

50th Anniversary Party Held

On May 1st, Tri-Valley Developmental Services celebrated its 50th Anniversary. To help commemorate the occasion, a party was held at Central Park Pavilion. Approximately 175 persons attended the event.

Attendees were treated to celebration cupcakes and punch. Each person also received a stainless steel travel mug with the Tri-Valley logo honoring our 50 years: 1975 - 2025.

Entertainment was provided by Robbie Bell, who performed hits from 1975. Bill Fiscus led the attendees as they raised their mugs to toast Tri-Valley's past, present and future.



Following the toast, the 2025 Awards ceremony began. Awards were given to individuals and organizations who actively support Tri-Valley in its mission in the counties of Allen, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Elk, Greenwood, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson Counties.

Awards were presented to the following:

Business of the Year:

Ruddick's Furniture and Flooring, Fort Scott
C & Ha Lanes, Chanute

Achievement Award:

Koby Erie
Michael Mitchell
Matthew Patch

Ed Bideau Advocacy:

Jim Godinez

Masterson Family Award:

Beth Ringwald



Friends of Tri-Valley Visionary Award:

Mike Reid*

Winfred Jent Board Award:

The City of Moline - Lisa and Mark Townsley

Lifetime Achievement Award:

The Grain Bin, Chanute*

Employee of the Year:

Melissa Gillenwater

CEO Award:

Grace Kramer



Pictures from the event may be found on page 3.

2025 Boardwalk BBQ A Success

A crowd of 158 people attended the 2025 Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation annual spring fundraiser on Friday, April 4th. For the second year, the event was held at the SEK Impact Center with doors opening at 5:30 pm. Decor was provided by Lisa Wolverton of Hitch and Hoedown Rentals. Approximately, \$13,568 was raised during the evening from stretch, silent, and live auctions. Robbie Bell provided entertainment throughout the evening. Her performance was enjoyed by all. Those in attendance received gift certificates to Wellness Journey, a new health spa in Chanute.

Attendees were treated to a delicious meal of bacon wrapped chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, salad, and roll was furnished by C & S Traveling Kitchen of Chanute, KS. Dessert was mini Bundt cakes provided by Tri-Valley Director of Programming Brenda Harrison. Neosho County Community College students helped serve the meal. Door prizes were courtesy of Tri-Valley's Fort Scott Greenhouse.

As in year's past, the auctions were the highlight of the evening. Dave Petersen once again served as auctioneer for the eventing. Two new trips were offered, courtesy of Monarch Cement: trip for 2 to Las Vegas and a trip for 2 to Nashville. Other items auctioned off include: a Breckenridge CO condo vacation package courtesy of Home Savings Bank;

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Friends of
Tri-Valley
Board
of Directors

ALLEN COUNTY

Mike Hofer
Judy Brigham

Bill Fiscus, President

BOURBON COUNTY

Vic Anderson
Lynette Emerson
Steve Sewell

GREENWOOD COUNTY

Larry Coleman

NEOSHO COUNTY

Mike Reid
Joel Norris

WILSON COUNTY

Terry Harper
Dr. Philip Newkirk

WOODSON COUNTY

Sandi Eggers
Joel Porter

50 Years Never Looked So Good

2025 has certainly flown by. It just seems like yesterday we were trying to keep warm during our winter storms and now it is 70 and 80 degrees outside.

Time flies when you are having fun. And, Tri-Valley board, staff and persons served celebrated that fact on May 1st. On May 1, 1975, Tri-Valley became a reality. Since that time, Tri-Valley has expanded its services and now serves over 200 of our neighbors with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our eight county service area.

On May 1, 2025, a 50th anniversary celebration was held. The full story is on page one. Also included with this newsletter is a fun flyer showcasing what was happening in 1975 as well as a Tri-Valley historic time-line. We hope you enjoy reading these fun items. It is always fun to look back at the past.

But now onto the future. With the Foundation, our 2025 fundraiser season is hitting the busy season. On April 4th, the annual Boardwalk BBQ was held and fun was had by all. Full story and pictures are located on page 1 and 4.

In June, we hold not one, but two fundraisers.

The 25th annual raffle drawing will be held on Friday, June 20th at 1:30 pm. This year's prize is a 2025 Ford F150 Platinum Edition Supercrew, purchased from Steve Faulkner Ford in Chanute. Tickets are \$50 a piece or 8 may be purchased for \$350.

Our first golf tournament for the year will be Saturday, June 28th in Fredonia. The next two tournaments follow a short time later: Erie - Saturday, August 2nd; and Fort Scott - Saturday, September 13th. Information for both the raffle and the golf tournaments will be included 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.

