



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

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INTEGRATION

SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

HANFORD MISSION  
**HMiS**  
INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS

# MISSION: ALIGNMENT

Aligning our goals to enhance operational effectiveness, streamline communication and drive innovation.

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## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of our work on the Hanford Site, the concept of alignment becomes increasingly vital. Our role as Site integrator and service provider in this complex environment demands that we operate with precision, coordination and a shared sense of purpose.

The challenges we face are multifaceted, ranging from infrastructure management and site services to emergency response, information management, project execution and ESH&Q (Environment, Safety, Health & Quality). In these especially dynamic times, alignment across all levels of our organization is essential to ensure we meet our commitments safely and efficiently.

Alignment is not merely about synchronizing our efforts; it is about fostering a culture where every team member understands the broader mission and how their individual contributions fit into the larger picture. By aligning our goals and actions, we can enhance our operational effectiveness, streamline communication and drive innovation. This unified approach allows us to respond proactively to the unique challenges of the Hanford Site, ensuring we continue to deliver exceptional service while maintaining the highest standards of safety and quality.

As we move forward, let's embrace alignment as a guiding principle in all our endeavors. By working together with clarity and purpose, we can harness our collective strengths to achieve remarkable outcomes. I am confident that with our shared commitment and dedication, we will continue to make a significant impact at Hanford, contributing to the Site's mission and the broader goals of the Department of Energy.

As I depart from HMIS next month, I want to say thank you for your hard work and unwavering commitment to excellence. It has been a pleasure knowing and working with you all!

*Todd*

Hyperlink to this page

## 5 MINUTES WITH SUSIE KONEN



Recently promoted to director of Interface Management, if you don't meet Susie in the hallways of the Federal Building, you might find her hanging out with her daughter in Seattle, at a sporting event or soon at a Lady Gaga concert!

### 1. What brought you to Hanford?

I was eager for a change and looking for new opportunities. I applied for a position with Interface Management and have been with the organization since my first day at Hanford.

### 2. What made you want to be a leader?

I want to make an impact by creating opportunities for others. I've had the best support from upper management at HMIS and want to pay it forward to my current and future team members.

### 3. Who is a mentor that has made an impact on you?

Thankfully, I've had many great mentors throughout my career but one of my first mentors taught me that "we all do windows" and no matter your role or status in the company, we are most successful when we function as a team to get things done.

### 4. What does "alignment" mean to you?

Alignment means ensuring my leadership values and goals are in harmony with the Interface Management team and our organization. When alignment is present it

fosters a sense of purpose and collaboration among team members and drives a collective success.

### 5. What's something about you that people would be surprised to know?

I was a gymnast for 15 years and competed all over the Pacific Northwest when I was younger. I went to the Paris Olympics last summer but didn't see any gymnastics events, unfortunately. Those tickets are hard to get! I did see a soccer game and attended a full day of track and field events.

### 6. What's your bucket list travel location?

The Amazon rainforest! I would like to float down the Amazon River, but on a really nice boat with a lot of bug spray.

### 7. What team do you root for?

I love sports and usually root for the underdog, which seems to be the Mariners and Seahawks lately.

## RAPID FIRE

EARLY BIRD	NIGHT OWL
SUMMER	WINTER

## RECOGNITION



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Dana Cowley COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Contributor: Alison Manka

Dana Cowley, communications specialist for External Affairs, has built a career that bridges the worlds of media and community service. After spending more than 30 years as a TV anchor across Utah, Oregon, Kansas and Washington, Dana came to Hanford in 2009, where she has held various communications roles.

Dana's passion for volunteering shines through her work with the White Pass Foundation, a nonprofit that introduces middle school students to skiing, teaching them the basics and providing them with the necessary gear at no cost.



Ski students pose on the mountain.

Dana cherishes the bonds she forms with the students, many of whom are experiencing skiing for the first time. "I love connecting with them and forming bonds as they learn and build their skills," she says, "we want them to develop a lifelong love of the sport."



Dana with her friend Paul, both regulars at White Pass.

Volunteering is a lifelong commitment for Dana. She helped found a Crime Stoppers chapter in Yakima and has participated in various outdoor programs promoting community service. She has a passion for tourism and has contributed her time to visitors and convention bureaus in most places she has lived.

