

## Outstanding Personal Growth Award Nomination

Nominee: Matt Woellhof  
Organization: Big Lakes Developmental Center, Inc.

### Nomination Narrative:

Matt entered services with Big Lakes Developmental Center Inc., Clay Center, in August of 2004 after relocating from Lakin, KS with his family. Matt started out working on crews and quickly entered the Community Employment workforce in September of 2005. Formerly Medical Lodge, now known as Advena Living Center, Matt primarily provides laundry services, but assists with housekeeping when needed. Shortly after securing employment in the community, Matt also began living independently when his family moved back to Lakin.

When Matt first started working at Medical Lodge, he was allotted 6 hours to complete his tasks which include picking up multiple halls worth of laundry and taking it to the laundry room where he sorts, washes, dries and folds the laundry. When he has finished this task, he places all personal items on a cart and returns it to the residents on each hall. Recently, Matt's hours have been cut from 6 hours a day, to 4. The same amount of work is expected and Matt has adapted well to this new schedule. His ETS spent a couple days coaching Matt on how to make these changes and one full day observing and offering guidance of how to maximize his time. Since then, he has taken on all responsibilities on his own and meets the revised time and productivity requirements.

In addition to working on transitioning his routine at work, Matt has also been working on changing habits at home. Matt has worked with his residential support staff to make better choices when eating, increasing his exercise, and increasing his water intake. This has assisted in him losing 50 pounds over the last year.

Matt is an active member of the Clay Center community; attending the same church on a regular basis and supporting the local schools by attending a wide range of sporting events. It is rare that he isn't stopped by community members for a conversation at the local grocery store. Matt has a presence in the community and works every day to make each interaction a positive one.

Matt is one of the friendliest individuals you will ever meet. He works hard at achieving his goals and because of his tenacity in meeting those goals he has made amazing progress in his personal growth.

Name of Person Making This Nomination: Lori Feldkamp, CEO

Organization: Big Lakes Developmental Center

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