

WINTER 2023

VALLEY VIEWS

THE VALLEY HOPE EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



HOPE *for the* HOLIDAYS



Deck the Halls

Staff Spotlight

New Employees,
Voices of Hope,
Foundation

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HOPE *for the* HOLIDAYS

DECK THE HALLS Annual Contest



VERY MERRY! It's time for the Third Annual Holiday Decorating Contest!

Each year as part of Hope for the Holidays, Valley Hope facilities celebrate the season and bring joy to patients by creating a festive environment - TREES! TINSEL! LIGHTS! and much more!

Your decorations are shared out on social media and the facility with the most votes wins the coveted

This Year's Contest Details:

- All photos must be submitted by December 7th — voting will begin on December 8th.
- Voting will end on December 15th at NOON.
- This year we are adding outpatient facilities into their very own category and voting will be separate.

We hope to have entries from all locations this year! HAPPY DECORATING!





STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Kelcie Jurgonski

Accounts Receivable Specialist, Valley Hope Home Office



I'm responsible for many functions in AR including taking customer calls, updating payment statuses, and qualifying patient refunds.

I am originally from Washington state. In 2014 my husband and I left the state as we began a life in recovery. After several moves, we finally settled in Kansas where we purchased a homestead where we raise our son and care for all kinds of farm animals. My son and I milk goats daily and I use the goat milk in my homemade soaps. We also share our home with numerous reptile species and two American Bully XL dogs.

We feel so blessed to be 9 years sober. I am proof that you can go from living on the streets to being a productive citizen and homeowner in recovery. Recovery is possible.

What was your first job?

Wart Hog BBQ pit in Puyallup WA. Half of the building is a meat smoker so I always smelled good after leaving work.

Who is someone you really admire?

My grandpa, he raised 8 kids all by himself. I was his only granddaughter and I have two cousins. We grew up together around his house. Even through my addiction my grandpa was always there and never judged me. I am very thankful that I was sober and he was still here when my son was born on his birthday. He has passed but I am so blessed to have a precious angel in him.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?

I had to ask my co-workers for advice on this one. Drew Barrymore because I'm quirky, bubbly and today my hair looks a lot like hers. Lol!

What would we most likely find you doing on the weekend?

- Saturdays sewing, baking and outside chores.
- Saturday evenings goat therapy for Sunday wrestling tournaments.
- Sunday wrestling tournaments, I'm not too quiet when my heart is out on that mat. This explains why I need goat therapy the night before.

Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your work?

My supervisor Kerri R. She is kind and respectful in instructing and constructive criticism. She is patient and understanding. She has allowed me the time to learn and become independent in my duties. Kerri and my coworkers have helped me gain confidence in my work.

Is there something that has made you smile recently?

Yes, actually this morning. My son's goat Stellar she has a personality that is very friendly and nosy. She attempted to get in my vehicle to come to work by jumping into my lap and nibble on my hair. When I told her no and got her out and off of me, I shut the door she gave it a little head butt and her mad BAAHH!

What would you like to do when you retire?

I would like to establish a wild animal life sanctuary on our homestead.

What led you to this career?

I was led to apply at VH because of the work they provide and my past experience. I was working at a facility when the position at corporate became available.

What do you like most about your job?

Who I work with and working with patients. I may not be face to face, some calls are rough, some are amazing. I love that once a patient/relative realizes that I am in recovery, and I truly do understand a lot of what they are saying. They change their tone towards me and we get to resolving things and working with each other.

If you could instantly become an expert in something, what would it be?