## RECOGNITION

### HAMMER Recertified as VPP Star Site

Guest Contributor: Sandi Martin

After a lengthy recertification process last fall, the HAMMER Federal Training Center has once again earned Star status from DOE's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

HAMMER was first recognized as a VPP Star site in 2002. A DOE headquarters team visited HAMMER in November to conduct a thorough evaluation process. The DOE VPP team observed several different courses, as well as demonstrations of new innovations and props. They also interviewed numerous staff, observed work evolutions and attended safety events such as the Employee Zero Accident Council meeting. VPP Star sites are reevaluated every few years to ensure continued safety excellence and to find opportunities for continuous improvement.

"I am personally so proud of our amazing team," shared HAMMER Director Paul Vandervert. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication by the HAMMER family to ensure a safe and healthy work environment. Earning this recognition did not start a few months ago with the recertification process, but through many years of commitment to the VPP tenets."



HAMMER staff members gathered with representatives from HMIS, labor, Hanford Field Office and the DOE headquarters VPP evaluation team after completing the VPP Star recertification process in November.

The VPP evaluation team highlighted numerous achievements in their recommendation that attest to HAMMER's commitment to a thriving safety culture, including:

- Managers are visible to all employees and create opportunities to communicate and interact with staff.
- Employees highlighted a feeling of family and camaraderie with coworkers.
- A culture of gratitude and recognition continuously highlights the value of everyone.
- Workers have multiple avenues and felt comfortable reporting hazards and issues.
- Employees proactively share information across the organization to ensure all stakeholders are prepared for events and site conditions.

# MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED

**Five decades. Countless inspections. One unforgettable legacy.**

*Contributor: Dustin Arbogast*

When Steve Peterson first stepped onto the Hanford Site in 1975, he didn't realize he would build a career here that would span half a century. But here we are, celebrating 50 years of Steve, whose dedication, expertise and adventurous spirit have made him a legend in the world of quality assurance.

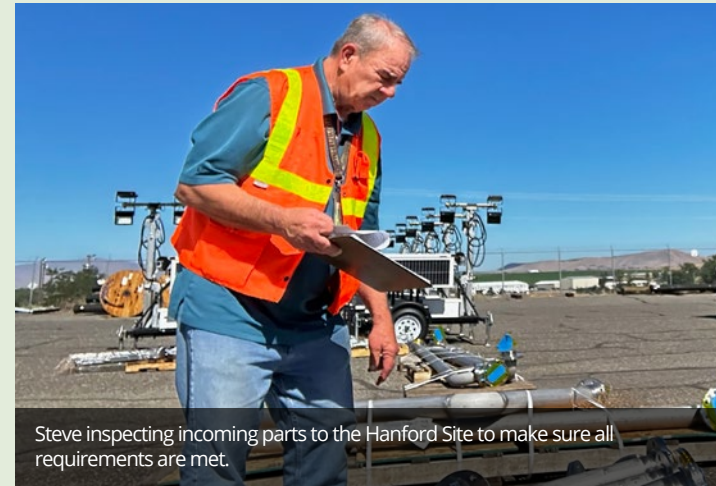
Steve's journey started with a simple nudge from a friend to apply for an entry-level technician position. The pay? A solid \$2.35 an hour. The impact? Priceless. From his early days of building fuel assemblies for the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) to becoming a top-tier inspector, Steve's career has been a masterclass in precision.

With a sharp eye for detail, he quickly became a Level 3 certified inspector and began traveling throughout Canada and more than 25 U.S. states. His expertise in receiving, as well as in general and welding inspections, has consistently contributed to maintaining safety and quality at every turn.

Steve has saved the day several times thanks to his ability to sniff out suspect and counterfeit items. Not only that, when it comes to engineering drawings, he reads them like a best-selling novel, ensuring that every component meets the highest standards. If there's a gold standard for inspection, Steve probably wrote it.



Technician Steve Peterson (right) checking over the waste management process module.



Steve inspecting incoming parts to the Hanford Site to make sure all requirements are met.

When he's not upholding the integrity of Hanford's projects, Steve fuels his passion for boat racing. A lifelong enthusiast, he's passed down his love for speed to his children, who have also made waves in the sport. Whether on land or water, Steve brings the same level of dedication and precision.

