

Outstanding Personal Growth Award Nomination

Award Description:

The Outstanding Personal Growth Award will be presented to a person who receives services from an InterHab member and who has attained significant goals in his or her personal life. (e.g. move from institution to the community, independent living, education, relationships, etc.)

NOMINEE: Nathan Schaller

ORGANIZATION: Arrowhead West, 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 challenges has this person faced?
- How has he or she met those challenges?
- What are this person's significant accomplishments?
- What supports did this person have in accomplishing his or her goals?
- Are there other goals this person is working on reaching?
- Provide a biographical sketch of this person.
- Additional information.

NOMINATION NARRATIVE:

Nathan has been a client with Arrowhead West since December 14, 2010. He started working at Boot Hill Casino on October 18, 2010. This means, he found his community employment without the assistance of Arrowhead West. When he started at Arrowhead West, he accepted the help of a job coach, and this has helped him to continue to be successfully employed in the community. He first started working as a bus boy in the restaurant, then moved to the kitchen washing dishes. He then applied as a dealer and did not meet the qualifications for the position. However, Nathan was not deterred and then applied for a position as a prep cook. He has now been a prep cook since February 2023 and will soon be working in the sports betting area of the casino as a line cook. Nathan has continued to take advantage of growth opportunities. He considers future success at the casino as helping patrons and fellow employees, continuing to be happy, and maintain his employment. With consistent employment and the help of a payee, Nathan has learned how to budget his expenses and enjoys saving for special trips, needed healthcare items, and uses his money on his hobbies.

Nathan enjoys creating beautiful items. Attached you will find an article from the Dodge City Globe in which Nathan was featured for his crocheting hobby. He is working on creating the world's largest crochet square. Nathan taught himself how to crochet. He crochets because it relaxes him. He also enjoys making rosaries. Another hobby he has

is working in his garden. He loves to talk about what vegetables he has planted each year and shares his produce with his peers.

When Nathan is not at his community job, he participates in the Arrowhead West day program and lives in a supported living apartment with Arrowhead West.

Nathan's latest adventure was to get his driver's license. He recently passed his written test with a 98% and went on to pass his driver's test! Now, Nathan has a goal to save up money to purchase a vehicle. His friends are so proud of him and his accomplishments over the years! He is knocking down barriers and inspiring those around him.

Last, we would like to speak about Nathan's courage in presenting himself as openly and honestly as he does. When he first met his job coach, Michelle Jolliff, he expressed that he wanted to be able to live his life as he chooses to live, without judgement from peers, family, and community members.

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Michelle Jolliff, Andrea Stegman, Norma Valverde

ORGANIZATION: Arrowhead West, Inc.

TELEPHONE: 620-225-4061

E-MAIL: mjolliff@arrowheadwest.org, astegman@arrowheadwest.org, nvalverde@arrowheadwest.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

**The deadline to submit award nominations is June
2!**

5/26/2023

Dear InterHab Members:

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Nathan Schaller for the Outstanding Personal Growth Award. I have known Nathan for a little over 6 years and have experience with Nathan in residential services as well as the day program services. Nathan lives in an apartment and receives supported living services from Arrowhead West Incorporated. Nathan is always helpful to his roommates and peers. He is a leader in the day program and his peers look to him for guidance. He was voted by his peers to serve as an alternate on the community council, with the CDDO. Nathan has always been caring, responsible, and goal oriented. He wants to live his life to the fullest. He has travelled by plane out of state to visit family members. While there he has taken full advantage of the tourist attractions and taken in as much as he can while visiting. Below are some of his accomplishments and goals that he has set or is in the process of achieving.

Nathan has worked at the Boot Hill Casino since October of 2010. While starting as a bus boy he has since ventured out and applied for different positions. He has not got every position that he applied for but that has not stopped him from continuing to apply and try for different positions. He used to use public transportation to get to and from work, but the casino is no longer on the public transportation route.

Since I started with Arrowhead West, Nathan has liked to crochet. When in residential services and I would stop at his house in the evening he would be sitting with the TV on crocheting. After a few times of stopping by I noticed that he was continuing to crochet on the same project and when I asked him what he was working on. He explained to me that it is a square and he is going for the Guinness world record. I had to research if there was such a record and found there is. Another hobby that he has is gardening which he has a plot at Dodge City Community College. He grows various fruits and vegetables in his garden and takes great pride in sharing the produce with his peers. One last hobby he has is making beautiful Rosaries.

