

## Ready for a BBQ?

It's that time again, are you ready? The Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation is getting ready for our annual Boardwalk BBQ fund-raiser. For 2025, we are switching things up a bit. How you ask? By moving to Friday!!! The 2025 event is set for Friday, April 4th at the SEK Impact Center.

Proceeds from the event will help the Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation continue its mission to improve the lives of our neighbors with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Money raised from past events has helped the Foundation to build six homes as well as acquire eight homes and one duplex in our communities of Buffalo, Chanute, Fort Scott, Humboldt, Iola, Moline, and Neodesha. Thanks to our Friends' generous support, these houses are now home for 81 of our neighbors with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

"Boardwalk BBQ is a fun evening for all involved." stated Tricia Campbell, Special Projects Coordinator. "Our goal is to raise \$15,000 at this year's event. Everyone is excited for the event and we are looking forward to seeing a large crowd. We appreciate all the support that we receive in all eight counties where we provide services."

Tickets are \$35 a piece, \$60 for couples, or a table of 8 may be purchased for \$225. The doors to the Impact Center will open at 5:30 pm with dinner to be served at 6:30 pm.

We are excited to announce that entertainer Robbi Bell will perform during the evening. The seated dinner will be provided by C & S Traveling Kitchen. Our servers will be students from Neosho County Community College.

As always, our event will include our stretch, silent, and live auctions. Items had been donated by area businesses as well as other venues. Dave Petersen is offering his service as the auctioneer for the evening.

We are excited to announce that this year's live auction will include a Couple's Getaway on the Bourbon Trail in Louisville, KY and 2 nights in Nashville, TN, courtesy of Monarch Cement Company.

Tickets are on sale now, plus sponsorships are still available. If you are interested, please contact Tricia at either tcampbell@tvds.org or 620-431-7655.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Promenade: Monarch Cement

Colonnade: Hofer & Hofer & Associates

Esplanade: Ash Grove, Cardinal Drug; Hitch & Hoedown, Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA, NMRMC Foundation

Arcade: Cheney Witt Chapel



2024 Boardwalk BBQ.



Upper left, Dave Petersen auctioning off a live auction item.

Above, Bill Woodyard shows off his stretch auction tickets.

Left, stretch auction table.

## 50th Anniversary

Guess who turns 50 this year? Tri-Valley Developmental Services does! Tri-Valley was founded on May 1, 1975 and we would like to invite you to a celebration.

On May 1st, Tri-Valley will hold its annual awards ceremony and celebrate our accomplishments and successes over the past 50 years.

Please join us May 1st at the Central Park Pavilion. Save the Date cards will be sent out soon. Mark your calendars and come help us celebrate our past 50 years and look forward to our future.

Friends of  
Tri-Valley  
Board  
of Directors

### ALLEN COUNTY

Mike Hofer  
Judy Brigham

Bill Fiscus, President

### BOURBON COUNTY

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Lynette Emerson  
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Mike Reid  
Joel Norris

### WILSON COUNTY

Terry Harper  
Dr. Philip Newkirk

### WOODSON COUNTY

Sandi Eggers  
Joel Porter

## Snowfall, Heatwave! Welcome to Kansas!

The month of February has been exciting, especially the last two weeks! Massive snow storm shuts down a large swatch of the state one week. Summertime temperatures the next week.

With the Foundation, things are staying hot and not cooling off anytime soon. In November, things started heating up with Tri-Valley's annual Thanksgiving and Holiday celebrations. Check out our pictures from the 2024 holiday season on page 3.

On December 13th, the Fort Scott High School Orchestra visited the Fort Scott Service Center. The orchestra, directed by Carson Felt, performed holiday classics. The concert was enjoyed by all. The orchestra is always welcomed!

On New Year's Eve, Tri-Valley said "Goodbye" to Grace Kramer, Employment Coordinator for Fort Scott and Iola as she retired from Tri-Valley after almost fifteen years. Grace was one of our more visible faces in the Fort Scott community, thanks to her job duties as Employment Coordinator. She will be missed at the weekly Chamber Coffees. Grace plans to come visit, especially during the Greenhouse sales! A retirement party was held on December 18th in Grace's honor.

On the Foundation front, plans are underway for our 2025 fund-raisers. Our annual spring event is set for Friday, April 4th in Chanute at the SEK Impact Center. Tickets are \$35 a person or \$60 for a couple. Tables of 8 are available for \$225. See our story of page 1.

The dates for our golf tournaments are set. They are: Fredonia - Saturday, June 28th ; Erie - Saturday, August 2nd; and Fort Scott - Saturday, September 13th. Flyers and mailers will go out shortly with all the details for the tournaments.

