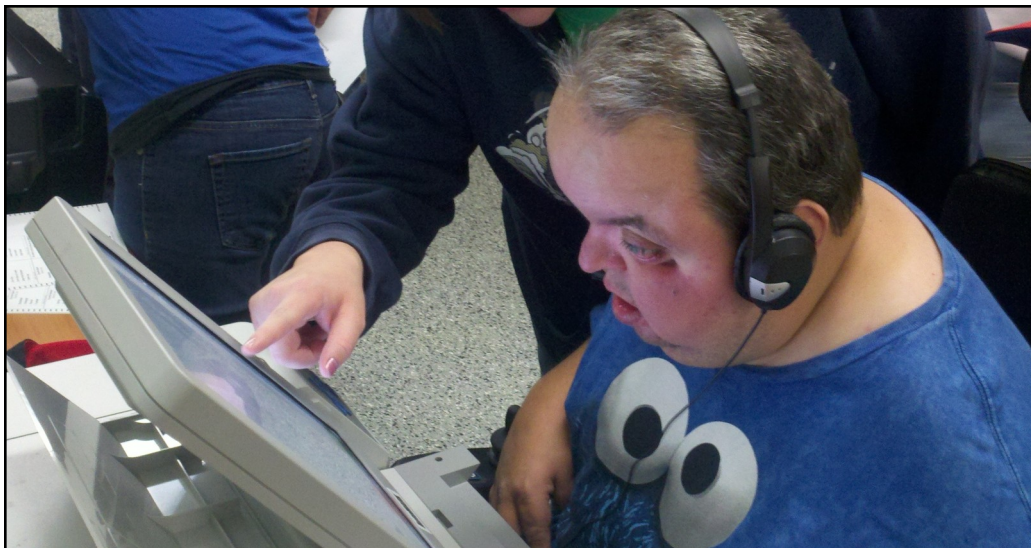


The VODEC VOICE

Since 1968

December, 2012

It takes more to Meet our Mission



Greg Renfro practices using the AutoMark voting machine at the Make You Mark! Voter training.

“The Make Your Mark! Vote! Voter training is one of many additional advantages that VODEC has created to give people with disabilities the ability to reach their full potential,” states CEO Steve Hodapp. In order to continue providing these advantages, VODEC relies on donations to cover these costs. “If anyone is interested in supporting these additional activities, they are welcome to make a donation to VODEC.”

Leading to the 2012 General Elections, Iowa with Disabilities in Action (ID Action) and the Iowa Disability Vote Coalition (IDV) reached out to Iowans with disabilities to help identify and eliminate barriers that may keep them from voting. VODEC hosted two trainings on October 10th at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Council Bluffs Facility.

14.7 million People with disabilities voted in national elections in 2008, but the rate is still 7% lower nationally than for people who do not have disabili-

ties and 10% lower in Iowa.

The Make Your Mark! Vote! Voter training encourages Iowans to vote by overcoming the barriers that often keep them from going to the polls. The training provided information on voter rights and responsibilities along with tips on how to find information on candidates running in their districts.

During the training session attendees had the opportunity to register to vote and practice voting by filling out a mock ballot as they would on Election Day either by hand or by using accessible equipment such as the AutoMark voting machine.

If you would like to make a donation please send it to the following:

VODEC main office Attention: CEO at 612 South Main in Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503. To be able to make a tax deduction on 2012 return donations must be received by December 31st 2012.



Activities

Coming Soon in December (watch for flyers)

In Iowa-Cares and Adult Transition Program consumers will be enjoying a Christmas party on Dec 21st at the 612 S. Main St Council Bluffs VODEC location.

Both Iowa and Nebraska Residential programs will be having an Ugly Sweater Christmas Party on Dec 5th at the 612 S. Main St Council Bluffs VODEC location.

Halloween Dance

Over 400 party-goers in costume and care-providers were estimated to have attended our annual Halloween Dance at Harrah's Casino Ballroom. For just \$10 guests enjoyed a night of music, dancing and a delicious Nacho Buffet.



VODEC Consumer and “Country Girl” Raquel Stewart at the Halloween Dance.



A Message from the CEO Steve Hodapp

VODEC is a fee for service provider. This means we are paid to provide some minimal level of service. But there is nothing minimal about what VODEC does. We are over-achievers!

Examples include Job Club presentations in schools for high school students, program plan meeting arrangements, advocacy for consumers' rights, and extra social activities for consumers.

As mentioned, some of these things we do with no reimbursement and we are happy to do them. But that is why sometimes we reach out for a little help from you, our friends.

