

The VOICE



New Bus Transportation

down the steps in the pool, toss balls back and forth to each other, and practice holding their breath and going under water.

On Wednesdays, the consumers have the opportunity to go out to the movies, go bowling, visit the Durham Museum,

explore the community and what it has to offer them.

The staff enjoy seeing everyone smile and laugh while getting to experience the fun and say that the consumers even appear more relaxed.

The consumers enjoy the new ride

VODEC has purchased a new mini-bus to transport consumers in the ELM Program.

"The new transportation has given us the opportunity to expand our transportation options for individuals with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities."

"Our consumers can now enjoy more activities in the community which provides fitness, socialization, and learning opportunities," said Steve Hodapp, CEO.

The VODEC ELM Program mini-bus is currently being utilized to transport consumers to the Leisure Explorers Club on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

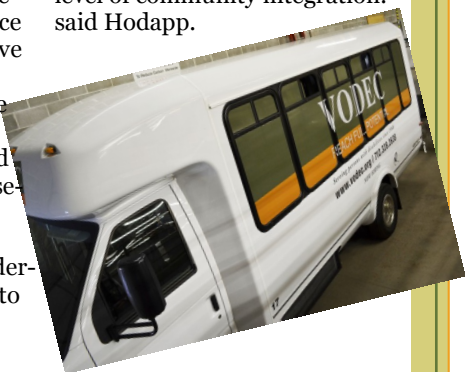
On Tuesdays, consumers swim at Monroe Meyer and are able to float in the inner tubes, practice walking up and



tour the zoo, see the exhibits at the Joslyn Art Museum, enjoy parks, go on bike rides, see the Fontenelle Forest, go out for ice cream, and even be able to have fun at Vala's Pumpkin Patch. The consumers have also gone on a walk on the Pedestrian Bridge and were able to attend an Omaha Storm Chaser's baseball game.

The consumers have been able to have such a wonderful time with the opportunity to

"We added a mini-bus to enable more consumers with limited mobility due to being restricted to wheel chairs more opportunities to join community activities. This is part of our investment and commitment in getting consumers to a greater level of community integration," said Hodapp.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

From the Desk of the CEO, Steve Hodapp (continued)	2
Reaching Full Potential	2
Halloween Dance	2-3
Thank You for Your Support	3
VODEC Partners with Project Search	3
Special Olympics Unified Event	3
Annual Report	4-5

From the Desk of the CEO,

Community Based Programs Why VODEC believes in it

One of the big buzzwords these days is 'community'. This is huge in the context of the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) rules issued in January 2014. It's huge in the context of how states are to incorporate the concept in their plans required to be submitted to CMS for approval. A state's

plan once approved by CMS will drive how services in the state are provided to persons with intellectual disabilities.

Let's get a sense of what community means. 1. *a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.* 2. *a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.* Powered by Oxford Dictionaries · © Oxford University Press

So the concept of com-

munity seems to incorporate having something in common.

CMS also likes 'integration' and 'inclusion'. 'Community' is linked to these words as expected outcomes from the January rules: Community integration. Community inclusion. Together and in CMS' context these are not mere words nor concepts, but are expectation for CMS members, who we call Consumers, and who receive services supported by CMS.

Continued on pg 2



From the Desk of the CEO, Steve Ho-dapp—(continued from pg 1)

So what does Community Integration and Inclusion look like? It would seem pretty obvious it means Consumers having more time in their communities.

The conversations happening from local to national levels are trying to get to what 'more time' means

The conversations happening from local to national levels are trying to get to what 'more time' means, and at what trade-off. If a Consumer is to spend more time in the community as part of his or

her service provision then that means spending less time in congregate settings which are center-based.

For Consumers interested in the community employment services, this means the center-based sheltered work opportunities are reduced or perhaps eliminated under some advocates' proposals.