Through 50 years of change, challenges and achievements, Steve remains humble, always crediting his colleagues and the opportunities he's been given. His story is one of hard work and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Here's to Steve: inspector, mentor, adventurer and true legend. We're beyond grateful for his 50 years (and counting!) of service.



Steve (far right) and the team that built it, in front of the 60<sup>th</sup> driver fuel assembly, containing 207 fuel pins, for the Fast Flux Test Reactor in the 400 Area.



Requirements Management System team (from left) Randi Streeter, project specialist, and Todd Griffin, program manager.

Individuals from each One Hanford contractor provide feedback on the new Requirements Management System during a monthly forum meeting.

## MISSION: ALIGNMENT

### Streamlining Compliance: Sitewide Requirements Management System

*Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg*

Complying with federal, state, DOE and contract requirements is foundational to our work at Hanford. As the Site integrator, HMIS was tasked with establishing a program to effectively manage, track and implement the many requirements to verify compliance with these obligations. Enter our Performance Oversight team and the new Sitewide Requirements Management System (RMS).

The RMS is a single repository of all requirements documents that affect our work (e.g., DOE directives, federal regulations, state laws) and how they are being implemented. The system works by connecting each requirement with its implementation document, creating a top-down/bottom-up tracing mechanism.

Each requirement is owned by the team responsible for implementation. The owner identifies how the requirement is being met, whether through procedures, training or other means, then documents the traceability to those implementing mechanisms in the system.

Once documents are connected in the system, contractors can more easily identify all implementation strategies, ensuring updates are captured successfully when, for example, a law or DOE directive changes.

“Once the information is in the system, we can more easily identify what teams and documents are impacted by changes,” shared Todd Griffin, Requirements Management program manager. “In addition to allowing us to quickly adjust our processes, we can evaluate cost and schedule impacts of implementing any required changes.”

Due to the magnitude of datasets to be tracked, the team is taking a phased approach to implementation. One organization is started at a time, allowing teams to work through lessons learned and users to be properly trained on the RMS.

HMIS collaborated with our One Hanford contractor partners to identify the software and establish workflows for the program. This collaboration continues with conversations about what is or is not working and what adjustments may need to be made for continued success of the program.

## MISSION: ALIGNMENT



### TEAM FOCUS: Continuous Improvement

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

At HMIS, phrases like “driving improvement,” “increasing efficiencies and effectiveness” and “evolving and enhancing” aren’t just words in our mission and vision statements—they’re the principles that guide our work every day. While these concepts may evoke different ideas for each person, for our Continuous Improvement (CI) team, they are the foundation on which they operate.

The CI team provides organizations across Hanford with a fresh perspective on how they can accomplish their mission, helping them discover smarter, more effective ways to work. Breaking free from the mindset of “that’s the way it’s always been done” and shifting toward “what can be done differently” is often the first step toward meaningful progress. The second is fostering collaboration by dismantling communication barriers and bringing people together.

Certified in Lean Six Sigma—a proven methodology for process improvement—our CI team facilitates structured improvement activities designed to identify inefficiencies and enhance output quality. The process begins with developing a charter that clearly defines objectives, success metrics and areas for enhancement. Key stakeholders then collaborate to analyze what’s working, what’s not and which adjustments could make the biggest impact.



Continuous Improvement team members (left to right): Veronica Andersen, business process analyst, Jeff McMurrich, CI program manager, and Miriam Fierro, business process analyst.

Through this collaborative approach, teams often experience “aha” moments as they recognize how processes intersect and influence one another. With a broader perspective and newfound clarity, they can strategically identify and implement meaningful improvements to drive lasting results.

Jeff McMurrich, Continuous Improvement program manager, emphasizes that even minor, incremental changes can drive significant long-term results. “Continuous improvement doesn’t always require a massive overhaul,” he explains. “We take a holistic approach, starting with small, strategic adjustments. When teams see the positive impact of these early changes, it builds momentum for greater transformation.”

He also encourages employees to extend their questioning attitude beyond just safety and security—to examine and challenge the efficiency of our processes and services. By continuously seeking more efficient ways to work, we improve our operations and reinforce our commitment to innovation and excellence.

