

OCCK inc.

Spotlight

Youth Summer Bus Pass Program to Start

Salina CityGo is continuing the successful “Get On & Go” program for Salina area youth ages 7-18.

Youth ages 7-18 will be able to purchase a “Get On & Go” Summer Youth Bus Pass for \$10. The pass will be good for unlimited rides on Salina CityGo from June 1 to August 31.

Youth must show the drivers their “Get On & Go” pass when they board the buses.

Riding the bus gives kids the freedom to get around in the summer. The

“Get On & Go” Summer Youth Bus Pass is a great way for kids to get to Kenwood Cove, community centers, parks, the library, shopping and more.

The Summer Youth Bus Pass is available for purchase at OCCK Transportation, 340 N. Santa Fe; OCCK Corporate Office, 1710 W. Schilling; Bennington State Bank, 200 S. 9th St., and 2130 S. Ohio; Salina Regional Health Center Human Resources, 400 S. Santa Fe.

“We are excited to continue the Get On & Go program,” said Michelle Griffin, Mobility Manager. “The program has a two-fold mission. One is to help kids get around Salina safely and two, we hope getting kids used to riding the bus will increase our passenger numbers for the rest of the year. It’s a great deal and we hope a lot of families take advantage of it.”

For more information call OCCK Transportation at 826-1583 or go to www.salinacitygo.com.

CityGo spans Salina from North to South and East to West with five routes, noted by colors on route maps and bus stops: red, blue, yellow, green and purple. Service runs from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. More than 200 fixed bus stops citywide, plus two areas designated as “Wave and Ride”. Fares for the CityGo buses are \$1 for a Single-Trip Pass (recommended for one-way trips), \$2 for a Day Pass (recommended for round trips and transfers), \$5 for a 6-Trip Ticket Book, and \$35 for a Monthly Pass. The Get On & Go Summer Youth Bus Pass is \$10 and good June 1-August 31.



CityGo®



OCCK Welcomes Director of Expansion and Communication

Susan Sprague has joined OCCK as our Director of Expansion and Communication.



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." 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 in November of 2012 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 Director of Communication and Expansion for OCCK, she will 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, partnerships, and new revenue sources for us to continue to provide more services.

Welcome to the team, Susan!

Empower Me! Workshop Held "Gaining the Tools to Get and Keep a Job"

On March 21, the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy presented the Empower Me! Workshop called "Gaining the Tools to Get and Keep a Job" for area youth with disabilities. This was held at the Salina Department of Children and Families office.

Participants spent the day with KYEA staff learning in a very interactive environment. The workshop included discussion, speakers, activities, prizes, and more. Brendan Darnell of Beloit was selected as a speaker for the panel. He shared his experiences with having jobs when you have a disability. Way to go Brandon!!!



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

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

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Brain injury Awareness Month celebrated in March

On March 19th, Susan Murray, Service Director at OCCK, witnessed Governor Jeff Colyer sign the proclamation naming March as brain injury month.

InMyHome, A Division of OCCK, provides the following services for people with Brain Injuries:

Transitional Living Services
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech/Language Therapy
Cognitive Therapy

Please contact me for more information or with questions at 785-827-9383



BRAIN INJURY FACTS & STATISTICS

- Every 9 seconds, someone in the United States sustains a brain injury
- An acquired brain injury (ABI) is any injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma
- More than 3.5 million children and adults sustain an acquired brain injury (ABI) each year, but the total incidence is unknown

Typical causes of ABI include:

- Electric Shock
- Infectious Disease
- Lightning Strike
- Near Drowning
- Oxygen Deprivation (Hypoxia/Anoxia)
- Stroke
- Seizure Disorder
- Substance Abuse/Overdose
- Toxic Exposure
- Trauma
- Tumor

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is type of ABI. A TBI is caused by trauma to the brain from an external force

- The number of people who sustain TBIs and do not seek treatment is unknown

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

- One of every 60 people in the U.S. lives with a brain injury related disability
- The annual impact of TBI in the U.S. is significant: At least 2.5 million adults & children sustain a TBI 2.2 million are treated for TBI in Emergency Departments (also known as ERs) or Trauma Centers 280,000 are hospitalized 50,000 die

There are many causes of traumatic brain injury:

- Falls (40.5%)
- Struck By or Against (15.5%)
- Motor Vehicle Accidents (14.3%)
- Assaults (10.7%)
- Unknown (19%)

When someone sustains a brain injury, many people are affected:

- Parents, spouses, siblings, extended families, and friends
- Healthcare providers, including surgeons, physicians, counselors, rehab therapists, social workers, and personal care attendants

- Insurance companies that issue auto accident, individual, and group health, disability, life and reinsurance policies
- Attorneys of all types, including those who handle personal injury, insurance and disability claims, civil rights and discrimination, domestic actions, wills, estates, and trusts
- Educators at every level, but especially special education teachers and those who prepare America's future healthcare workforce
- Government agencies that administer health and social programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), and vocational rehab
- Employers of all types

For more information visit Brain Injury Association of America, www.biausa.org.