For Consumers interested in day services, like VODEC's Elm and Cares services, there will be less to no time in center-based activity but instead they will be immersed in opportunities in their communities.

I need to be very clear here. As a voice for VODEC and an advocate for our Consumers, who are CMS members, I believe Community Integration/Inclusion is a desired outcome of services. What parent doesn't want their son or daughter with an intellectual disability to ex-

perience life to the fullest in their community? But my fear for those sons and daughters is



Left to right, Brian G. and David J. enjoying the River City Rodeo

that in so doing per the extreme advocacy of others is at the ex-

clusion of some current choices. And maybe that's progress. After all, many states have been actively de-institutionalizing themselves by placing their institutions' residents with community based providers. This has been a step to enable Consumers a taste of community. Perhaps the downsizing or elimination of a center-based service now offered by community based providers is a logical next step.

Again, to be clear, our organizational position is supportive of Community Integration and Inclusion. But we have a sadness that to some Consumers it may mean lack of access to a service of their choice. And this sadness is heightened when we think that in recent years the phrases 'Consumer Choice' and 'Consumer Driven' had high importance.

Certainly integration and inclusion are worthy outcomes. But individuality gets lost when advocates use words like "All" and "Everyone". Noise gets attention and the advocates using those words have been making lots of noise. And seemingly are winning. Is that Okay with "All" of you?

Reaching Full Potential

by Joe Bosco, HRD

VODEC serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing a number of services such as Residential, Employment Training, Day, and Supported Community Employment. VODEC's mission is to provide an oppor-

tunity for each client to, "Reach their Full Potential."

Paige Hough, RSA, is no stranger to VODEC's mission. Her hard work and dedication to the consumers she supports is evident when she challenged Kashka M, a VODEC Residential consumer, to complete the Financial Fitness Challenge.

"Kashka accepted the challenge so she could complete her requirement"

Kashka accepted the challenge so she could complete her requirement for the financial goal in her IPP plan.

When Kashka and Paige signed up for the Basic Personal Finance course, the challenge was in motion. Both women realized it was harder than they expected. The hardest part was all the required reading. The benefit, however, was the opportunity to learn how to concentrate on what needs are versus wants, especially when shopping for groceries or clothing.



Left to right, Kashka and Paige

When Kashka's employment situation changed, shortly after completing the Financial Fitness Challenge, she was able to put what she learned into action. "The training was used as a good reinforcing tool when Kashka wanted to by a new pair of shoes; it begged the question, do you need them or want them.", said Paige. Kashka was also able to secure a credit card in order to begin building a credit score. Paying more than the minimum balance every month will ensure a positive one.

Kashka also has obtained a savings account and contributes monthly deposits. She is saving for a trip to Worlds of Fun, Kansas City!

The 4th Annual Halloween Dance

A Big Success
by Clarissa Conolley

The infamous night had finally arrived! After being left in anticipation for several months it actually happened! I've been hearing about how great the dance was, advertising for this year's event, creating multiple signs, receipts, and posters, as well as taking registrations.

All the hype exceeded my expectations. I had such a great time watching the management staff and directors interacting with the consumers and direct support providers, observing the consumers dancing and having fun with their peers, and best of all, just being a part of everything. Taking photographs during the event and mingling with the consumers was an awesome privilege!



Left to right and top to bottom, Amanda B, Shannon Harter, Amanda, Norman, Scotty, and Freddy Krueger

Oh, and the costumes! What a hoot! There was God's gift to women, creatures of the night, super heroes, cowboys, bikers, zombies, princesses, Disney characters, and law enforcement galore. Everyone seemed to have such a marvelous time.

Consumers in the Iowa Cares Program even created wonderful Halloween lantern centerpieces for the tables.



Left to right, Ashley Whelan and Brian M. shopping at Ditmar Orchard

perience life to the fullest in their community? But my fear for those sons and daughters is

Joe Bosco, HRD, even checked his Most Wanted list to keep the varmints out, providing a safe environment for all attendees. He was such a great sheriff!