## MISSION: ALIGNMENT

### HMIS Plays Vital Role in WRPS Transition to H2C

Contributor: Shane Edinger

Our role as the Hanford Site integrator was prominently on display during the recent transfer of the tank waste operations contract from WRPS to Hanford Tank Waste Operations & Closure (H2C). In fact, it’s probably easier to name the HMIS organizations that did NOT play a role in the transition than it would be to list all the organizations that were involved.

“I made a lot of phone calls and sent a lot of emails,” laughed Susie Konen, HMIS’ Interface Management director who served as our H2C transition manager. “This transition touched so many of our functional service areas, from interface management and relocation services to information management, procurement, benefits and accounts payable, just to name a few. It was a lot of work by a lot of people.”

Susie started working on the project full-time when the 120-day transition period



Members of the Business Management Services team migrated thousands of employee data and information files from the WRPS system to the new H2C system.

started in October. However, much of the work the Information Management Services team was tasked with was completed in just two months. More than 100 applications that IMS manages had to be updated and reconfigured from WRPS to H2C, and many couldn’t be done until the weekend before H2C’s first day on Monday, Feb. 24.

Thanks to some help from our partners at North Wind Solutions, millions of electronic records were transferred and more than 10,000 hyperlinks were updated. The Business Management

Systems team also played a key role in migrating all the employee data and information for things like timesheets, payroll and benefits from the old WRPS system to the new H2C system.

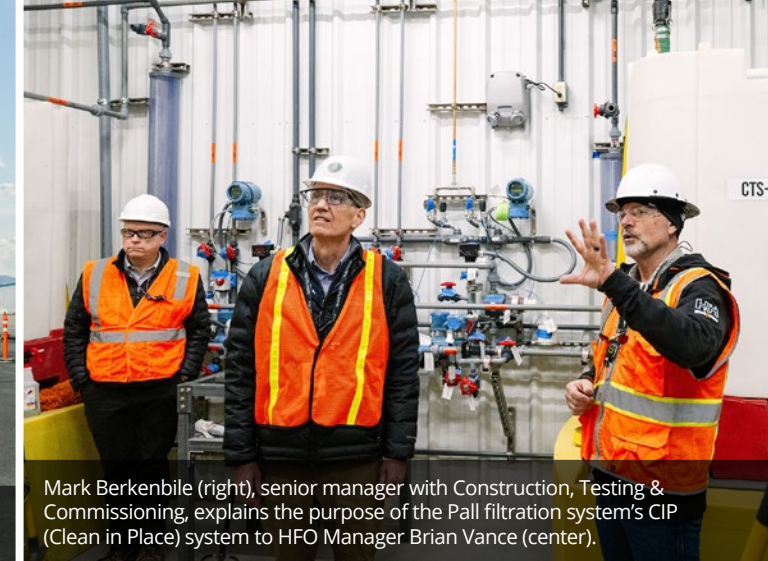
“It was probably the most challenging transition that we’ve supported,” shared Anel Suarez, IM Program Management director. “Our folks really rallied to help each other. We knew there was a lot of work that had to be done in a short period of time, and everyone stepped up and delivered in the clutch.”



Adam Palomarez (left), chief enterprise architect for Information Management Services, explains how the plant's operating system collects real-time data from sensors and instruments to monitor performance and ensure compliance with safety and quality standards.



Construction is nearly complete on the Central Plateau Water Treatment Facility, and the commissioning process is now underway.



Mark Berkenbile (right), senior manager with Construction, Testing & Commissioning, explains the purpose of the Pall filtration system's CIP (Clean in Place) system to HFO Manager Brian Vance (center).

## ONE HANFORD

### HFO Leadership Tours Central Plateau Water Treatment Facility

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

After three years of construction, the Central Plateau Water Treatment Facility has been energized and the commissioning process for the facility, and its innovative filtration system, is now underway.

Earlier this month, Hanford Field Office Manager Brian Vance and Assistant Manager for Mission Support Brian Harkins toured the new plant to get a first-hand look at the progress made.

"There's definitely some excitement in the air," shared Kyle Tolbert, the project manager for Water & Sewer Projects. "We've overcome some significant challenges to get to this point, but to see our vendor here onsite preparing the system for operations is very rewarding."

