with disabilities in the community work force. It's teams like these that make those statistics happen ▼



New Gear Available!

<https://vodecstaff.itemorder.com/sale>



Order and pay online.
Pick up at your
nearest Vodec location!



Thank you!

To our valued supporters...

- Miles and Crystal Havekost**
- Joann and Percy Stielow**
- Patricia Hopes**
- Steve and Mary Hodapp**
- Brian Bowers**
- Donna Bush**
- Anonymous Supporter**
- Steve Thompson**
- The Seaman Family**



In August, Vodec accepted a rental vehicle from Southwest Iowa Transit Agency. We'll have possession of the van for Iowa Cares transports for one year!





Steve Hodapp
Vodec CEO

Notes From The CEOs Desk

Five decades. A half century. Fifty years. 1,826 days (including one for a leap year). Back in the dark ages a little more than half that time span would have been a life time. Go back about fifty years and fifty years would have been about a life time. When you're 10 or twenty, fifty years sounds like a long time, but when you're 48 it seems just around the corner. I know. I've been there at both ages, and as Woody from the movie Toy Story would add: "And beyond!"

So what? I'll tell you what. In 2018 Vodec turns 50! And what may seem amazing to a younger reader is that a number of other readers were integral to Vodec's conception. That original group isn't as well-represented today as in 1968, but the commitment of the survivors to maintain quality services for their family members never waned. Their support, activism, questioning, and advocacy for persons with disabilities was and is outstanding. Without those folks Vodec would never have gotten off the ground. That founders' group had optimism and compassion. Oh, that's a powerful combination. You can achieve most anything with an attitude of we can and we will, coupled with caring for the people you are inspired to support. I can only imagine what it was like to have watched them discuss, likely hear them argue a bit, and ultimately see them find common ground for the birthing of this organization. The closest I can come to it is my experience with a group of parents whose kids were graduating from Omaha's J.P. Lord School in 2001, and who wanted us to create a program for their post-high school days. This program became Elm. And I still get goose bumps thinking about the parents' optimism and compassion.

But the story of Vodec's birth is one of thousands across the country: a group of families who had sons and daughters with disabilities and who wanted something constructive for them to do or to have safe places for them to live in their home communities. The same things the rest of us want for our kids, right? But we weren't faced with the struggles of jumping through all the hoops for funding of services. We didn't have to start an organization to provide services. We had it pretty easy.

So, five decades, fifty years, etc. I think there should be recognition in 2018 about Vodec making it to this milestone. I think we'll plan some special things. I think we'll acknowledge the founders and some who continued to keep the fires burning. Stay tuned and help us celebrate. ▽



Iowa State Representative David E. Heaton visits Vodec Council Bluffs. As a member of the Human Services Committee, Heaton has oversight of many of the specific laws and rules that affect long-term support service providers.



On July 9th, Tom Seaman, consumer in Council Bluffs, IA was honored with a birthday party hosted by his mother Winifred Seaman(l). CEO Steve Hodapp dropped by to wish Tom a Happy Birthday. The Seamans have been involved with Vodec for more than 40 years.



Outgoing board member Christine Gochenour is presented her recognition plaque.



Outgoing board member Terri Amaral(center) receives a recognition plaque from Steve (l) and Board Chair Linda Steensland (r).

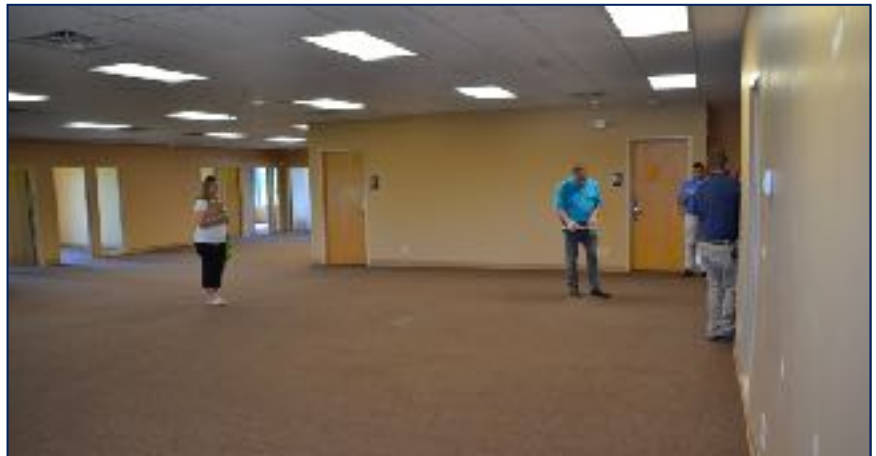
PUT MY PICTURE IN THE VOICE!



Urbandale...(Continued from page 1)

The most significant change for our current Central Iowa consumers, aside from transportation coordination will be the immediate availability of day habilitation services.