Celebrating Employee Dedication

OCCK, Inc. recognizes that hardworking, dedicated staff are a key to the high quality of services provided to customers throughout North Central Kansas. The Annual Employee Service Banquet was held at the Salina Country Club on April 5. This year 34 employees with 3 to 25 years of service received awards. The employees who were recognized were:

3 Years

Bill Arehart, Transportation, Salina
Christina Dorman, Living Services, Concordia
Kristi Fordham, Living Services, Beloit
Stephanie Gehring, InMyHome, Salina
Terrell Green, Transportation, Salina
Jim Gruber, Solution Outreach Center, Salina
Shelley Hanchett, Transportation, Salina
Mary Lou Heller, Living Services, Beloit
Natalie Lervold, Workforce Solutions, Concordia
Kristi McDowell, Employment, Abilene
Brandi Peterson, Transportation, Concordia
Dawn Sibley, Employment, Beloit
Jenny Soldan, Living Services, Salina
Shanna Sowers, Workforce Solutions, Salina
Yessica Swenson, Personal Supports, Salina
Kenneth Waldman, Transportation, Salina
Jaimie Wintholz, Transportation, Salina
Amy Wolfmule, Living Services, Salina

5 Years

Paul Callahan, Transportation, Salina
Stephanie Feuerborn, Living Services, Salina
Renee Gardner, Living Services, Concordia
Richard Holmgren, Transportation, Salina
Sierra Snyder, Living Services, Concordia
Jason Tiekling, Transportation, Salina

10 Years

Jodi Agin, Employment, Salina*
Brandon Alwin, Living Services, Concordia
Elzie Cunningham, Employment, Beloit
Felicia Johnson, Living Services, Concordia
Kendra Krier, Administration, Concordia
Kay Thompson, Living Services, Salina

15 Years

Michelle Thomas, Employment, Salina*

20 Years

James Quillen, Administration, Salina
Selena Storer, Employment, Beloit

25 Years

Rex Sibley, Maintenance, Beloit

*Not pictured

3 Years



Front Row: Kristi McDowell, Christina Dorman, Shanna Sowers, Brandi Peterson, Yessica Swenson

Middle Row: Mary Lou Heller, Kristi Fordham, Dawn Sibley, Jenny Soldan

Back Row: Terrell Green, Natalie Lervold, Jim Gruber, Jamie Wintholtz, Shelley Hanchett, Kenneth Waldman, Bill Arehart, Stephanie Gehring, Amy Wolfmule

5 Years



Front Row: Sierra Snyder, Renee Gardner, Stephanie Feurerborn
Back Row: Jason Tiekling, Richard Holmgren, Paul Callahan

10 Years



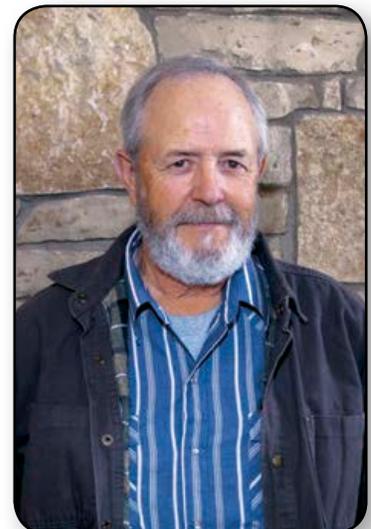
Front Row: Kay Thompson
Back Row: Brandon Alwin, Elzie Cunningham, Kendra Krier

20 Years



Selena Storer and James Quillen

25 Years



Rex Sibley

Success Stories



Jordan Nelssen

Jordan Nelssen accepted a position at Mitchell County Health Systems as a Dietary Aide in Beloit. Jordan works part-time and enjoys completing his work tasks. Jordan plans to continue his employment and is excited to expand his knowledge in his role as a Dietary Aide. Workforce Solutions assisted Jordan with interview skills, learning his workplace expectations, work tasks, and interpersonal skills.



