

75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee

October 9, 2005

6 PM Social Time

Entertainment

Corky Siebert & Jill Hershey,
Individuals Served at Starkey

6:30 PM Dinner

Invocation

George Harris
Transportation Manager

7:15 PM Program

Commemorative Video

Rule Productions LLC

Welcome

Alan Brown, President
Lee Erwin, Vice President
Starkey Advisors

Special Recognition

Marla Flentje, President
Board of Directors

Special Announcements

Carolyn Risley Hill, CEO

Guest Presentation

Tom Laing, Executive Director,
InterHab

Starkey Birthday Celebration

8 PM Dance

Entertainment

Fowler Brothers Band



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Common

Threads

The First 75 Years

75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee
October 9, 2005
Century II Exhibition Hall

Printing donated by Valley Offset Printing



Hattie Starkey
1892-1983

*Every legacy
begins with a story...*



*Hattie Silvius
and Ray Starkey
on their
wedding day.*

1930s-1940s Humble Beginnings

Hattie Silvius was born in Kingman, Kansas in 1892. A talented musician, she trained to be a violin player and planned on a lifelong career as a music teacher. However, her life took a different course after she married Ray Starkey and moved to Wichita: treatment of a spider bite on her hand resulted in permanent nerve damage that prevented her from playing an instrument. It was then that Mrs. Starkey turned her focus as a teacher to a small group of students she had observed struggling to learn in public school.

Willing to offer more time and patience to such students, Mrs. Starkey decided to open her home to students with disabilities. She started with two students, one of whom had no hands, and the other of whom had cerebral palsy. In no time at all, word spread of the makeshift school, and Ray and Hattie Starkey ended up moving several times to larger and larger homes in Wichita “where more leaves could be put in the dining room table.” At its height, the home-based school accommodated as many as 40 students in a basement classroom.



Students gather in the backyard of Hattie Starkey's home.



Students and teachers at the Starkey School.



The first Starkey School, after completion in 1952.

1950s A New School

When Mrs. Starkey talked with parents of her students about the need for a permanent school building, they were more than willing to help in any way they could. The families took second mortgages - almost unheard of in that era - on their homes to help finance the construction of a six-classroom school building at 144 S. Young. Completed in 1952, the school accommodated more than 70 students and twelve full-time and three part-time teachers. A nearby home was converted into instruction areas for cooking, sewing, ceramics, music and a kindergarten classroom.

In 1955, Mrs. Starkey officially turned the school over to the parent group, which incorporated Starkey as a non-profit organization called the Starkey School for Retarded Children Inc. and elected a five-member board of directors: Cecil Morrison, Otto Hill, E.C. Galloup, Lieber Mies and Delmar Allen (the last surviving member, Mr. Allen, passed away in 2005). Mrs. Starkey, who served as educational director, said of her students: "I have never seen such a happy group of children."

On a national level, attitudes toward individuals with developmental disabilities began improving during this decade, though many such individuals still lived in state hospitals and institutions. Parents formed grassroots networks that would eventually lead to improved services for their sons and daughters, such as the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC).



Teacher John Frye and student, 1959.



Students pose in their new classroom.



In 1969, Starkey took over operation of a preschool program from the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) of Sedgwick County.

1960s Community Partners

In May 13, 1965, the unthinkable happened: A tornado destroyed the Starkey School a mere ten minutes after parents and volunteers had left a meeting there.

The tornado caused \$70,000 worth of damage to the \$100,000 structure. Starkey's 95 students were moved to Olivet Baptist Church at 13th and High St., and parents and volunteers began the work of rebuilding the school. Local businessman Vic Zakoura and other members of the West Wichita Lions Club had become engaged in the Starkey cause a few years earlier, when they helped raise funds to build the physical education building in 1962. The Lions Club again rallied for the cause, and raised enough money to rebuild the school by October of that year. Hattie Starkey, who had retired in 1962, attended the open house and led tours of the newly rebuilt school.

Unique learning opportunities abounded at the school. Teacher Virginia Chastain had a "country store" where students learned math by making change for purchases and spelling by reading the words on cans of food.

By 1965, the United Fund (now called the United Way) provided more than half of Starkey's annual budget of \$45,594. The school charged \$30 per month for a student's tuition.