Definitely would be a math whiz. I like to have that mental math skill and not have to use a calculator. I know weird, I'm in accounting lol.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER 2023

ATCHISON

Bryie, Julia A., 23
Drinkard, Lynn M., 14
Hemel, Megan L., 3
Halling, Amanda, 2
Warren, Megan K., 2
Dowell, Lori, 1

BOONVILLE

Zeller, Dorothea R., 13
Bridges, Daniel, 3
Neor, John W., 2

CHANDLER

White, August L., 7
Carson, Justin, 2
Hyacinthe, Alexa I., 1
Ohman, Melissa J., 1

CUSHING

Burge, Steven D., 11
Chapman, Hannah-Beth, 2
Price, Gabrielle, 1

GRAPEVINE

Miller, Tasha R., 20
Good, Elizabeth A., 15
Bickers, Christopher T., 4
Britt, Rodney, 1

MOUNDRIDGE

Norman, Crystal L., 4
Shrimplin, Lola A., 1
Barnes, Amber D., 1

NEW DIRECTIONS

Pineda, Monica, 3

NORTON

Jarvis, Shanon L., 4
Wells, Cassie, 1

O'NEILL

Schafer, Miranda J., 4
Tunender, Michele, 4
Shields, Peggy M., 3
Scofield, Amy M., 2

OKLAHOMA CITY

Dean, Stephanie A., 1

PARKER

Lee, Dale M., 15
Bergado, Jay G., 4
Hogan, Elizabeth A., 2
Mullins, Mikala, 1

VALLEY HOPE FOUNDATION

Poire, Kortney M., 6

VALLEY HOPE CORPORATE

Bauer, Sandra K., 31
Beikman, Regina K., 27
Ray, Kerri L., 16
Kerney, Dana V., 14
Ward, Phillip A., 12
Wessel, Tamela E., 10

VALLEY HOPE SOLUTIONS

Reyes, Alesia, 1

WICHITA

Carty, Heather R., 1



OCTOBER 2023

ATCHISON

Selberg, Jack, 42
Griffin, Gail L., 33
Munsen, Deanna M., 19
Bratton, Tiffani N., 12
Ramsey, Amy E., 9
Gates, Linda L., 6
White, Bailee N., 5
Krupke, Benjamin, 3
Young, Scott M., 3
Royer, Amy, 2

BOONVILLE

Dotzler, Julie A., 6
Williams, Steven R., 2

CHANDLER

Amaya, Esai, 1
Hudson, Mary B., 1

CUSHING

Brown, Brian T., 13
Williams, Misty D., 3
Sullivan, Keiana, 2

DENVER

Berger, Sylvia, 3
Perry, Colby, 1

GRAPEVINE

Dodd, Lisa G., 5

MOUNDRIDGE

Lochridge-Ecker, Jeanette C., 5
Carter, Samantha D., 1
Maley, Darrel, 1
Moore, Michaela J., 1

NEW DIRECTIONS

Rager, Bridget A., 8

NORTON

Simmons, Judy C., 22
Keiswetter, Jana L., 7
Davis, Marissa R., 4
Voss, Ireland R., 2
Sorter, Angela M., 1
Bartels, Eric D., 1

O'NEILL

Baker, Sandy K., 23
Ross, Sidney M., 6
Dannenbring, Kelli, 5
Miles, Rebecca A., 4
Day, Kaye, 2
Alder, Brenda L., 1
Hubenka, Jolie A., 1

OVERLAND PARK

Napolitan, Samuel N., 10
Wheeler, Charles E., 6

PARKER

Newton, Emily C., 3
Calero, Elizabeth, 1
Flowers, Weston, 1

VALLEY HOPE CORPORATE

Shinn, Laurie M., 22
Gonzales, Malissa B., 15
Dunque, Lydia, 11
Fiscus, Tonielle M., 6
Fields, Patrick L., 3
Westphal, Timothy, 1



ATCHISON

Miller, Celina, LPN
Brelsford, Heather M.
Counselor-Admissions
Sinclair, Carrie A., RN
Admissions Nurse
Convey, Mindy, LPN

BOONVILLE

Thurman, Rita K., RN
Strong, Rodney E.
Dir-Business Development
Callaway, Veronica
Cook I
Williams, Steve
Cook I
Spilman, Avery K.
Patient Care Aide
Bloom, Anna, RN
Simon, Ariell
Chaplain
Buehler, Jesse
Spcl-Peer Support

CHANDLER

Whitehead, Mason, RN
Campos, Salvador, RN
Pauley, Jasmin Joy
Patient Care Aide
Darkwa, Norman, RN
Flores, Alexis, RN
Sorcigli, Erasmo
Patient Care Aide

