

## **Category 1: Contribution to the Community, 2014 ACE Awards**

**Contractor: Cody Flooring & Tile, Inc**

**Project Name: The Chanda Plan Foundation**

When Saunders Construction came to owner, Steve Barrow with this project, it didn't seem like anything special. A non-profit organization called the Chanda Plan Foundation wanted to replace their old, worn out carpet in their therapy area with new rubber flooring. They were planning on doing all of their own demolition, clean up and floor prep, and just have Cody install the flooring when they were done. Then, Steve went out to the jobsite to meet with the client and walk the job. In the short time he spent there, he was deeply touched by the people there and the cause they were fighting for, and resolved to do as much as he could to help them.

The Chanda Plan Foundation is a non-profit organization started in 2005 whose mission is "improving the quality of life for persons with physical disabilities through direct services and systemic change to access integrative therapies". Integrative therapies like massage, acupuncture, chiropractic care, cranial sacral therapy, adaptive yoga and adaptive physical therapy are provided at the foundation and at various locations nationwide. People with spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, spina bifida, and brain injuries that otherwise would be unable to access these alternative therapies due to limited financial resources, are able to greatly improve their health and well being and lower their medical bills through the program. The foundation is also involved in a pursuit for systemic change within Medicaid to have integrative therapies covered. They are in the middle of a pilot program with the state of Colorado to test the potential health and cost benefits of integrative therapies for both individuals and the Medicaid program.

Steve decided to do whatever he could to help this young foundation have a better space in which to perform their life changing therapies. His goal: to completely redo the entire space that the foundation occupied, giving them a cleaner, more professional place to work in, at little or no cost to them. He immediately got on the phone with suppliers to see what others could help us

accomplish, and found a kindred spirit in Diana Sweers with Mountain Trade Supply. Steve chased donations from local businesses and Diana helped get discounts from her suppliers. They were able to get 180 square yards of a sheet vinyl donated by Tarkett to cover the break area, offices, storage area and two therapy rooms. Johnsonite provided a steep discount on the 4200 square feet of ¼” rubber floor for the gym area. Cody donated all of the demolition, extensive floor prep, moving of equipment, 800 linear feet of rubber base, along with 26 total man days of labor (208 hours). Steve was able to obtain a \$2500 donation from Nobel Energy and a \$1000 donation from Orion EP, and is still working on finding another six to seven thousand dollars to completely cover the cost of the flooring. To date, Cody Flooring & Tile has found ways to cover 80-85% of the total cost for this project.

During the construction process, our installers worked with the therapists to keep at least part of each section open to minimize the disruption to individuals seeking treatment. Working side by side with the patients for most of the project gave our installers a new perspective on life and a better appreciation of how hard these patients are working to better their own situations. Because we were so aware of having to share space with non-contractors, our safety protocols were strictly enforced, resulting in 0 injuries and 0 lost time incidents.

Long term, any help that we as a community can give to this amazing group will benefit all of us. People with disabilities are not the only ones served and affected by the work that they are doing. So many people could benefit from having integrative therapies covered by Medicaid because they are a much more proactive and cost effective way of preventing and treating pain than emergency room visits and prescription drugs. Lowering the costs of Medicaid benefits everyone, and The Chanda Plan Foundation is on its way to doing their part. Cody Flooring is just glad that we were able to do our part as well.