Representatives with Pall Corporation, the company that designed the facility's microfiltration system, have been onsite this month, making sure the system was installed correctly and is operating properly. HMIS teams are also testing other equipment throughout the building to make sure it's functioning properly and communicating with the software that will operate the water treatment system.

Later this spring, they will begin testing the system to ensure it meets sanitary water requirements. Once that's complete, the

Washington State Department of Health will tour the facility this summer to look at the equipment installed and evaluate the plant's processes and procedures.

After they get the go-ahead from the health department, the team will begin a pair of multi-month studies to ensure the system is ready to take over for the Hanford Site's aging water treatment plant, which has been in service since the 1940s.

The 10,000-square-foot facility should be operational in early 2026 and will provide a minimum of 3.5 million gallons of water a day, supporting the water needs of Central Plateau operations, including the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste program.



Grounds crews used heavy equipment to load excess soil along the 200 West Area fence line for transport to the 3A burial ground.

Crews smooth out the soil along the fence line after the excess soil was removed and repurposed.

## ONE HANFORD

### Two Jobs, One Crew: Grounds Maintenance Maximizes Resources

Contributor: Shane Edinger

A project to protect the structural integrity of the perimeter fencing around the 200 West Area has become a shining example of One Hanford collaboration.

Crews with our Grounds Maintenance team started work in December to remove windblown soil along the perimeter fences

that had accumulated over several years. Using heavy equipment and several dump trucks, the team worked carefully to remove the excess soil and improve the functionality of the fences, while ensuring the surrounding area was minimally disrupted.

Around the same time, CPCCo requested support for repairs they were making in the 3A burial ground, where extra dirt and soil were needed to backfill and stabilize some areas. Recognizing the opportunity to maximize resources, the Grounds team coordinated

with CPCCo to deliver the extra soil removed from the fence line to use for the burial ground repairs.

“We were able to haul the dirt over there and put it where they needed it, instead of hauling it all the way to pit 30 to use again in the future,” shared Bob Byrd, who supervises HMIS’ Grounds Maintenance team. “It’s a great collaboration between two groups working toward a common goal.”

Byrd says they’re working on the soil removal project periodically in between other higher priority assignments. So far, the crews have

removed and repurposed more than 2,000 cubic yards (about 200 truckloads) of soil, and they’ve cleared about 60-70 percent of the excess soil from the fence line.

By repurposing the material, they’re effectively providing a solution for two projects simultaneously, saving both time and costs.

“We always strive to be a One Hanford team and this is a fine example of that collaboration and efficiency,” added Brian Bergum, HMIS’ Transportation Services director. “We’re basically getting two jobs done with one crew.”

## ONE HANFORD

CPCCo Real Property specialist Wendy Wilde recently turned over the keys to several mobile trailers to HMIS Facilities specialist Kyle Hintz. By repurposing the former CPCCo trailers, HMIS avoided about \$1 million in acquisitions.



### Trailer Transfer Leads to Significant Cost Avoidance

*Contributor: Shyanne Palmus*

HMIS and CPCCo recently teamed up to maximize facility occupancy and eliminate excess office space at Hanford, cutting costs and reducing the Site's carbon footprint.

CPCCo's recent consolidation efforts left five buildings in the 200 East Area unoccupied – three mobile offices, one self-contained restroom and one shower trailer. Our water and sewer treatment crews need additional space, so they will occupy the offices. The restroom and shower trailers will be moved to 200 West to be closer to the Central Plateau Water Treatment Facility.

"Repurposing these trailers was a much more efficient use of resources than purchasing or leasing new ones, avoiding about \$1 million in acquisitions," said Kyle Hintz, HMIS Facilities specialist. "Overall, it is a great example of the collaborative One Hanford spirit."

"Our project teams worked closely together to complete this transfer," said Betty Cooper, CPCCo Facilities and Property manager. "It was a win-win for all parties."



Rick Border and Drew Thomas at Engineering Day with hands-on snap circuits for the kids to learn with.



A packed gym at Kamiakin High School for a friendly engineering competition.



