



**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

May 2017

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Big Lakes Represented at Push Day

Hundreds of Kansans met at the State Capitol on May 16 for the 2017 InterHab Push Day. Push Day is a day for Kansans with developmental disabilities and their families, as well as disability advocates, to call on the legislature to put forward new laws and policies to improve and sustain their abilities to live independently in their communities.

For 2017, InterHab and its members reminded legislators to #RememberIDD as they consider increases to the Medicaid HCBS reimbursement rates that fund community-based services for Kansans with developmental disabilities. Big Lakes' President, Lori Feldkamp, spoke at the event. She said, "We have not had an increase in rates that pay for our services in nearly ten years. That is long enough for the legislature to ignore us. Big Lakes, like many other providers in the state, is having trouble recruiting and retaining staff because we cannot pay them sufficiently for the hard work and dedication they

show to our clients. For the first time in our program history, a year ago, we shut down admission because we can't serve the people coming into services because we don't have enough employees to do it."

Feldkamp also read from her letter to the editor that was in the May 12 edition of The Manhattan Mercury: "The Kansas Legislature and the governor can take an important step in the right direction by including a rate increase for Medicaid in the FY2018-19 state budget. The direct support professionals who provide essential and sometimes lifesaving services deserve to be compensated for the difficult work they perform. The people receiving those services deserve competent staff who can make service to others a viable career."

Two legislators, Rep. Sydney Carlin and Rep. Susie Swanson, came outside to visit with the Big Lakes group, and staff and clients visited other legislators' offices while they were there.



? DID YOU KNOW 83% of BLDG services are funded by Medicaid?

- Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver pays for community services for people with disabilities, such as day activities, employment and residential for 160+ Big Lakes clients.
- Medicaid funding is in jeopardy. The American Health Care Act (AHCA) which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives will be debated in the U.S. Senate in June. AHCA also includes funding for Medicaid.
- AHCA, as written, has **NO PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**. Per capita caps would limit and likely cut Medicaid funds to states, including HCBS waiver services. HCBS is not a mandated program.
- **TAKE ACTION:** Ask Kansas' Senators to protect Medicaid funding for people with disabilities!
Senator Jerry Moran: <https://www.moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-jerry>
Senator Pat Roberts: <https://www.roberts.senate.gov/public/?p=EmailPat>



Thank you to those who supported Big Lakes Developmental Center at the **2017 Grow Green Match Day** held on April 21 at the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. Donations totaling \$13,715 were made to Big Lakes. Donations from \$25 to \$1,000 received a 50 percent local match for a total of \$19,822.50. We appreciate the support of each of the donors, including the match donor. We also appreciate the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation for the opportunity to be a part of this exciting community event.

Which Wich Spreading the Love



Hugs, smiles, and peanut butter and jelly are abundantly shared as Which Wich employees SPREAD THE LOVE to the staff and clients of Big Lakes. Pictured left to right: Natalie Leiszler, Amy Kells, Tina Sorell, and Alison Bridges.

Big Lakes Developmental Center has had the privilege of being a part of Project PB&J Day with Which Wich Superior Sandwiches for three years. Which Wich is located east of Manhattan off of Highway 24 at 8207 South Port Drive. Project PB&J is an initiative of the Which Wich Cares Foundation. Project PB&J was started to bring comfort and comfort food to those in the world who need it; to let them know someone out there cares. From those affected by natural disasters to local organizations, like Big Lakes, Project PB&J is trying to bring a smile to the face of those in need and a meal to their belly.

April was National PB&J Month. For the month of April, Which Wich sold their PB&J sandwich for \$2.00, and for every PB&J purchased, a PB&J was given to someone in need.

Thank you to Which Wich for including Big Lakes in Project PB&J!