

# New Beginnings News



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Greetings!!

The new year is upon us, but 2013 was a good year to remember. We saw an influx of new individuals receiving services thru the use of county mill levy money, the DocuShred Program was as busy as ever, and the Poinsettia Fundraiser was a huge success. Our advocacy efforts in Topeka were strong once again. Although our wish for a permanent carve out was not realized, over a 1000 people gathered in Topeka last May to let our representatives know our wishes. It is almost unfair to just pick out those examples when so many other good things happened as well. We are entering uncharted waters in 2014 with the advent of KanCare.

As many of you are aware, the entry of I/DD services into KanCare was delayed. The announcement came to us around December 26<sup>th</sup>. It was an unexpected reprieve granted by the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS did not give their blessing to Kansas to begin the transition into managed care for I/DD services. Why? The reasons are many and some of the reasons more complicated than others. You may ask why isn't the delay good news? Well, because our reprieve was short lived. We heard from the state that February 1<sup>st</sup> we will officially be carved in. The next 3-6 months will provide us a good indication of how our current way of delivering services will be impacted by this monumental change. Despite repeated assurances from the MCO's and KDADS, our greatest concerns are not getting paid 100% for the services provided and not getting paid in a timely manner.

In my last article I spoke about Angela Allen, CDDO Director, going above and beyond to ensure quality services are being provided in this area. It is on a sad note that I will mention that Angela's last day with New Beginnings will be January 24<sup>th</sup>. Angela has been with New Beginnings for over 19 years and started as Direct Care, went onto Case Management, and has spent the remainder of her years as the CDDO Director. No current employee has worked longer for New Beginnings than Angela. Her dedication to her work and doing it well will make it difficult for us to find a replacement. She will be missed. The good news is that Angela's new work opportunity with AmeriGroup as a Care Coordinator will keep her in this area. We wish the best for Angela in her new capacity!!



*From the desk of: Joe O'Rourke,  
President/CEO*

## Our Board of Directors

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**By Martha Heffron  
Director of Services**



Welcome to the New Year 2014! As everyone talks about their resolutions, we look forward to what the future brings us with services under managed care. My resolution is to do whatever it takes to make the transition work. Change is not always bad and it does give us an opportunity to see how it feels for the people we serve who face many changes; often in their staffing.

The following is from the poem, “Heroes: A Dedication to All Who Work in Human Services.” by Dan Lonigro

From a section of this poem there is the following:

**PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU ARE VALUED.**

Know that I need you even when I say I don’t. Know that every day, I wonder whether you will return, and that my biggest nightmare is that you won’t. That you will give up. That you will abandon me like so many others before.

YOU are my hero.

YOU are my savior.

YOU take care of me.

YOU take care of the people that the rest of society is unable or unwilling to take care of.

And for that, know that **YOU ARE LOVED!**

The dedication of those who step up to cover shifts and keep things running know who they are. These powerful

words are directed to **ALL** of our staff in recognition for what they do. Martha

Farewell Angela..

Sixteen years ago I had the privilege of working side by side with Angela Allen as a case manager. Her dedication to NBE and knowledge of our service field has always been one of her best assets. I recall however, before MapQuest, riding around and around as we looked for the hotel we were to stay at. When we finally saw the sign, Angela quickly turned the car up the ramp...going the wrong direction! Upon arriving to the hotel parking lot there were people staring out the window in wonder at the vehicle that just come in the wrong way. And then, we had to walk through the lobby. My wonderful co-worker and friend turned to me and in a loud voice exclaimed, “Martha, I can’t believe you just did that” as she strolled ahead with all eyes looking at me. Fortunately, her sense of direction improved over the years. I will miss her laughter and sense of humor. We wish her much success in her new adventure. Thanks for making us better. Martha

