

Vodec Teams with Forward with Faith in Pella

Later this year, Vodec will be opening a group home built and designed by 818 Forward with Faith, a nonprofit based in Pella, Iowa.

The newly constructed home will have many features for residents with disabilities. These features include, but are not limited to, a zero-entry garage with heated floor, vaulted ceilings, lots of windows, a large bathroom that includes a wheel-chair accessible shower, large kitchen and four separate bedrooms.

The home will be in Pella, a bedroom community located southeast of Des Moines known for its annual Tulip Festival, which attracts people from around the world.

Pella is steeped in Dutch culture and considers itself “America’s Dutch Treasure” according to the Visit Pella website. The city has a variety of Dutch-themed bakeries, meat shops, gift shops, historical museum, Dutch windmill, parks, restaurants and a bowling alley.

In addition to the Tulip Festival, Pella has a variety of community events throughout the year for people to attend. Just a few miles outside of Pella is beautiful Lake Red Rock. Lake Red Rock has several hiking



(l-r) Vodec Services Operations Director Heidi Hall, SL Builders’ Adam Slings, Forward with Faith founders Judy and Jerry Fynaardt, Vodec CEO Steve Hodapp and FWF Board President Bruce Schiebout.

and biking trails, boating, fishing and camping.

“The residents will have plenty to do!” said Heidi Hall, Vodec Operations Director.

Breaking ground on March 21st of this year, con-

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Change in Care Improves Consumer’s Communication

Vodec’s Day Services in Nebraska makes it a daily goal to ensure staff is doing all they can to support each consumer as they grow in their abilities to reach their full potential.

In order to do this, at times, they have to acknowledge that the current or past plan of action may not be the most effective.

This was the case for Tiffany Peters, who was previously in the Elm program. Tiffany began attending Elm in 2008.

A main goal over the past few years has been for Tiffany to grow in her abilities to communicate and listen more effectively along with learning to maintain appropriate social interactions and boundaries.

These skills have always been a struggle for Tiffany. But over the course of the past several months, staff noticed she wasn’t progressing much in these skills, nor was she making much progress in her habilitative program that focused on these skills.

This got staff problem solving with Tiffany’s care team, discussing possible plans of action.

Throughout this process, staff established that over the years, there have been many changes in the consumers attending the Elm program.

One particular change that occurred is that an individual with whom Tiffany spent most of her days transferred to another day service provider.

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Consumers Benefit from National Health Program

Vodec is joining the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) by participating in a national health program especially designed for individuals with disabilities, chronic health conditions or mobility limitations.

“14 Weeks to a Healthier You” is an online program that helps participants get moving and make healthy choices.

“This is an exciting program because it is so inclusive,” said IDPH Brain Injury and Disability program manager Maggie Ferguson. “It takes into consideration a variety of limitations, so virtually anyone can find an activity and nutrition plan that works for them.”

The program is free. Participants register online and provide some information about themselves. That

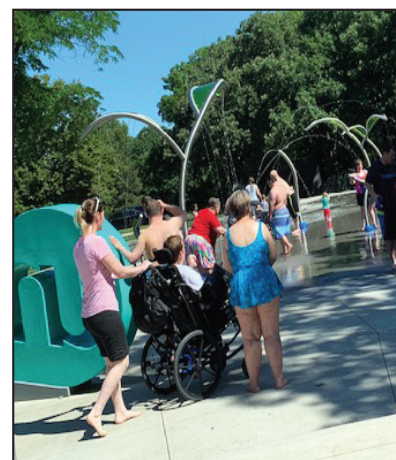
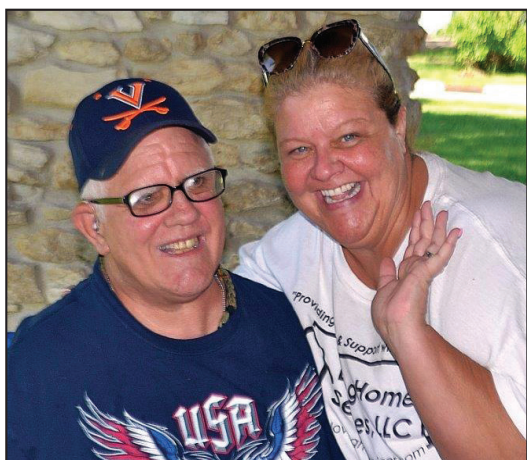
information is then used to create a set of personalized resources and exercises to meet their individual needs over the course of 14 weeks.

