

OCCK inc. Spotlight

Shelia Nelson-Stout receives Distinguished Leadership

Interhab's Mark Elmore Award for Distinguished Leadership went to Shelia Nelson-Stout, President/CEO of OCCK, Inc. The Mark Elmore Award for Distinguished Leadership has been awarded to Leaders within the Kansas I/DD Services system annually since 1996. The award is a tribute to recipient's personal and professional integrity as well as their statewide contributions to progressive excellence on behalf of Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The award is named in honor of Mark Elmore, who was first to receive the award in 1996.

Interhab is the state association for providers of community services to



Brenda Maxey, Executive Director, TECH presented the award to Shelia Nelson-Stout.

Kansans with developmental disabilities. They serve their members through support, technical assistance, and advocacy. Through their members, they provide leadership at the local, state, and federal level in support of persons with disabilities.

Throughout her career, Shelia has been a visionary for people with disabilities. When she helped start the Independent Living Program at OCCK, people didn't own or rent their own homes in communities. She helped bring that forward in North Central Kansas. Her career spans the gamete and this helps her understand some of what people go through in our system, and that is a unique characteristic that not many people can relate to, and that is one of the reasons she is a distinguished leader and sets her apart from others." said Mieke Hoeffner, Disability Planning Organization of Kansas.

"Shelia exemplifies the word advocacy when it comes to people with disabilities. She's been in the industry all of her career, and is such a positive influential individual. Folks with disabilities aren't just people that Shelia provides services to, these are her friends, these are her family, these are her co-workers. She has such a respect for everyone, whether it is a person with a disability or not. Having known Mark Elmore, and also knowing Shelia, you see the same kind of passion they have for people we provide

services to. You see the same drive that is coming from that internal heartfelt concern of what is going to be the best that we can do for people; and also the creativity and innovation of looking outside of the normal realm and really seeing the possibilities that are out there for people. They didn't ever forget how to have fun while you are also doing your job, and making sure that the people you are providing services to are also enjoying the journey of their life", said Brenda Maxey, Tech, Inc.

"She was a good touch stone for information about how things work in the real world of disability services. She has been invaluable to our advocacy efforts. You have to have someone looking from the core, at the whole picture, trying to moderate our worse impulses and encourage our best impulses, and that is who Shelia has always been", said Tom Laing, former Director of Interhab.

Nelson-Stout, a native of Courtland Kansas, graduated from Marymount College with degrees in Sociology and Psychology. She was hired in 1981 by OCCK to establish Independent Living Services. She has been a trainer, supervisor, coordinator, and director of various services for OCCK. In 2003, she was appointed Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and in 2011, Shelia was selected as the President and Chief Executive Officer.

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Nelson-Stout serves on the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns Employment First Oversight Commission, and is on the Executive Committee for Interhab. She has also served as a Chairperson for the Kansas Disability Caucus starting in 1989.

Throughout her career, NelsonStout has been very active in the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities. In 1987, she served on the SRS Committee that developed home and community based services for people with traumatic brain injuries. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and was president of the board for the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living. She has been appointed by three Governors to serve on disability related Boards or Committees.

Nelson-Stout lives with her family in rural Ottawa County.

Ellsworth & Dickinson County Job Fairs Held

Workforce Solutions along with Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce and Smoky Hill Development Corporation held a Job Fair at the Ellsworth Golf Course Meeting Room on Thursday, June 20th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Over 10 employers attended. Although job seeker turn-out was low, several employers expressed they were thankful for the opportunity to network with each other and look forward to future job fairs in Ellsworth County.



Workforce Solutions in collaboration with the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, Dickinson County Economic Development Corporation, Tri-County Area Chamber of Commerce, and KANSASWORKS held a Job Fair at the Abilene Civic Center on Thursday, June 13, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over 20 employers were present. The Social Security Administration and KANCARE- Working Healthy Benefits' Specialist were also invited, they answered questions from participants about additional income thresholds while receiving SSI/SSDI payments, and retaining or receiving Medicaid benefits while employed. Over 100 eager job seekers took advantage of the opportunity to talk with employers from various employment sectors within Dickinson County, and across the State. This was the first of its kind in Dickinson County.



Shelia Nelson-Stout, *President/CEO*
Jan Pfannenstiel, *Editor*

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strengthening the quality of life
and independence of persons
with disabilities since 1970

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Susan Sprague Promoted to Vice President of Communication and Expansion



I am pleased to announce that Susan Sprague has accepted a promotion to Vice President of Communication and Expansion.

