

IN ORDER TO ASSIST ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN REACHING THEIR INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND INDEPENDENCE, THE MISSION OF COMMUNITY INTERFACE SERVICES IS TO PROVIDE QUALITY, INDIVIDUALIZED, COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT AND TRAINING IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, COMMUNITY LIVING, AND OTHER RELATED SERVICES.

a publication of community interface services

Community Focus

may 2007

independent living

Kilimanjaro Worth the Wait

Seventeen years after their first attempt fell short of the summit in 1990, Community Interface Services' Independent Living service recipients Gary Stubblefield and Steve Hickey climbed to the peak of the tallest free-standing mountain in the world—19,336 foot Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. Gary and Steve were part of a group of seven Special Olympics athletes that accomplished a feat of physical and mental endurance that few people could even imagine.



Special Olympics athletes savor their victory at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

“We focused on just one goal: We’re going to make it to the top and nothing is going to turn us back!”

On the 1990 trip, sponsored by World T.E.A.M (The Exceptional Athlete Matters) Sports, the original group of 12 athletes and 22 coaches made it to 16,000 feet before they encountered the worst snowstorm in 72 years. The storm slowed the group down and depleted their supplies. The remaining meals had to be rationed, and as a result only five athletes were able to stay on the mountain to finish the climb to the top. Since that time, the seven who did not get to the top had to live with the disappointment of not quite making it, while dreaming of a second shot at the mountain.

Last fall, the organizers of the first trip began planning for a second attempt, and when Gary and Steve were offered another chance, they jumped at the opportunity. They quickly began training to get in condition for the grueling climb, including lots of workouts at the gym, running, and training hikes. While the physical aspects might be more challenging 17 years later, both men felt they had the advantages of maturity and determination to help them this time.

On January 22, 2007, the group began their legendary trek. “We focused on just one goal: We’re going to make it to the top and nothing is going to turn us back!” said Steve. Eight days later, on January 29, after 52 grueling miles with heavy packs and temperatures near zero, the proud group achieved their goal and stood on top of the mountain. Gary said “It was a great feeling, sharing that experience with people close to me. I felt happy and sad at the same time. This was something I had waited for 17 years. It was well worth the wait.” Congratulations Gary and Steve on an amazing achievement!

YOU CAN REACH COMMUNITY INTERFACE SERVICES AT:

2621 ROOSEVELT STREET
CARLSBAD, CA 92008
VOICE (760) 729-3866
TOLL FREE (888) 676-3786
TDD (760) 729-7155
FAX (760) 729-8526
JOBLINE (760) 729-4295
info@communityinterfaceservices.org

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:

www.communityinterfaceservices.org



Community Focus

Editors

Rojane Jackson

Kim Larsen

Bruce Willbrant

We want to make sure that the news and information in Community Focus is as accessible as possible to everyone in the community.

We are glad to provide a reading service to individuals who need it. Reading service for Community Focus can be obtained in our office or over the phone. Please call (760) 729-3866 to make arrangements.



United Way
of San Diego County
COMMUNITY INTERFACE SERVICES
AGENCY NUMBER 6228

COMMUNITY INTERFACE SERVICES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Tranberg
President

Donald H. Cline
Vice-President

Rojane Jackson
Secretary/Treasurer

Otis Heald

Ann Prater

Dr. Rose Mueller-Hanson
Sharareh Mohebbi

COMMUNITY INTERFACE SERVICES
IS A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
AND AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER.

to our stakeholders

Proposed State Budget a Mixed Bag for Developmental Disability Services

Governor Schwarzenegger's state budget proposal for the next fiscal year seems to be mostly a "status quo" budget for the developmental disability field. However, as with all state budgets, the original proposal and the fiscal pressures on the state can change significantly throughout the spring and early summer.

The overall general fund budget proposal is \$103.1 billion, about 1% larger than the previous year. For the developmental disabilities budget, the cost containment measures which have been approved over the last few years—including freezes in rates and funds for new program start-up—remain in place. The budget does include additional funds for the minimum wage increase which took effect on January 1. The regional centers are slated to receive only "growth dollars" for caseload growth, and will see staff to client ratios increase, from 1:62 to 1:66, meaning most caseworkers will be responsible for an additional four service recipients.

As in past years, the budget proposal is built upon assumptions of revenue coming in for the rest of the fiscal year. Therefore, the specific numbers will likely change. The good news is that, at least initially, there seems to be no major hits to the developmental disability system. Community Interface Services, along with other vendors and advocates throughout the state, will continue to monitor and participate in the budget process.

Make a Contribution!

As a nonprofit community organization, Community Interface Services always welcomes your tax-deductible donations to assist persons with developmental disabilities. In addition to being a United Way organization (agency number 6228), Community Interface Services is now an approved nonprofit organization through the Community Rewards Program of Ralph's and Food 4 Less. Through the Community Rewards Program, shoppers can direct contributions to Community Interface Services by registering their Ralph's Club Card or Food 4 Less Community Rewards Card and selecting Nonprofit Organization (NPO) number 83958.

If you have a Ralph's Club Card and would like to designate Community Interface Services, simply go to www.ralphs.com, click on "Community Contribution," then click on "Participants," and follow the easy online directions. If you shop at Food 4 Less, you can get a "Community Rewards Card" by contacting Community Interface Services, and then registering the card at www.food4less.net. Thank you for your support.