Each week, new material builds upon the previous week. Articles, tips, reminders, alerts and features to help track nutrition and activity are included, and access to wellness coaches is available.

To learn more and sign up for this free program, visit www.nchpad.org/14weeks/?f=IA.

The program is co-sponsored by Living Well Iowa, which promotes the health of Iowans with disabilities. To learn more about Living Well Iowa, visit www.livingwelliowa.org.

Consumers Make the Most of Warm Temps



Left: Consumer Doug Kruse and Vodec Host Home provider Ruth Zechmann stop for a quick smile and photo during the annual Council Bluffs Residential Services picnic. **Middle:** Council Bluffs Cares consumers Daniel Reed, Dakota Litton, Norman Knott, Tommy Brandenburg, Geta Nekuda, Megan Rewolinski, David Lewis, Tony Kramer, Margaret Horan and Danielle Thompson enjoy a beautiful day at the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium in Omaha. **Right:** Council Bluffs Cares consumers and staff enjoy the dancing water of the Splash Pad in Council Bluffs.

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
- Iowa Total Care





1. The NE Residential administrative team (l-r) Kim Hall, Amy Titus, Carrie Ennis, Joe South, Sam Mills and Melissa Urban get into the night's festivities with a team picture — masks and all! 2. Vodec staff Khadejah Crayton enjoys her dance with consumer Jose McDermott. 3. A group of consumers feel the beat and enjoy some dancing. 4. Consumers Cheryl Lux and Catlyn Coco stop for a quick portrait.

Residential Prom is Framed in Fun



From the CEO's Desk:

An integral piece of our strategy to provide quality service is to provide quality training to employees.

We have high standards for training which have been recognized by third party organizations that certify and accredit our services.

Training begins on the first day of employment with new employee orientation.

This is the initial exposure a new employee has to expectations as well as resources to make him or her successful.

Then, each employee, right up to the CEO, has required training, some of which is annual and some which is one-and-done.

Much of this training is accessed through Relias, a structured training platform used by over 10,000 health care organizations providing



Steve Hodapp
Chief Executive Officer

standardized course offerings.

Vodec also has a corporate trainer who provides additional training to employees outside the Relias platform. This includes CPR, Mandt and first aid. Some employees

access outside training as well.

Some is job-specific, or industry-specific. Some is required of positions which need certifications, and this runs the gamut from supported employment positions to the CFO and Human Resources Director.

It is important to us to have employees who have inherent skills sets complimentary to their job tasks.

But it's also important to supplement that with the formal training described above.

This is one of many ways we provide high quality certified and accredited services.

I hope it's important to you, too.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Hodapp".

Steve Hodapp

Urbandale Central Iowa Cares Consumers Enjoy Summer Adventures

Left: Urbandale IA consumers Megan Carr, Nancy Bice, Nick Rawls and Mary Davidson take in an Iowa Cubs baseball game.

Right: Karina McCarney, Faith Engle, Mary Davidson, Anne Vanderlinden, Jordan Beasley, Donna Hartwick and Rebekah Hoefling enjoy the sights and sounds of the State Historical Museum of Iowa in Des Moines.



Thank you!

To all of our Valued Supporters*

Franklin Brummett
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Jacque Evans

Jana Flaig
Miles and Crystal Havekost
Steve Hodapp
Maria Mabe

Sarah Miller
Andrea Smith
Nicole Wright

**Mid-May to Mid-June 2019*

Vodec Teams with Forward with Faith to Provide Housing in Pella

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struction is currently underway. There have been some delays due to this summer's wet weather.

Recently, Steve Hodapp, Vodec's CEO, Daryn Richardson, Vodec's Services Development Director, and Heidi visited the group home site and met with representatives from 818 Forward with Faith.