Maybe one of his greatest accomplishments, in my opinion, is he achieved his drivers license and pursued this all on his own. He passed the written test and the driving test the first time he attempted them. His goal now is to save up and purchase a car. I truly believe Nathan can accomplish anything he sets his mind to do. I like that he does not shy away from anything and willing to take it upon himself to live the life that he wants for himself.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Post". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Brett Post

Program Manager

Arrowhead West Inc.

May 30, 2023

Dear InterHab Members:

I would like to nominate Nathan Schaller for the Outstanding Growth Award for 2023. I have had the privilege of knowing Nathan for many years.

Nathan Schaller has overcome so many barriers in his life to get where he is today. Nathan is very kind and loving. One of the biggest challenges for Nathan was overcoming family/ personal barriers. He never let things get him down. He learned to ask for support from others and worked hard to overcome the barriers that for most people would be overwhelming. Nathan accepted Residential Support from Arrowhead West by moving into a supported living apartment. From that point on he grew into a very positive, independent person.

Nathan is a very loyal employee. I can attest to this due to being the Community Employment Manager at Arrowhead West for 10 years. Nathan started out as a dishwasher for the Boot Hill Casino in 2010, working several days a week, every Sunday, and all family holidays. Never a complaint to be heard. Nathan now works in other areas of the kitchen and Casino. Nathan has earned Personal Time Off and sick pay. Nathan takes responsibility for scheduling his own vacation time with supervisor approval. He has taken vacations out of state to visit family, as far away as Florida. Booking Airline tickets and traveling on his own. He just recently passed his driver's license test and now wants to buy a car.

Nathan's hobbies are making beautiful homemade rosaries and crocheted baby afghan blankets for people to purchase as gifts.

With all the above being said, Nathan has become a very independent productive citizen in society. If you had only known him 13 years ago you would certainly understand why I'm nominating him for the Outstanding Growth Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Feldt".

Kay Feldt, Arrowhead West Inc.

Date: May 24, 2023

To whom it may concern,

He is a joy to be around him.

He is a good friendly to me.

He helps me cook, and he is a good cousin to me.

Paula Stem - FRIEND

Never enough knots for Nathan Schaller

CRAFTER'S CORNER:

Whitney Hodgin

Dodge City Globe

How many knots does a man have to make before he bests the rest in the world record for largest crochet square?

Nathan Schaller is competing for the Guinness World Record largest crochet square in the granny square pattern and plans to win the title in 2025.

Progress has been slow, but steady, as he works diligently towards the goal during his free time after work and while watching TV with his roommate Urial Garcia. So far, he has a 10-foot by 10-foot earth-tone blanket that covers most of the living room floor.

"I've been crocheting for 20 years, and yes, I consider myself a competitive guy," Schaller said. "It makes me feel great and very positive, like an achiever."

Where once he questioned his ability, the 30-year-old now is a professional crafter. He sells his wares on Facebook and teaches other crocheters how to sharpen their skills.

"I tried questioning myself if I could do it or not," he said. "And then it came to me, I can do this and I'm not going to stop until I achieve this record."

He plans to donate his record-winning crochet square to a Kansas-based museum or even the Carnegie Arts Center in Dodge City so to inspire others to take up the craft.

"I would recommend anyone try this hobby if they want to be taught or learn," he said. "The art of crocheting is an awesome skill and gift."

The Guinness World Records guidelines allow for a team of people to crochet the square together, but Schaller said he would rather go it alone.

"I prefer to be a lone wolf," he said. He said crocheting helps him reduce anxiety and even promotes a sense of calm whenever he picks up a hook and his favorite brand of Red Heart yarn.