Wendall Pickett

For over two years, Wendall worked part-time at The Salina Journal. Although he enjoyed the work he was doing, he was beginning to have difficult time due to the physical demand on his hands. He was working with a variety of machines that vibrate heavily and exacerbate his rheumatoid arthritis. Wendall chose to look for a different line of work in an environment, which would be conducive to his long term employment. He began working with OCCK, Inc.'s Workforce Solution's team in October of 2017. The employment consultants helped Wendall update his resume and cover letter, help him identify the proper dress and groom for a professional job setting, and practiced several mock interviews. He secured multiple job interviews and offers, and ultimately chose to work in the Food Service Department at Salina Regional Health Center. He was started at \$10.25/hour with shift differential and benefits. Wendall enjoys the work he is doing, experiences minimal to no work-related pains in his hands, and gets a long very well with all of his coworkers.

Employee of the Quarter



Julie Robles

Julie came to Workforce Solutions having not worked for nearly 10 years. Her original plan had her securing a job of 10-15 hours per week. She was referred through the EDK Grant from Vocational Rehabilitation. Julie was motivated to work at the Goodwill Thrift store. Workforce Solutions staff visited with Leann, the Manager at Goodwill and proposed a short term work experience. Leann agreed to host Julie. Julie started in November working as a Pulls Specialist. She started working 2-3 hours at a time a few days a week and built her strength and stamina to working 20-25 hours per week. She was hired by Goodwill in March. Julie says she likes having a reason to get out of bed in the morning and enjoys the work and the people she works with and customers she sees at work. She says the money is nice too! Well Done Julie!

Employers of the Quarter

Goodwill, Inc.
Kansas Buffet Company
Saina Regional Health Center
Perkins Restaurant
Rods Thriftway, Concordia
Belleville Health Care Center
Larned State Hospital

Daylight Donuts, Manhattan
Rosenberg Family Dentistry,
Great Bend
ResCare West Great Bend
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Keeping people independent through Assistive Technology

People tend to go through their daily lives performing a number of small tasks to which they don't give another thought. Picking up something dropped on the floor, getting a glass of water, making a pot of coffee. These are the kinds of tasks that many people take for granted.



The Solution Outreach Center at OCCK helps people come up with solutions to assist them with maintaining or increasing their independence. "It can be as simple as a reacher that helps someone pick up something that they can no longer reach by bending over, up to systems that are called eye gaze systems that allow children and adults to control their computer through the movement of their eyes."

The Center serves people of all ages and all disabilities in 22 counties in North Central Kansas. There are other centers throughout the state to allow everyone in the state access to these services. When someone approaches the Solution Outreach Center for assistance, staff will meet with them to start looking for solutions. Sometimes it will be an easy fix. Other times they will return to the center and bring back equipment for the person to try out. When the client has figured out their best solution, staff will assist them with identifying funding for the device. When the equipment is purchased, staff will help with training and setting it up if needed.

The Solution Outreach Center is one of 5 Assistive Technology Access Sites in Kansas through the Assistive Technology for Kansans Project. To learn more services or to call the Access Site in your area, call 1-800-526-3648.

Contributors

OCCK continues to receive gifts of service, products, consultations, and funds from individuals, businesses, and groups. We are grateful for your confidence and support.

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 Post Rock Citizens for Special Populations, Beloit
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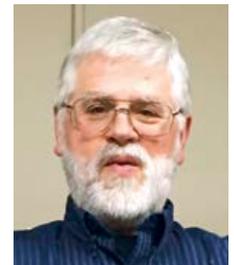
John Rodgers Memorial
 Jan Mendell, Salina

Celebrating Retirement!

Dennis Serrault retired on March 9 after twenty-five years of service. Dennis worked in the maintenance department and helped maintain properties in Salina and Abilene. While working at OCCK Dennis participated in the Red Baron AMBUCS to help promote mobility and independence for people with disabilities. We wish Dennis the best in his retirement.



Mike Gallagher retired after 32 years of service with OCCK. Mike began his career as an Employment Coordinator for the Concordia and Beloit Regions.



Mike focused on people gaining employment skills to work in their communities. In 2003, Mike began working as our Manufacturing Specialist. Mike could always find a way to adapt equipment so individuals could work if there was a way to adapt something Mike would find a way. Thank you Mike for all of your years of service to OCCK.



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

Upcoming Events

June

Jun 18 Brain Injury Support Group
 1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
 4:30 p.m.

July

Jul 16 Brain Injury Support Group
 1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
 4:30 p.m.

August

Aug 20 Brain Injury Support Group
 1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
 4:30 p.m.

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