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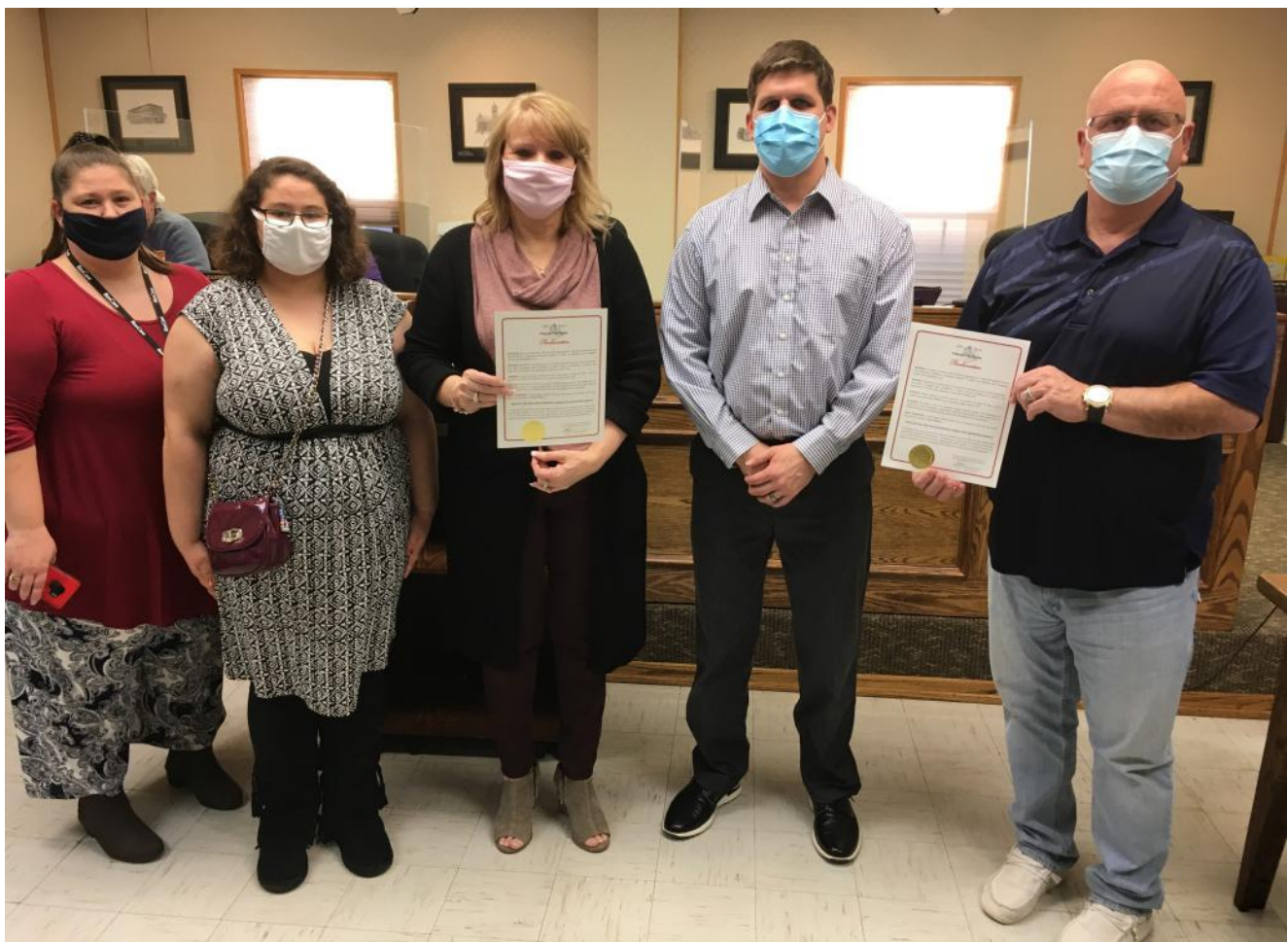
“HEAR” WHAT’S HAPPENING “HERE” AT TWIN RIVERS

January through March 2021

National Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

To celebrate and recognize people with disabilities the City of Arkansas City Designated March as National Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

On Tuesday, March 02, 2021 Mayor Scott Rogers presented provider agencies with the proclamation and called upon the citizens of Arkansas City to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities. “Furthermore, I encourage the citizens of Arkansas City to seek information from those organizations with expertise in matters concerning professionals who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities” proclaimed Mayor Rogers during the City Commission meeting.