Brambila-Arballo, Kristy
Mgr - Admissions
Laizure, Jacqueline, RN
Johnson, Kathryn
Counselor-Admissions

CUSHING

Chaney, Alyssa
Counselor II
Beaver, Bailey A.
Patient Care Aide
OKelley, Mariah
Asst-Administrative
Nicholas, Jayse M.
Patient Care Aide
Winterhalter, Quaila
Counselor-Admissions
Hamilton, Samantha
Cook
Hill, Shay, LPN
Shaffer, Shelli E.
Asst-Administrative

GRAPEVINE

Garcia, Alexander R.
Counselor-Admissions
Alam, Anwar
Patient Care Aide
Taylor, Travis, RN
Okoroafor, Emmanuel
Psychiatric NP
Calhoun, Gary
Mgr-Case

LeRoy, Michelle D.
Counselor II
Hawes, Alexandria
Counselor II
Wallace, Tonneau, RN
Chism II, Jeffery T.
Patient Care Aide
Cruz, Vania, RN
Admissions Nurse
Wittkopf, David
Counselor I

MOUNDRIDGE

Moore, Keri E., LPN
Dalke, Jerrod D.
Tech-Maintenance I
Grant, Ashley
Housekeeper I
Young, Leah
Patient Care Aide
Podsiadlik, Raymond
Cook
Karubi, Jennifer, RN
Admissions Nurse
Rhoads, Samantha
Cook I
Cody, Kimberly, RN
Helfrich, Lara, RN
Admissions Nurse
Wiggins, Melissa, RN
Charge Nurse
Mai, Lynn, RN
Charge Nurse

NEW DIRECTIONS

Schwindt, Domonique
Tech-Behavrl Hlthcare
W&C
Rochlitz, Barbara, RN
Black, Drea
Cook II
Kennedy, Danielle
Tech-Behavrl Hlthcare

NORTON

Rutherford, Stefanie, RN
Dannenberger, Tracy
Cook I
McDowell, Rhonda K.
Patient Care Aide
Smith-Wetter, Justina
Coord-Admissions
Loyd, Gwendolyn, RN
Charge Nurse
Keough, Alice
Mgr - Admissions
Palmer, Tinna
Counselor II
Blau, Jakobi
Patient Care Aide

O'NEILL

Shald, Penny
Cook I
Burival, Matthew
Mgr - Admissions
Kilcoin, Ashley
Housekeeper

PARKER

Jekelis, Michelle M.
Asst-Administrative
Gechter, Sara, RN
Charge Nurse
Wurtsmith, Abigail
Asst-Administrative
Fleming, Victoria, RN
Moll-Johnson, Rowena, RN
Thrap, Karen, RN
Kitchen, JoAnn
Patient Care Aide
Crews, Pat
Patient Care Aide
Larson, Leann, RN
Pezzimenti, Michelle, RN
Paige, Songe
Coord-Admissions
Smith, Elizabeth, RN

WICHITA

Clarkson, Christina
Counselor II

CORPORATE

Casey, Bradley A.
Analyst - Bus Sys & Intel
Taylor, Sonja K.
Asst-UR Administrative

NOVEMBER 2023

ATCHISON

Kelly, Steven M., 18
Miller, Wyndlyn S., 8
Drinkard, Allison, 5
Pollard, Amanda, 3
Glenn, Kristin, 2
Sokol, Shawna L., 1

BOONVILLE

Rhorer, Star L., 9
Williams, Sarah A., 5
Kimbrow, James A., 3
Mccutcheon, Rhonda, 3
Perry, Marcella C., 3
Thompson, Brenda, 2

CHANDLER

Alipusan, Rhocelle, 5
Clawson, Jessica, 1

CUSHING

De Graad, Ellen C., 19
Makaron, Kelli, 4
Harmon, Rita F., 2

GRAPEVINE

Espinal, Ana G., 18
Prentice, Aimee K., 18
Bryant, Joseph C., 5
Vamosi, Ashley E., 3
Wilson, Brittany, 1