HMIS volunteers (from left): Paul Smith, Matthew Parkhill, Trevor McLaen, Michael Connor and Mario Garcia Heredia.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### HMIS Engineers Celebrate Engineers Week with Local Schools

*Contributor: Dustin Arbogast*

HMIS employees and other volunteers came together to celebrate Engineers Week by engaging with students through hands-on activities, competitions and an exciting Engineering Day, hosted by Energy Northwest. Each event was filled with opportunities to inspire young minds and showcase the impact of engineering in everyday life.

Engineers Week began with visits to local elementary schools, where volunteers introduced students to the world of engineering through interactive activities. Engineers answered questions, shared personal experiences and encouraged students to think outside the box.

High school students took center stage in the High School Friendly Competition. Teams worked together to solve real-world

challenges, putting their critical thinking and teamwork skills to the test while highlighting their creativity and innovation. HMIS engineers mentored students at the event, offering guidance and insights into what it takes to be an engineer.

Engineers Week wrapped up with Energy Northwest's Engineering Day. Students participated in hands-on engineering challenges, demonstrations and interactive exhibits designed to spark curiosity. HMIS volunteers engaged with students in activities showcasing different engineering fields, making complex concepts accessible and fun.

Engineers Week was a tremendous success, allowing our volunteers to inspire and connect with students of all ages. Through hands-on learning and mentorship, they helped ignite a passion for STEM to shape future careers. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported these events of creativity and innovation!

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### United for Recovery

Contributor: Reneé Brooks

Did you know the old Kennewick General Hospital is being turned into the Columbia Valley Center for Recovery to provide comprehensive care for those suffering from substance abuse disorder or mental illness?

HMIS was proud to sponsor the Unite for Recovery fundraising breakfast in support of these efforts. Crane & Rigging Services Director Sean McFadden attended the breakfast and shared, "This was a great event with incredibly impactful speeches given by individuals contributing to the Tri-Cities to make it a better place. The Center for Recovery will provide what has been missing in this area for some time. I look forward to seeing the real-life impact it will have."

HMIS legal counsel Hong Chen is also working to make the Center more welcoming. As a member of the current Leadership Tri-Cities class, their class project is to fundraise \$30,000 to paint the building exterior and spruce up the landscaping.



HMIS employees learned more about the Columbia Valley Center for Recovery at a recent fundraiser. From left: Paul Vandervert, Jodie Moxley, Sean McFadden, Melissa Torres, Sarah Nagel, Marnelle Sheriff, Reneé Brooks and Maura Oldfield.



Leadership Tri-Cities Class XXVIII is partnering with the Center for Recovery, including HMIS employee Hong Chen (second row from bottom, far right).

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Inspiring Hanford's Future Workforce

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

The future looks a little brighter for some local students after a recent HMIS visit to Perry Technical Institute in Yakima. Vice President of Information Management Services (and Perry Tech alum) Todd Eckman braved a full weather cycle – rain, fog, heavy snow and cloudy skies – to meet with approximately 140 students and instructors to discuss Hanford cleanup and potential job opportunities.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to talk to Perry Tech students about the history as well as the current state at Hanford and do my part to attract the best and brightest to support the critical Hanford mission," Eckman said.

Students from a variety of programs, including welding, IT, instrumentation, business, electrical, plumbing and HVAC attended the presentations.



Perry Tech students and instructors gather for the Hanford Site Speakers Bureau presentation, given by Todd Eckman, HMIS' vice president of Information Management Services.

"I was impressed with how Perry Tech trains students for real-world challenges," said Patrick Conrad, External Affairs manager. "Between hands-on training and passionate instructors in the classrooms, I'm excited to continue building our relationship with the school."

Perry Tech's hands-on technical training is top-notch, and a continued partnership is sure to lead to many bright futures at Hanford.



Eckman presented about the history of Hanford, cleanup progress and potential career and internship opportunities.



Pictured (from left): Anthony Nagel, Sarah Nagel, Mitch Davis, Rick Boarder, Tracy Roberts, Bryan McGlothin, Diane Cato, Deidra Witherspoon, Daryl Witherspoon, Steve Harvill and Jill Harvill.

### Heart for the Arts

HMIS proudly supported the Academy of Children's Theatre and their Heart for the Arts fundraising event celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACT. Over \$110,000 was raised to support student scholarships, building maintenance and materials for classes and productions.