Our 25th Annual Truck Drawing Raffle is currently underway. This year's prize is a 2025 Ford F150 Platinum Edition truck purchased from our Friends at Steve Faulkner Ford in Chanute. An entry form is available with this newsletter.

Are you interested in serving your community? Currently, we have openings on the Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation Board of Directors and Tri-Valley Board of Directors. The Foundation has openings in Allen, Chautauqua, Elk, Greenwood, Neosho, and Woodson. The Tri-Valley Board has openings in, Bourbon, Elk, Greenwood, and Woodson. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit, please reach out to Tricia at either 620-431-7655 or [tcampbell@tvds.org](mailto:tcampbell@tvds.org).

And, last but certainly not least, our annual 2025 Membership drive is underway. If you have already renewed your membership, THANK YOU! If you are interested in renewing your membership or know of someone who might be interested in joining, please contact me at either 620-431-7655 or [tcampbell@tvds.org](mailto:tcampbell@tvds.org). As always, we have set amounts, but appreciate any donation. A donation form is located with this newsletter. Or just visit our website ([www.tvds.org/foundation](http://www.tvds.org/foundation)).

The reason the Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation exists is to

support Tri-Valley Developmental Services as it serves individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities in our home counties of Allen, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Elk, Greenwood, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson.

Thanks to the kind generosity of our Friends, the Foundation is the proud owner of 15 houses and a duplex of which 81 of our neighbors with intellectual/developmental disabilities are able to call these houses "home."

Thank you!



Grace Kramer and her husband, Larry.



Fort Scott High School Orchestra performs winter classics.

## Tri-Valley Receives Grant from Fort Scott Community Foundation

In August 2024, Tri-Valley applied for a grant from the Fort Scott Community Foundation. The grant asked for funds to purchase the Friendship and Dating Program, created by the University of Alaska Anchorage. In September, Tri-Valley was awarded a grant in the amount of \$475.

The material was used to create a 10 week program for persons served. The curriculum focuses mainly on friendships and dating relationships. Ten individuals participated in our first sessions.

The Fort Scott Community Foundation hosts individual charitable funds created by donors who have a passion for giving back to their community. Grants from these funds assist people throughout Fort Scott and Bourbon County. Call the Foundation at 620-224-6500 with questions about the Community Foundation.

Tri-Valley is excited to receive this grant award. The curriculum will be very beneficial to the persons Tri-Valley serve.

## Tri-Valley holds Holiday Parties

Tri-Valley persons served and staff were busy in November and December celebrating the holiday season. On Tuesday, November 26th, Fort Scott kicked off the Tri-Valley Holiday Season with their annual holiday dinner.



The following day, Wednesday, November 27th, Neodesha Day Program hosted their annual holiday dinner with Moline Day Program attending.



To round out the holiday festivities, Chanute Day Program hosted their annual holiday dinner on Friday, December 6th at Central Park Pavilion. Iola Day Program came to enjoy the festivities.



The excitement continued in the month of December as Tri-Valley Day Programs in Chanute and Fort Scott had floats in their respective town Holiday Parades. Chanute's float took first place. The parade's theme was "A Vintage Christmas." The winning float is pictured below.



Do you shop on Amazon.com? If so, have you heard of the Amazon Smile program.

How the program works is simple. When you shop at Smile. Amazon.com, Amazon will donate to your favorite charitable organization. The Friends of Tri-Valley is listed as one of the charitable organizations you can selected from.

So, the next time, you need to buy something from Amazon, visit [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and find out more about the program.

## In Memorial

This fall and winter has been a time for reflection. During the past few months, several individuals associated with Tri-Valley have passed away. The families of these individuals remembered Tri-Valley during their time of grief and have left memorials in honor of their recently deceased love one.

Thank you to the families and friends of these individuals. Your generosity of spirit shines through during a difficult time.

You and your family are in our thoughts, always.

Memorials:  
Gene Wrestler  
Karl Umphenour  
Patricia Wallace

## Fall Fund-raisers Held

This past fall, plant fund-raisers were held throughout Tri-Valley. In 2023, we held our first ever Mum fund-raiser in Fort Scott. Due to its success, the mum fund-raiser was expanded to our central counties in 2024. Austin Bolinger once again held a fall sale at the Fort Scott greenhouse. The sale was a huge success, as always.

In Chanute, work continues on the new greenhouse that was purchased in 2024. Thanks to a donation from the former Autism Hope for Families organization, we were able to purchase a small greenhouse. The greenhouse is located on the south side of our Chanute Service Center. This year, it will be loaded with plants.