MOUNDRIDGE

Dirksen, Ronald K., 5
Davidoff, Chato L., 4
Fike, Hope, 3
Jackson, Joshua D., 1

NORTON

Reetz, Allyson K., 1

O'NEILL

Thompson, Shawn M., 12
Murphy, Janet E., 1

OMAHA

Kidd, Markie J., 1

OVERLAND PARK

Whitfield, Anthony D., 1

PARKER

Anderson, Tammy D., 19
Herriot, Jeff, 2
Rambo, Evelyn J., 2

TEMPE

Soldan, Laura D., 8

VALLEY HOPE

CORPORATE

Yeager, Tiffney J., 18
Gall, Patricia J., 18
Hawks, Renee S., 14
Slaughter, Ladonna C., 9
Knuth, Steven F., 3

VALLEY HOPE

FOUNDATION

McGinnis, Makenzie, 2
Bressan, Rebecca A., 1





KENNETH R.

"If anyone wants to go to a recovery center where the staff actually care about you then I would suggest going to Valley Hope."

What was your biggest takeaway as a patient at Valley Hope that has informed your recovery journey?

If anyone wants to go to a recovery center where the staff actually care about you then I would suggest going to Valley Hope. I can't speak for any other recovery center because I've only been here.

What staff member most influenced your treatment stay?

My counselor Lana! She is the best and I love her for everything she did for me during my time there.

What is life like today in recovery?

I absolutely love my life in recovery! No drugs and no alcohol! I left Valley Hope and hit a meeting that same night and have been going to my home group there since.

What piece of advice would you share with others seeking recovery?

You have to want it! I mean with every fiber of your being and you have to do it for yourself and not because you were told to just to appease anyone else in your life.

JENNIFER H.

"People need to know there is hope out there. They are not alone. It can and will get better..."

What was your biggest takeaway as a patient at Valley Hope that has informed your recovery journey? I'm not a horrible person, and I'm not alone. I was at PVH in October of 2017 too. Back then, I still had it in my mind that this was my choice and it was my fault. After some of the classes that explained what alcohol does to our body and mind, I had a much better idea of what this illness is all about. I didn't choose this. I am a good person who has an illness that is treatable daily.

What staff member most influenced your treatment stay? I can't choose just one. Tammy was my counselor, and she just has the sweetest, most precious soul. I could tell she actually cared about me as a person. Dale was my chaplain. After suffering from religious trauma as a child, one of my biggest fears was being forced into what I saw as "the religious part of it." The kitchen staff - absolutely stellar!

What is life like today in recovery? I finally love me! My first attempt at sobriety in 2017 was for other people. This time, my recovery is for myself. I have finally forgiven myself for the choices I made during my body and mind reacting to trauma. No longer am I comparing myself to others. My dreams really are coming true. I am accomplishing things in my life that I truly only thought were dreams. I have a calmness and acceptance in my soul for this life that I never thought possible. I wish I could share this feeling with everyone.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Megan O'Connor, Valley Hope Foundation Executive Director

THE 56TH ANNUAL GIFT OF RECOVERY DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

This historic drive generates the necessary funds to assist patients in the coming year. Early Valley Hope leadership quickly recognized that many patients, due to the consequence of their addiction, lacked financial resources for the cost of treatment and immediate needs. The end of the year drive was created to provide this support. The tradition continues after 56 years! Last year 2,437 patients were helped by donated funds.

All donations to this drive are matched through January 31, 2024, dollar for dollar, thanks to donors who created a matching pool of \$200,000. Our drive goal this year is \$400,000.

Patients Helped with Scholarships & Essentials

July 1, 2023–November 27, 2023

Location	Scholarships	Essentials
Kansas NE	18	10
Missouri	8	2
Arizona	25	548
Oklahoma	5	2
Texas	4	7
Kansas SC	25	319
Kansas NW	30	15
Nebraska	12	88
Colorado	28	147

155

Total Scholarships

1,138

Total Essentials

\$274,465

Total Scholarships

\$61,494

Total Essentials





Quote of the Month:

"Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."

~WASHINGTON IRVING~