Lara McGrew, CEO is pictured with Mayor Rogers and representatives from other provider agencies.

Consumer Spot Light

Jacob Wilson joined the Twin Rivers day and residential programs in 2010.

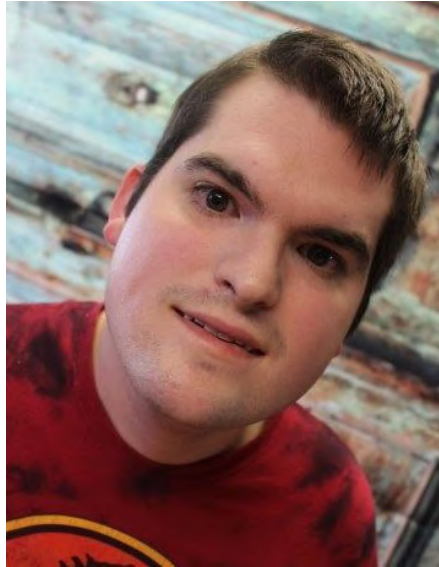
He grew up in Ark City with his family and attended Winfield High School.

Prior to the pandemic Jacob attended the Windsor complex day program in Arkansas City Monday through Friday.

He is very laid back while at the complex and could often be found relaxing in his favorite chair. Jacob has very much missed work and staff member Joe during the pandemic.

Jacob grew up in Arkansas City and attended Winfield High School. He currently resides in Winfield with his roommates.

One of Jacobs favorite things to do is spend time outside in nature where he can look and listen to everything. He enjoys the solitude while outside.



He is a very independent individual who likes to do things for himself. He also enjoys consistency.

A favorite activity is getting out of the house and taking a van ride with his staff. Jacob's dream job would be a school bus driver.

Before moving to his home on 12th street he lived with his mom

and dad. He has an older brother named Greg.

Jacob enjoys sending emails to his mom to let her know how he is doing. Prior to the pandemic he enjoyed going to his parent's home for Sunday visits.

Jacob also enjoys having boy's day with his stepdad Steve.

He is a true pleasure to have at Twin Rivers and has been missed by everyone at the day program during the pandemic.

Employment Opporunties

Twin Rivers currently has direct support positions available in both the day and residential programs.

Qualifications: High School graduate or GED is required. Experience in working with the handicapped is preferred.

KBI, driver, ANE, KDHE and Medicaid fraud checks are completed on all employees. Drug testing will be done pre-employment and randomly. KDOT physicals are required for some positions. Twin Rivers is an equal opportunity employer.

For additional information or to apply please visit www.twinriversdevelopmental.com Applications may also be submitted in person at 22179 D Street, Strother Field.

Working at Twin Rivers you can make a difference in the lives of others!

Staff Spot Light

Hello to everyone! My name is Lexie Perrett, and I am the new Registered Nurses in support services for Twin Rivers! Although I have lived in Arkansas City for most of my life, it will take me some time to get to know everyone's faces and names here.

Nursing has been a great journey for me, and it all started over a decade ago working as a direct support professional at another company in our community. Having experience in this very unique area of healthcare is a really special adventure in life, which not enough people get to have. Through nursing, I have discovered how truly unique every single person is, with or without IDD. That is the philosophy I try to carry with me through my work, in order to tailor care to each person served, in a way that best suits them for success.