And that's why some things have an admission fee. These would be the extra social activities including dances (like the Halloween dance on October 25th) and Buddy Baseball and Why Arts? and Special Olympics.

An event normally popping up soon would have been the Christmas dinner. But a very thoughtful decision was made to not go forward with this event. It just got too costly and too big, and the original focus on consumers seemed to have been getting lost in the event itself. Typically we'd be sending requests to you for support of the dinner. Not this year.

But you are asked to remember VODEC with a contribution as the holidays approach and as you would recall those things we do as over-achievers for consumers and for which we are not reimbursed through fees for services. Your financial support for those events is always appreciated by us and most importantly by the consumers. So thank you in advance.



Winter Weather Procedures

VODEC's winter weather procedures are designed to keep consumers, families and staff safe during severe winter weather. Please take a moment to review the following procedures.

For the Iowa Programs...

VODEC will follow severe winter weather cancellations, late starts and early dismissal announcements made by the Council Bluffs Community School District (CBCSD) in Iowa. Consumers should **NOT** report to the work center or day programs when CBCSD has cancelled classes for the day. Transportation will **NOT** be provided or arranged for consumers by VODEC.

When CBCSD announce a late start consumers should report to the work center and day programs per the late start announcement. The normal transportation **WILL be available as provided or arranged for consumers by VODEC as close to adjusted time schedule as possible.**

Consumers will be excused as early as safely feasible when CBCSD has announced an early dismissal.

Thank You to our Donors

Emanuel Evangelical
Heartland Pediatrics PC
Lutheran Church of
Council Bluffs
Nobbies
Omaha Community
Foundation
Physician's Mutual
William Ballenger
Jamie Brown
Rowena Brown
Chado Carrillo
Wendy Elliott
William Feay
Gwen Hartford-Stick
Miles and Chris Havekost
Steve and Deana
Hendrickson
Steve Hodapp
Sarah and Gary Kaplan
Robert and Mary Kujellis

Rebecca Lepin
Erin Lucas
Art and Marian Meyer
Jane and Philip Meyer
Richard and Lindsey
Mohr
Pam Monsky
Curtis Moreno
John and Anne Nelson
Rachel Olmstead
Deann and Oscar Over
Richard and Darlene
Reed
Thomas and Florence
Tisdale and Sophia
Rudolph
Mr. and Mrs. Gene
Sanders
John and Bobbi Marshall
John Steinke
Mark Stromer

This list reflects donations received between 9-25-12 and 10-19-12

For the Nebraska Programs...

VODEC will follow severe winter weather cancellations, late starts and early dismissal announcements made by the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) in Nebraska.

Consumers should **NOT** report to the work center or day program (ELM & CARES) when OPS has cancelled classes for the day. Transportation will **NOT** be provided or arranged for consumers by VODEC.

When OPS announce a late start consumers should report to the work center or day program (ELM & CARES) per the late start announcement. The normal transportation **WILL** be available as provided or arranged for consumers by VODEC as close to adjusted time schedule as possible.

Consumers will be excused as early as safely feasible when OPS has announced an early dismissal.

The entire Severe Winter Weather Procedure can be found on VODEC's website, www.vodec.org, or you may obtain a copy from any of the VODEC facilities in Council Bluffs or Omaha.

Special Notice: A consumer or his or her care giver is also responsible for calling the consumer's transit provider if the consumer will not be using the transit service on any given day, *regardless of weather or reason.* A morning route should be cancelled before 6 a.m.; an afternoon route should be cancelled before 1 p.m. Failure to cancel by required time may result in a fee for the consumer equivalent to cost of the ride not cancelled. Please contact SWITA @ 800-842-8065, Happy Cab @ 402-342-2010, or First Student @ 402-896-0142.

Bricks and Mortar –Jessica Minor VODEC Residential Supervisor



From left Consumer Frank Watkins, Staff Bryan Petersen and Consumer Dominique Smith in their new home.

Dominique, Frank and Harold had experienced life at many houses. The gentlemen came to VODEC from other community based settings, having moved frequently and changed support staff just as often. These gentlemen struggled to understand what it means to have relationships with others, to trust another person, to build a family and a home.

I know that my staff will have a lot of work ahead of them. Gradually over time, we will need to build trust by supporting their lives with caring and compassion. Most importantly, we want them to know that we will provide consistent support that these gentlemen can count on.

As we hang pictures on the walls, we share laughter, learn to trust depending on one another and the men come together, building a home, a family and a life that is of their choosing.