Neodesha Day Program and Fort Scott Horticulture program held their annual poinsettia sales in November and December. Money raised from these annual fund-raisers goes back to the persons served. The persons served will meet to decide how to spend the money raised this year. In the past, they have bought televisions, aquariums, and went on trips.

Tri-Valley also sold holiday greeting cards once again. 100% of the proceeds went to the Life Enrichment Programs. Greeting cards are available for purchase year round; we have a variety of cards.. We have cards for Valentine's Day, Easter, Condolences, Thank Yous, Birthday, and Congratulations to name a few.

For 2025, Austin is busy in the greenhouse growing the next crop of plants. Stay in touch with our Facebook page for his next greenhouse sale.

If you participated in one of these fund-raisers, thank you! By simply purchasing a plant or set of holiday cards, you have made a world of difference in someone's life. Thank you!

## Local Knights Donate Tootsie Roll Funds

The spirit of the holiday season arrived at Tri-Valley in the form of donations from our local Knights of Columbus councils.

On December 3rd, the Independence Knight Council #918 donated a portion of their fund-raiser proceeds to Tri-Valley. Nine days later, on December 12th, Chanute Council 1046 also donated proceeds from their fund-raiser. On December 30th, we received a donation from the Fredonia Council #1291 as well.

A huge thank you goes to the Knights for their selflessness and kindness. Thanks to the kindness of our local community, individuals served by Tri-Valley were shown the true spirit of the season. Thank you!



Lisa Clawson, TVDS Financial Coordinator, accepts the Tootsie Roll donation from a member of Knights Council 1046, Chanute.

The Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation is a private, 501(c) (3) non profit organization. This agency does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability for employment or the provision of services.

# Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation

Doors Open  
at 5:30 PM

Dinner at  
6:30 pm!

RSVP by  
March 27th

## 2025 Boardwalk BBQ

Friday, April 4, 2025

SEK Impact Center

1500 W. 7th

Chanute, Ks 66720

Tickets: \$35 per person,

\$60 per couple or

\$225 for a Table of 8!

Entertainment

Robbi Bell

Live, Silent, &  
Stretch Auctions

Door Prizes

Open Bar

Contact Tricia at 620-431-7655 or [tcampbell@tvds.org](mailto:tcampbell@tvds.org)

Visit <http://www.tvds.org/boardwalkbbq>



## Friends of Tri-Valley

521 W. 35 CH Pkwy, P.O. Box 518, Chanute, KS 66720

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please make checks payable to Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation.

Friends of Tri-Valley foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the needs of persons served by TVDS. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed my company's matching gift form.

\_\_\_\_ Please send me information about how I can make a gift to the Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation through my estate.

Give online at [www.tvds.org](http://www.tvds.org)

Yes, I wish to support the Friends of Tri-Valley with a gift:

\_\_\_\_ Membership

Levels: \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_ \$500

\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ In Memory/Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_ Please charge my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_ American Express

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish, we would be happy to send a notice of your gift to someone and include your name when acknowledging donor.

Send notice of this gift to \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/We wish to remain anonymous.





## Friends of Tri♥Valley 25th Annual Raffle Drawing

2025 Ford F150 Platinum Edition SuperCrew Cab Truck  
Tickets are \$50 each or 8 tickets for \$350



**Drawing will be held on June 20, 2025 at 1:30 pm (CST) at 521 W. 35 Ch Pkwy, Chanute, KS.**

For information or to enter:

Call 620-431-7655, enter online at [www.tvds.org](http://www.tvds.org) or  
mail this completed form with payment to Friends of Tri-Valley, PO Box 518, Chanute, KS 66720.

All major credit cards accepted.

FTV is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization offering persons with disabilities  
opportunities to achieve the quality of life they seek.

Kansas Raffle License Number: RAF000005.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Void where prohibited by law. Submission indicates acceptance of the official rules available on-line at [www.tvds.org](http://www.tvds.org) or by request- send SASE. Must be 18 to enter. All transactions take place in the FTV administration office located in Chanute, KS.

## Friends of Tri♥Valley

# Save the Date for Upcoming 2025 Events

## 2025 Boardwalk BBQ

April 4th @ SEK Impact Center - Chanute, KS - 6 pm

## 2025 Golf Tournaments

June 28th - 2025 Fredonia Golf Tournament

August 2nd - 2025 Erie Golf Tournament

September 13th - 2025 Fort Scott Golf Tournament

