

*Planned excursions provide a  
change of scenery for all.*

OK

# DISABILITY SUPPORTS HELPS BY Navigating Care

One of the hallmarks of Disability Supports is our expert coordination of services and care. The landscape of developmental disability assistance shifts constantly. Our case managers know when changes are made on the federal and state level and apply this knowledge to better care for our clients.

Whether you are on the waiting list for services, are yet to qualify for assistance, or are ready to choose a service provider, Disability Supports can help. We assist parents and guardians at every point of entry and stage in support services. The definition of "case management" can vary, but at Disability Supports it always means putting families and individuals at the forefront of all we do.

Case Management is  
the center point for  
navigating the system  
— coordinating all  
supports *and* services.

Case management includes creating a person-centered support plan, coordinating paperwork, and finding additional means of assistance whenever possible. Most importantly, we build relationships with those in our care and their families, to provide the highest quality of care possible.



*Disability Supports' case managers guide individuals and families through the ever-changing and complex world of support services.*

— THE IMPORTANCE OF —  
Being Playful

Disability Supports owns a disco ball. They also own a karaoke machine and a well-stocked jukebox. A popular dance DVD gets played over and over, and on many afternoons a piano is wheeled into the center of the room for staff-led sing-alongs.

“Work is important. But fun is important, too,” says Sheila Goscha, director of case management at Disability Supports. Building on the gentle teaching model, activities and celebrations at Disability Supports are used as an opportunity for companionship and healthy interaction.

Normally  
no need to  
hang  
punctuation  
in body  
copy, but okay  
here since quotation  
in right-hand col. at  
same point size has  
hung punct.

“Fun is an essential part of what we do because fun helps combat feelings of depression. We hire caregivers with nursing backgrounds. Our staff is comfortable and confident with complex medical needs, which helps promote our ‘can do’ approach.”

Robin Davis, activities director for Disability Supports, plans a few off-campus excursions that repeat every year including to the State Fair, World’s of Fun in Kansas City, Missouri and Rock Springs, a 4-H camp located in the beautiful Flint Hills.

Almost every night is a social one. Birthdays are celebrated with an evening party for all those born in a certain month.

Celebrations are held inside the Community Center in McPherson, in the Assistive Technology Center in Hutchinson or on the lawn around the gazebo. With a campus built around a central courtyard, cookouts are a popular way to celebrate everything from May Day to Independence Day, complete with fireworks. Oktoberfest is a community-wide event and includes a cookout complete with

{ "Fun is a central part of what we do. Training programs  
work, but they aren't vehicles for engagement.

Fun fosters relationships." - Virginia Thornton, Senior Case Manager at Disability Supports

long dash

l.c.

STET



bierocks, bratwurst, a polka band and carnival rides. Clients, staff and their families take part in the fun.



*Parachute play in the courtyard.*

*Hand-kern  
obvious visual holes  
in junk script font,  
even where letters  
might be already  
almost touching.*

At Disability Supports parties and fun lead to what truly matters — a richer, well-rounded life. Training programs work. But they aren't vehicles for engagement. Fun, on the other hand, fosters lasting relationships.

*Dawnella, Virginia and David work together on project at The Clayworks.*

*kern  
wordspace*

*â*

*Rewrite.  
Closely but  
not exactly  
matches  
quotation  
above  
article.  
So far  
other  
quotations  
haven't been  
actual pull  
quotes —  
this seems  
a bit  
awkward  
here.*

