CONGRATULATIONS!

**The following individuals have been nominated for Employee of the Quarter. Individually and collectively, Cottonwood, Inc. has some absolutely outstanding employees. Please take a moment this week to congratulate the following individuals for this honorable nomination by their co-workers. The 2017 Third Quarter winner will be announced in the near future. Following are excerpts from individual nominations for this quarter:**

Jennifer Diedel’s primary full-time position is with the Finance department and since the implementation of KanCare and the different documentation and payment systems implemented by the three different MCOs, there have been a lot of changes within the department that have increased her responsibilities and work load. In addition to working full time in Finance, Jennifer takes on numerous extra residential shifts to help with the great number of shifts that continually need to be covered. Her dedication and willingness to work these hours have taken enormous burdens off the shoulders of the Residential Coordinators when they are in need of coverage. Some of these consumers will on occasion seek Jennifer out during day hours to help them work through an issue and she’s always happy to help when she is able. Jennifer fills in extra hours at the front desk when needed as well! She is a trustworthy, dedicated employee and works diligently in every role to ensure that people’s needs: financial, physical, emotional and otherwise, are met to the best of her ability.

Sheila Ryan is an important – if not the most important – part of the Cottonwood team. Without her, we would not be able to adequately fulfill our roles as support/service providers for the individuals that we serve. Each and every employee relies on Sheila’s abilities and support to acquire and maintain employment here at Cottonwood. As the HR Assistant, she has a key impression on employees throughout times that may not be the easiest. No matter the emotions or the situation, Sheila treats each person with dignity and respect, each situation with privacy and understanding, each work hour as an opportunity to serve her co-workers. During times of need, Sheila readily offers support, guidance, resources, genuine concern, and a listening ear.

  
Pam Ludwick is always there to support her consumers. When they have a problem, she goes out of her way to be available to them. A few weeks ago, someone on her caseload had a severe behavior problem that warranted a call to the police and she was here in less then two minutes to offer her assitance. She always enters the work area with a smile on her face which is contagious. She works with staff in all Departments to assure her consumers are supported in accordance with Cottonwood's mission.



Every year at this time, Jim Thomas is exceptionally busy due to working with numerous locations at KU Memorial Corporation. This is KU’s peak hiring season and Jim has taken every opportunity to find out employer needs, collaborate with JobLink staff to identify candidates, then advocate for those job seekers. The result – six new jobs! This is in addition to new hires at Westside 66, Voigt Global, and Wendy’s during the same timeframe. This was possible due to Jim’s excellent relationship with his KU business partners and his willingness to go above and beyond in working with JobLink co-workers. An outstanding example of TEAMWORK!