My staff and I believe that a house is built of bricks and mortar but a home is so much more. A house is filled with floors and walls; a home with bonds and ties. Too often, people with disabilities experience challenges throughout their lives that leave them with little real understanding of what it means to truly experience “home.”

My Staff and I work hard to help those to experience, often for the first time, what it means to build a home.



Consumer Dominique Smith hanging a mirror in his new home.

My "Dentist Friend" –Genevieve Kaczmarek, VODEC Residential Supervisor

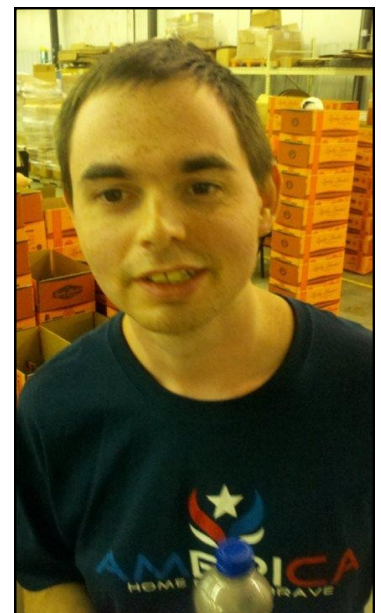
Trevor entered the dentist's office and sat patiently in the waiting room chair. When it was Trevor's turn, the Dentist came to the lobby of his office and introduced himself to Trevor. He explained to Trevor that he would like to look into his mouth to get an idea of what his teeth looked like. Trevor agreed that this would be ok with him.

This was a big moment for Trevor. Trevor's mom had struggled all her life to help Trevor with his fear of seeing the dentist. Trevor's mother had explained that Trevor has never gone to a dentist, as a child he would become extremely upset and refuse to enter any facility that had dentist written on the door. Therefore, Trevor's primary care physician has always assessed his teeth and dental hygiene.

This year, however, Trevor's team decided it was time for Trevor to see an actual dentist. I talked about the issue of visiting a dentist with Trevor's mother. I asked her advice on trying to get Trevor to visit an actual dentist for assessment.

Trevor's mother gave encouragement stating if you are able to get it done that would be great. At that time, I asked Trevor if he would think about going to meet my "dentist friend". I explained to Trevor that I knew this dentist who was my friend (actually he is the dentist for several of my consumers) who could just look into his mouth to complete a dental exam. Trevor agreed that this would be ok with him.

On the Day of the appointment his mother and I were there for Trevor. Looking back I realized that I was really there for both of them. Parents of special needs children struggle with issues like dentists appointments every day. I want them to know that they are not alone. I believe that it's the small things; the things which are not always “billable”; that can make a difference.



Trevor Grady at the Millard work center

ANNUAL REPORT FROM CEO STEVE HODAPP ON FY2012 ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

FY2012 was another boom year for us. Highlights will be illuminated below but they underscore our focus and attention on efficient services' delivery and continued striving for improved customer satisfaction. The growth in FY2012 was more a result of those efforts than any strategic plan. Our belief is that if we do our best, our best will bring growth. Despite being a non-profit organization we all, from front line employees to Board of Directors, recognize that growth for growth's sake is not desirable, and that remaining static means going backwards.

Partnerships in the working-together sense were again critical toward doing our best. These were amazing partnerships with referral resources, consumers' families or guardians, grantors and other sponsors, and within VODEC itself, all with eyes toward making lives of our mutual consumers more fulfilling and independent.

Included in the results of these partnerships were increases from prior year of 10 percent in number of consumers served and 20 percent in total support and service fee revenue. Service fee revenue increased 22 percent over prior year: 45 percent for residential services, 20 percent for non-vocational day services, and 5 percent for vocational services.

The highlights of FY2012 were exciting individually and extremely challenging as an overlapping group of events. Some of these events started in FY2011 and finished in FY2012, and include-

The process which started in FY2011 to purchase assets and assume operations of a Nebraska provider culminated on August 1, 2012. Along with some residential leases, office equipment and vehicles came 34 consumers and 32 employees. The Omaha consumers and employees became part of our residential program and a new day hab-type program we call Nebraska Cares. In January 2012 everyone who worked or was served at the former provider's location joined new colleagues at our 7110 F Street location, and the former location was vacated. We also assumed and have maintained operation of the former provider's Lincoln services.

