



ROSEWOOD

WHERE OPPORTUNITY GROWS



Forever Young

In the 1970s Bob Dylan wrote a song where he tells us “May you stay forever young.” That thought hardly seems possible today, as I look at the calendar and realize we are starting our 17th year at Rosewood Services. Time moves so quickly!

As you will notice in the following pages, Rosewood has been a busy place. In addition to some of our regular events, such as the Rosewood Rodeo, Kids Day, and bringing the World’s Largest Big Top Circus to Great Bend, we developed and opened the Rosewood Winery. It’s the only winery in North America designed for employing people with developmental disabilities.

We also opened the Rosewood Studio where horsehair pottery is fired into collectable art pieces, and designer soaps and creams are created. In our Industrial Kitchen, located at the Studio, our naturally grown hothouse tomatoes are made into salsa, and fruits picked from our orchard are tuned into gourmet jellies. Honey collected from our bee hives is also used to make our products.

We then opened the Rosewood Wine Cellar to create a public retail outlet to showcase and sell the outstanding products our talented clients are involved in making.

I am proud to share that these new locations make it possible for more than 100 of our clients to earn regular paychecks. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed as the Wine Cellar, known for its quality products, has become one of the community’s favorite destinations to visit and shop.

In the midst of our flurried activity, Rosewood Winery competed in two statewide competitions with other Kansas wineries, winning gold, silver and bronze medals in multiple wine categories. We also found time to send riders from our Equestrian Team to Tulsa to compete in the World Horse Show, and we came home with a World Champion, three Reserve Champions, and many top 10 Finishes. And as an organization, Rosewood was honored as “Business of the Year,” awarded by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce.

I am proud of our clients and staff, but my expressed sentiment is an understatement to what I feel for them. There are hardly words to describe the satisfaction and admiration I feel when I look at their collective efforts. We have been truly blessed with an outstanding group of individuals.

While the calendar never slows at Rosewood, our goal is to capture and nurture the spirit Bob Dylan described in “Forever Young,” as we “build a ladder to the stars and climb on every rung, embracing new ideas and striving for new opportunities to create a better environment for those we serve, in the community we call home.

Sincerely,

Tammy
Tammy

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Rosewood Services Garners 'Business of the Year' Award

For its business success and longstanding commitment to the community, Rosewood Services earned the title of "Business of the Year" for 2012. The award was presented Feb. 9, 2013 during the 91st Annual Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Banquet, held at the Highland Convention Center, Great Bend.

"To know that a business wanting to focus on creating opportunities for people with developmental disabilities is named 'Business of the Year,' is pretty special," said Rosewood Services founder and executive director Tammy Hammond. "We are proud to be part of this community and to be able to call this area our home. Thank you for this award; it is very meaningful to me for many reasons, but mostly because it recognizes the effort and the work from all the dedicated employees who make up Rosewood Services."

New business ventures, which provide innovative employment opportunities to people with disabilities and result in products for retail sales in downtown Great Bend, put Rosewood in the running for earning Business of the Year.

In October 2012, Rosewood opened its Winery at its Ranch in Pawnee Rock, becoming the only winery in the nation to offer employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. Rosewood Wine Cellar opened in late January 2013, selling its wine and other Rosewood products in downtown Great Bend. Also during that time, the Rosewood Studio opened on north Washington in Great Bend, providing a place where Rosewood's horsehair pottery, bath products and candles are produced. The Studio also houses Rosewood's Industrial Kitchen where jellies, salsa and other homemade food products are created and packaged for sale in Rosewood's retail locations.

In spring 2010, Rosewood started producing hothouse tomatoes in its newly built greenhouse. Nowadays, client-employees grow and sell tomatoes year-round, using the greenhouse and a garden to supply a large demand for its all-natural produce.

Rosewood took a major step in advancing client opportunities in May 2001. That's when the Furniture Gallery opened in downtown Great Bend, allowing client-employees to assemble and prepare new, solid-wood furniture for retail sales. A year later, the Ranch began operation and its nationally recognized equine therapy program was implemented.



Business of the Year – Rosewood Services founder and executive director Tammy Hammond accepts the "Business of the Year" award at the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on Feb. 9, 2013 at the Highland Convention Center, Great Bend. Standing with Hammond are Rosewood original employees (left to right) Sandy Smith, Patty Halsey, Vicki Schmitt, Amanda Hammond-Fellers and Eric Hammond.



Business of the Year Criteria

"Business of the Year" is an annual award presented by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce to showcase companies that demonstrate excellence in customer service, growth, and response in positive ways to adversity. Businesses must also show community involvement and demonstrate innovative business practices by improving products, services and programs.

Rosewood Wine Cellar Creates Unique Shopping, Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Rosewood Wine Cellar has been open for a little more than a year; in that time it's become a popular shopping destination in downtown Great Bend. Business has been growing for the unique retail gift store, which promotes work opportunities for people with developmental disabilities with every purchase made by customers.

"The Rosewood Wine Cellar has become an important gateway for us to show customers what is possible for people with developmental disabilities when they are provided opportunities to work and produce in nurturing environments," said Rosewood Services executive director Tammy Hammond. "Through the Wine Cellar and our growing line of products, we've been able to convey the success stories of our client-employees one customer at a time."

Rosewood Wine Cellar sells nearly two dozen varieties of locally produced wine, made by client-employees at the Rosewood Winery, nine miles west of Great Bend. The Cellar has the distinction of providing free wine tasting, even allowing patrons to wine taste while they browse the store.

Besides Rosewood Wine, the store also carries an assortment of products made by Rosewood Services client-employees. Those products include homemade soaps and other bath products, candles, pure raw honey, gourmet jellies, horsehair pottery and specialty meats that are made with Rosewood Beef. Additionally, they make hot and mild salsa, with naturally grown Rosewood tomatoes and jalapeño peppers, as well as cowboy candy, which also utilizes Rosewood peppers. The store sells many other items, too, including crafts and gifts that aren't found in other local stores. Rosewood Wine Cellar is open Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.



Stellar Cellar – Rosewood Services executive director Tammy Hammond along with husband Eric (shown right) prepares to cut the ribbon in front of the Rosewood Wine Cellar at 1901 Lakin in downtown Great Bend on April 25, 2013. The couple was joined by Rosewood Services employees, along with Mayor Dr. Mike Allison (shown left of Tammy), Chamber Ambassadors and other community representatives. Business has steadily grown through the past year for Rosewood Wine Cellar and Rosewood continues to expand its RW products line, which grows employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Rosewood Services Uncorks Winery with Opening Celebration



Wine Country – Tammy Hammond serves Rosewood Winery's first customer Mike Boys during the open house at Rosewood Winery on October 18, 2012.

The official launch of Rosewood Winery blew in with the wind. The Winery was christened by way of an open house on Oct. 18, 2012, during a day of gale-force winds. That didn't prevent dozens of people from traveling to the country setting, located nine miles west of Great Bend, to participate in the early evening event.

Although there are hundreds of wineries in the nation, and a couple dozen of them in Kansas, Rosewood Winery is the first in North America devoted to providing employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities.

"It's an opportunity for our clients to find their passion in nurturing environments where they are able to develop skills and self-worth in pursuit of the same American Dream that you and I aspire to achieve," explained Rosewood Services executive director Tammy Hammond.

Rosewood clients apply and interview for available jobs. Once hired, they must continue to strive for excellence in the workplace, which is measured by job-performance reviews. Besides producing excellent wine, the overall goal of Rosewood Winery is to prepare client-employees for other jobs in the workforce. When a client-employee moves on from Rosewood Winery to another community job, a new opportunity opens for another Rosewood client to hire and train in the same nurturing and real-world work environment.

Currently, approximately a dozen client-employees produce nearly two dozen varieties of wine, all of them named after horses that have been a part of Rosewood Ranch, over the years. The key to Rosewood's wine-making success – aside from using quality grapes and fruit – is excellent wine produced in small batches, hand bottled and labeled in an environment where employees are coached to perform at their personal best.

Rosewood Winery is open to the public for tours and tastings from 1-5 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. For tour or tasting questions contact Rosewood Winery at 620-982-4487. The Winery is located at Rosewood Ranch, 1171 SW 20 RD, Pawnee Rock. Detailed driving directions from Great Bend are provided at rosewoodwinery.com



Rosewood Services Takes Silver at American Business Awards



ABA Participants for Rosewood Services: Anna Hammond-Bodine, Vicki Schmitt, Tammy Hammond, Eric Hammond, and Amanda Hammond-Fellers.

More information about the American Business Awards can be accessed at www.stevieawards.com/aba/

Wine Team – A year after winning the award for “Business of the Year,” Rosewood Services returned the annual Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Feb. 22, 2014 at the Great Bend Convention Center to serve wine. Rosewood Winery was represented at several functions throughout 2013, including the Catholic Social Service wine tasting event in April and the Red Carpet Premier for Golden Belt Cinema 6 in July, which supported The United Way of Central Kansas. Along with its wine bar, Rosewood has been able to bring its message of supporting opportunities for people with disabilities to each of its wine events. Pictured left to right at the Great Bend Chamber Banquet are Eric and Tammy Hammond, Patty Halseth, Robert Willesden, Anna Hammond-Bodine, Jennifer Stoddard, and Michael Dawes. Also working the wine bar during the Chamber event, but not pictured were Vicki and Brad Schmitt.

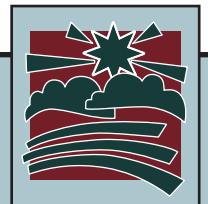


Staff Contacts

Executive Director, Tammy Hammond
Senior Director, Vicki Schmitt
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Director of Services, Amanda Hammond-Fellers
Assistant Director of Services, Jennifer Stoddard
Director of Residential Services, Erika Julian
Director of Vocational Services, Sherri Nickelson

Financial Coordinator, Patty Halseth
Director of Marketing, Michael Dawes
Director of Business Development,
Anna Hammond-Bodine
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In Memory: Christy Smith Truly Cared For Others

In a lifetime, we meet only a handful of people who stand out from the rest. These outstanding folks are people who have an exceptional ability to truly care for others from the depths of their heart, even at the sacrifice of their own comfort. Christy Smith was one of those special people.

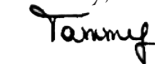
Sixteen years ago, the very first week Rosewood Services began, Christy became one of our first residential employees. Christy and her friend Sylvia had been caring for twin sisters, Margaret and Martha, for several years. The twins were in the process of switching services to our newly formed agency. On that day, as we sat on a basement floor, with no chairs and in meager surroundings, Christy and Sylvia accepted my promise of a paycheck at the end of the month. They weren't looking for a different job, but they were committed to following Margaret and Martha to their new opportunity.

I gained Christy's trust on that day, and we gained a dedicated employee who served from the heart at Rosewood Services for many years. Christy put her heart and soul into everything she did, whether it was caring for people with disabilities, or cleaning the house in her role as a residential employee.

We will always be thankful to Christy for her dedicated service to people with developmental disabilities. I cherish the nearly 16 years we were able to work together at Rosewood Services.

Christy will truly be missed by me, her fellow employees, and by all who loved her.

Sincerely,



Tammy Hammond
Executive Director, Rosewood Services

Christy Smith

Born: May 22, 1964 • Death: February 22, 2014



Shy Guys – Brady (left) and Jay perform an original song, "I Want To Go For a Ride" during the inaugural "Rosewood's Got Talent" show, held at the Rosewood Activity Center on April 4.

'Rosewood's Got Talent' Held April 4

Rosewood Services held its inaugural talent show, "Rosewood's Got Talent," on April 4, 2014 at the Rosewood Activity Center. A dozen acts performed, comprised of Rosewood clients and staff. An audience of approximately 75 clients and staff were on hand to cheer the performers and to watch history in the making.

Rosewood Red Neck Girls performed "Boys Round Here." The group was comprised of Heidi, Mary Lou, Kelsey, Pam, Ella, Carolyn, Kyla and Jane. Brady and Jay, performing as the group Shy Guys, debuted an original song, titled "I Wanna Go for a Ride." Drum Therapy participants showed their stylistic beat by performing Boomwhacker Medley. The group included Vicki, Jennifer, Melonie, Dave, Rhonda, Georgia, Jonathan, Curtis, Bernice, and Jessica. Karla and Kandy danced the Electric Slide as The 2K Sisters. Clinton performed stand-up comedy. The Happy Crew of Jesse, Jerome and Jerry danced and carried signs of expressions. Krystal gave an inspirational speech about acceptance and respect. Abby, Amanda W. and Patty did the Macarana. Josh T. and Chris showed the audience their roping skills. Kyla performed "Hello" on keyboard. The audience was treated to three cheers by the Storm Cheer Squad made up of: Josh T, Rae, Shae, Keith B, Samantha, Caitlyn, Dawn S, Chris D, Crystal A, Mary M, Darren, Robin, Roger, Jesse M, Chance M, Roger G. The rowdy

bunch of Ivan, Jere and Charlie closed out the show with their version of "Cotton Eyed Joe."

