



**big lakes  
developmental  
center, inc.**

Providing services to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Clay, Geary, Pottawatomie and Riley counties in Kansas since 1973

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# BIG NEWS from big lakes

April 2017

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## Having a Dog Gone Good Time

Several of our clients have found employment at restaurants and hotels, but one of the more unique community placements is at Howl-A-Dayz Inn & Daycare. Howl-A-Dayz is a dog care facility located at 925 Enoch Lane in Manhattan. According to their website, their mission is to provide a fun, safe, and interactive environment dedicated to the health and happiness of their canine friends. They have been open since 2006. They provide a cage-free play area for activities and social interactions for their guest dogs. They offer daycare as well as boarding services. Howl-A-Dayz is owned by Kelly Neel and Tyler Wolfe.

**“Henry is a wonderful asset to our company! We are blessed to have found such an amazing addition to our Howl-A-Dayz family!”**

Henry has been working at Howl-A-Dayz since 2011. He started as an intern

through Kansas State University’s Project Search. He enjoys playing with the dogs in the play areas. He also helps with cleaning and setting up kennels. Kelly said, “Henry is a wonderful asset to our company! He loves the dogs and the dogs love and respect him! We are blessed to have found such an amazing addition to our Howl-a-Dayz family! We hope he stays with us for many years to come!” Henry works at Howl-A-Dayz three days a week and works at Big Lakes on the Cleaning II crew on the other two days.



# ? DID YOU KNOW you can be an advocate for individuals with I/DD?

- You can stay up to date on the latest happenings on local, state and national issues involving people with intellectual/developmental disabilities
- You will receive emails (on average less than one per week) from *BLDC Big Lakes* that will keep you informed about advocacy and legislative activities
- Sign up by emailing [biglakes@biglakes.org](mailto:biglakes@biglakes.org) with the subject line **ADVOCACY**

## Celebrating 2016 at Big Lakes

The 2016 Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration for Big Lakes Developmental Center and the Big Lakes Foundation was held on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at Big Lakes. Entertainment was provided by Flint Hills Children's Choir. The Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration gives Big Lakes an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments from the previous year including acknowledging staff who reached milestones in their employment and donors who reached the Builder level in the Giving Tree Program. Plaques and gifts were also presented to the 2016 Clients of the Year from Manhattan and Clay Center.

### Staff Awards

Seventeen staff were acknowledged at the meeting. Five year awards were presented to Paula Cunningham, Residential Advisor; Oladipo Fajimolu, Residential Advisor II; Karin Glosenger, Employment Training Specialist; Lexi Harper, Residential Services Director; Mallory Huff, Work Supervisor; Lauren McClenton, Residential Advisor II; and Roxanne Sanchez, Residential Services Manager. Ten year awards were presented to Tyleshia Brown, Case Manager; Karen Qureshi, Employment Training Specialist; Janice Tidd, Life Enrichment Trainer; and Cynthia Young, Residential Advisor. Fifteen year awards were presented to Penny Riniker, Employment Services Manager; and Chris Wataha, Transportation and Safety Manager. Twenty year awards were presented to Gloria Estell, Residential

Advisor; Dee Shaw Wagoner, Resource Supervisor; and Cindy Springer, Accountant. A twenty-five year award was presented to Robin Lewis, Residential Services Manager.

### Donors Acknowledged

Twelve donors were acknowledged for reaching the Builder Level in the Giving Tree Program. Donors who have contributed at least \$500 in accumulated gifts reach the Builder Level. The following donors were acknowledged: Terry and Ginny Arthur, Ladd and Rita Braden, Patricia O'Brien, Tom Phillips and Debra Doubek, William and Linda Richter, Ben Wilson, Bluemont Hotel, Community First National Bank, Five Star Vending, Foot Locker, Eric Garzio Memorial, and Evelyn Davies Memorial.

### Clients Honored

The 2016 Client of the Year from Manhattan is Jodie Barta. Jodie participates in Day and Residential Services at Big Lakes. She works at three part-time jobs in the community at Taco Bell, the City of Manhattan, and Maximum Performance. The Client of the Year from Clay Center for 2016 is Brandon Gibson. Brandon participates in Day Services at Big Lakes and does sorting and shredding. He has improved his work ethic over the last year and will soon be achieving his goal of working on a mobile crew in the community.



*The Flint Hills Children's Choir provided entertainment for guests at the Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration.*



*Jodie Barta was recognized as the 2016 Manhattan Client of the Year. Pictured at left is Lori Feldkamp presenting Jodie with a plaque.*