

Vodec CEO Honored at NASP Conference

Vodec CEO Steve Hodapp, is the recipient of the 2025 Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP) Excellence in Innovation Award for Leadership. This inaugural award recognizes Steve's outstanding contributions to advancing innovative practices. "Under his leadership, Vodec has implemented numerous forward-thinking programs that have significantly enhanced the quality of services and supports for people with disabilities," said Andrea Smith, Quality Assurance Director.

Hodapp received the award at NASP's 2025 Innovation conference in Lincoln, NE. During the luncheon on the first day, Smith was called to the stage to read her nomination of Hodapp for the Innovation and Leadership Award. Hodapp was presented the nomination on stage by Alana Schriver, Executive Director of NASP. "The award was a complete surprise," stated Hodapp, "I am honored and touched to have been recognized by my peers."

"If you know Steve, he is always identifying "teachable moments" to keep us engaged and encouraging us to think outside the box," explains Smith. According to Smith, Hodapp's philosophy is, "It's not a matter of if you can do it, but rather how you can do it." This is the philosophy that has led to the creation of amazingly innovative programs created by Vodec over the last two-and-a-half decades.

Smith explains that Hodapp's philosophy is also at the core of Vodec's strategic planning. Hodapp believes that innovative strategic plans must be developed with flexibility. Flexibility allows Vodec to continue to create opportunities and quickly react to changes and new challenges in the business of supporting people with disabilities. "Steve has taught us that innovation is not a one-time occurrence, but a long-term strategic philosophy," adds Smith.

Hodapp is a 43-year veteran in helping adults with intellectual disabilities reach their full potential by serving in several leadership positions. In 1997, Hodapp was asked to serve as the CEO of Vodec. During his time with Vodec, Hodapp has collaborated with community leaders, Board members, teachers, parents, and people with



Above left to right : (Nebraska Services Operations Director, Micky Jackson, Quality Assurance Director, Andrea Smith and CEO, Steve Hodapp who is holding the NASP award.



Above: Hodapp (Center) stands next to Thomas Jefferson Special Education Administrator Mike Bond and others at the 2010 HRAM Vital Link Award ceremony.

disabilities. Hodapp has facilitated the creation of sustainable programs and services that lead to good jobs and community integration for individuals with disabilities. Examples of these programs are Vodec's Elm program, a program for individuals with multiple disabilities, and the student programs: The Adult Transition Program, The Work Experience program, and the SEAC program, to name a few. The SEAC (Supported Employment and Academic Collaboration) program received the Human Resources of the Midlands (HRAM) Vital Link Award in 2010 and was recognized by Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services in 2012.



Announcing a New Home for Our Urbandale Development Center



Steve Hodapp, CEO

I am thrilled to announce that after a long search, we have settled on a new home for our development center in Urbandale, Iowa. We have purchased

a building in Urbandale at 10513 Buena Vista Court. At this time a move-in date remains to be determined as there are a few improvements to complete first. But it will be no later than the end of June.

We started providing service in the area out of a small space in Adel, Iowa, just west of Urbandale, in 2016. Initially, we provided residential service: group homes and host home settings. In 2017 we had an opportunity to provide a day habilitation service and later a student-focused adult transition program (ATP) so we moved to the current larger space in the Aurora Business Park in Urbandale. It is from that location we'll be moving.

The new location is only about eight minutes from the current location on 114th Street. It is a free-standing building with adequate space in which to provide our adult-focused day habilitation services we brand as Cares and Transition Focus, and the ATP for students. Employees supporting the host home settings will also base in the building.

The building sits on attractive grounds with green space and numerous parking stalls. There is an outside area for picnics and to enjoy nature. There'll be adequate space inside for consumers' team meetings and for employees' training events.

Preparations Underway for New Location in Urbandale

As a result of Vodec purchasing a new building, Vodec will transfer its operations from the Aurora business park to the new location at 10513 Buena Vista Court Urbandale, Iowa. Preparations are being made for the move to the new building.

In the new location, carpet tear-out is underway, and installation of the new carpet will begin shortly. Work crews will start painting the interior. The bathrooms are being updated. New exterior signage is being ordered and installed. Other improvements to the roof and building are also taking place.

Once the building is ready, the furniture and office equipment will be moved from the old location to the



Above (top photo): Current View of 10513 Buena Vista Court.
Above (bottom photo): The picnic area at 10513 Buena Vista Court.

But this is more than just space for services and meetings and such. It demonstrates a commitment to the people we support in the area and to the services we do and will provide there. It is a commitment to make our mission a living statement: 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 reach their full potential.

After we're settled, we'll have an open house. That announcement should come this summer. We want you to see our commitment to the future.