The event was organized by the Rosewood Celebration Committee: Jennifer Stoddard, Amanda Hammond-Fellers, Anna Hammond-Bodine, Melonie Myers and Amiee Bailey.

Acts signed up February through March, explained Stoddard. They planned their costumes, practiced their talent and attended rehearsals.

This year's show was such a hit that the Celebration Committee has already started planning for next year's talent show and have several ideas to make it even better, said Stoddard.



Working Together: Rosewood's Jesse Maes Earns Opportunity with Ellinwood Automotive Parts Company



Clean Sweep – Rosewood Services client Jesse Maes takes a break with his broom in the repair shop at Bumper To Bumper in Ellinwood. The state's Vocational Rehabilitation program provides various incentives for community businesses to pursue employment possibilities with people who are developmentally disabled. By taking a chance on Maes, Bumper To Bumper has a productive employee in its shop.

Jesse Maes was sweeping a floor in an Ellinwood truck repair shop during a typical workday morning last summer. With no air conditioning, the shop was already warm en route to another summer scorcher and Maes was dotted with small beads of sweat on his face and neck. Large dirt and grease splotches decorated his t-shirt and dungarees, giving proof of the work that he had already accomplished halfway through his shift.

It's a dirty job at Bumper To Bumper, but Maes is thrilled to do it. He feels value in being relied upon to do the job right! From 8 a.m. to noon Tuesdays through Fridays, Maes cleans the shop, paints, pulls weeds outside the building ... whatever tasks need completed, he enthusiastically tackles them.

He owes his status in the workforce to a combination of positive forces in his life: A workplace readiness program at Rosewood Services, the state's incentive-based Vocational Rehabilitation program, and the community employer willing to give him his chance. To get his foot in the door of Bumper To Bumper, Maes participated in a "community job tryout" in May last year. The tryout is administered by the Department of Children and Family, which grants up to 80 hours of compensation to the participant while he pursues employment possibilities.

Maes didn't need the full 80 hours. Bumper To Bumper snatched him up quickly, employing the Rosewood Services client in early June, 2013.

"We love Jesse and he does a wonderful job for us," said store manager Angie Zink. "We are happy he is here."

It was Zink who presented the possibility of a try-out for Maes to her owner when she was asked by Rosewood Services employment specialist Malinda Hatfield to consider Maes as a candidate for a posted job opening. Bringing Maes on board came with challenges. He is deaf and communicates through sign language. Hatfield cleared that workplace hurdle by equipping Maes with a small dry eraser board and a marker. He and his co-workers communicate by writing messages back and forth. However, Bumper To Bumper shop manager Casey Martin has his own method of communicating with Maes.

"I don't use the board much," said Martin. "Jesse and I think on the same wavelength. Each of us seems to know what the other is thinking. He's a hard worker."

When asked via the message board if he likes his job at Bumper To Bumper, Maes gave an animated thumbs-up sign, reinforcing his answer with a hearty smile.

Maes' employment success story began months earlier with his participation in the workplace readiness classes, a 16-week job training process conducted by Hatfield and

other Rosewood Services staff. Over the years, he has helped to hone his skills by working at several Rosewood job-training sites. Prior to working for Bumper To Bumper, Maes worked at the Rosewood Winery, located north of Pawnee Rock, for more than six months, helping to produce and bottle wine offered for retail sales around the state.

"I like to take our client-employees from the Winery and place them into community employment," explained Hatfield. "If they are working at a high level there, then there is a great chance they will be successful in the mainstream workforce."

Sixteen clients currently participate in Rosewood's workplace readiness program. Many of them are in preparation stage – learning how to properly apply for, accept and maintain a job. Some are in job-search mode, working with Hatfield and the area's VR program representative to find the right situation for a job. Still others have moved on from the program, having become successfully employed for at least 90 days. Even after that, Rosewood Services stays connected with its clients in the workforce. Hatfield said businesses have been supportive of maintaining that continual relationship.

Rosewood Greenhouse Produces Delicious Hothouse Tomatoes



Red Glow – Rosewood Services client Shawn Adams smiles as she holds up a ripe tomato in the greenhouse, just after picking it from the vine. Adams has been working at the greenhouse since its opening in spring 2010.

“They never tire of working with dirt and seed and helping it grow into something so wholesome,” said Pelster. “They take pride in every facet of growing and selling tomatoes.”

As a rule, winter tomatoes sold in Kansas don’t measure up to their sun-drenched summer counterparts. That’s because winter tomatoes typically travel long distances, so they are picked green then gassed to turn a deep uniform red. While that process pleases the eye, it results in a tasteless tomato.

But summertime flavor from red and ripe tomatoes is most always within your reach, if you are in the Great Bend area. That’s because Rosewood Services harvests Celebrity tomatoes much of the year from more than 160 plants at its north Washington Greenhouse.

The public can purchase the tomatoes in downtown Great Bend at the Rosewood Furniture Gallery. Additionally, Rosewood supplies several area restaurants with tomatoes. When available, they also will be sold at the Great Bend Farmer’s Market.

Some of the tomatoes are being used to make Rosewood salsa. Jalapeño peppers also are grown and used by client-employees in the production of salsa and cowboy candy at Rosewood Studio. Those products are sold at Rosewood Wine Cellar and Furniture Gallery, both located in downtown Great Bend.

Growing produce is a daily process for about a dozen clients of Rosewood Services. Whether it’s the greenhouse or the garden, they are involved with every detail of growing, harvesting and distributing tomatoes and peppers. From seed planting, to darkroom germination, to transplanting plants, to fertilizing, spraying, picking produce and even delivering product to market, it’s a job they take seriously, said Rosewood Greenhouse manager Frankie Pelster.

“Operating a garden and a greenhouse gives our client-employees different experiences in growing produce,” explained Pelster. “Believe it or not, from greenhouse to garden is quite different in process. But our clients pride themselves in learning every bit of each process and producing the best tomatoes and peppers, whether it’s greenhouse or garden growing. This job is a labor of love for them.”

continue producing tomatoes through mid-summer. This month, in May, Rosewood’s client-employees planted tomatoes in the garden, and will begin harvesting those plants by late July.

In addition, Rosewood is in the process of building another greenhouse, which is expected to more than double its current number of tomato plants. The new greenhouse will feature indoor heating and cooling to ensure tomato production year-round.

Rosewood Winery Wins 5 Medals in State Tasting Competition

For the second consecutive year, Rosewood Winery came home a winner from the Kansas Grape Growers and Winemakers Association Conference in January. The 28th Annual KGGWA Conference held Jan. 17 and 18, 2014, in Topeka at Ramada West. In the “Taste of Kansas” wine competition, conducted during the conference, three Rosewood Wines earned medals this year.

Rosewood earned a gold medal for Sheza Lady Principle Peach Apricot Chardonnay. The Winery took home another gold medal for Spins Isabella Raspberry Dragonfruit White Shiraz. And Rosewood’s signature wine, Boots Made For Walking Blackberry Cabernet, medaled again this year, after winning gold last year. Last year, too, Rosewood Winery took home a bronze medal for Ima Flashy Investment Exotic Fruits Zinfandel.



Wine Winners – Three Rosewood Winery client-employees stand with their award-winning wines and the medals they won in mid-January at the KGGWA conference in Topeka. From left to right: Shaun Ledesma, Jesse Maes and Darren Brown. They were joined by Rosewood Winery director Robert Willesden (right), who held two medals won at last year’s KGGWA conference.



Now in its second full year of operation, Rosewood Winery is the only winery in North America devoted to providing employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. Located on the grounds of the Rosewood Ranch, 9 miles west of Great Bend near Pawnee Rock, Rosewood Winery opened its doors in October 2012 and has been going strong ever since.

“We’re extremely excited at how our wines placed at this year’s conference,” said Tammy Hammond, Rosewood Services executive director and founder. “It goes a long way to prove that people with developmental disabilities can achieve much in life, if given the right opportunities and the proper environment to succeed. These awards are a direct reflection of their success as productive and valued citizens in our community.”

The tasting competition involved 14 wineries and more than 50 wines representing 10 categories. Rosewood earned awards in “Sweet White,” “Sweet Rosé,” and “Sweet Red” categories. There were more than 150 conference-goers, who sampled the wines and voted for their favorites.

Rosewood sells nearly two dozen varieties of wine at the Rosewood Wine Cellar at 1901 Lakin in downtown Great Bend. The wines can also be purchased at the Rosewood Winery, which is open on Thursday and Friday afternoons and by appointments. Check rosewoodcreations.com for a complete wine list and open hours at both locations.

Rosewood Winery's Signature Wine - Boots Made For Walking, Blackberry Cabernet. Winner of two medals.



Clients Create Products for Retail Sales at Rosewood Studio

A visit to the Rosewood Wine Cellar in downtown Great Bend provides a glimpse into diverse work opportunities created for people with developmental disabilities by Rosewood Services. Behind the scenes, production for many of those products happens at Rosewood Studio, located on the outskirts of the Great Bend city limits, on north Washington.

Converted from an old church, the remodeled Studio opened in late January 2013. More than a year after its opening, approximately two dozen creative client-employees work at Rosewood Studio Mondays through Fridays, helping to make products for retail sales.

Most of them work on the Studio-Arts side of the building, where they create bath products, lotions and candles, along with horsehair pottery.

Several client-employees, with a penchant for cooking, work on the Industrial Kitchen side of the building, creating jellies, salsa, cowboy candy, crackers and homemade bread. The majority of ingredients in Industrial Kitchen products are made from naturally grown Rosewood products like tomatoes, honey, and fruits from Rosewood's orchard and vineyard.

"The goal of opening Rosewood Studio was to create more diversity for people with disabilities in the workplace, creating real jobs for them while providing quality products to our area market," explained Rosewood Services executive director and founder Tammy Hammond. "Our opening has been successful, both from the standpoint of client involvement in producing products and by customers who purchase our products. Because of our success, we have expanded our products line over the past year and we have plans to introduce new goods to our customers in the near future."

Rosewood Studio follows the same successful business model of other Rosewood operations that have allowed people with disabilities to work in unique environments. They also have the option of working in various jobs throughout the work week, depending upon their interests and abilities. Besides Studio jobs, client-employees can work at the Ranch, Furniture Gallery, Winery, Greenhouse, or several other jobs that Rosewood has available. About a dozen Rosewood clients also work in jobs within the community.



Kitchen Connection – Rosewood Industrial Kitchen manager Kim Mitchell enjoys a light-hearted moment with her client-employees while peeling lemons in preparation for making lemon honey jelly. Pictured left to right are LeAnn Wegele, Rita Mestas and Ruth Ann Campbell.



Pottery Prep – Rosewood Studio manager Debbie Warren shows the steps taken to make horsehair pottery as she prepares to pull pots from the kiln. Also pictured showing how strands are placed on the pots are client-employees Clyde Hullett and Raymond Bethel (watching).

Find more about
Rosewood Creations
online at
rosewoodcreations.com



Downtown Bronze Series Provides 'A Lifetime' of Reflection



"The Bucket List" located outside the Rosewood Wine Cellar.

While the bronzes are identified as a set, they carry a trilogy of themes at the different locations, and each location bears a different name. "Remember When," located outside the Rosewood Furniture Gallery, at 1607 Main, consists of three bronzes. The first comprises four elderly men, each donning touring caps and leaning against the rail. They are watching two young boys play baseball, one hitting and one pitching.



Dream Big – Located on Main Street in Great Bend.

Historic buildings in downtown Great Bend provide a glimpse into the city's interesting past. Nostalgic and handsome, they stand tall and distinct along the heart of Main Street and surrounding blocks. But building facades can only reveal so much. Local businesswoman Tammy Hammond has taken steps to enhance that glimpse by telling stories through a series of five bronze sculptures that she has collectively titled, "A Lifetime."

Each of the bronzes provides human interest to the downtown landscape. She made a personal donation of the pieces to the City of Great Bend in April 2012, but installation was completed over a four-month period late that year and into January 2013. The bronzes were set by Great Bend business Kustom Floor Designs, as time and weather allowed. Kustom Floor co-owner Mark Bitter coordinated installation of the bronzes. Hammond said she is pleased with the outcome and the message that each display conveys.