*Pry apart ones that  
look smushed together also.*



# KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH Key Connections

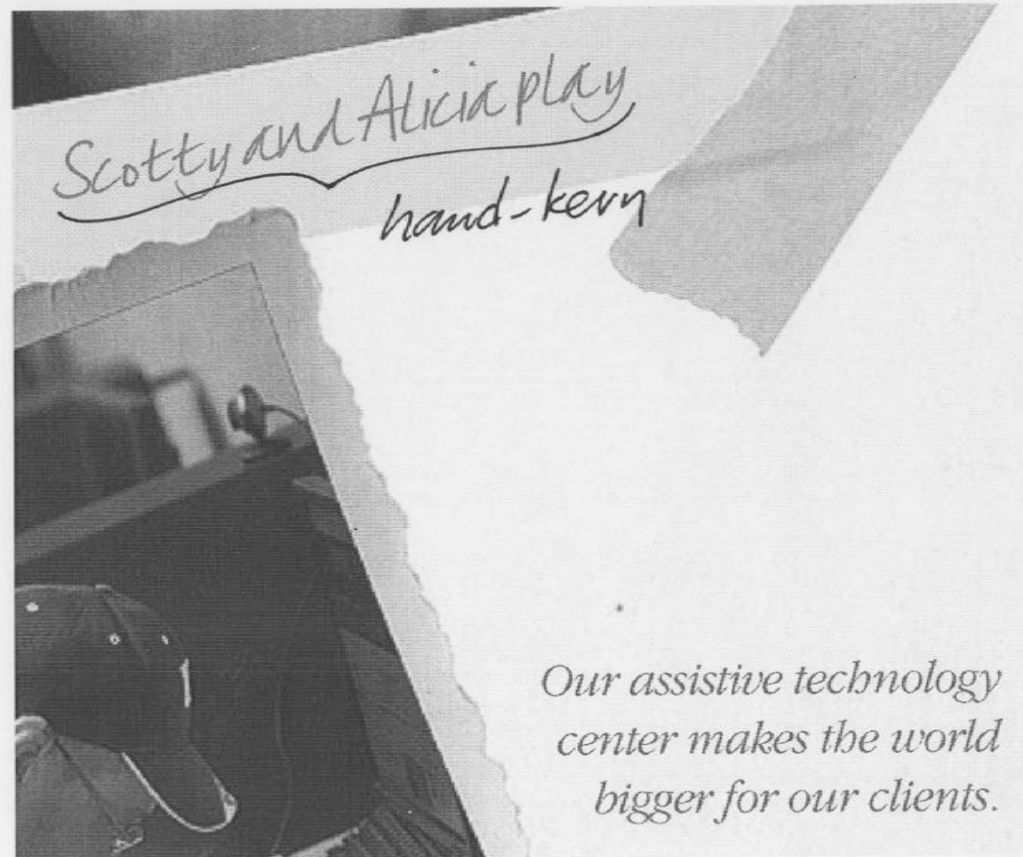
Every Wednesday morning by 10 a.m. Alicia Harris used to sit in front of a computer in the Assistive Technology Center on the Hutchinson campus. She had her breakfast eaten, face washed, hair brushed and a smile on her face. Why? Because every Wednesday morning Alicia enjoyed a web cam session with her mom.

Assistive tools are lifelines to friends down the street and relatives around the world.

When Alicia's mother moved to Oregon for a job it only made sense that she would keep in touch with her daughter through the magic of modern communication methods and tools. For Alicia and other Disability Support clients, these tools are lifelines to friends down the street and relatives around the world.

Disability Support's Assistive Technology Center utilizes up-to-date software and equipment, which gives clients constantly expanding communications abilities, including video chats with family members far away. This integration of technology into Disability Supports' services directly benefits each client's quality of life, breaking through physical and intellectual limitations, and expanding ways to communicate and learn.

Repeats  
body copy  
very brief  
but is  
brief  
enough  
not to seem  
awkward like  
instance  
previously.



# Adaptive Skills

FOR A BIGGER WORLD

Disability Supports integrates the latest technology in services and activities. The Hutchinson, Kan. campus features an Assistive Technology Center with two computer labs outfitted with adaptive equipment, Apple TV, Wii <sup>L.C.</sup> Gaming consoles and other tools that help bring the world closer. The unique elements ensure that anyone can access computers in a meaningful, productive way.

The center includes 20 computer workstations, seven of them equipped with adaptive software and hardware to accommodate different users' needs. Disability Supports does more than

make computers available. Instruction, training and ongoing support are provided as needed. The center ensures that clients can use a computer to write a letter or other documents, send emails, engage with social media, check online news, do research, or spend a little downtime playing games or watching YouTube.

**Working with social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, is very rewarding for our clients.**

In addition to the Assistive Technology Center, clients enjoy visiting the teaching kitchen to

practice basic cooking skills. Food-centered classes and activities include cooking contests and taste-offs. A recent taste-off event invited all clients to vote: which is better, delivered pizza or homemade pizza they helped prepare? Vocational training is also offered including learning basic office skills such as how to answer phones, shred paper or sort mail.

It's life on a different level, designed to enrich the every day experiences of each client according to each individual's interests and abilities. Disability Supports builds an experience-rich environment to build a full<sup>er</sup>, more engaging life.

replace with  
actual copy  
when known

{ Outline here for  
both Brittany and  
Adaptive keyboards.



## TECHNOLOGY

**Brainfingers** Some people need hands-free computer access. By wearing a headband that senses and responds to eye movements, alpha brain waves, beta brainwaves and facial muscles, clients can control a mouse and keyboard commands with the blink of an eye or by gritting their teeth.

**Tongue switches** Individuals with severe physical or neurological disabilities can hold a switch between their teeth and control a mouse or issue keyboard commands by using their tongues.

**Adaptive keyboards** The Assistive Technology Center provides keyboards with oversized keys for people who are visually impaired. Other computers are fitted with finger-traps for individuals who have reduced muscle control. Touch screens are another option.

HAVE A Nice Day

Something wonderful happens when clients arrive at Disability Supports. People become happy and fulfilled. A great sense of healing — within families and within souls — is allowed to grow. We see joyous smiles on the faces of our clients. We feel hugs of gratitude from loving, involved parents and caregivers. And we're humbled by the way our model works, creating a higher standard of care.

*Michelle (left) and Lee (above)  
and all clients and staff invite you  
to join the Disability Supports family.*

OK

## OUR MISSION

We love what we do and share what we love. We see each person we serve as a part of our family and endeavor to treat those in our care as if we were caring for our very own loved ones.