Vodec is excited about the opportunities this expansion provides, and the chance to meet our new neighbors. Please watch Vodec's facebook page for information about our Urbandale open house. ▼



Vodec Services



Vodec is a Long-term support service provider (LTSS) for Iowans and Nebraskans with developmental or intellectual disabilities. We also serve people with traumatic brain injuries and some mental illness. If you are eligible for services you are not receiving, or if you are looking for a LTSS, your first step is to visit our website, www.vodec.org to start the application process. You can also contact Daryn Richardson (drichardson@vodec.org), Vodec Services Development Director. We exist to serve the needs of this community, so if you need a service we haven't developed yet, we welcome the chance to discuss your specific needs. Here's a summary of the current services Vodec offers.

ADULT TRANSITION SERVICE (ATP):

This service provides life-skills training for Special Education students after high school graduation. It is coordinated through a school district.

Available At: Council Bluffs

DAY HABILITATION (CARES):

Vodec's "Day-Hab" program provides an enriching environment for people whose disabilities prevent or limit their community involvement and employment. "Cares" staff organize daily events and excursions to parks, museums, and other points of community interest to ensure a disability does not prevent a consumer from having broad community access.

Available At: ALL LOCATIONS

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT:

The Vodec approach to placing consumers in community jobs is one of the most successful in Iowa and Nebraska. Our teams help prepare consumers for the job search process and interview, talk to companies about ways to accommodate people with disabilities, and provide on-site coaching to help their new employees adjust to the workforce.

Available At: ALL LOCATIONS

ELM:

Vodec's Elm program is a unique service developed for people with multiple disabilities. It is an intensive and personal daily care option for some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Available At: Omaha

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING:

The goal for each person we work with is a job in the community that provides income and at the satisfaction of knowing their contribution matters. We recognize that a disability often presents in ways that make traditional work environments challenging. We offer pre-vocational options where our consumers make a fair wage for completion of jobs we contract with local businesses.

Vodec also offers more formal options, like Project-Search; an intensive 9-month program where participants rotate through a company, gaining experience in multiple areas. The training allows each person to develop both the skills and confidence to transition successfully into traditional community employment.

Available at: ALL LOCATIONS, (Project Search is currently only available in Omaha.)

RESIDENTIAL:

Vodec offers a range of safe, accommodating housing options to allow our consumers the most independence their disability permits, while ensuring their needs are met.

We provide hourly support or around the clock group home services for people who need a little bit (or more) of help with managing daily life.

We also manage numerous Host Homes and Extended Family Homes for consumers who do best in a family-style environment.

Available at: ALL LOCATIONS

Vodec's Mission:

We provide **services** to persons with disabilities in order that they may **live, work and participate** in the community in the least restrictive environment to achieve their **full potential**.

Vodec Entrance Criteria

- ▶ 16-years of age for any employment program
- ▶ Behavioral, medical, and transportation needs inside Vodec's scope of service and capability to provide
- ▶ Adequate funding in place for requested services (including private pay or other options)
- ▶ For in-home services, applicant's home must meet basic health and safety requirements



Vodec is Certified by:

- ✦ Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- ✦ Iowa Department of Human Services
- ✦ Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
- ✦ Nebraska Department of Education

Vodec is affiliated with the following organizations:

- ✦ Adel Partners Chamber of Commerce
- ✦ Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce
- ✦ Human Services Advisory Council
- ✦ Iowa Association of Community Providers
- ✦ Iowa Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- ✦ Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP)
- ✦ Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM)
- ✦ Omaha Chamber of Commerce
- ✦ Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce

Vodec is an authorized provider in the following Iowa HealthLink networks:

- ✦ Amerihealth Caritas
- ✦ Amerigroup
- ✦ UnitedHealthcare



612 South Main Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

Vodec is looking for ways to help reduce our mailing costs. We would like to encourage you to help us by going paperless. We will continue to deliver all the news you expect without all the paper that needs to be recycled. Please contact Stew via email at kstewart@vodec.org to let him know you're ready to go digital. You can also call Stew at 712.328.2638 to register for a text reminder when a new issue is available. Please consider this and help Vodec go green.



Meet Vodec's New Business Development/Sales Director

Name: Joe Willard

Hometown: Norwich, Connecticut

Family: Married, 1 daughter

Hobbies: Music. I play guitar, we have keyboards. Listening to my wife play the marimba

Favorite Food: None, but I sprinkle cinnamon on everything. Does that count?

Favorite Book: The Autobiography of Malcolm X

Personality: I'm an introvert who has acquired some extrovert tendencies out of necessity.


Why Vodec: My brother-in-law. He has a disability, and I honestly didn't know there were companies like Vodec in Nebraska, but I'm glad I found it. The work we do here is really important, and lines up with what I value.

Goal: I want to see our production floor become self-sustaining, and not have to rely on the whims of which way things are going with Medicaid. I'm in a position to work on that, and I plan to!

Weird Fact: I pass out when I see blood.

What KIND of music do you enjoy: I'm pretty eclectic. I listen to Opeth, and Curtis Mayfield. Everything from progressive metal to funk and soul. My new favorite genre is "noise." (Ask me about it.)



What do the people who care about Vodec NEED to know about you: I am ALL about suggestions. If you know people or businesses in the community we should be making friends with please let me know! 

Join Us On Social Media!



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