But of course, with Steve Hodapp, CEO, walking around with his sword, everyone was afraid he would make



them walk the plank if they got caught doing something wrong!

I truly hope you were able to make it to the dance and didn't have to miss out on this fabulous fall event for the consumers. The MAC staff were such gracious and friendly ghosts, uh..I mean hosts. The fiesta bar had grave reviews and EJS Sounds and Lights kept us entertained all evening. Will did an excellent job picking the music for the awesome moves on the dance floor.

We greatly appreciate Access Bank, American National Bank and Council Bluffs Savings Bank for sponsoring this event.

If the Valentines Dance, scheduled to be held on Thursday February 12, 2015, is anything like this event, I have something else amazing to look forward to again!

Thank You for your help

Steve & Mary Hodapp
Miles & Crystal Havekost
John Miller
Marianne Smith
Steve Hodapp
Mark Stromer
Jamie Brown
Chado Carrillo

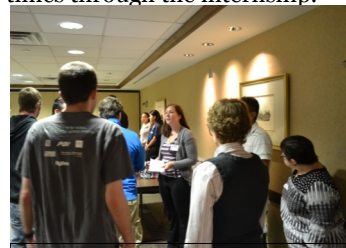
This list reflects donations received between 9/20/14 and 10/22/14



VODEC Partners with Project Search to Provide In- ternships at Nebraska Medicine



Beginning January 5th 2015 individuals served by VODEC will participate in Project Search at Nebraska Medicine, located at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Participants from VODEC will rotate through two, ten-week internships, with the chance of becoming an employee of Nebraska Medicine. VODEC job coaches are available at all times through the internship.



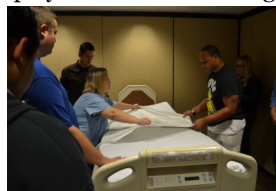
Shannon Harter welcoming the participants and explaining the program

"Our Job Coaches will be collaborating with teachers from Madonna School, counselors from Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation, service coordinators from Nebraska Department of Developmental Disabilities and well as staff from Nebraska Medicine to make sure that all participants have the skills and accommodations to succeed," said Shannon Harter, VODEC Day Services Manager.

Project Search was started in 1997 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital when the Director of the Emergency Department felt that the Hospital needed to develop a way to hire Individuals with developmental disabilities since many of their patients had developmental disabilities. Today there are over 300 project search sites across the United States. There are twelve Project Search sites in Nebraska.

Ten participants will take part. "Each individual will

go through an extensive application and intake process that will involve completing an application and participation in an interview and skills assessment," stated Harter. "Once accepted, each participant will work with Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation to develop an Employment Plan." Starting in



Consumers learning how to properly sheet a hospital bed

January participants will enroll in an educational program on-site at Nebraska Medicine and work with a business mentor provided by Nebraska Medicine. In addition, participants will receive continuous feedback as they rotate through the two internships.



"Everyone knows that employment is the goal. We are excited to be selected as a partner in this Project," stated Harter, "This year's participants will graduate in June, but Project Search will continue. Each year VODEC participants will have the opportunity to apply for the program. Project Search will continue to make a difference for years to come. For more information on Project Search, please check out their website at: <http://www.projectsearch.us/>

Special Olympics Unified Event Held at THS

Treynor Community School District hosted a Special Olympics Unified Event for over 100 Special Olympic Athletes from the Southwest Iowa area on Tuesday November 4th in the Treynor High School gym.

There were over 50 THS Boys and Girls' basketball players that participated in the event to help the Special Olympic Athletes practice basketball skills such as passing, catching, dribbling, blocking, and shooting the basketball in the west gym.

While the basketball players were practicing their skills on the court, 20 cheerleaders taught skills on motions, jumping, stunts, and cheers in the east gym. If that wasn't enough, they even worked on formations and positive attitude, then performed an amazing dance. "This was such a great fun filled day! Thank you!!", said Jamie Brown, VODEC RSM.