"When I came across these sculptures, as a series, they reminded me of how quickly life passes us by and how important it is to live life to make a difference," she explained. "It is a timeless message. I hope many people will enjoy them for years to come as they reflect on their own lives."

"You can almost hear the thoughts of those men as they recall their youth and share with one another the journey from those youthful days to the present and the community they built together in between those two points," said Hammond.

"The Bucket List" is located at 1901 Lakin, outside of the Rosewood Wine Cellar. "Bucket List" comprises a senior couple, moderately dressed in their Sunday-best outfits, sitting closely together on a bench. The woman is holding a picnic basket on her lap. Hammond said the contented couple appear to be reminiscing about their long life together and the bucket list they lived to accomplish.

The third sculpture, set at 1223 Main, is titled "Dream Big." A boy and a girl sit atop a world globe, back to back, and each is engrossed in reading a book.

"It reminds us to encourage the youth of today as they contemplate the dreams of tomorrow," explained Hammond.

Hammond thanked the City of Great Bend and Kustom Floor for helping to see the project to fruition. She is also pleased with the community response to the bronzes.

"I appreciate the community's overwhelming support of the finished work," she said. "The positive comments mean a great deal to me."

Triumph in Tulsa –Rosewood Riders Excel

in Second and Third Appearances at World HorseShow

Rosewood Ranch horse riders were looking to match their first year's strong performance at the National Snaffle Bit Association World Championship Show in 2011 when the team returned to Tulsa for their second and third performances. They did not disappoint, excelling in 2012 and 2013.

Competing Aug. 16-18, 2012 at the Built Ford Tough Expo Complex, the eight Rosewood riders answered the challenge by surpassing the first year's medal count by two and notching their first world title, along with a reserve championship finish.

In the supported rider division, Jeremiah McCutchen captured a world championship. Leading the way among independent riders, Charles Bortz captured reserve champion in horsemanship.

When the arena dust settled, Rosewood had achieved five top-3 placings and recorded 11 medalist finishes in the top-10. All eight of its riders made the top-15 finals in the categories of horsemanship and trail pattern riding.

Competing Aug. 15-16, 2013, in Rosewood Ranch's third year proved to be a tough challenge, but the riders persevered, taking home 14 top-10 finishes with two Rosewood riders recording top-3 finishes, which included a reserve grand champion finish.

In the supported rider division, Jaime Crone claimed a reserve world championship in Walk/Trot Western Pleasure category. He was followed in third place by teammate Shaun Ledesma, making his World Show debut.

Representing rural central Kansas against teams from mostly metropolitan suburbs these past three years has left Rosewood Ranch manager Eric Hammond beaming with pride about his team's accomplishments.

"The success of our riders is a huge deal because there are hundreds of programs across the United States and a lot of them come to Tulsa to participate," explained Hammond. "The competition is a huge notch up from what we see in-state. The horses and their riders come to the World Show prepared to perform and compete, so you have to be ready. It's obvious that we have been ready."

Rosewood Results from NSBA World Show, Tulsa, OK - Aug. 15-16, 2013
Supported Riders

Robin Bethel: 6th place/Western Pleasure, 6th place/Trail

Jaime Crone: 2nd place/Western Pleasure, 5th place/Trail

Shawn Ledesma: 3rd place/Western Pleasure, 4th place/Trail

Jeremiah McCutchen: 5th place/Western Pleasure, 7th place/Trail

Independent Riders

Charles Bortz: 12th place/Showmanship, 8th place/Horsemanship

Chris Devine: 13th place/Showmanship

Mary Minear: 4th place/Western Pleasure, 14th place/Trail, 14th place/Showmanship, 5th place/Horsemanship

World Horse Show Continued on Page 12



Tulsa World – Rosewood Services participants, instructors and volunteers at the 2013 NSBA World Championship Show are left to right – Back row on horseback: Robin Bethel, Mary Minear, Charles Bortz, Josh Trimmer, and Shawn Ledesma. Middle row, standing: Jennifer Stoddard, Harold Thorne, Eric Hammond, Melinda Suppes, Bryan Freeman, Juan Bodine, Tammy Hammond, Brett Swonger, and Terese Wilson. Front row, kneeling and sitting: Debbie Larkin, Krystal Thorne, Chris Devine, Herbie Douglass, Jamie Crone, and Jeremiah McCutchen. PHOTO credit: Larry Williams Photography & Design Inc.



Continued from Page 11

Krystal Thorne: 16th place/Showmanship

Josh Trimmer: 7th place/Western Pleasure, 9th place/Trail, 5th place/Showmanship, 14th place/Horsemanship

Rosewood Results from NSBA World Show, Tulsa, OK - Aug. 16-18, 2012
Supported Riders

Jeremiah McCutchen: 1st place/Trail, 4th place/Horsemanship

Jaime Crone: 3rd place/Trail, 4th place/Horsemanship

Independent Riders

Charles Bortz: 2nd place/Horsemanship, 3rd place/Trail

Patricia Ledesma: 4th place/Trail, 12th place/Horsemanship

Krystal Thorne: 6th place/Trail, 13th place/Horsemanship

Rosewood Rider Jeremy McCutchen Becomes World Horse Show Champion



Grand Champion – Rosewood horse rider Jere McCutchen raises his arm in triumph after being awarded the top honor in trail pattern for supported riders during the World Championship Show in Tulsa, Okla., on Aug. 17, 2012. Accepting the award from the NSBA representative on behalf of his son was Brett Swonger. Also pictured are Rosewood Ranch instructors Kenny Son and Melinda Suppus. PHOTO credit: Larry Williams Photography & Design Inc.

Jeremiah McCutchen is a man of few words and his physical and developmental disabilities drastically limit opportunities for him in life. But those limitations never stopped McCutchen from outwardly expressing his enthusiasm for life and sharing his friendly personality with everyone he meets.

His genuinely charismatic disposition made him a crowd favorite on Aug. 17, 2012 at the National Snaffle Bit Association World Championship Show in Tulsa, Okla., at the Built Ford Tough Expo Complex. There, he achieved a world championship in trail pattern horse riding, led by his Rosewood horse handlers, which included his father, Brett Swonger.

Father walked alongside son for the first time since McCutchen began equine therapy riding nearly eight years earlier, making the championship performance extra special. In addition to his world championship, McCutchen and his horse, Principle Starlet, placed fourth in horsemanship among supported riders competing at the show.

When McCutchen was announced as the world champion, applause erupted from the crowd and McCutchen's jovial exuberance in acknowledging acceptance for his award brought tears of joy to many of the people in attendance. The moment was especially emotional for Susan Swonger, McCutchen's mother, who was taken aback by the announcement that her son placed first.

"I was stunned at first, then excited and very thrilled that he had won," said Swonger. "It was truly special. He expresses himself in that way because he loves to participate, and the winning thing just happened. He showed his happiness for the other participants as well when they won their awards. He's just a social and joyful person."

McCutchen took part in Rosewood's inaugural appearance at the World Show in 2011. He placed fifth in horsemanship and was just as exuberant then. That first year, he had to be hoisted into the saddle of his horse from a pick-up bed. On his return appearance, the NSBA provided a special ramp for him, allowing McCutchen to climb onto the saddle of his horse under his own power.

"He's pretty happy with his accomplishments" said Rosewood Ranch manager Eric Hammond. "He for sure knows what place he got and he understands the significance of it."

While competing at the World Show is important to McCutchen, Swonger credits equine therapy in general for changing the quality of her son's life. She noticed cognitive improvements in him almost immediately when he began to ride. The cognitive advancements since then have been significant, she said.

"It's amazing to me that he is so much more aware and alert now than he ever was before," she said. "You wouldn't think that riding a horse would have that much impact on someone but it really has helped Jere. Driving in the car, he used to just look straight forward and never look around. He started looking around after he'd been riding for a short while. He asks questions, which he never used to do before (therapeutic) riding. When he's riding, you can see him concentrating on what to do next. You can actually see his mind working."

Rosewood Employees Honored For Milestone Years of Service

Rosewood Services employees were recognized for their years of service in 2012 and 2013, including six employees who have been with the agency since its beginning 16 years ago. There have been 170 years of service provided between the 20 employees recognized.

"Few career fields can be as challenging or rewarding as providing developmental services to those in need," said Rosewood Services executive director Tammy Hammond. "Longevity of good employees is key to providing consistently exceptional care to the clients we serve. We recognize these employees who have provided a high-caliber of care over a long period of time. I am very thankful for their dedicated service."

13 employees were recognized in 2013:

15-Year Employees –

Vicki Schmitt, who has been with the agency since its very first day of operation. She is the senior director for Rosewood Services.

Patty Halseth is financial coordinator for Rosewood Services, joining the agency two months after its beginning.

Ruth Shank started with Rosewood three months after its doors opened in May 1998 and she continues working part-time as file clerk.

Christy Smith had been with Rosewood Services since it began and had served as a long-standing house lead in Residential Department. She passed away Feb. 22, 2014.

Virginia Jacobs started with Rosewood Services during its inaugural year in 1998, and she continues working as direct care staff for the Residential Department.

Hazel Grace Johnson also joined Rosewood Services during its first year, working as direct care staff for the Residential Department.

10-Year Employee –

Amanda Hammond-Fellers has been with Rosewood Services since its beginning, but joined the agency officially 10 years ago. She has held many jobs during that time and currently serves as director of services.

5-Year Employees –

Tess Bradley started with Rosewood Service in 2008 and serves the agency as its financial assistant.



Quality Service 2013 – Pictured left to right are Tess Bradley, Bryan Freeman, Anna Hammond-Bodine, Dave Tudor, Freida Jobs, Amanda Hammond-Fellers, Vicki Schmitt, Patty Halseth, Ruth Shank, Virginia Jacobs, and Tammy Hammond. Not pictured are Hazel Grace Johnson and Karen Andrulis.

Karen Andrulis has worked in Day Services for Rosewood Services for the past five years. She mainly works with the clients participating in therapeutic horse riding at the Rosewood Ranch.

Bryan Freeman has worked part-time as direct care staff in the Residential Department since 2008. He has regularly helped Rosewood's therapeutic riders with horse shows and rodeo activities over the years.

Anna Hammond-Bodine has been involved with Rosewood Services at a young age, but started officially with the agency five years ago, serving many roles, but mostly in the financial department. She currently serves as business assistant for Rosewood.

Freida Jobs, has worked as direct care staff in the Residential Department since coming on board five years ago.

Dave Tudor has worked in Administration and Residential Departments at Rosewood Services during his five years with the agency. He currently serves as a direct care staff in the Residential Department.

7 employees were recognized in 2012:

10-Year Employee –

Jessica Schmidt: Serving as case manager for the past several years, Schmidt began working for Rosewood in March of 2002 as a direct care staff, before becoming house lead, and then being promoted to her current position.

5-Year Employees –

Gary Bradford: A wood-working expert, Bradford provides guidance at the Rosewood Furniture Gallery in helping the client-employees perform their daily tasks of assembling, sanding and staining solid-wood furniture pieces.

Loretta Hardten: Starting with Rosewood Services in May 2007, Hardten has diligently served in the Residential Department since that time.

Janice Moore: Recently transferring to work in the Medical Office, Moore has worked most of her years with Rosewood in the classroom at Day Services.

Jennifer Stoddard: Jennifer worked as a case manager for Rosewood for a few years and then moved away. She returned to Rosewood in March of 2007 as activity coordinator and executive assistant.

Jay Stoddard: Jay is a house lead in the Residential Department where he has worked for almost nine years total. After moving away briefly, he returned and began working again for Rosewood in February of 2007.

Teresa Wilson: Teresa works at the Ranch as a housekeeper and nanny. She is also involved with Ranch activities.



Quality Service 2012 – Pictured left to right are Vicki Schmitt, senior director; Tammy Hammond, Rosewood founder and executive director; along with service-award winners Jessica Schmidt; Janice Moore; Jennifer Stoddard; Jay Stoddard; and Teresa Wilson.



Rosewood's Millenheft Repeats as Shining Star of the Year

Regina Millenheft's willingness to go the extra mile has earned her the top employee award for the second year in a row at Rosewood Services. Serving as residential manager, Millenheft was named "Shining Star of the Year" for 2013. She took home the same award in 2012, after working for Rosewood Services for just 10 months at that time. With a complete year under her belt this time, Millenheft was duly recognized for her stellar efforts once again.

"Regina's attentiveness to consumers and employees and the dedication she shows to those we serve are top notch at Rosewood," said Amanda Hammond-Fellers, Regina's supervisor at Rosewood Services. "People enjoy being around Regina because of her positive attitude and sense of humor. She enjoys her job and does what it takes to get the job done, even if it means coming in on her days off. I thank her for shining so bright and serving as an example to others."

