



MY VOICE, MY CHOICE, MY LIFE

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Edited by Erica Allcorn
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FROM THE DESK OF TRAVIS DEMOSS

Strength Through Culture

I've spent a lot of time and energy over my career touting the benefits of a positive, forward looking culture. Often times, this format for success is met with some skepticism, or is easily passed over as a nice way to think but then there is work to do and who has time to think about that. If you have ever worked for an agency that does not take their culture seriously then you will have some idea of just how important it really is. You may remember not feeling supported, improper or even illegal dealings and leadership that is uninvolved or just absent. The measure

of an organization that emphasizes culture is not what happens when things are going well, it's the actions taken when there has been some problems. We recently experienced a cyber attack on one of our employees. Our team went right to work on isolating the problem, identifying the solution and implementing a plan of action to restore our employees ability to get back to work and add security measures that Improve our agencies ability to navigate our on-line world. I credit our strength of culture for making this event an agency success story and not an agency tragedy. There was no

blaming, no finger pointing and no excuses. Only a single focus of restoration to employee and agency. I have nothing but the highest praise for the team that worked this problem into a stronger MPower, and in doing so hope that I am supporting the culture that I love to see in all of our endeavors.



Travis DeMoss
Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM HR

- MPower will be closed on September 5th for Labor Day



Cheyenne Freeman
Manager of Administrative Services

MPowers VISION STATEMENT:

We are committed to the belief that promoting an individual's hopes, wants and dreams is the first step to achieving self-determination.

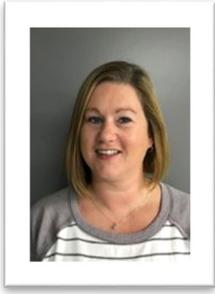
MEET THE TEAM

Erica Allcorn	Kaetlyn Lindemann
Laurin Bartlett	Angela May
Kellie Berry	Erica Rennison
Dakota Cantwell	Sonia Setzer
Christy Coslet	Tanya Steele
Erica Cox	Melissa Stockwell
Diana Crouch	Caitlyn Tanner
Travis DeMoss	Jennifer Trent
Jessica Elgin	Tim VanBebber
Tyler Emerson	Tammy Waggoner
Cheyenne Freeman	Elizabeth Washington
Kami Hruska	Ashlea Withers
Nik Langston	

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FROM THE DESK OF ELIZABETH WASHINGTON



*Elizabeth Washington
Saline County
Supervisor*

Welcome to the Team
Dakota!



Dakota started in Saline County August 8th. He has been engrossed in Service Coordination training and learning the ropes of Service Coordination.

Dakota comes to us with a variety of past experiences that he will be able to apply well in the role as a Service Coordinator. Dakota is an alumni of Missouri Valley College. He looks forward to meeting new people each with their own stories to tell and is really looking forward to working with a team dedicated to positively impacting their community and the lives there in. Dakota, we also look forward to working with you

and seeing the many ways you will impact the lives of the individuals in our community. Please help us welcome Dakota!



Frankie Lammers

THE MPOWERED CONSUMER

Service Coordinators Care If you think your Service Coordinator doesn't fall in love the individuals on their caseloads, you'd be wrong. I get a little teary eyed when one of individuals moves out of the area or becomes so independent, they no longer need me. And I have a good cry when one of them dies. Just last month, one of my guys died. His name was Frankie. He was a goofy 77-year-old man. He loved hats, cars and sweat-pants. He loved to stand outside his home and wave to

passing cars. He called me "momma" and once tried to steal the neighbor's hat right out of their garage. He was goofy and funny and loved to put tape on his cars and hats. He also liked to wear multiple hats! He always made me smile when I went into his home. And when I visit this month it will be a little bit harder than it was before, knowing he isn't there. So don't ever doubt that we care and get to know and love the individuals that are on our caseloads. Our hopes,

wants and dreams are to see them succeed and do well. Frankie, and the ones that passed before him, will be missed.

By Tammy Waggoner

FROM THE DESK OF ASHLEA WITHERS

From the Desk of Ashlea Withers

Celebrating staff and their accomplishments is one of the highlights of being a supervisor. On August 24, 2022, Kami Hruska celebrated her two-year anniversary of being a Service Coordinator in Pettis County. In the time that Kami has been part of this team, she has solidified herself as a die-hard advocate, wonderful communicator, and excellent coworker. Her disposition is always supportive, cheery, and full of passion.

Kami started her journey with us right in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kami completed her training and received a caseload of individuals

to serve, work with, and advocate for. And it was an entire caseload of people that she had never met in person. Every interaction that she had with these individuals and the providers was done virtually, as we were restricted from any in-person activities. How easy can it be to get to know multiple people over emails, calls, and video meetings? How successful can you be at learning the role of a Service Coordinator while being separated from your coworkers, individuals, and teams? Well let me tell you, Kami made this look like a breeze. She took this challenge on without a single complaint or apprehension. And did this with grace, professionalism, and

dedication. And has solidified herself as a valuable piece of the teams she is a part of.

Kami started with us as a full time SC and is currently a part time employee as she has dedicated more time to her family and little one at home. I have shared with her many times, I would choose to keep her part time, quarter time, or whatever that needed to look like as long as she was still here. Kami is a valuable employee and should be extremely proud of the work she has accomplished in her 2 years. We're lucky to have you, Kami!



Ashlea Withers
Pettis County Supervisor

THE MPOWERED CONSUMER

Helping Hands Free Store



Helping Hands Free Store
33997 Highway E
Green Ridge, Missouri 65332



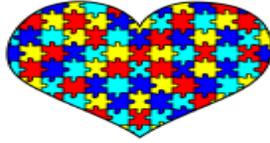
The Helping Hands Free Store was established to help those in need of clothing, household items, and miscellaneous necessities. All items are available at no cost. Any donated funds are used to pay store utilities, offset the cost for fuel needed to travel with donations, and/or to purchase supplies such as storage totes for seasonal items. All are welcome to visit the store and/or to visit online: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/332454477260243/about>

By Jennifer Trent



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Stepping Stones Autism Family Support Group



*Meetings held the first Monday of each month
6:00p.m
First Christian Church of Sedalia
200 S Limit*

*Come share, gather resources, ideas and help
from families in our area!*

*For more information email:
Sara White at swhite082878@gmail.com
Karen Lauer at jklauer@charter.net*



*check us out on Facebook!
"Stepping Stones Autism Support Group"*

COME CHECK US OUT ON
THE WEB!!!

WWW.MPOWERTCM.ORG

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MPOWER'S MISSION STATEMENT

*Empowering people to manage
the direction of their life.*



MPOWER

Derived from the word "Empower" and meaning "to promote the self-actualization or influence of one's self".

Welcome to MPower, an agency developed to meet the Targeted Case Management needs of adults with disabilities in Pettis and Saline Counties. At MPower, we have dedicated ourselves to providing the highest quality case management services available in Central Missouri. We believe that the individuals we serve deserve an advocate that is highly trained, well-educated on the latest trends and highly motivated to assist people in navigating the intricate systems of State and Federal funding sources and the growing list of qualified providers.

We believe in you, we believe in your hopes, wants, and dreams. We believe that when you are "MPowered" to make your own choices and have the proper supports, then you have the greatest potential for success.

It is our pleasure to walk beside you.