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Community Foundation, and Pottawatomie Nation

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We would like to thank you for funding Kansas Consumer Run Organizations. We work for Morning Star, Inc. in Manhattan, KS.

All the staff at our organization are people with mental health diagnosis who are in recovery to work with others with mental health diagnosis. This creates an environment of power sharing and power balance which is very healing for all our members. We have support groups, activities and individual peer support, all of which helps our members create lives worth living, despite a mental health diagnosis.

Our main priority is always keeping people from needing to use the much more expensive option of the state hospital or emergency rooms, or god forbid, jail or prison due to a mental health crisis. We do this by providing many groups and daily peer support which allow us to intervene and keep people in the community. We promote recovery by always working with our members to attain the four major dimensions that SAMHSA has delineated support a life in recovery: health, home, purpose and community.

We are a clean and sober environment and despite negative stereotypes about those with severe mental illness, have never had an incident of violence at our center.

In the past year we have had a marked increase in working with people who are transitioning out of an institution. This includes people who have been either long term in Osawatome, the Riley County Jail or El Dorado Prison. So far, we have been successful in keeping all these people in the community instead of returning to an institution. We have worked hard, and they have worked so hard and we are so proud of this record of success in keeping people out of expensive, and sometimes inhumane institutions.

With your generous support we are able to use connection, empathy and hope to combat the negative forces of isolation, stigma and hopelessness.

Sincerely,

Dantia MacDonald and Richard Stitt  
Co-Executive Directors