Millenheft volunteered her time to stay overnight in a local hospital with a client, who was undergoing a medical procedure. She also traveled to Hays and stayed overnight with another client in the hospital during her time off and maintained contact with the client through the weekend. Additionally, she took another client to Oklahoma to visit family members.

"Winning the award makes me feel really good," explained Millenheft. "It gives me a boost and makes me want to work that much harder. It's nice to be appreciated and to be recognized for my efforts. I do it for the clients. I try to put myself in their situations and then I try to do whatever I can do to help them."

Millenheft received her 2013 award during the employee Christmas party in late-December. She was joined by co-workers Mary Lou Frisbee and Tacoa Pelster, who were also recognized for their outstanding employee performances in 2013. Millenheft received a trophy, \$200, and a \$50 Rosewood Wine Cellar gift certificate for earning the top spot. Frisbee took home \$100, a small trophy and a \$50 Wine Cellar gift certificate for second place. And Pelster received \$50 and a \$25 gift certificate for winning her award.

Millenheft received her first award during the employee Christmas party in December 2012. She was joined by co-workers Sherri Nickelson and Melonie Myers, who were also recognized for their stellar employee performances in 2012. Millenheft received a trophy and a \$200 gift card for earning the top spot. Nickelson took home a \$100 gift card and a small trophy for second place. And Myers received a \$50 gift card for her award.

The finalists were chosen from the recognition program where employees were recognized bimonthly by their peers throughout the year. From that list of exceptional employees, the three finalists each year were selected as the top employees.

"The finalists were so deserving of special recognition," said Tammy Hammond, executive director and founder of Rosewood Services. "Each of them has made a unique difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. They represent Rosewood Services at the highest, yet most fundamental level and I am proud of each one of them for their excellent work."



Stars 2013 – Pictured left to right are Amanda Hammond-Fellers, director of services; Regina Millenheft; Mary Lou Frisbee; Tacoa Pelster; Tammy Hammond, Rosewood founder and executive director; along with Shining Stars Committee members Jennifer Stoddard; Melonie Myers; and Anna Hammond-Bodine.



Annual Stars 2012 – Pictured left to right are Vicki Schmitt, senior director; Melonie Myers; Sherri Nicholson; Regina Millenheft; Amanda Hammond-Fellers, director of services; and Tammy Hammond, Rosewood founder and executive director.

Original Gallery Manager Sandy Smith Retires from Rosewood Services

Her last day on the job in February 2013 was a difficult day for everyone involved at Rosewood Furniture Gallery, located in downtown Great Bend. The Gallery's original manager Sandy Smith was saying goodbye on her final day there before retiring. Tears fell like rain as the manager and her client-employees grasped the magnitude of the moment. It was the end of a mentor-employee relationship that began more than 11 years earlier for some at the Gallery.

"We are one big family here, so it's hard for me to leave and it's hard for them to see me leave," said Smith on her final work day. "I'm going to miss them, but I felt it was time to retire."

In retirement, Smith has helped to care for her grandchildren and she's done some traveling. Retiring has also allowed her to focus on improving her health in continuing to battle a benign brain tumor that was diagnosed seven years ago.

"Sandy has been such an important part in the creation and success of our organization," said Tammy Hammond, Rosewood founder and executive director. "I'm grateful for her unwavering support and for her dedicated service to people with developmental disabilities. I am happy for her, but I will miss her being an everyday part of Rosewood, like she has been since our beginning."

Smith started with Rosewood Services when it opened in May 1998. She began by working in the Day Services Department, where she also fixed some meals, passed out medicines, worked with lawn crew, and did whatever other tasks that needed doing.

"I've been a jack of all trades at Rosewood," recalled Smith. "When we opened, we were small and we only had about five staff members for about 20 clients. Back then, you did a lot of jobs and you learned fast and it was really busy, but we all had fun doing what we did. I've loved every minute of working here at Rosewood."

Smith formed a bond with Hammond when Hammond served as case manager to Smith's younger sister, Kandi Pedigo, who had Down Syndrome. When the new agency opened, Pedigo immediately transferred. It was a good decision, said Smith.

While Pedigo died nearly four years ago at age 40, Smith said her sister lived far longer than she was expected to live and she enjoyed an enriched life at Rosewood Services.

"My little sister loved it here at Rosewood," said Smith. "She loved to come to my house for the holidays or to visit, but at night, she wanted to go back to her house. That was her home. She developed independence at Rosewood."

Smith took over the Furniture Gallery as it was being built in 2001. In November that year, it opened. During the first nine months, Smith operated the Gallery with her husband, Randy. They oversaw six clients working with a select few furniture pieces, which were sanded, stained, varnished and assembled for retail sale. Today, that same process occurs, but with more than 15 client-employees working daily to prepare an expanded selection of solid-wood furniture pieces for retail sale in the community.

In August 2010, Smith and Rosewood Services were presented Excellence Awards by then Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson in Topeka. Smith was nominated under the category of "an individual direct-service professional who currently supports persons receiving disability services and has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the provision of high-quality, person-centered services."

"I just have Rosewood written all over me wherever I go in the community and I'm proud to represent my company in that way," said Smith. "I like helping people and the clients like helping people. All these years, we've made a great team."



An Original – Sandy Smith (center) holds an appreciation plaque presented to her by Rosewood administrators Amanda Hammond-Fellers (left) and Melonie Myers during Smith's retirement reception Feb. 19 at the Rosewood Activity Center in downtown Great Bend. Friends, family and fellow employees gathered for the reception to wish Smith farewell.

Rosewood Celebrates 15 Years with Windy Party at Brit Spaugh

Rosewood Services had an eventful time planned for its 15th anniversary celebration on May 4, 2013. It was to be a grand celebration at Brit Spaugh Raptor Center and Zoo for all involved with Rosewood Services – clients, guardians and family and employees.

Strong winds and temperatures in the 50s could have spoiled the party for the faint of heart, but in true Rosewood resiliency, the event went on as scheduled. There were revisions, of course.

Instead of being outdoors, much of the event was moved to a makeshift greenhouse that was on the grounds. Approximately 100 people gathered in close quarters to partake in barbecue beef, sides and deserts, and plenty of camaraderie. Many children and young at heart enjoyed snow cones on a brisk day. Popcorn and drinks were also served throughout the afternoon.

Following lunch, the group ventured outside to plant a fir tree on the Brit Spaugh grounds – a donation from Rosewood Services.

The event concluded with prize drawings and awards for long-term employees. 15-Year employees were recognized, along with those who have been with Rosewood for 10 years or more. 15-Year Employees – Vicki Schmitt, Christy Smith, Patty Halseth, Ruth Schank, Sandy Smith, Virginia Jacobs, Hazel “Grace” Johnson. 10-Years-Plus Employees – Vickie Booze (13 years), John Snyder (12 Years), Eric Hammond (11 years), Jessica Schmidt (10 years).

Rosewood Services founder and executive director Tammy Hammond was presented with a gift, which included a framed photo collage of some of her accomplishments with Rosewood Services through the past 15 years.



Tree Celebration – Members of Rosewood Services gather during a brisk May day to plant a fir tree at Brit Spaugh Park and Zoo during Rosewood’s 15-year celebration.



Family & Food – Brady Morgan and his mother Patricia are served May 4, 2013 during the Rosewood Anniversary Celebration by Tammy Hammond, Vicki Schmitt and Eric Hammond.

All Smiles - Johnathan Folkerts enjoys a snow cone during Rosewood Services’ 15th Anniversary Celebration.



Annual Rosewood Rodeo Provides Memorable Performances

The 9th Annual Rosewood Rodeo will long be remembered by participants and spectators alike. That's because many of the more than 30 participants turned in stellar therapeutic rides and the new Rosewood Drill Team wowed the crowd, which was on hand to witness the team's debut performance at the Great Bend Expo III Arena.

"This year's rodeo was exceptional, not only because of the strong performances by the riders, but because of all the efforts provided by our volunteers," said Rosewood executive director Tammy Hammond. "There were a lot of people working many weeks behind the scenes to make our event successful."

Hammond commended event coordinator Jennifer Stoddard for successfully putting all the pieces in place for this year's rodeo. She also acknowledged Ron Poppe, who pulled off a fall spectacular in decorations. It took weeks of preparation for the Rosewood Industrial Kitchen to bake all the goods that were sold at the concession stand; the same preparation time was needed by the Rosewood Studio to create craft items and soaps, which were sold at the tack-shop. The Lawn Crew, led by Frankie Pelster did a tremendous amount of work, delivering items from the gallery to the event. Transportation was coordinated by Amanda Hammond-Fellers and her Residential Services group. Of course, the Ranch team was stellar in its work, setting up and getting all the horses ready.

The riders and the crowd were treated to the debut of the Rosewood Drill Team. They also got to watch two horse-riding performances by the Heartland Twisters, an all-female riding team from Chanute, Kan., which made its third appearance at the rodeo.

Immediately following the rodeo, awards were presented. Rita Mestas earned a trophy for "Most Improved." Mestas was an obvious choice for the award, given that she is excelling in horse riding after overcoming her reservation to ride. Hammond said she serves as an example to others to never give up on their goals.

"We've been working with Rita for nearly two years just to get her on the horse," explained Rosewood Ranch manager Eric Hammond. "It's only been the last four months that she has gotten on and rode. Now, she is unstoppable on a horse. It was a little step just getting her on a horse, but it was a giant leap for her and her confidence."

Veteran rider Mary Minear won "Best Cowboy Spirit" award; and Chris Devine was awarded for "Most Inspirational Leader."

Ribbons were presented – 1st through 6th place for Trails, Flags, Barrels and Pole Bending events. Rosewood riders competed in one of three categories, depending upon their respective abilities. The categories are – rider with lead and side-walker, rider with lead, and independent rider.

The 2013 rodeo was made possible with the help of 16 sponsors. Major sponsors were: Adams Brown Beran and Ball; Alterna Care Home Health; Benefit Management Incorporated; Community Bank of the Midwest; Doug Schenkel – AFLAC Agent; Eagle Radio; Fuller Industries; Great Bend Appliance Furniture & Sleepsource; Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency; Kustom Floor Designs; Marmie Motors & Marmie Ford; Moeder Plumbing, Heating, & Air; Office Products Inc.; Walmart – Great Bend; and M&F Plumbing. Also contributing was Animal Medical Center.

The 2012 Rodeo was highly successfully as well. Margaret Shobe was named Most Improved; Mary Minear was awarded Best Cowboy Spirit; and Dawn Specht took home the Inspirational Leader award.



Pole Position - Rosewood Rider Jaime Crone prepares to round the pole in the pole bending event during the 9th Annual Rosewood Rodeo at Great Bend Expo III Arena on Oct. 12, 2013.

The riders and crowd were treated to two outstanding horse-riding performances from the Double Trouble Trick Riders, comprised of twins Bethany and Brittany Iles, along with their younger sister, Libby. The Day Services Team won the staff competition against the Residential and Administration Teams. A silent auction of 15 donated items raised more than \$600, with proceeds going to Rosewood's Roots and Wings Foundation. The rodeo concluded with a celebration barbecue catered by Famous Hammond Brothers BBQ. During the barbecue, local musician Terry Fellers played acoustic guitar and sung classic and Christian rock songs.

The 2012 rodeo was made possible by the sponsorships of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball; Alterna Care Home Health; Community Bank; Dawson Jewelers; Doonan Specialized Trailers; Eagle Radio; Identifications Company; Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency; Kustom Floor Designs; Marmie Motors & Marmie Ford; Moeder Plumbing, Heating & Air; Office Products Inc.; and Walmart. Also contributing were Bert and Sue Newhal, Moeder Oil Company, and Animal Medical Center.

The clients who competed in the rodeos are:

2013 and 2012 - Darren Brown, Mary Minear, Jaime Crone, Chris Devine, Robin Bethel, Abbie Garrett, Rae Griffin, Ella Haberman, Johnathan Folkerts, Taylor Hertach, Jesse Kerns, Shaun Ledesma, Mario Perez, Josh Pike, Jere McCutchen, Samantha Purcell, Haley Schremmer, Margaret Shobe, Dawn Specht, Krystal Thorne, Josh Trimmer, Melissa Trimmer, LeAnn Wegele, Troy Wilson, Jimmy Wonsettler, Crystal Alkire, Charles Bortz, Carrie Stickney.

2013 only - Keith Boyer, Jason Ehrenttraut, Caitlyn Galloway, Shae Griffin, Joe Hanchett, Rita Mestas

2012 only - Patricia Ledesma Cheryl Mendenhall, Kelsey Spence, Raymond Bethel, Ron Lloyd, Robert Butler, Carol Ekstrom.