Above and left: The interior of 10513 Buena Vista Court.

new location. "There will be no disruptions in service as a result of the move," says Steve Hodapp, Vodec CEO. "We will move everything over the weekend as we have done before. Consumers will leave the old building on a Friday afternoon and arrive at the new building Monday morning." An exact move-in date has not been determined.



Trip to Spain for Shared Living Consumers

Harris and Tim, Vodec consumers in the Shared Living Provider (SLP) program visited Málaga, Spain last February. They were accompanied by Chris Elem, their shared living provider. Elem purchased their tickets, helped them obtain their passports, provided support during their trip and acted as a tour guide. Both Harris and Tim saved the money for their trip and split the cost of accommodation with Elem and another individual. Harris is familiar with traveling outside of the country; however, this was Tim's first time.

For Tim and Harris this trip was an adventure that broadened their experiences. "Our journey to Málaga, Spain, was an exciting experience," States Elem. "From our view of the sea every day- to all day tours to Ronda, Spain, and Puerto Banús, along with the incredible meals we enjoyed, it was truly memorable." Elem, Harris and Tim traveled along the Costa del Sol, went for strolls along village streets in Ronda, and admired the stunningly colorful orange trees. They also took tours of the mountains, witnessing scenic vistas of the Spanish landscape around Málaga, Spain. They spent time experiencing the cultural heritage and history of the region, visiting local markets and marveling at the intricate centuries-old architecture. In the evenings, they sampled the local cuisine, enjoying meals from Spain's culinary traditions.



Above, left to right: Harris and Tim during their visit to Ronda, (seen in the background) a mountain village in Andalusia sited high above a Gorge in the Mountains above the Costa del Sol in Spain



Above: Tim posing with a statue in Ronda, a mountain village in the mountains above the Costa del Sol in Spain



Above: Tim waiting for his order at a street cafe in Málaga.



Above, front to back: Chris Elem, SLP, Tim and Harris pose for a selfie during their visit to Spain.

Council Bluffs Cares Consumers Volunteer at the MICHA House

Council Bluffs Cares Day Hab consumers are volunteering at the MICHA House in Council Bluffs. According to Tresa Smith, Day Services Supervisor, they fill in wherever they are needed. "The consumers chipped in by stocking the pantry shelves, and preparing vegetables and fruit for lunch," said Smith. "During their most recent visit, they volunteered to clean and organize the playground and children's room."

MICAH House, founded in 1986, is an emergency family homeless shelter that provides shelter and support services to hundreds of children and adults annually.

Through a network of services, MICAH House provides support and security to individuals who are uncertain about their future and are worried for the safety and



Above, left to right: Kourtney, Chris, Curtus, Norma, and Mike in front of the MICHA House in Council Bluffs

well-being of their children. Families and single women who enter MICAH House are provided an array of services including nutritious meals, counseling resources, an on-site health clinic, and a trauma-informed (BUDDY) play program.



Our mission 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 an equal opportunity employer. There is equal opportunity for services and for employment, retention and advancement without regard to race, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability and veteran status or any other classifications protected by state or federal law.

Vodec is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations may be tax-deductible (consult your tax preparer for specific information about this).

We appreciate these generous donors.

- Jeremy Dunkirk
- Miles and Crystal Havekost
- Steve Hodapp
- Andrea Smith

Wish List

To make a donation call 712-328-2638 today.

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| Reading books | 3 Tablets (Ipad or Micorsoft Touch) |
| Art Supplies (paints/paper) | 3 touch lights |
| Giant Connect Four | Water Balloons for Outdoor (Picture A) |
| Giant Jenga | 18 Pack 16.5" Water Gun, Super Soaker Blaster Squirt Guns |
| Sidewalk Chalk | Waterpark Sprinklers for Outdoor Activities (Picture B) |
| Outdoor Games | |

A



B



Vodec is accredited by:

- The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

Vodec is certified by:

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

Vodec is affiliated with the following organizations:

- Council Bluffs, Iowa Chamber of Commerce
- 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)
- Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce

For additional information about Vodec, please get in touch with Daryn Richardson at drichardson@vodec.org or call (712) 328-2638.

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

- Wellpoint
- Iowa Total Care
- Molina Healthcare

Vodec is a contracted Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) with the Iowa Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Vodec Entrance Criteria

Have behavior which is NOT dangerous to self or others;
 Have medical needs within Vodec's scope of service;
 Have transportation needs within Vodec's capability to provide;
 Have funding in place prior to service provision;
 Be at least 16 years of age for employments services;
 Be between 13 and 19 years of age for the Iowa Youth Services Program;
 NE Family Support Waiver eligibility is up to 21 years of age.