BIRTHDAYS  
ANNIVERSARIES

# Employees of the Month

**Birthdays**

April Gardner	3-Jan
George Katzer	6-Jan
Michael Edwards	12-Jan
Martha Heffron	3-Feb
Rachel Clasen	5-Feb
Misty Newton	7-Feb
Diana Kelley-Sutton	20-Feb
Mandy Ryan	22-Feb
Larry Moore	1-Mar
Angela Clark	3-Mar
John Hogan	23-Mar
Melissa Gillenwater	28-Mar

**Anniversaries**

Renee Grabast	19-Jan
Barbara Mather	22-Jan
Tara Cunningham	22-Jan
Joe O'Rourke	26-Jan
Rosemary Galvan	27-Jan
Jovey Fry Fisher	13-Feb
Leann Wells	19-Feb
Kirbie Evans	20-Feb
Marilou Fry	26-Feb
Tracie White	1-Feb
Jenny Walker	27-Mar
John Mills	29-Mar
Joshua Allen	31-Mar



OCTOBER  
Bonnie Fitzhugh



NOVEMBER

Christina Rosenbaum



DECEMBER  
Angela Allen



*ABOVE AND BEYOND*



Veteran's Day Celebration in Neodesha.



Christmas, goodies for the good little Dogs at the Sedan Animal Shelter.



The gang in Neodesha enjoying "Chicken Noodle Soup Day".

## ROOM RENTAL

**MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**    \$75.00 per day

**BOARD ROOM**                \$25.00 per day

House too small? We have the room to meet your needs. Perfect for birthday parties, baby showers, family reunions, class reunions, meetings, etc. Located in Neodesha. Call 620-325-3333 to make a reservation for your next event.



Having fun delivering Poinsettia's!

# FOOD DRIVE



9 LB Box of Christmas Cheer for our Soldier in Afghanistan.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 14—Valentine’s Parties @ each site
- Feb.—April—Hanging pots at Winkleman’s
- Get Fit Training in Neodesha
- March 17—St. Patrick’s Day Party—in Neodesha

**DocuShred**  
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### Personal Shredding Program

Our easy, no hassle program allows you to drop off personal and confidential items as needed at our locations in Eureka, Moline, and Neodesha. Small donation of \$25.00 for a one-year contract. Call Joe at 620-325-3333 for more details.



Eureka had a surprise Baby Shower for Barb. David had everything he needed and then some. Baby and momma are doing good. David has stopped by and hung out with us a few times. But when the weather is bad he stays in. He is now 7 lbs. and still growing. I will get picture of him for next news letter.



Christmas Party in Eureka—2013.



POINSETTIAS POINSETTIAS!!!!!!!!!!

Eureka surrounded by flowers.



Annamarie being presented the Poinsettia Trophy. Way to go Annmarie.

*It takes only a single idea, a single action, to move the world — Anonymous*

## WINKLEMAN'S

The winter blahs have most of us down ,dreary ,and cold, but the Moline and Neodesha workshops know how to brighten up the world. They are getting down and dirty. Winkleman's Flowers once again hired us to assist with the spring flower season. We will alternate filling starter pots or placing hangers from larger pots. Walking into one of the hot houses, smelling fresh potting soil, looking at some of the flowers already in bloom makes us believers that spring 'is' just around the bend. This year we are working two different days with 3-4 individuals working from Neodesha with job coach Caitlin Moore. From our Moline Work center we have five returning individuals along with job coach Josh Allen. Winkleman's Flowers have worked with us in the past allowing new job opportunities for our individuals, plus they are our source for the poinsettia fund raiser held each fall. We would like to "Thank" Melissa and Dwayne for believing we can and do make a difference.

### In Loving Memory of Lyle Farley

As many of you are already aware, Lyle Farley passed away Monday, January 27th in Eureka. His funeral was held in Neodesha on Friday, January 31st. Lyle came from a large family and it was great to visit with his brothers and sisters. Lyle came to our services several years ago from Iola in 2011. He started here in Neodesha and then moved over to Eureka in October of 2013. Lyle will be remembered for his interest in family and "convincing stories".



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If you know of anyone else that would like to receive the newsletter or if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter you may also e-mail Donna at the address listed above.