In 1966, longtime teacher John Frye became executive director of the school, replacing his brother Kenneth Frye, who had become director in 1962 when Mrs. Starkey retired. The school's staff saw a need for additional space for a work program, as students who had graduated from the Starkey School often stayed on to develop their vocational skills and earn money. In 1967, the first workshop building was constructed and a year later, the school's name was changed to Starkey Developmental Center, reflecting the broadening of its mission to include employment opportunities.



A new school building was constructed at 144 S. Young after the original one was destroyed by a tornado in 1965.



Hattie Starkey served as education director of the school until she retired in 1962.



The physical education building was constructed in 1962.



1970s The 'White House'

The Starkey Developmental Center complex grew again in 1971, with the addition of the Morrison Building, named for board member and parent Cecil Morrison. Mayor A. Price Woodard spoke at the groundbreaking for the 10,000-square-foot building, which was funded with a \$250,000 grant from Wichita's Model Cities program. At the time, the city had a "desperate local need for a training facility for adults who needed supervised work opportunities," said then-director John Frye. Individuals at Starkey did small parts assembly and a variety of other jobs on a contract basis for local companies.

The 1970s would bring several landmark national laws impacting individuals with developmental disabilities: the Developmental Disabilities Service and Facilities Construction Amendment of 1970 established state planning councils and instituted state grant programs; the Social Security Amendments of 1972 established Supplemental Security Income for these individuals; and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 established free and integrated public education for individuals with disabilities. Wichita public schools began offering special education classes at Starkey for students within their district, as Starkey had become the first school accredited by the Kansas Department of Education as a "special purpose school" under the new law.

In 1979, Starkey opened its first community living setting at 4930 W. Douglas, a two-story six-bedroom house built in 1910 that was purchased for \$42,000. Nine individuals and two "house parents" lived in the home after extensive renovation. Once again, the West Wichita Lions Club led the fund-raising charge, operating bingo games and donating all of the proceeds, a total of \$52,000 in three years. They also volunteered time to paint and help renovate the home, which was called the White House. (Starkey had not used this home in recent years, and it was torn down in 2004 after renovation was deemed too extensive and costly.)



Parents were thrilled to have a residential option for their sons and daughters. "We found that our Starkey clients were growing up, and as they got older, their parents were getting older. What happens when their parents are gone?" John Frye, director, said at the time.

Running that first Starkey home cost \$30 a day per resident, and the residents were prioritized in the following order: those who had no parents, those whose parents were unable to adequately care for them due to age and those whose parents lived outside the community and could not provide transportation to Starkey programs.



The Morrison Building, built in 1971, provided space for a work program (above) and home living instruction (below).



Starkey classroom, 1970s.



The West Wichita Lions Club continued their fund-raising efforts for Starkey with the annual pancake feed.



A contract with S/V Tool Company kept individuals at Starkey busy assembling ice scrapers (above).

1980s A Place To Work

As local business owners learned of the abilities of individuals at Starkey to do contract work, they eagerly sent work their way, so much so that in 1980 wood and plastic satellite work locations were opened to accommodate additional jobs. In addition to the production of grade stakes used by local construction companies and wood pallets used by Excel and Wescon, the individuals in the work program assembled and shipped ice scrapers through a contract with the S/V Tool Company of Newton. They also did small parts assembly jobs for such companies as Tweco Products.

In 1981, Starkey received its first accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, a national recognition for the quality of its programs.

The community living program grew by leaps and bounds during this time, as well. In 1983, three additional community living settings were opened, followed by seven more homes over the next four years. In 1983, the Starkey Action Council started its annual Holiday Market, an event with a variety of local merchants in one place, all selling wares and donating part of the proceeds to Starkey. Also featured was the Starkey parent sewing group, which crafted beautiful handmade items for Starkey's benefit.

In 1984, another major fundraising event got underway: the Charlie Daniels Golf Classic. The country singer visited Kansas at the request of KFDI Radio, and would return each year for the next two decades on Starkey's behalf. In 1988, a new addition to the Morrison Building was constructed, and named in Charlie Daniels' honor. By 1989, Starkey served a total of 182 individuals.



Charlie Daniels and John Larkin, 1984.



At the wood satellite, individuals assembled wood pallets for sale in the community.



In the 1980s the Lilac Lane Preschool moved to St. Joseph Medical Center. It closed in 1989 when public schools assumed responsibility for preschool services for children with disabilities.