In the future, I would like to continue my education. It is my hope to go on and obtain my bachelors in nursing, or RN-BSN, and then continue to go on after that. Part of the appeal to working at Twin Rivers, is that I see it as a place where I can balance my home and work life, so that I can go on with my education, while supporting my family at home.

At home I have three children, a husband, two dogs and a cat. That is enough to keep me busy on any given day.

When the weather is nice, we spend lots of time outdoors in the garden, cooking out, and camping. My children are great helpers with the summer vegetables that we grow. The thing I am most looking forward to this summer is getting to go back to the beach at the lake, and soaking up some sun to catch up on my vitamin D production!

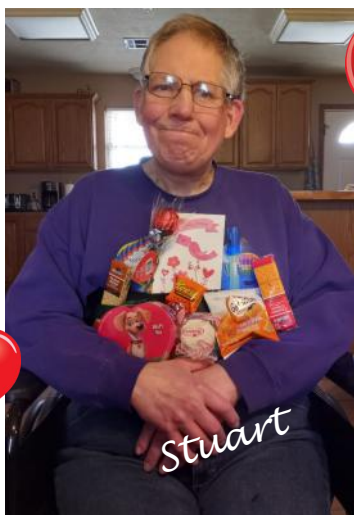
I am very excited to be beginning my journey with everyone here at Twin Rivers, and for all the experiences to come. It is my goal to serve everyone here the best I can, and hopefully teach some valuable health habits along the way. I look forward to whatever the next year may hold here with all of you!

Valentines Day

Our individuals all enjoyed a heart shaped donut, a card and a gift bag for Valentines day. The ladies received flowers as well.



John



Stuart



Delbert

A Letter from Lara McGrew, CEO

Our agency has just ended a most unusual and unexpected year. Something we had never heard of before, Covid-19, took over in nearly every way.

Last year started out on a positive note. The Kansas Legislature approved much needed funding to increase pay for our amazing employees and others who do similar work across the state. Unfortunately funding that was budgeted for those pay increases was lost before we even had a chance to put it to good use. Concerns about what COVID had done to our economy caused that funding and numerous items to be cut from the state's budget.

As we look back on 2020, the bigger story related to trying to keep everyone safe and healthy by staying home as much as possible, wearing protective masks, and following other safety measures suggested by the experts. We focused on caring for those who tested positive and trying to limit the spread to others. We also struggled to find staff to cover those positions and other residential positions.

The Cowley County Health Department organized vaccination efforts for essential workers and consumers. COVID vaccinations will continue throughout this year. Any consumer or employee who did not get the vaccination may contact Gina Riggs, Human Resource Manager to make arrangements with the health department to get vaccinated.

Final Rule

On March 14, 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the Home and Community Based Services Settings Rule. The Rule requires states to review and evaluate Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) where HCBS participants receive services to determine current compliance with the rule. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) has created a State transition plan to assess compliance with the HCBS settings rule and identify strategies and timelines for coming into compliance with the rule. More information about the rules can be found on CMS' Home & Community Based Services webpage.

Property Donated to Habitat for Humanity

Twin River's Board of Directors approved the donation of a lot to Habitat for Humanity to be utilized for their 20th home. The new house was built for the family of NaCole Wakefield.

The property was originally donated to Twin Rivers many years prior by the City of Arkansas City. As the property is adjacent to an existing agency group home we cannot utilize the property. Under new HCBS settings, "Final Rule" due to the close proximity to our C Street location we are strongly discouraged to build a Twin Rivers structure at the location to avoid the appearance of an "institutional setting".

We are very pleased to see the lot be utilized for a wonderful purpose and lovely new home.



Twin Rivers Mission

To assist individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve their optimal development of skills and abilities.

For more information on our services, please contact us.



Twin Rivers Developmental Supports, Inc.
P.O. Box 133
Arkansas City, KS 67005
620-442-3575 or 620-221-6148

www.twinriversdevelopmental.com

Board of Directors

Sarah Griggs
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