David J. taking a winning shot

After basketball and cheerleading practice were complete, basketball teams were formed, the cheerleaders prepared to cheer, and a 10-minute game commenced. The THS students were invited to watch the game and cheer for the teams after lunch.



Andrew E. showing his epic skills at performing cheerleading stunts

The event was wonderful, the gymnasiums were filled with smiling athletes and students, and fun was had by all! Thank you to the Multimedia class for taking the fabulous photographs. A big shout-out for capturing the awesome event!

Source:
<http://www.treynorschools.org/vnews/display.v/ART/54593da482bdb>

ANNUAL REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2014

A Summary and Financial Report about

the Period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

By Steve Hodapp, CEO

Fiscal Year 2014 began as some old ways started to fade away for new things. In Iowa preparations were made for our home county of Pottawattamie to leave its solo act and on July 1, 2014 join a new nine-county region of service delivery called the Southwest Iowa MHDD region. This sort of activity was seen across the state. This was a couple years in the making as a result of Iowa's legislature passing SF2315 in 2012

The legislation also replaced the fiscal responsibility of county of legal settlement with county of residence for consumers. As FY15 rolls out many will watch to see if this has impact, negative or any, on consumers' access to services in counties other than where they live upon provider referral. In FY15 the county where a consumer lives to receive services, not the county from which he or she is from originally, becomes fiscally responsible for any county funding for services.

There also was preparation in Iowa for a rollout of another case management service: Integrated Health Home (IHH). This is not really about homes at all. The IHH (four in the Southwest Iowa region) conduct assessments of consumers to determine their levels of needs and subsequent levels of services funding they may be eligible to receive. The IHH will also fulfill case management functions for consumers involved with one.

In Nebraska a new service funding rate methodology was poised to roll out on July 1, 2014. Levels of available service funding were adjusted through a new determination of need applied on consumers. Some consumers' service funding will increase while others' decrease. This will be interesting to watch in FY15 as this may impact some

providers' business decisions about consumer access to their services.

Nationally there is still strong pressure by certain advocate groups and government agencies to increase consumer access to supported employment. This push is not universally supported but is vocal. By itself this is positive. Unfortunately for some consumers this is being promoted at the expense of a service many enjoy and find very appropriate: sheltered work.

"Community integration strategies are now being submitted by all states"

Community integration strategies are now being submitted by all states as part of their proposed plans to meet CMS rules out in January 2014 and effective in March. The rules will require states to enhance consumers' integration into their communities. Strategies likely will include a de-emphasis on facility based activities. This could successfully drive more supported employment and more day habilitation activities into the community. . . and less access to VODEC's sheltered work and on-site Cares and Elm activities. Again, something interesting to watch.

So what is your VODEC doing to prepare for these changes? Actually several things.

In FY14 we added staff to our supported employment service. And training for all of our supported employment personnel has increased: access to SE certification is through the College of Direct Supports administered by the Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP). The intention is to provide a more successful experience for both consumer and his or her community employer.

We also added four more vehicles in FY14, including wheel chair accessible minivans. An expected outcome is to expand access for more consumers, including more who are mobility challenged, to more community activities. And at end of FY14 we ordered a wheel chair accessible mini-bus to be able to provide even more community integra-

tion for consumers with mobility challenges. We believe more and accessible transportation will be one key to enable us to meet anticipated mandates for more community integration.

During the year we made some investment in physical improvements. To our 4th Street duplex waiver home in Council Bluffs there was replacement of kitchen appliances as well as demo and re-build of five bathrooms and replacement of sewer drainage. This work was thankfully supported by the Council Bluffs Housing Trust Fund. We have more improvements planned in FY15 for this residence.