Proceeds from the sale of items made in the leather shop (Roy Kelley and student, pictured at right) and the ceramics shop helped fund Starkey programs.



Showing that Starkey pride.



The work building at 4500 W. Maple was opened in 1994.

1990s Building for Growth

The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Reform Act would not come along until 1995 in Kansas, but nationwide, attitudes toward people with disabilities changed earlier, with the passage of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA prohibited discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment and provided accommodations to help eliminate physical and communications barriers.

At Starkey, this decade began with the retirement of director John Frye, who had been at Starkey 30 years, and the hiring of Bill Brotton, who had previously helmed other community disability agencies in Kansas. In 1990, the Center of Hope, a local disability service agency, merged with Starkey, bringing 25 additional individuals, nine staff and parents who became active volunteers and board members.

In the early 1990s, the school building at 144 S. Young was renovated into offices and administrative space. In 1991, Starkey kicked off a \$1.5 million capital campaign to build a new 33,000-square-foot work building at 4500 W. Maple. The following year, the Starkey Board of Directors approved creation of the Starkey Foundation as a separate fund-raising organization, with the capital campaign as its first charge.

The new work building was opened, debt-free, in 1994. It was designed by architect Allen Ahre, a Starkey parent, and was the first ADA-accessible building constructed in Sedgwick County. It not only accommodated more than 200 individuals in the work program, but also provided a cafeteria and space for health services and administrative offices. The Morrison Building was used for other day programs providing life skills training and leisure activities.

In 1995, the DD Reform Act changed the face of disability services in Kansas by shifting services to local communities from the state institutions, and creating community developmental disability organizations. This transition required Starkey to quickly expand its community living program, and more than 30 houses were added during this decade.

Starkey's employment program grew during this time as well. In 1993, the Supported Employment program was launched, with an individual gaining a job in the community at Metal-Fab.



Clockwise from top, a Supported Employment placement at a Dillons store; birthday celebration in the Life Skills program; learning new skills to live independently; renovation of the school at 144 S. Young to become administrative offices; marching to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the ADA signing; the work floor in Starkey's new main facility at 4500 W. Maple.





The 15-unit Kouri Place Apartments opened in May 2005.

21st Century High Hopes

By the look of it, Starkey is poised to enjoy unprecedented growth in the coming decades. New opportunities exist for employment in the community and new attitudes about disabilities - or more importantly, abilities - have emerged as people discover that a developmental disability does nothing to diminish pride in work, joy in life and all of the qualities one needs to be successful.

In 2001, Carolyn Risley Hill joined Starkey as the CEO, bringing with her 20 years of experience as a former Director of Youth and Adult Services for Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services and as a Division Director for Field Services for the Child Welfare League of America. Shortly after her arrival, a three-year strategic plan was developed that focused on organizational structure and policies, program development and growth in technology and employment opportunities.

One of the first achievements in this plan was the construction of a new 15-unit apartment complex, the Kouri Place Apartments at 140 S. Anna. Funded with \$1.27 million in low-income housing tax credits from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, the apartments offered a new living option for individuals who sought to live independently, but needed the occasional support of an on-site manager. For some individuals, this was the first move away from a parent or guardian's home.

Another accomplishment was the formation of Starkey Enterprises, a separate organization with a mission of creating employment opportunities for the men and women served at Starkey. With the support of individuals at Starkey, their parents and guardians, employees and other friends, and a match from the Starkey Foundation, the *Buy Shares in Starkey's Future* campaign raised \$122,620 to help fund a business to employ individuals with disabilities and create a new revenue source for Starkey. The business, a resale shop called Overstock Avenue, opened in September 2005.

75th Anniversary 2005 Events



The anniversary exhibit with photos from the past and present traveled to locations throughout Wichita such as the Bank of America atrium in January 2005.



On June 21, 2005, Starkey representatives dedicated a time capsule with historical items from the past 75 years. The capsule is buried in a monument located at 4500 W. Maple.



Residents of the Kouri Place Apartments joined with CEO Carolyn Risley Hill, board members and community leaders to dedicate the new building on July 19, 2005.



Starkey's resale business, Overstock Avenue, opened to the public on September 8, 2005. More than 70 of the individuals served at Starkey, including David Nicks, left, assisted with the set-up of the store.