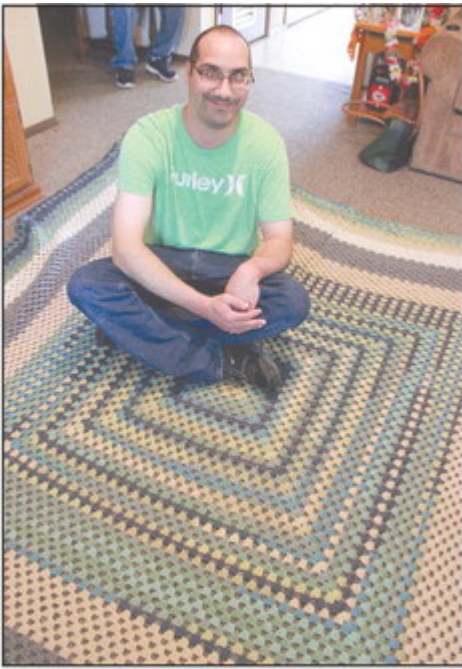
"The reason I crochet is because it relieves the stress and has me focus on stuff," he said. "Area mental health center taught me to crochet to cope with my social anxiety and my ADHD. When I'm in public I get overwhelmed easily. This calms me down. I ask myself, 'Do I really need to be overwhelmed right now?'" Another hobby that calms Schaller down is gardening in the Dodge City Community College garden, where he sows seeds of charity by carefully tending two beds full of produce he donates to Manna House and Friendship Feast.

He has been known to sell his crocheted blankets, as well as his handmade rosaries. It's a hobby he said he picked up from his grandfather, who also used to make rosaries.

Father Wesley at Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe sometimes blesses the rosaries made of gemstones like amethyst, topaz and jasper, he said.

"You have to have patience to work with beads," he said.

He must have patience to crochet a 67-foot by 67-foot record-winning crochet square, too.



A future record-winning crochet square frames crafter Nathan Schaller inside his Dodge City home, where he continuously creates to keep his mind calm and competitive.



NATHAN'S SUCCESS

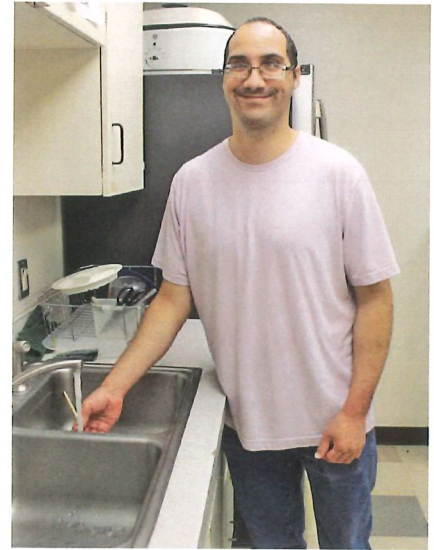
Driven, positive, happy, determined, dedicated and very busy are all words that best describe Nathan.

Nathan has worked as part of Arrowhead West's Community Employment Program for nearly 12 years and has found success in his job at the Boothill Casino. He has worked for nearly 12 years as a dishwasher, except for it being closed for 3 ½ months during COVID. He most recently began learning to be a prep cook and finds it enjoyable.

Nathan depended on Arrowhead West staff to get him to and from work and has now gained more independence by using the public transportation services. His schedule is to work three days a week but often covers shifts when they are shorthanded. Nathan chuckled and when asked why, he responded "it's fun". He truly loves his job!

Sitting idle is not something Nathan does often. When he is not working at the casino, he is busy at Arrowhead West's Day Program. He sorts and shreds documents, cleans offices and assists in folding and labeling mailings.

Determination is what Nathan has while working on his newest project. He enjoys crocheting and has been for 20 years. He finds crocheting relaxing. A little over a year ago he decided to try to break the Guinness world record for the largest afghan crafted by crocheting. It is currently 12 feet square, and his goal is 47 feet. He hopes to reach that goal in three years. Along with crocheting Nathan enjoys gardening and making rosaries.



"Nathan has a positive attitude and is willing to help others when needed. He has a desire to learn new tasks with his current positions as dishwasher and prep cook. He is a dedicated employee who can be counted on," said Michelle Jolliff, Job Coach.

Summer Fun



Camp REACH at Camp Lakeside is a highlight of the summer. Everyone was excited to get back after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Swimming, fishing, dancing, barbeques, and touring Monument Rock were among the activities.

"It was great to be back to camp! The clients always have a great time while relaxing with their friends," said Lori Lacy, Residential Manager.