Since Susan has joined our team in January 2018 she has become an invaluable leader and team

member at OCCK.

Susan attended Kansas State University where she got her Undergraduate Degree in Psychology while working nights and weekends at St. Mary's Hospital. She then went on to get her Master of Science Degree in Human Services from Kansas State University.

She began her career as a Case Manager for the Manhattan Area Agency on Aging. She says, "For me, there was absolutely nothing more rewarding than working with families and helping them to navigate through the Medicaid and Medicare system."

While with the AAA, she moved up into management and then became a Director. After 18 years with the Area Agency on Aging she came to work for OCCK for 3 months, and then she accepted a position with the Managed Care Organization, Amerigroup, part of the new KanCare Medicaid program. Her initial position as Case Manager changed into Manager for I/DD, and then Manager for FE. She then moved into the position of PD, FE, TBI, NF and MFP Programs Director. She says, "Wow, did I learn a lot!"

Susan moved to Kansas from Nebraska in 1989. She is married and has 2 kids. Her oldest is married and just moved back to Manhattan from Colorado Springs, and her youngest is a freshman at Pittsburg State University.

As the Vice President of Communication and Expansion for OCCK, she will lead Directors in Beloit, Concordia and Salina. She will continue to assist us with growth such as the current partnership with the Alzheimer's Association and KU Medical Center. She will lead us toward expansion of services, grant opportunities and partnerships as OCCK strives to meet more people's needs in our 9 county area.

Congratulations, Susan!

Employment Expo Draws in Potent

The OCCK 29th Annual Employment Expo was held on Thursday, October 10th at Salina's Central Mall from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This year's expo featured more than 30 booths with a wide range of employers seeking employees in home health, nursing and home care, manufacturing, mental health services, disability services, rehabilitation, trucking, employment services, driving and city jobs. The event was organized by Workforce Solutions, a division of OCCK.

This year's event featured a live remote through 99KG. Employers were able to promote their business and advertise current openings while live on the air. Employers at the event provided positive feedback and said there were more job seekers this year and it was a great opportunity for them to network with other employers.

The hospitality suite was set-up and maintained by the interns from Project SEARCH at Salina Regional Health Center. KansasWorks mobile unit was available in the mall parking lot to assist with online job applications, printing, and assistance to job seekers attending the event.

Sponsors for the expo included: Central Mall, KansasWorks, Project SEARCH, Salina Regional Health Center, OCCK Workforce Solutions, Salina Human Resource Management Association (SHRMA), Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Eagle Communications and Rocking M Media.

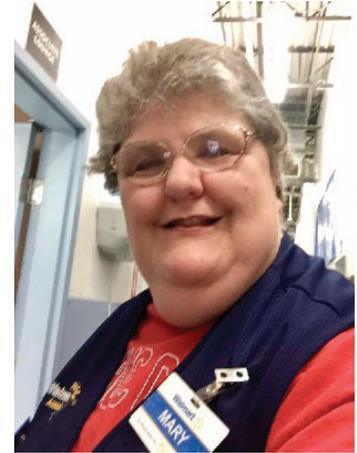
Special Employees and Employers

Workforce Corner

Employee of the Quarter

Success Stories

Jane Doe



Jane Doe

Jane Doe



Employers of the Quarter

Salina Family YMCA
Eaglecrest Retirement Community
Central Mall
Goodwill Retail
Salina Regional Health Center
Acoustic Sounds
Sodexo (KWU Dining)
Best Western
A.J. Sports Grill - At The Alley
Sonic
Baymont Inn & Suites
Continental Tire Center
United Parcel Services
Quality Designs - Winfield

Game Stop - Great Bend
Footlocker Distribution Center - Junction
City
Wildcat Painting - Manhattan
Meadowlark - Manhattan
PrairieLand Products - Abilene
Russell Stover Chocolates - Abilene
OCCK - Abilene
Easy G's - Concordia
Short Stop - Concordia
Mount Joseph Senior Village -
Concordia
Minneapolis Health and
Rehabilitation Center - Minneapolis

Contributors

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Please contact Jan Pfannenstiel 827-9383 at ext. 148 if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events

March

March 4 Brain Injury Support Group
1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
4:30 p.m.

April

April 8 Brain Injury Support Group
1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
4:30 p.m.

May

May 6 Brain Injury Support Group
1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
4:30 p.m.

Alternate Formats

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