Rosewood Drill Team Debuts at Rodeo



Equestrian Formation - The Rosewood Drill Team performs at the 9th Annual Rosewood Rodeo pictured in foreground is Josh Trimmer on Rocky, Chris Devine on Ozzy and Krystal Thorne on Flasy. Other Drill Team riders and horses are: Jesse Kerns/Clyde; Mary Minear/Daisy Duke; Melissa Trimmer/Moe. Serving as Rosewood Drill Team alternates are Charles Bortz, Shaun Ledesma, and Josh Pike. Pictured in the background of the performance is Debbie Warren.

One reason the 9th Annual Rodeo is memorable is because it was historic, with the debut of the Rosewood Drill Team.

Thirty-six years of coaching collegiate cheer and dance doesn't exactly prepare Debbie Warren for the challenges of choreographing performances on horseback. But Warren, who has discovered a second career as Studio Arts manager at Rosewood Services, enjoyed her new experience.

"The first time I saw our riders do their first formation, it was just as rewarding to me as competing for national championships in cheer and dance all of those years," said Debbie Warren. "Honestly, it gave me goose bumps."

Leading up to the rodeo, Warren practiced on Thursday afternoons with six riders and three alternates from early June through mid-October, preparing for the 11-minute performance that spectators go to watch at the rodeo.

With 22 formation changes in the routine, Warren had drill team members jogging around the arena for the first six weeks before ever trying any maneuvers on horseback. Finally moving to horseback, Warren then relied heavily on the Rosewood Ranch riding instructors to solidify the performances of her riders.

"I've ridden a little and grew up in Dodge City around horses," explained Warren, "but this would have been impossible to pull together without the assistance of the ranch riding instructors. I have the utmost respect for Eric (Hammond), Melinda (Suppes), and Juan (Bodine) for how and what they have taught the riders."

Ranch Instructor Passes Stringent Certification

Rosewood Ranch horse therapy instructor Melinda Suppes took part in a grueling exam in May last year in Loveland, Colo. She endured four days of a workshop, written testing and field work, all with the goal of becoming a certified instructor with Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. It wasn't until more than five months later that she learned the results of her extraordinary exam.

Suppes was informed in late-October that she is now a registered instructor of PATH Intl., the leading therapeutic horsemanship organization in the world. Her certification is significant considering applicants need 25 hours of documented horse-therapy instruction. They also need to pass two online examinations and provide two letters of recommendation just to have a chance to participate in the workshop and take the certification exam. Of those who get the opportunity, many don't pass the rigorous certification examination on the first try.

"Melinda's success in becoming PATH certified speaks to the vastness of her knowledge and ability as a therapeutic riding instructor at Rosewood Ranch," said Tammy Hammond, executive director of Rosewood Services. "She made certification look easy by passing the first time, but the truth is that PATH certification is one of the hardest exams to complete. She is a true asset to all the therapeutic riders at Rosewood Ranch and to Rosewood Services as an employee. I commend her for her great accomplishment."

Suppes' achievement provides Rosewood Ranch with two PATH Intl. certified instructors. Ranch manager Eric Hammond earned his certification nearly a decade ago. He logs 20 continuing-education hours annually toward therapeutic riding instruction in order to maintain his certification. Following this year, Suppes will do the same in order to maintain her PATH certification. Meeting annual PATH requirements is important to Rosewood's ongoing success, explained Eric.



PATH Prepared – Melinda Suppes (center) is presented her PATH Intl. instructor certificate by Rosewood Services executive director Tammy Hammond and Rosewood Ranch manager Eric Hammond.

"PATH officials are so strict with testing and requirements because they want to ensure that you can take their certificate and go anywhere in the world to teach with it," said Eric. "On the home-front, having another PATH-certified instructor allows us to expand riding opportunities at the Ranch."

"It takes experience in training and an understanding about the horse, the rider and the environment to teach therapeutic riding effectively," said Eric. "PATH certification assures that we are meeting the highest standards possible. It is reassuring to the riders, the parents and guardians that we are taking those extra steps in order to provide the safest environment where learning can occur at its highest level."

PATH training for Suppes included a two-day workshop where she took her final written exam, one day of teaching two children with disabilities on horseback, and a final day of riding two horses, chosen by the instructors.

"I was happy and relieved to learn that I passed because reaching certification is so difficult," said Suppes. "I'm glad I got to experience it, though. I think getting and keeping my certification helps to make ours a better therapeutic riding center and that means a lot to me."



Rosewood Kickball Tournament Makes for Fun Evening



Orange Crush – The Orange team celebrates while posing for a photo following an evening of kickball competition.

Rosewood clients and staff had the opportunity to enjoy a fun evening of kickball at Veterans Field in Great Bend on Sept. 11, 2013. It was Rosewood's second kickball tournament in three years for the agency. The tournament was a four-team round-robin with Blue, Green, Lavender and Orange Teams competing.



The Blue and Orange teams squared off in the final game of the night with the Orange team eking out a victory to win the tournament.

The Orange Team was victorious over three other teams. Regardless of finish, all teams had a fun time.

Perfect Pitch - Joe Hanchett delivers the ball as pitcher of the Blue Team during the final competition of the evening against the Orange team.

'Storm Relief' - Soggy Softball Tournament Raises \$2,500 for Local Special Olympics Team

This Storm Co-Ed Benefit Softball Tournament, played Aug. 3, 2013 at Veteran's Fields in Great Bend, certainly wasn't played by the book. Heavy and intermittent rain along with muddy field conditions prompted tournament organizers to delay play, shuffle schedules and, in the end, flip coins in order to complete the fifth-annual event.

"This was the most challenging tournament ever; even more challenging than the first year we had it," explained Patty Halseth, who has organized the event five straight years. "Weather played such a huge factor this year; we never got a break from the rain long enough to play all of our games. It was frustrating but at the same time impressive because we still raised a significant amount of money for our cause."

As trying as the weather and field conditions were, the tournament still managed to net \$2,500. The money has helped area special-needs athletes when they compete in Special Olympics events around the state. Halseth explained that money raised goes toward paying for hotel rooms and meals when Storm team athletes compete, and it covers gas for the travel bus.

Throughout the year, the Storm participates in basketball and cheerleading during the winter, culminating with the state tournament in late winter. Storm athletes also compete in track and field, ending the season with the Special Olympics state meet in early summer.

Among the field of competitors in the 2013 softball tournament were the Warriors, which included many of the athletes who compete for the area's Special Olympics team. Twenty-one Warrior team members split time, competing in two games during the tournament. They won both of their games against their good-natured but error-prone opponents.

An early evening rain storm brought an early end to the tournament with only nine games played. A coin flip determined the winner of the tournament. Even the coin flip proved taxing as teams completed multiple coin flips before Bob's Hauling flipped differently than all the other teams and was declared the winner. Also competing in the tournament were area teams Cooper Softball, Team Legion, and Vanley's Tavern (Larned), along with the Warriors.

Twenty-four businesses sponsored the tournament. There were 15 volunteers who helped Halseth carry out the duties of the tournament.

Rosewood Services, Johnson Electric and Smith Supply were major sponsors of this year's tournament, each contributing \$500.



Warriors Play – Storm softball player Toni Hales makes a play at first base. Members of the Warriors play defense during the Storm Co-Ed Benefit Softball Tournament on Aug. 3.

Softball Continued on Page 24



Rosewood Ranch Advances Children's Abilities with Horse Therapy



Horse Power – Derek Grabast is flanked by Rosewood Ranch instructor Malinda Suppes (left) and his mother, Brenda. Also pictured with Derek is his favorite horse, Ozzy. “By Wednesday, Derek is in full-blown horse mode and it’s stuck in his head until he rides on Friday,” said Brenda. Suppes is a PATH Int. certified instructor.

Weslie Jones appears disconnected from the world happening around her. The Great Bend High School student lives her young life with severe autism and she suffers from seizures, which are caused by her disorder. It’s a vicious cycle for the 17-year-old because with increased seizure activity, Weslie becomes even more withdrawn.

“After her cluster seizures she doesn’t notice us, she doesn’t speak to us, she sits and does her thing,” explained Weslie’s mother, Anna.

Hope is not lost, however. Anna has found a unique way to pull her daughter from her depths of withdrawal. Weslie has participated in horse therapy at Rosewood Ranch for the past four years, and Anna readily provides testimony about the positive results of therapy for Weslie.

“As soon as we head out to ride horses, she knows exactly where we are going,” said Anna. “She comes out of the funk and it changes her whole disposition.”

At the start of the fall riding session last August, on a hot Friday afternoon, Weslie’s focus on horse riding was evident. “Ride the Horsey – My Turn,” Weslie clearly stated as she was helped from the small sedan by her grandmother, who pulled up outside of the Ranch’s riding arena. Within minutes of arriving, Weslie located her riding helmet, helped place it on her head and eagerly stepped onto the riding platform to climb on board her favorite therapeutic horse, Clyde. She then spent the next half-hour being led around a trail pattern in the riding arena and engaged in completing the various obstacle stations along the course.

Rosewood Ranch, located five miles north of Pawnee Rock, conducts equine therapy training throughout the work week to approximately 90 adults and children with developmental disabilities. During each six-week cycle, in the fall, spring and summer, Fridays at the Ranch are reserved for children receiving therapeutic riding services. Typically, it’s a full day for the horse instructors and staff with a dozen or more children participating in half-hour riding sessions throughout the day.

“Our children’s program has seen continual growth over the past eight years,” said Rosewood Ranch manager Eric Hammond, who is a certified instructor through Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. “This is effective therapy and there is no denying the benefits for the riders where small victories often mean big accomplishments. Our children’s program has grown because of word-of-mouth from parents and guardians who have witnessed success for their children.”

In the first six years of the program’s existence, Rosewood offered riding sessions to the children free of charge. Because of increased program costs, however, it began charging a modest \$25 fee per riding session a few years ago. A grant provided by the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals at Via Christi Health has picked up the cost of the riding sessions for the children the last few years.

“We’re really grateful to Children’s Miracle Network for stepping up to help with the funding of this program,” said Hammond. “It has always been our desire to offer this service to the children without families incurring much, if any, cost. They have enough other financial burdens to bear.”

Brenda Grabast knows all about those financial burdens for her family. Her search for stem-cell treatment for her son, Derek, led them to Beijing, China, two years ago. Derek was diagnosed with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy at the age of 2, and soon after, received a diagnosis of moderate non-verbal autism. Prior to the stem-cell treatment, he also suffered from grand mal seizures.

Brenda credits horse therapy for the continued improvement of her son, now 11, since his return from China.

“Horse therapy has helped him tremendously with his trunk control,” she explained. “It’s gotten better after stem cell treatment, but horse therapy has helped to make him stronger.”

Never an animal lover before horse therapy, it took Derek a couple of riding sessions to fully participate in the experience.

“Derek had a death grip on my neck the first time he met the horse,” recalled Brenda. “He didn’t want anything to do with horses.”

That was four years ago. Since then, he’s formed a special bond with Ozzy, one of a dozen therapy horses at the ranch. Throughout a typical week, he will often place his index fingers above his head, giving the sign for “horsey,” in anticipation of his Friday riding session.

“If he had his way, he’d be at the Ranch every day riding Ozzy,” said Brenda. “If he is having a bad day at school, he’ll sign to Michelle (his longtime aide at St. John Elementary School), ‘Please, bye bye, horsey.’ If sissy is picking on him at home, he’ll want to go ride the horse. It’s his escape. He feels more independent on the horse.”

That sense of independence for Derek is part of the natural progression of horse therapy that the instructors are working toward, explained Hammond. Even after four years, Derek is still learning and growing with each therapy session, he added.

“He still gets in situations where he is off balance, but that’s where the therapy kicks in and he’s learned to overcome that situation,” said Hammond. “Each time he does, it’s a confidence-builder for him.”



Six Horsemen – Several of Rosewood Ranch horse riders take a moment to be photographed during the SCSHA Horse Show in Lyons on June 22, 2013. They are from left to right Jamie Crone, Krystal Thorne, Josh Trimmer, Mary Minear, Tim Barry, and Chris Devine.

Rosewood Riders Successful in Kansas Horse Shows

Lyons -Thirteen riders from Rosewood Services competed June 22 and 23, 2013 at the South Central Stock Horse Association (SCSHA) horse show at the Celebration Center in Lyons.

Though most of Rosewood's riders had previously competed in horse shows, four riders in the group were experiencing competitive riding for the first time. Jimmy Wonsetler, Rae Griffin, Crystal Alkire and Jesse Kerns participate weekly in equine therapy riding at Rosewood Ranch, but horse shows are a new venture for the quartet. Wonsetler placed first in Showmanship and third in Horsemanship and Trail. Alkire placed second in Showmanship, followed by Griffin in fourth place, and Kerns in seventh.