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 tcampbell@tvds.org or 620-431-7655. 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).

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!

50th Celebration and Awards Ceremony

(Cont. from page 1)

* Photos courtesy of the Iola Register

Achievement Award Recipients



Michael Mitchell(C)*



Matthew Patch(W)

Masterson Family Award



Beth Ringwald*

Business of the Year Award Recipients



C & H Lanes, Chanute*



Ruddick's Furniture, Fort Scott

Ed Bideau Advocacy



Jim Godinez*

Winfred Jent Award



City of Moline
Mark & Lisa Townsley

CEO Award



Grace Kramer with
husband Larry

FTV Visionary Award



Mike Reid*

Employee of the Year



Being named Employee of the Year came as a surprise to Melissa Gilenwater. Her family knew of the recognition and were able to attend.



2025 InterHab Advocacy Day Held

On March 10th, 55 Tri-Valley persons served and staff attended the 2025 InterHab Advocacy event at the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka. Advocacy Day is an annual spring event where individuals from across the state gather in Topeka to show their support for intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) services in Kansas.

The rally was held inside the Kansas Statehouse and it was a packed house in the rotunda. Following the rally, everyone sat down to enjoy a delicious lunch from Jason's Deli.

For the 3rd year in a row, we presented legislators and their staff with small plants grown in Fort Scott's greenhouse. Tri-Valley Representatives were able to sit down and discuss the issues with eight of our nine legislators.

Overall, it was a great day! Everyone enjoyed the trip

and meeting new friends from across the State. Thank you Representative Collins, Representative Goddard, Representative Droge, Representative James, Representative Blex, Senator Shallenberger, Senator Fagg, and Senator Peck for the great conversations.



Above, Fort Scott writes on notecards. The cards are given to legislators during the 2025 InterHab Advocacy Day.



Above, Persons Served and Staff from Iola, Chanute, and Fort Scott enjoy the festivities at the Kansas State Capitol.



At left, Neodesha representatives met with Senator Fagg and Representative Droge.

At right, Bill Fiscus meets with Representative Blex.

Below at left, Chanute hangs out in front of the Kansas State House.

Below at right, plants grown in Fort Scott are given to the legislators



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.

Boardwalk BBQ Success

(cont. from page 1)

a Branson MO vacation package courtesy of Community National Bank; a full-size recliner courtesy of Ruddick's Furniture; and Dinner for 10 courtesy of Brenda Harrison. Our stretch and silent auction was also a hit. As per usual, the lottery baskets scored the most tickets for the stretch auction! Thank you to all the local merchants that provided gift baskets for all the auctions. Thank you to Larry Holman for serving as the evening's photographer. Larry's photos are featured on the right.

All money raised from the evening will go towards the Friends projects. Since 2001, the Foundation has built six homes and acquired nine additional homes and one duplex. These houses are located in the communities of Buffalo, Chanute, Fort Scott, Humboldt, Iola, Moline, and Neodesha and are home for 81 of our neighbors with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"We could not have asked for a better turn-out on our new night. Moving to Friday was a great idea." stated Tricia Campbell, Special Projects Coordinator.

"The evening was fantastic." said Bill Fiscus, CEO. "The food, auctions, and conversation were phenomenal. Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope you had an enjoyable evening and look forward to seeing you all in 2026."

A big thank you goes to the evening's sponsors.

Promenade Level:

Monarch Cement Company, Humboldt
David & Beth Toland

Colonnade Level:

Community National Bank, Chanute
Hofer & Hofer & Associates, Humboldt
IMA
Steve Faulkner Ford
SEK Impact Center

Esplanade Level:

Ash Grove Cement, Chanute
Cardinal Drug, Chanute
Community National Bank, Eureka
Hitch & Hoedown Rentals
Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, CPA
Wellness Journey

Arcade Level:

Cheney Witt Chapel



Above, guests for 2025 Boardwalk were greeted with the above sign. Our greeters for the evening were Tri-Valley Accounting Department Christie Fritch, Michelle Reddick, and Lisa Clawson.



To the left, Robbie Bell provided the evening's entertainment. Her performance greeted the attendees as they arrived and continued through the dinner hour.

Below, the tables are set and the live auction is ready to go.



Above, Brenda Harrison speaks with Lisa Kinkel and Melissa Cannon-Smith. To the right: the lottery basket is our most popular Stretch Auction Item.



Above and Below, Dave Petersen works the crowd during the live auction.



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.