

# Outstanding Business Award Nomination

## Award Description:

The Outstanding Business Award will be presented to a Kansas business which has demonstrated notable and continued support of individuals with disabilities. (i.e. supported employment, volunteer work, donations, etc.)

**NOMINEE: Davis-Moore Auto Group**

**ORGANIZATION: Starkey, Inc.**

Provide a narrative including answers to the following questions. You may also attach a maximum of three letters of support. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

- What support was demonstrated?
- What was the amount of support?
- What is the size of the business?
- What is the nature of the business?
- How has this support had a positive impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities and their community?
- How long has this business been supportive of individuals with disabilities?
- Additional information.

## **NOMINATION NARRATIVE:**

Starkey's introduction to Davis Moore came 11 years ago when a man named Stuart Ray stopped by the information booth at the Cars for Charities Car Show. Stuart, a co-owner of the Davis-Moore auto dealership, had heard about employment programs for people with disabilities and wanted to let Starkey know he had potential jobs at the dealership for which he needed good candidates. Davis-Moore has around 200 employees, has been in business for 60 years and is touted as Kansas' largest auto group.

Eleven years ago, shortly after that meeting, they hired their first individual served at Starkey, Josh, who still works there today. They have celebrated his employment milestones with great fanfare and they provide ongoing support and encouragement in his job. And four years ago, they hired a second individual served by Starkey. But their involvement has grown exponentially over the years. They support almost every Starkey event, from fundraisers to parties for the people served at Starkey. Davis-Moore is a sponsor of the Starkey Sporting Clays fundraiser, now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, and sends volunteers to the event, including one of

their best-known employees, “Big Al” Ceynar, who encourages high bids at the auctions and games.

You will also see Davis-Moore at the Starkey Golf Classic, where they sponsor the hole-in-one contest – or at the Amber Waves Tasting Tour, where they purchase tickets to attend and provide a utility vehicle to haul items. They are there at the spring party for persons served, grilling hundreds of burgers and they are there at the holiday party, leading games and activities.

Stuart Ray has led by example for the company, organizing cookouts for multiple Starkey homes, buying all the food and supplies and cooking the meal himself. He hosted a Cinco De Mayo party at one of Starkey’s apartment buildings, bringing his homemade guacamole. He arranged for five of the individuals who love the Denver Broncos to receive footballs signed by Peyton Manning. He overheard one young woman talking about her love of horses and set up a visit to his stables, where she and her housemates got to feed, groom and pet his horses. At an ice cream social for the individuals at Starkey, Stuart fired up his freezers and made enough ice cream for about 100 people, complete with a wide variety of toppings, including fresh fruit.

Davis-Moore’s influence can be seen throughout Starkey – in the employment program, in campus buildings (through contributions to the Saving Lives Capital Campaign for the Devlin Center’s program areas) and in the events that raise both money and community awareness for Starkey’s mission. We are fortunate to have them as a strong community supporter, employer and source of endless volunteers!

**NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Colin McKenney, CEO**  
**ORGANIZATION: Starkey, Inc.**  
**TELEPHONE: 316-512-4105**  
**E-MAIL: cmckenney@starkey.org**

*I have reviewed and agreed to the criteria for filming the awards video.*

*I have obtained approval for this nomination from the submitting agency’s Executive Director.*

Send this form via email to [mshreve@interhab.org](mailto:mshreve@interhab.org)