Other first-place finishers for Rosewood were Chris Devine, Jaime Crone, Charles Bortz, Josh Trimmer, and Krystal Thorne. Rosewood earned 9 first-place awards and recorded 22 top-three finishes in its first competition.

Other riders competing for Rosewood were Tim Barry, Shaun Ledesma, Mary Minear, Melissa Trimmer, Jesse Kerns, and Crystal Alkire. The Rosewood riders competed with horses from the Rosewood Ranch: Daisy, Dolly, Flashy, Fox, Sheik, Moe and Dotty.

SCSHA Horse Show, Lyons, KS June 22-23, 2013

June 22, 2013 – (double judged accounts for placing twice in the same category)

Josh Trimmer: 1st and 5th places/Showmanship, 3rd and 4th places/Horsemanship, 1st and 4th places/Trail

Mary Minear: 2nd place (two ribbons)/Showmanship, 2nd and 3rd places/Horsemanship, 4th and 5th places/Trail

Jaime Crone: 3rd place (two ribbons)/Showmanship, 1st and 4th places/Horsemanship, 1st and 2nd places/Trail

Krystal Thorne: 1st and 4th places/Showmanship, 6th place (two ribbons)/Horsemanship, 2nd and 5th places/Trail

Tim Barry: 4th and 5th places/Showmanship, 5th place (two ribbons)/Horsemanship, 6th place (two ribbons)/Trail

Chris Devine: 6th place (two ribbons)/Showmanship, 1st and 2nd places/Horsemanship, 3rd place (two ribbons)/Trail

June 23, 2013 –

Charles Bortz: 6th place/Showmanship, 1st place/Horsemanship, 1st place/Trail

Melissa Trimmer: 5th place/Showmanship, 4th place/Horsemanship, 4th place/Trail

Shaun Ledesma: 3rd place/Showmanship, 2nd place/Horsemanship, 2nd place/Trail

Jimmy Wonsetler: 1st place/Showmanship, 3rd place/Horsemanship, 3rd place/Trail

Crystal Alkire: 2nd place/Showmanship

Rae Griffin: 4th place/Showmanship

Jesse Kerns: 7th place/Showmanship



Family Time – Rosewood horse rider Krystal Thorne practices her Showmanship event with Flashy prior to competing in her final SCSHA show of the season. Also pictured is Krystal's father, Harold Thorne. He has been an integral part of Rosewood Ranch for many years as a volunteer during horse shows and the annual rodeo.

Horse Show Results
Continued on Page 28





Rosewood AKTION Club Members Participate in State Conferences

Rosewood AKTION Club members have been active statewide the past two years, attending the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas Conference in Topeka in 2012 and 2013. During both years, Rosewood Miracle Worker AKTION club members were awarded grants from Rosewood's Roots & Wings Foundation, which paid for their conference entry fee and the expense of their trip.

Eight members of Rosewood Services' AKTION Club, along with two sponsors, participated in the SACK Conference in mid-June last year in Topeka.

Attending the Conference for Kansans with Disabilities were Rosewood Miracle Workers Josh Trimmer, Karla Franklin, Kandis Miskell, Peggy Scott, Kim Reynolds, Dustin Alkire, Rhonda Ravenstein, and Cheryl Mendenhall. Sponsors of Rosewood Miracle Workers were Jennifer Stoddard and Paula Fellers.

The SACK conference, held June 14-16, 2013 at the Ramada Inn, was an opportunity for people with developmental disabilities to meet, share and learn from each other and experts in the field. Participants of this year's annual conference had opportunity to choose from 15 workshops during five breakout sessions. This year's theme for the annual conference was "Shoot For The Stars."

At the start of the conference, participants heard from keynote speaker Max Barrows, outreach coordinator for Green Mountain Self-Advocates. He is a leader in the field of supported and customized employment. He provides training and technical assistance, traveling to local self-advocacy groups, mostly around Vermont. He teaches groups how to organize and communicate effectively and updates them on legislative issues that impact persons with disabilities.

Among the varied workshops offered, Rosewood attendees took part in sessions to learn more about the Working Healthy KanCare Program, as well as finding out more about a five-year plan for the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities. They participated in advocacy workshops titled "Make Your Case and Speak Up!" as well as "R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Find Out What it Means to Me."

Attending the Conference for Kansans with Disabilities in late July 2012 were Rosewood Miracle Workers Robin Bethel, Karla Franklin, Dustin Alkire, Cheryl Mendenhall, Peggy Scott and Darren Brown. Sponsors who attended were Jennifer Stoddard and Paula Fellers.

At the start of the conference, held July 27-29 at Capital Plaza Hotel, participants heard from keynote speaker Dr. Wendy Parent-Johnson, assistant director at the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities. She is a leader in the field of supported and customized employment. She was active in Employment First legislation and has been appointed by Gov. Sam Brownback to serve on the Employment First Commission.

Rosewood attendees took part in sessions that explored Employee First initiatives and employment preparation. Several Rosewood conference goers attended KanCare sessions to learn about changes in client services and the providers of services. They discovered how to become actively involved in their futures by learning more about pending managed care services for the developmentally disabled and how they can be heard at the state level about the changes, which directly affect them. Subsequently, the name of this year's state SACK Conference was "Voices Heard."



One Voice – Members of the Rosewood Miracle Workers' AKTION Club hold a megaphone that reads: "Rosewood Voices." Each advocacy group in attendance was asked to bring a megaphone created by their respective groups to use in the opening ceremonies. From left to right in the photo are: Jennifer Stoddard (sponsor), Robin Bethel, Karla Franklin, Dustin Alkire, Cheryl Mendenhall, Peggy Scott, Darren Brown and Paula Fellers (sponsor).



Cookie Cash – My Town manager Tina Mingenback (left) along with Rosewood Services representative Jennifer Stoddard (right) donate cash to Barton County Food Bank representatives. Also pictured in the photo are the Food Bank's Jenny Gordy and Bob Essmiller. The Food Bank takes donations on weekdays from 8:30 – 11:15 a.m. and from 3 - 4 p.m. For food distribution, the Food Bank is open from 1-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Cookie Contest Raises More Than \$700 Cash for County Food Bank

A sweet tradition is being established by more than a dozen Great Bend retail businesses and dozens of shoppers during the Christmas season. For the past three years, Rosewood and 14 other Great Bend businesses have discovered a way to generate a fun and festive food drive that has been able to annually benefit the Food Bank. The Holiday Cookie Contents has raised more than \$700 the past two seasons. All of the money raised has been donated to the Food Bank of Barton County.

"Cash helps fill the void to purchase what is needed at the moment," said Food Bank Co-Chairman Bob Essmiller. "It comes at the perfect time of the year, too, as we gear up for January. We are busy year-round, but January is a bearcat for us."

The Food Bank operates under the auspices of the Barton County Association of Churches and is organized to distribute food to Barton County residents in crisis situations. Even though families are limited to using the Food Bank three times a year – a fourth under special circumstances – a crew of several dozen Food Bank volunteers serve more than 600 people a month.

"We feel blessed to have been able to help in some way," said Rosewood's Jennifer Stoddard. "We thank the Food Bank and their volunteers for filling such an important need for our community."

2013's Holiday Cookie Contest, raised more than \$340 and the 2012 contest raised \$378 for the Food Bank.

Rosewood Services Delivers Food to Food Bank of Barton County

Christmas came again for the Food Bank of Barton County on Jan. 10 of this year when Rosewood Services delivered more than 200 food items to the Food Bank.

Rosewood Services employees participated in a food drive just before Christmas, collecting nearly 300 pounds of food for the Food Bank, located at 3007 10th Street, Great Bend.

"These donations come at a good time because of the fact that people have spent for Christmas and now times are really lean for them," said Food Bank manager Jenny Gordy. "We also have more people who come to us this time of year because their work has been cut in construction and other seasonal jobs."

January typically is the busiest month of the year for the Food Bank. Last January, the Food Bank served 787 people, said Gordy. For 2013, the Food Bank averaged helping more than 600 people a month.

Rosewood conducted its employee food drive in 2012, as well, donating more than 100 food items to the Food Bank of Barton County.



Food Donation – Food Bank representatives Bob Essmiller and Jenny Gordy stand with Rosewood Services employees Jennifer Stoddard, Patty Halseth and Melonie Myer with boxes of donated food. The donation was made in January of this year.

High Five Cattle Drive

Rosewood Ranch manager Eric Hammond gives a high five to client-employee Jesse Kerns after rounding up cattle at the Ranch on a Thursday afternoon in October. Hammond and his crew rounded up 30 calves to sell them at the LaCrosse Livestock Market.

Rosewood Ranch keeps approximately 50 head of cattle, which some of the client-employees help to maintain through the year. The breed of cattle raised at Rosewood Ranch is a Simmental Red Angus mix, explained Hammond.

The Ranch sells calves annually and also uses Rosewood beef for its line of summer sausage and beef sticks, which are sold at the Rosewood Wine Cellar in downtown Great Bend.

"You can't get any better than all-natural, grass-fed beef raised on the Kansas prairie," said Hammond.



Dennis Dreiling Donates 18 Round Bales to Rosewood Ranch



Rosewood Ranch needs a lot of hay, with more than 30 horses, including a dozen equine therapy horses. In fact, Rosewood Ranch staff and client-employees actually harvest hay on the Ranch. But there's always a need for more. That's why Rosewood Ranch manager Eric Hammond was so grateful to Claflin farmer Dennis Dreiling last September for donating 18 round bales of hay to Rosewood.

"Dennis saw a story about how our horse therapy program was helping children with developmental disabilities and so he contacted me to arrange for delivery of hay to our Ranch," explained Hammond. "It was a very nice contribution from him, and one that we definitely have a daily use for."

Hammond estimated the donation of 18 hay bales had a value of about \$1,700.

Hay Day – Rosewood Ranch staff and client-employees harvest hay at the Rosewood Ranch in August.

Continued from Page 19

'Storm Relief' - Soggy Softball Tournament Raises \$2,500 for Local Special Olympics Team

Other tournament sponsors were: Beauty N Beyond Hair, Nails, Skin; Clara Barton Hospital and Medical Clinic; Edna's Bar and Grill (Macks-ville); Ellinwood Packing Plant; Great Bend Farm Equipment; Head Quarters Hair, Nails, Skin; JoMax Construction; Mom's Café (Seward); Nicholson-Ricke Funeral Home; P&S Electric & Security; Precision Printing & Supply; Silverado Electric; Stone Sand; Straub International; Sunflower Diversified Services; Town & Country Supermarket; Walmart (Great Bend); Western Ag Enterprises.

Raffle donations were provided by: JoAnne Wondra, Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant; EZ Tanning; and Dawson Jewelers Designs by Dana.



Winning Scavengers - Melissa Fields, Teresa Wilson, Ric Loiland and Tandy Webb.

Day Services Scavenger Hunt Provides Wacky Fun

Many Rosewood Services Day Services employees let loose after their work week on June 28, 2013 when they participated in the Team Rosewood Day Services 3rd Annual Scavenger Hunt.

The hunt began at the Furniture Gallery and teams had to find several items at four of the residential houses as well as take pictures in front of: a bronze statue of the world, their team captain eating an ice cream cone, a colorful lion and a participant on a jungle gym. They ended their hunt at Lumpy's Bar & Grill in downtown Great Bend.

Team Ric was the winning team. Team Debbie won an award for Best Team Work. Team Paula won for Best Uniform. The best ice cream picture was taken by Team Melissa.



On Board for Dan – Members of the Storm Track & Field Team took a moment for a photo before getting on the bus to head to the Special Olympics State Track & Field Meet in Wichita on May 31, 2013. The bus windows read, "This One's For Dan ... The Storm State Bound."

The message refers to longtime Storm coach Dan Maes who passed away on May 26, 2013.

The Storm posted a good showing, placing near the top at the state meet with many stellar individual performances by the athletes.



Holiday Promotion

Eagle Radio sets up shop at Rosewood Wine Cellar on Nov. 26 for its \$10,000 Holiday Shopping Spree contest. The Wine Cellar served as a registration location for the give-away and KHOK FM 100.7 conducted a two-hour live remote from the Wine Cellar. The live remote was donated by Moeder Plumbing Heating & Air, a major sponsor of the contest. Thank you to Alan Moeder for donating the live remote to Rosewood Services. It was the third consecutive year that Alan has donated the remote to Rosewood. The live remote was held at the Rosewood Furniture Gallery the two previous years.