On April 10, a date still sending shivers down my spine, there was a partial roof collapse at 7110 F Street. This is a building we bought in August 2011 in reaction to the fear of levies breaking at a former location on Abbott Drive we evacuated in June 2011. The collapse occurred during a work day and over a spot which was populated just moments earlier. The collapse brought down nine tons of roof rock piled there as part of a roof repair project. To add to the event's drama the collapse broke a water sprinkler main pipe resulting in about six inches of water in nearly half of the building before the water could be shut off.

Only due to the quick thinking of employees on-site and their extra efforts to evacuate the flooded portion to dry areas were no injuries incurred and no loss of days experienced - the location was open the next day! The obvious ironies are still being pointed out to me: the roof collapsed during a roof repair project and the building to which we moved to avoid the flood of 2011 was flooded by the broken water pipe.

It's important to acknowledge some of the activities leading to increases in census and revenue noted above. While there was a steady stream of new people entering services, additions were also made to our services menu.

In Iowa we entered an agreement with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services for us to become a provider available for its participants looking for community employment. We also began in FY2012 conversation with Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation Services for similar outcome reached in first quarter of FY2013.

We entered an agreement with Iowa Medicaid Enterprise to provide habilitation services for persons with mental illness. This target group is also a new group for us to serve.

In Iowa and Nebraska we added numerous residential sites for up to three persons in each. This was in response to increased need for that type of setting and service.

In fact the expansion of our services menu was all in response to demand. This fits with our strategic plan which is, in summary, to foster an environment and capacity in which we can be responsive to the demands and needs brought to us.



Consumers Zachary Premeau (L) and Michelle Janssen are shown planting trees at Big Lake Park for Earth Day 2012.

Financial Report

The following is from the Annual Financial Report for FY2012 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. Each report is also presented and discussed by mid and upper management personnel in monthly open-book meetings. This is part of our accountability process.

Statement of Financial Position

	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY11</u>
Assets		
Total Current Assets	1,921,687	2,733,044
Property & Equipment	3,797,885	2,183,045
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,330,270)</u>	<u>(1,232,916)</u>
	2,467,615	950,129
Other Assets		
Security Deposits	<u>10,167</u>	<u>35,315</u>
Total Assets	<u>4,399,469</u>	<u>3,718,488</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	839,196	639,553
Long Term Liabilities	1,060,232	0
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	2,461,791	3,078,935
Temporarily Restricted	<u>38,250</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>2,500,041</u>	<u>3,078,935</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>4,399,469</u>	<u>3,718,488</u>

If you are a reader who went straight to the 'bottom line' of the Statement of Activities you may wonder about the Change in Net Assets being a negative - (578,894) - for the first time in several years and despite growth and increases noted above. This bears a brief explanation.

In February 2011 we renewed for five years the lease for the Omaha Abbott Drive location. Of course in June 2011 this was the building we evacuated for fear of the summer's flood breaking through the nearby levies on the Missouri River. But the evacuation did not negate the renewed lease; we were committed to fulfill the lease. But with the purchase of the 7110 F Street building we had no plans to re-enter the Abbott Drive building. Our options were to sublease or buyout the lease. We listed the property for sublease for most of FY2012 but were unsuccessful. It became obvious that a buyout would be in our long term best interest. A buyout was done in June 2012 for net expense of \$850,264.

Statement of Activities

	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY11</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets		
Program & Contribution Rev	9,384,253	7,783,236
Workshop Fees, Net	693,550	658,400
Other	153,713	103,432
Net Assets Released from Restriction	<u>0</u>	<u>844</u>
Total Support & Revenue	10,231,516	8,545,912
Expense		
Program Services	9,046,583	7,075,464
Supporting Services	<u>1,802,077</u>	<u>846,028</u>
Total Expenses	10,848,660	7,921,492
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	(617,144)	624,420
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets, Grant Income	38,250	0
Net Assets Released from Restriction	<u>0</u>	<u>(844)</u>
Change in Net Assets	(578,894)	623,576
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>3,078,935</u>	<u>2,455,359</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>2,500,041</u>	<u>3,078,935</u>

Number of Persons Served **614** **557**
 These are unique individuals counted only once. Many of them were active in more than one service. The number of persons served in FY2012 is the continuation of record-breaking annual census.



VODEC CEO Steve Hodapp and Contractor Ed Cain review plans for the 72nd Street repairs needed because of the roof collapse.

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

- Be at least 16 years old for any vocational 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
- If applying for an in-home service, the applicant's home must meet basic health and safety requirements



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

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 benefitted VODEC so far! It's easy and it works!



VODEC is a proud member of:



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 to provide vocational services by the Nebraska Department of Education.
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.



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, Inc.
VODEC
612 South Main Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
Return Service Requested