"Seeing the house was very inspiring and a testament to the will of the Forward with Faith group," Steve said. "They all are pulling off quite a feat. I am humbled that they invited Vodec to be part of this vision. I look forward to the future of this collaboration. I believe together we can be a strong force to help persons with developmental disabilities reach their full potential."

There is still some work that needs to be done before the group home can open. Heidi has been collecting applications for potential roommates and group home personnel.

"The key to a successful group home is making

good matches in personnel and residents," Heidi said. "Taking the time to thoroughly review each application for roommates and personnel is critical. We want to get it exactly right."

Simultaneously, 818 Forward with Faith is working with contractors to finish the group home.

818 Forward with Faith was established by Jerry and Judy Fynaardt to provide homes and facilitate opportunities for adults with disabilities.

"Jerry and I wanted to build a great home (for their son)," Judy said. "A place where we didn't have to be the care-giver and can just be parents."

For more information about Vodec and the group home in Pella, contact Heidi Hall at hhall@vodec.org or 515-777-2114.

Learn more about 818 Forward with Faith at www.facebook.com/pg/818forwardwithfaith/about/?ref=page_internal and www.forwardwithfaith.org/about-us.

Changes in Care Improve Tiffany's Quality of Life

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Once this other individual ended their day services with Vodec, Tiffany's opportunities to have full-time interactions with other individuals in the Elm department minimized due to a majority of individuals not having the ability to verbalize.

This prompted staff to discuss the option of transitioning Tiffany into Vodec's other day service program, the Cares department.

Cares offers a much different setting compared to Elm as most of the individuals have a higher level of communication and ability to interact with each other.

Due to this, there is a higher level



Tiffany moved from ELM to NE Cares earlier this year to help her improve her communication skills.

of participation in daily interactive group activities.

Tiffany spent two trial days in Cares, and during this time, she was closely observed by staff. In these two days, they were able to note that although it would be a significant transition for Tiffany, and would take time to learn a new routine, the Cares program might be

the road that would help her continue to grow in her ability to maintain appropriate interactions and boundaries, along with increasing her communication and listening

skills.

Tiffany has been in the Cares program for a few months now, and she has adapted wonderfully, according to staff.

She has already shown progress in maintaining appropriate interactions, along having increased her communication and listening skills with her peers and staff.

Based on Tiffany's first few months in Cares, staff believes her transition has been and will continue to be a positive change.

"We look forward to Tiffany's future in the Cares department," said Megan Davidson, Elm Days Services Supervisor. "We are proud to be a part of her journey as she continues to increase communication and listening skills with her peers and staff and progress in any other goals areas that may need attention in the future."



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Vodec Receives Iowa's Highest Provider Rating

According to data compiled by the Iowa Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Vodec has received Iowa's Highest Overall Provider Rating.

Vodec's Supported Employment Services in Council Bluffs received an overall community rehab provider (CRP) rating of 10, placing Vodec first among community rehab providers throughout the state of Iowa.

According to the data for the year ending in 2018, Vodec was the only CRP to have an overall score of 10. Data was collected on 76 CRP locations.

The CRP rating ranks services based on indicators established as part of program requirements and expectations for service delivery, according to information provided by IDVRS.

"Supported Employment Services (SES) are intensive and thus expensive to provide," said Steve Hodapp, Vodec CEO. "We need funding from both IDVRS and the Mental Health Region to keep our momentum moving in a positive direction. For consumers that truly want a community job, these

services are vital."

A CRP's overall score for SES is determined by its performance using four established factors: wages earned, hours worked, rehabilitation rate and service timeliness.

The CRP rating information helps demonstrate the progress made in Iowa each year between partners and adds detail that can help inform a consumer in selecting potential providers.

Vodec works with local IDVRS to provide a variety of services funded by IDVRS and the Southwest Iowa Mental Health Region. Vodec requires intense training, including completing a certification process that is nationally recognized. For decades, Vodec's SES have earned the highest level of accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

For more information on Vodec's SES, contact Services Development Director Daryn Richardson at daryn@vodec.org or 712-328-2638.

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