Brown Mackie Students Experience Hippotherapy at Rosewood Ranch



Experiential Learners – First-Year Brown Mackie College OTA students Megan Collins (left) and Ashley Overbey stand in front of a collection of horse saddles and riding equipment at the Rosewood Ranch Riding Arena on May 2, 2013. It was the final day of their four-day field clinic at the equine therapy ranch. The OTA students participated in leading the horses, side-walking, and even worked with the client-employees who groomed the horses.

Two Brown Mackie College occupational therapy assistant students spent four days last spring involved with the equine therapeutic riding program at Rosewood Ranch. It was the second consecutive year that Rosewood Ranch welcomed first-year OTA students from the Salina college to its award-winning therapeutic ranch so that the students can complete fieldwork required for their OTA practicum.

Brown Mackie OTA students Megan Collins and Ashley Overbey attended the ranch from April 29 through May 2, 2013 which counted toward completion of a 30-hour program practicum at Brown Mackie.



The 900-acre horse ranch, located nine miles west of Great Bend, gains visitors regularly because of its award-winning therapy program. But Brown Mackie's OTA program is the first to incorporate the visits into its college curriculum.

Collins and Overbey both said they have a passion for horses, along with a desire to help others. Before attending the ranch, Collins conducted research on Rosewood and knew instantly that she wanted to attend the ranch over anywhere else for her fieldwork. Overbey, said she was "blown away" with all the different training venues Rosewood has to benefit clients, "so coming here was an easy choice for me."

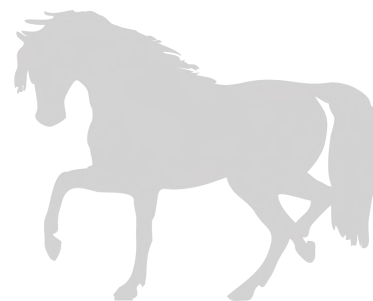
Collins and Overbey observed and interacted with the therapy riders all four days. They even had opportunities to work directly with the riders.

"I was very inspired when I saw a client, who had been unable to perform a command with a horse, reach his goal," said Collins. "Just seeing his success was a good feeling. What is happening at Rosewood transcends into life successes for the clients. Being part of that is amazing."

Overbey concurred with her classmate. "Directly working with the clients has given me a deeper sense of the commitment to my area of study. Being an OTA gives individuals a chance at having fuller lives, and the Rosewood program helps individuals become more confident and ready to meet the world."

Collins said she would like to establish her own therapeutic riding program someday, so she viewed her time at Rosewood Ranch as extra valuable. Overbey is still considering her long-term goal after graduation, but her experience at Rosewood Ranch assured her she is on the right track, she said. Both students said they will encourage other Brown Mackie OTA students to choose Rosewood for their fieldwork because they gained far more than college credit for their experiences.

"It is a great learning opportunity for the students," said Rosewood Ranch manager Eric Hammond. "But it's also a learning experience for us and our clients, too."



Teaming Up – It takes a special group effort to offer certified equine therapy to children at Rosewood Ranch. Pictured from left to right: Noah Woodcock (rider), Amy Woodcock (parent), Amanda Hammond Fellers (Rosewood Services), Kamery Hembree (rider), Desiree Halseth (Rosewood Services), Derek Grabast (rider on horse) Juan Bodine (Rosewood Ranch), Melinda Suppes (Rosewood Ranch), Brenda Grabast (parent), Weslie Jones (rider on horse), Eric Hammond (Rosewood Ranch Manager), Jeanna Gowdy (Rosewood Services), Anna Jones (parent), Tammy Hammond (Rosewood Services Executive Director), Mick Cayless (Children's Miracle Network – Via Christi).

Joseph Ragan Touches Lives, Becomes D.A.R.E. Program Winner

Eisenhower Elementary School fifth-grade-student Joseph Ragan received a fun surprise on Jan. 13 of this year. He was named winner of the month in the D.A.R.E. program's "I Make A Difference" contest. For earning that distinction, he received a special visit by Great Bend D.A.R.E. officer Jefferson Davis to his school, and he along with his classmates received a party and D.A.R.E. t-shirts, which state "I Make A Difference."

D.A.R.E. is an anti-drug program that targets elementary children before they are likely to have used alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful drugs. It is organized and operated by the Great Bend Police Department.

For his D.A.R.E. essay, Joseph wrote that he makes a difference "by always being nice to people." Diagnosed with Down syndrome, Joseph has limited verbal communication ability, but that doesn't prevent him from connecting with people. He is learning sign language and utilizes a communication program on an iPad to advance his communication abilities.

"Joseph is always fun and pleasant to be around, said Jessica Schmidt, who provides case management for him at Rosewood Services. "He enjoys engaging in a variety of different activities. He has a very infectious laugh and is always smiling. Joseph is an incredibly special person and I feel honored to be a part of his life."

Joseph lives at home in Ellinwood with his father and mother, Jonathan and Adria, along with his younger brothers, Austin and Hunter. The 11-year-old has attended special education classes at Eisenhower Elementary since he was a first-grader.

Adria learned that Joseph had won the award a week before the presentation. It was difficult keeping the exciting news from her son, but seeing his elation and surprise the day he received the award made the wait worthwhile, she said.

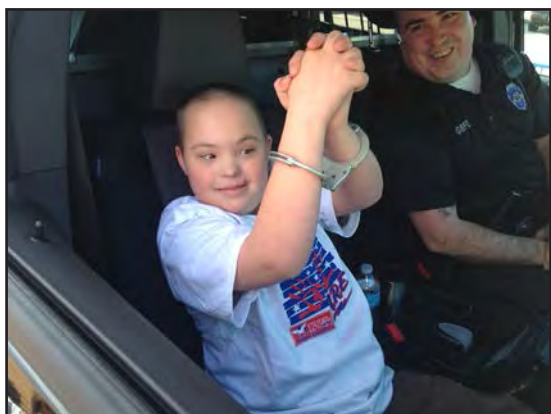
"He was very excited and surprised that he won," said Adria. "We've been telling everybody and he's been telling everybody. He shows his shirt to everyone and shows them the pictures on my cell phone."

Of special note, Joseph became the first passenger to ride in the new Great Bend D.A.R.E. vehicle. With officer Davis providing encouragement, he put on handcuffs and pushed the buttons in the vehicle.

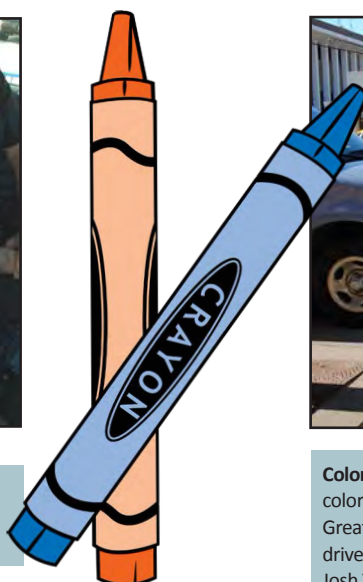
"He really liked to push all the buttons," said Adria. "It was very loud but he didn't care about the noise, he was just having fun."



Joseph stands with his group of supporters during his D.A.R.E. day of recognition on Jan. 13. Joining him were Great Bend D.A.R.E. officer Jefferson Davis, Eisenhower 5th Grade Teacher Jodi Schumacher, Joseph's mother Adria and his grandmother Joni Carr.



Joseph Ragan sports a pair of handcuffs while sitting in the passenger seat of the Great Bend Police Department's new D.A.R.E. vehicle.



Coloring Books & Crayons Donations – Rosewood's Miracle Workers deliver coloring books and crayons to St. Francis Community Services in downtown Great Bend in December, 2013. Rosewood's Aktion Club members held a drive to collect the items for children being served by St. Francis. Pictured are Josh Trimmer (background), Roger Guthals, and Cheryl Mendenhall.

Rosewood Ranch Hosts 'Kids Day' for Approximately 75 Children

A bustling bunch of energetic children ascended onto Rosewood Ranch on June 8 for a hootin'-and-hollerin' time. Approximately 75 children and their family members participated in the third annual "Kids Day at the Ranch," presented by Rosewood Services.

The ranch, which provides a year-round therapeutic horse riding program for children with developmental disabilities, was open to its regular children riders and their siblings for one special day. Children of Rosewood Services employees also participated during the event, which was held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"For the children we serve, equine therapy is one of their favorite and most rewarding activities they get to do," said Tammy Hammond, executive director of Rosewood Services. "Kids Day allows us to extend that opportunity to other children associated with Rosewood who usually don't ever get to experience horse riding and ranch life. We add additional children's activities to make it an especially fun day for everyone involved."

Besides trail-pattern horse riding, children and their families took wagon rides around Rosewood Ranch. The children also had their faces painted, fished for prizes, participated in a cake walk and enjoyed making their own ice cream sundaes and root beer floats. They even got to decorate their own neckerchiefs with beads, and compete in games such as a water balloon toss and an egg race.

An estimated 150 people participated in Kids Day this year. All who attended were treated to free hot dogs, chips and drinks, along with interaction with special guest, Randy the Clown.

"Kids Day went really well this year," said Hammond. "We had repeat visitors from previous Kids Days and we had some children and their families who attended for the first time. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience of what ranch life has to offer. We enjoy hosting this annual event for them."

Double Fun – Two Kids Day participants wait in anticipation for another chance to ride horses at Rosewood Ranch during Kids Day on June 8, 2013.



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Rosewood Riders Successful in Kansas Horse Shows

Hutchinson – A dozen riders from Rosewood Services participated in South Central Stock Horse Association (SCSHA) Horse Show at the Hutchinson State Fair Grounds July 27 and 28, 2013. The group turned in a solid final in-state performance as the riders captured the top five places in most categories between trail pattern riding, showmanship and horsemanship.

The riders competing in Rosewood's final SCSHA show of the year were Charles Bortz, Melissa Trimmer, Shawn Ledesma, Jimmy Wonsetler, Crystal Alkire, Rae Griffin, Mary Minear, Jaime Crone, Josh Trimmer, Chris Devine, Tim Barry, and Krystal Thorne. The Rosewood riders competed with horses from the Rosewood Ranch: Daisy, Dolly, Flashy, Fox, Sheik, Moe and Dotty. Rosewood rider results are posted below.

SCSHA Horse Show, Hutchinson, KS July 27-28, 2013

July 27, 2013 – (double judged accounts for placing twice in the same category)

Josh Trimmer: 1st place (two ribbons)/Showmanship, 3rd and 4th places/Horsemanship, 2nd and 3rd places/Trail

Mary Minear: 5th and 6th places/Showmanship, 1st and 5th places/Horsemanship, 6th place/Trail

Tim Barry: 2nd place (two ribbons)/Showmanship, 6th place (two ribbons)/Horsemanship, 6th place/Trail

Krystal Thorne: 3rd and 4th places/Showmanship, 5th place (two ribbons)/Trail

Chris Devine: 4th and 5th place/Showmanship, 2nd and 5th places/Horsemanship, 2nd and 4th places/Trail

Jaime Crone: 3rd place/Showmanship, 2nd and 3rd places/Horsemanship, 1st and 3rd places/Trail

July 28, 2013 –

Charles Bortz: 5th place/Showmanship, 2nd place/Horsemanship, 1st place place/Trail

Melissa Trimmer: 5th place/Horsemanship, 2nd place/Trail

Shawn Ledesma: 6th place/Showmanship, 1st place/Horsemanship, 3rd place/Trail

Jimmy Wonsetler: 2nd place/Showmanship, 3rd place/Horsemanship, 4th place/Trail

Crystal Alkire: 3rd place/Showmanship

Rae Griffin: 4th place/Showmanship

Asperger's and Antlers

Artist's Passion Helps Him Overcome Challenges of Disorder

In the vast world of normalcy, Jeremy Cale exists on the fringe. His best days in life are spent camping in the great outdoors and living as a full-fledged mountain man. Creating art around that lifestyle has been his enduring passion. Cale is a nature artist, turning antlers and other wilderness relics into remarkable pieces of art.

"Artists have one purpose and that is to create," explained the 33-year-old Great Bend man. "Creating art is my one true purpose in life."

Cale is different than most artists in one respect. He lives with Asperger's Syndrome, an autism-related developmental disorder, characterized by sustained impairment in social interaction and nonverbal communication. The clinical definition is simply a mixture of words to Cale. Because of his disorder, he cannot read them. Asperger's Syndrome merely represents a term to him, which defines his lifetime of challenges that cast him as an outsider to social acceptance.