To our 612 South Main development center we added an accessible bathroom and a laundry room. Additionally we installed new flooring and room sections to the Cares program for which space increased about three-fold. And build-out started on a teaching kitchen which was completed in first half of FY15.

We acknowledge the Iowa West Foundation and the Dickinson Bicycle Ride Across America for financial support.

We invested time and resources in employees and consumers in a sort of unique way. Under sponsorship of the Iowa Care Givers and with fees paid by the Iowa Insurance Commission we offered a Financial Fitness online educational series. Participants could study and test out from several levels of difficulty. The expectation was that participants become more literate about personal money decisions.

As will be seen below gross revenue increased in FY14. There are two reasons for this. First there was an increase in number of consumers served. This increase extends the growth trend started sixteen years ago.

	FY14	FY13
Total Consumers	643	615

The other factor was a dramatic increase of almost \$229,000 in net workshop fees, a result of our contracted production activities.

In FY14 we felt departures of a couple gentlemen who played important roles in recent growth of VODEC. Bill Feay joined VODEC in 2004 as our first Finance Director and became our first Chief Fiscal Officer (CFO). Bill's attention to detail and ability to get to the point and more, are missed with his retirement.

Steve Thompson became a Board member in 2006. At the end of FY14 Steve completed the time he was eligible to serve on the Board. His guidance and management of the Board process is much appreciated.

Financial Report

The Summary of Statement of Financial Position and the Summary of Statement of Activities are pulled from the Audited Financial Statements for FY2014 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.

Monthly financial reports are reviewed by the Board of Director's Finance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Each report is also presented by the CFO who generates discussion by supervisory, management and director-level personnel in monthly open-book meetings.

The Audited Financial Statements are reviewed by the Board's Audit Committee and approved by the Board.

All this review is part of our fiscal accountability process and is compliant with our internal fiscal policies and procedures, and has been praised by licensing and accreditation surveyors.

"All this review is part of our fiscal accountability process"

Summary of Statement of Financial Position

	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY13</u>
Assets		
Total Current Assets	2,739,650	2,362,189
Property & Equipment	4,342,932	4,002,643
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,675,606)</u>	<u>(1,501,619)</u>
	2,667,326	2,501,024
Other Assets		
Security Deposits	<u>6,899</u>	<u>7,199</u>
Total Assets	<u>5,413,875</u>	<u>4,870,412</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	1,052,520	892,052
Long Term Liabilities	935,015	1,001,556
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	3,417,823	2,949,804
Temporarily Restricted	<u>8,517</u>	<u>27,000</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>3,426,340</u>	<u>2,976,804</u>

Summary of Statement of Activities

	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY13</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets		
Program & Contribution Rev	10,700,047	9,731,840
Workshop Fees, Net	1,037,850	808,873
Other	141,427	145,441
Net Assets Released from Restriction	<u>24,483</u>	<u>38,250</u>
Total Support & Revenue	11,903,807	10,724,404
Expense		
Program Services	10,193,131	9,065,577
Supporting Services	<u>1,242,657</u>	<u>1,170,814</u>
Total Expenses	11,435,788	10,236,391
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	468,019	488,013
Temporarily Restricted		
Net Assets, Grant Income	6,000	27,000
Net Assets Released from Restriction	<u>(24,483)</u>	<u>(38,250)</u>
Change in Net Assets	449,536	476,763
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>2,976,804</u>	<u>2,500,041</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>3,426,340</u>	<u>2,976,804</u>



612 S. Main St.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

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**Help us “go green”
and sign up for The
Voice online. Contact
cconolley@vodec.com
or call 712.328.2638**



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 © (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 to provide vocational services by the Nebraska Department of Education. 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 an accreditation from CARF for Community Employment Services, Organizational Employment services, and Community Integration.



VODEC is a proud member of:

VODEC Service Criteria

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

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 VODEC as your designated charity! Please pass the news on to your friends and family! Over 15,000 searches have benefited VODEC so far! It's easy and it works!

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