Skills to Succeed has built a reputation for providing excellent services with an innovative model due to the quality of our team. This team is only able to make this impact with the support of a committed Board of Directors. We are looking for candidates to grow our volunteer board and hope you will consider joining us in our work. Being a Skills to Succeed board member provides you with a unique opportunity to:

- Contribute to the success of our programs
- Serve your community
- Expand your network and meet people with similar interests

WHO WE ARE
Skills to Succeed, Inc. (STS) is a 501(c)(3) private, nonprofit organization that provides services to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. The primary focus for growth and development is in adult services related to community need and demand. With expectations for excellence, Skills to Succeed strives for inclusion and community involvement among participants, families, staff, and board members.

The agency currently employs approximately ten staff; oversight is provided by a volunteer Board of Directors. STS provides services throughout Johnson County, Kansas with some potential impact throughout the Kansas City Metro region and other neighboring counties. Services primarily focus on adults, with some outreach to transition age youth. Current program areas include:

WORK — Our employment program assists adults in pursuing a career path that acknowledges their personal goals and strengths. With a strong focus on assessment and planning, we help individuals create their own unique pathway to success. It’s not just about finding a job; it’s about finding the right job.

DISCOVER — This community-based day support program assists participants in discovering and developing skills, strengths and interests on a pathway toward independence. This active group builds skills through volunteerism, community activities, and the arts.

CREATE — Art not only provides a creative outlet, but also encourages unique ways of self-expression and communication. Open to the public, Create Art Studio provides support and space for art activities and classes that create opportunities for self-expression, skill building and connecting with others.

OUR MISSION
STS envisions a world of dignity and opportunity for all, where people with disabilities exercise choice and fully participate in their communities. We support this vision by helping individuals with autism and other disabilities discover their potential and empowering them to lead meaningful lives that are characterized by positive relationships, community involvement and opportunities for employment.

OUR VALUES
- **RESPECT** — People should be treated with courtesy and respect in recognition of their dignity.
- **CHOICE** — Individuals should make decisions and choices about their lives.
- **SOLUTIONS** — Options, opportunities and solutions are the focus rather than problems.
- **CREATIVITY** — Imagination and innovation create a rich, progressive environment.
- **QUALITY** — Services should be excellent, resulting in meaningful impact.
- **EXPERIENCE** — The opportunity to both fail and succeed increases potential and experience.
- **COMMUNITY** — Individuals should be active participants in their communities.
- **INDEPENDENCE** — Give support, but don’t rescue; Give assistance, but don’t enable.
- **RESPONSIBILITY** — Personal choices and appropriate behavior increase social opportunities.
- **EMPLOYMENT** — Work is the first and preferred option for working-age adults.
BOARD NEEDS
As a growing agency with limited infrastructure, our Board of Directors is vitally important to what we do. We are seeking dedicated board members who are willing to commit time, energy and resources to supporting our vision and mission.

CURRENT BOARD
Sarah Behrens, Board Chair
Stephanie Coleman, Board Vice Chair
Peter Beren, Board Secretary
Ryan Staub, Board Treasurer
Andrew Heinicke, Board Past Chair
Joe Harter, Board Member
Bill Rainen, Board Member

Juniper Garden’s Children’s Project Research Assistant
KU Medical Center – Family Support Coordinator
Former Business Owner/ Entrepreneur
CBIZ MHM, LLC – Accountant
Olathe Schools – Psychologist
McDowell, Rice, Smith & Buchanan – Attorney
Real Estate/ Former Business Owner

EXPERTISE SOUGHT
There are many ways board members can contribute, and we are always open to committed and enthusiastic members. Key areas we are pursuing at present include, but are not limited to: Construction, Marketing/PR, Fund Development, Arts, Technology, Grant Writing, Event Planning

YOUR COMMITMENT
Board members commit to a two-year term. Meetings are typically held monthly, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in Olathe, KS. Meetings may be on different evenings pending board discussion. Members also support agency fundraisers. While there are several fundraising opportunities each year, our primary event is Pouring with Purpose held each fall. This is a fun event with opportunities for sponsorship and networking.

YOUR ROLE
• KNOW – Be informed about Skills to Succeed’s mission, services, policies, and programs.
• CARE – Demonstrate passion about the vision and mission of Skills to Succeed. Provide oversight and support to the team at STS as they carry out their jobs.
• BE INVOLVED – Regularly attend board meetings and actively participate in projects or committees. Lend your expertise.
• VOLUNTEER – Support growth of small agency by offering expertise and volunteerism as needed.
• CONTRIBUTE – Participate in fund-raising activities through attendance and planning. Make a personal contribution and encourage others to do the same.
• SHARE – Share contacts and assist with networking to build agency support and meet agency needs. Pass on information about our events to your friends, family and colleagues.
• RECRUIT – Recruit board members or partners who share a similar passion and commitment.

CONTACT US TODAY!
We would love to talk to you about working together. Please contact our Executive Director to set up a tour to learn more about Skills to Succeed.

Stephanie Downey, Executive Director
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