"When I was a kid, I knew I had something different about me, but I didn't know it was Asperger's at that time," he said. "Everyone thought I had a reading problem, and that's as much as they knew. I tried to hide my other problems and just survive for the day, but that became impossible to do."

In a world of alienation, he found strength and identity through art. Unbeknownst to him then, it served as therapy. Later, moving around the state as a troubled adolescent in foster care, creating art served as a familiar constant. And when he transitioned from foster care to living on his own, Cale existed hand to mouth as a starving artist.

He credits his intervening aunt, Shelley Doggett, for leading him to a better life. She connected him with Rosewood Services more than a dozen years ago and served as his guardian. Sadly, she passed away five years ago. Fortunately, Rosewood Services helped him to live independently. Because of that, he credits Rosewood for saving his life.

"I was having trouble surviving on my own, literally going days without eating anything," remembered Cale. "Rosewood took me back to Great Bend and got me evaluated by the same doctor I saw when I was 13 years old. Six years later, it turned out to be Asperger's – the reason for my struggles all those years."

Accomplished Antler Works Featured at Rosewood Wine Cellar

For much of 2013, Great Bend artist Jeremy Cale's carved antlers were on display for public viewing and for purchase at Rosewood Wine Cellar, located in downtown Great Bend. Cale has displayed and sold his artwork in other locations over the years, but showing them on a regular basis was a new experience for him.

"It meant a lot to me that my art was able to be on display at the Cellar," said Cale. "It's a matter of putting something out in the public where people have access to it every day instead of only a few days for a set period of time."

Cale helped his cause by taking his artwork to a rendezvous in Colorado last fall and he sold every art piece he had. Like a true artist, though, he is in the process of creating more pieces, and he plans on showing some of those at the Wine Cellar.

Cale got the idea to carve antlers from viewing Japanese art carvings on ivory tusks. He's been practicing his favorite art medium ever since he arrived at Rosewood in February 2001. He's completed dozens of pieces over the years.

Once a carving is completed, he absorbs ink into the carved area, bringing depth to the designs, and then he applies lacquer to the antler, giving it a permanent sheen. Most of his pieces are deer antlers, which are donated to Cale by area hunters. Occasionally, he will splurge with the purchase of an elk antler.

"Those are special because of their size and the cost of an antler, which is \$100 to buy the raw material," explained Cale. "I don't get those, except once every couple of years. It puts extraordinary pressure on me to do well on those particular pieces."

Cale does other forms of nature art as well: deer antler whistles, beaded bags, quilt bags, buckskins, knives, knife sheaths, necklaces, and walking sticks, to name several. All forms relate to his love of nature and American history.



Antler Art - Great Bend artist Jeremy Cale stands next to a table full of carved antlers that he showed at the Rosewood Wine Cellar from March through October last year. Though Cale's antler carvings derived from viewing Japanese art, over the years, he has met other artists who incorporate the medium into their work.

Carson & Barnes Circus Raises Funds For Roots & Wings Foundation



Clowning Around – Rosewood clients (left to right) Mary Minear, Chris Devine, Karla Franklin, and Crystal Alkire take a photo with a Carson & Barnes clown just before showtime on May 16, 2013.

Community members packed the house during the Carson & Barnes Circus, held by Rosewood Services on May 16, 2013 at the Great Bend Expo Grounds. Money raised went to the agency's non-profit Roots & Wings Foundation, which helps Rosewood clients with expenses for medical, educational and therapeutic services.

Two circus shows were presented by Rosewood Services in conjunction with Eagle Radio. Circus Shows were sponsored in part by 13 area businesses: Aaron's Repair and Supply; Alterna Care Home Health; Fuller Brush Company; Animal Medical Center; Community Bank of the Midwest; Great Bend Appliance; Furniture & Sleepsource; Gibbs Electric Contractors; Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency; Kustom Floor Designs; Marmie Chrysler/Marmie Ford; Moeder Plumbing Heating & Air; Office Products Inc.; and Straub International.

The following businesses provided advanced ticket sales to the general public: Rosewood Furniture Gallery, Rosewood Wine Cellar, Perks Coffee Shoppe, Kustom Floor Designs, and Eagle Radio. Tickets are also available at Ellinwood Packing, Country Seasons Flower Shoppe in Larned, and Edna's Bar & Grill in Macksville.

Thank you to all the business, as well as everyone who attended the circus. Your involvement helped us to draw our largest crowd ever, compared to six previous years that Rosewood has hosted the Carson & Barnes Circus.



Good Witches of Sleepy Hollow – Rosewood scared up a fun time for area trick-or-treaters while participating in Zoo Boo at Brit Spagh Zoo on Oct. 26, 2013. Good Witches, from left to right – back row: Karla Franklin, Jessica Schmidt, Amanda Hammond-Fellers, Tammy Hammond, Vicki Schmitt, and Dana Allison (kneeling). Sitting for the photo were Melonie Myers and Deb Smith. Other Rosewood Witches participating but not in the photo are Paula Fellers and Sabrina Sloan.



Circus Success - Community members packed the house during the Carson & Barnes Circus, held by Rosewood Services on May 16, 2013 at the Great Bend Expo Grounds. Money raised goes to the agency's non-profit Roots & Wings Foundation, which helps Rosewood clients with expenses for medical, educational and therapeutic services.



Rosewood “Stands Up For The Champions” at Holiday Parade



Champions Celebrate - Rosewood clients wave American Flags while riding in a horse-drawn wagon during the “Home for the Holidays” parade in downtown Great Bend on Nov. 30.

More than two dozen Rosewood clients and employees participated in the 2013 Home for the Holidays Parade in downtown Great Bend on Nov. 30, 2013 by riding in a horse-drawn wagon titled “Stand Up For The Champions.”

The float theme celebrated 15 years of accomplishments of clients at Rosewood Services. Those accomplishments range greatly from American Quarter Horse national championships and Special Olympic medals, to producing award-winning wines from the only winery in the United States dedicated to employing people with disabilities. Rosewood entertained the crowd by playing the song “Stand Up (for the Champions)” over a loud speaker. “Rosewood Champions” cards were handed out to parade-goers showing a list of accomplishments by Rosewood Services and clients through the past 15 years.

As has become a time-honored tradition, Rosewood Services escorted Santa and Mrs. Claus in a horse-drawn carriage in the parade before delivering them to Jack Kilby Square for the lighting of the Mayor’s Christmas Tree.

Following the Parade, Rosewood provided two hours of carriage rides to parade-goers, and provided a festive place across from Kilby Square where kids lined up in droves and greeted Santa Claus, who made his initial appearance that evening. Rosewood also helped to draw prize-winners from names submitted during the Holiday Cookie Contest, conducted among approximately a dozen businesses earlier in the day.

‘Holiday Tables Spectacular’ Brings a Crowd to Rosewood Gallery

Rosewood Furniture Gallery was filled with holiday cheer on Nov. 10, 2013 with the “Holiday Tables Spectacular.” It was the seventh straight year that the event was held at Rosewood Gallery, located at 1607 Main Street, Great Bend.

More than 150 people attended Holiday Tables where they were treated to 19 tables decorated for Thanksgiving and Christmas by 18 of the area’s top designers and decorators. People also were treated to hors d’oeuvres from the Rosewood Industrial Kitchen and they were provided an opportunity to taste Rosewood Wine.

“It truly was a spectacular event,” said Tammy Hammond, Rosewood Services executive director. “We are thankful to all who attended to help make this event a success. We especially thank the talented decorators for their amazing table displays. And we couldn’t have accomplished such a wonderful event without the help of a dozen volunteers, to whom we are grateful.”

Proceeds raised from the event go to Rosewood’s non-profit Roots & Wings Foundation, which helps to fund educational, medical, and therapeutic expenses not covered by other means for people with developmental disabilities who are served by Rosewood Services.

This year’s table entries and presenters were: “About to Hatch” – by Kat King and Kathy Straub; “A Pioneer Christmas” – by Amy Shaffer; “Bird Nest Table and Chairs with Nests” – Carol Masor; “Caribbean Christmas” – Kustom Floor Designs; “Chic and Classy Winter Wonderland” – by Sharon Ruble (Awarded “People’s Choice”); “China Doll Tea Party” – by Lisa Hayes; “Golden Glow of Christmas” – by Sharon Ruble; “Coyotes and Cowboy Christmas” – by Wendy Litzenberger; “Giving Thanks” – by Nancy Lang (Awarded “Most Complete”); “Just the Two of Us” – Debbie Jones; “Mixed and Matched” – Lisa Hayes; “Rustic and Cabiney” – Linda Ludes; “Snowman Wonderland” – by Wanda Luft; “Snowy Christmas” – by Iris Jenkins; “Thoughts of Thanksgiving” – by Pam Miller and Katie Lies (Awarded “Most Creative”); and “Vintage Jingle Bells” – Cornerstone Interiors.

The three category winners received a bottle of Rosewood Wine as well as a \$50 gift certificate to the Rosewood Wine Cellar or Furniture Gallery.

Rosewood decorated three tables for the event, although those tables were not eligible for awards. The tables showcased items from Rosewood’s two retail stores, the Wine Cellar and the Furniture Gallery. Rosewood’s decorated tables were: “Under the Christmas Tree,” “Woodland Winter,” and “Glitter and Gold.”

In addition to a \$5 entry fee to attend the event, Rosewood also conducted a drawing. Six prizes were drawn. Susan Balding won the grand prize, a wine tasting & hors d’oeuvres event for 8 at the Rosewood Winery. Other drawing winners were: Marilyn Warkentine, Christmas centerpiece; Cheryl Beckwith, wooden toy chest; and Christy Suchy, horsehair pottery vase. Pat Springer and Amanda Clark each won a bottle of Rosewood Wine.



Table Dressing – Patrons examine a table titled, “Giving Thanks,” by Nancy Lang, during Holiday Tables Spectacular Nov. 10 at Rosewood Furniture Gallery in downtown Great Bend. Lang’s decorated table was one of 19 on display for people to view during the four-hour event.





Events List

Rosewood Services is involved in many activities throughout the year. Look for more information about each of these events as they draw closer. We look forward to seeing you at these events and other Rosewood activities throughout the year.

Rosewood Client Appreciation Picnic, May 23 – In appreciation for their clients, Rosewood Services will serve up food and fun for its clients during an afternoon picnic. The event helps to mark 16 years of success for Rosewood and our clients we serve.

Kids Day at the Ranch, June 14 – Siblings and children of Rosewood employees get the chance to experience life on the Ranch, along with the children Rosewood serves. They will ride horses, take wagon rides and participate in fun activities. Lunch is on us! Family members of all ages are invited to tag along with their kids.

SACK Conference, June 27-29 – Rosewood AKTION club members will participate in the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas Conference at the Topeka Downtown Ramada Inn. SACK Conference allows people with developmental disabilities to meet, share and learn from each other and experts in the field.

South Central Stock Horse Association Shows, June 6-8 in Lyons, July 26-27 in Hutchinson. – Catch Rosewood riders at SCSHA horse shows this season. They typically compete in Lyons, Hutchinson and Kingman.

NSBA World Championship Show, Aug. 15-17 – For the fourth consecutive year, a group of Rosewood riders will compete in the National Snaffle Bit Association World Horse Show at the Built Ford tough Expo Complex in Tulsa, OK.

Kickball Tournament, September – Rosewood clients participate in a fun-filled evening of kickball and camaraderie at Veteran's Fields in Great Bend. Usually, four teams of clients and staff members practice among four teams in a round-robin tournament.

4 Corners Oktoberfest – The annual 4 Corners Oktoberfest will be held in early October during a Great Bend Chamber Business After Hours Event hosted by several downtown businesses, including Rosewood Furniture Gallery. Free beer and bratwurst will be served under the awning of Rosewood Furniture Gallery on the northwest corner of 16th and Main.

Rosewood Rodeo, Oct. 11 – The 10th Annual Rosewood Rodeo will be held at the Great Bend Expo III Arena. Rosewood therapeutic horse riders will demonstrate to the audience the riding skills they have learned throughout the year. The Rodeo will include a performance by the Rosewood Drill Team as well as other riding entertainment. Spectators can stay for a barbecue dinner – only \$5 per plate.

Great Bend Christmas Parade, Nov. 29 – Rosewood Services will participate in the Great Bend "Home for the Holidays" Christmas Parade, with its team of horses, clients and staff. Eric and Tammy Hammond will drive a team of horses that will escort Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Be sure to participate in the Holiday Cookie Contents during the day, organized partly by Rosewood Services. Enjoy free Rosewood Ranch carriage rides after the parade.



Join Rosewood's e-mail list for family and guardian information,
or for specials and information from our retail stores.

Email michaeld@rosewoodservices.com or call: 620-603-6502