Also, Community Interface will again offer Entertainment Books to the community. Entertainment Books are a great way to save money on dining out, hotels, vacations, and all kinds of other fun stuff, all while supporting Community Interface programs. If you would like to preorder your book for fall delivery, see the form included in this newsletter.

Attending a Supported Living orientation is required for service recipients or families who are interested in securing Regional Center funded Supported Living services. The orientation provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about Supported Living services, as well as to meet various service providers.

All orientations are held 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the San Diego Regional Center Board Room at 4355 Ruffin Rd., Suite 100, San Diego. The next Orientations are:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

To register for an upcoming session, please call the SDRC Training Line at (858) 576-2805, or contact a SDRC service coordinator for more information.

If an interested individual is unable to attend a scheduled session, the service coordinator can arrange for a special orientation to take place.

Vendor Group Builds Support Among Elected Officials

On April 27, 2007, the Developmental Disabilities Provider Network (DDPN) hosted its 3rd Annual Legislative Breakfast at the Handlery Hotel in San Diego. The DDPN is made up of 27 local service providers, including Community Interface Services, who assist adults with developmental disabilities to become more independent in the community. One of the goals of the DDPN is to educate elected officials on the contributions of people with developmental disabilities in the community, so that they will be more supportive of legislation and funding that positively impacts the field. Approximately 300 community members—service recipients, family members, staff, and business leaders, as well as the elected officials—were invited.

Participation in the event has grown each year, and the DDPN was pleased this year to have representatives of approximately 15 city, county, and state officials. The master of ceremonies was KFMB news anchor Andre Moreau, and the honorary chair was San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders. Mayor Sanders spoke convincingly of the importance of people with developmental disabilities in the community, and the need of government to provide the extra support people may need to reach their full potential. He pointed out the dramatic increase in funding for disability services that the city has made, from \$1 million to \$13 million.

Lee Kaufman, a representative of the Target Corporation, spoke of Target's commitment to hiring people with developmental disabilities and how the benefits go both ways. While people with developmental disabilities get good jobs which help them be more productive and independent,



San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders

Target gets awesome employees. Kaufman had some impressive statistics to share: While the average Target employee misses about one day per month, employees with developmental disabilities only miss about one day every six months. These employees also are much more punctual than average, being late only about once every two months, compared to the company average of about three times every month. And when it comes to turnover, a critical statistic in retail, employees with developmental disabilities have a turnover rate of about 5–10% compared to the company average of 50–60%. Clearly, there are some great benefits to employers who hire people with developmental disabilities.

Kaufman shared a story about Mike, one of their valued employees at the Oceanside store who received Supported Employment services through Community Interface. Last year, Mike passed away of a heart attack, and almost all of Mike's co-workers attended his memorial, along with many regular shoppers who had become friends with Mike. The store employees have since set up a small memorial garden for Mike in the Garden Department.

The DDPN thanks all who participated in making the Legislative Breakfast a success. The relationships built through events like this are important to ensuring continued support for persons with developmental disabilities, and the DDPN looks forward to seeing this event grow each year.

LOCAL HOUSING AGENCIES

To request Section 8 rental assistance information, an application, or to update your existing application, please contact the housing authority office for the area in which you live.

CARLSBAD (includes La Costa)
CARLSBAD HOUSING AGENCY
2965 ROOSEVELT STREET, SUITE B
CARLSBAD, CA 92008
(760) 434-2934
WWW.CI.CARLSBAD.CA.US/CSERV/HOUSING.HTML

Due to federal cuts in Section 8 funding, Carlsbad's Section 8 waiting list was closed effective 10/1/05.

ENCINITAS (includes Leucadia, Cardiff, and Olivehain)
ENCINITAS HOUSING DEPARTMENT
505 S. VULCAN AVENUE
ENCINITAS, CA 92024
(760) 633-2723
WWW.CI.ENCINITAS.CA.US

OCEANSIDE
OCEANSIDE HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
321 N. NEVADA STREET
OCEANSIDE, CA 92054
(760) 435-3360
WWW.CI.OCEANSIDE.CA.US/HOUSING/DEFAULT.ASP

SAN DIEGO CITY
SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION
1122 BROADWAY, SUITE 300
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 231-9400
BY MAIL: P.O. BOX 129017
SAN DIEGO, CA 92112-9017
WWW.SDHC.NET/HARENTASSIST1.SHTML

(LISTINGS CONTINUE ON PAGE 5)

supported employment

Help In Difficult Times



Zack Bond stands ready to help at the entrance to Eternal Hills Funeral Home.

As he helps grieving families deal with the loss of a loved one, Zack Bond exudes dignity, calmness, and a maturity that belies his 23 years. Death is a difficult subject for many people to deal with, especially when a loved one has passed on and arrangements must be made or carried out. Few people are drawn to a career in funeral services, and even fewer have the skills and demeanor to be successful in the field. Zack is one of those rare few, and he seems to have found a perfect job fit as a service director at Eternal Hills Funeral Home in Oceanside. He helps run visitations, funerals, and graveside services, arranges flowers, and drives the coach to and from services.

Zack participates in Community Interface Services' Supported Employment program, which is designed to help individuals with developmental disabilities find and maintain jobs in the community. He had worked for several years at Workplace Publishing before exploring mortuary services as a career. Zack asked for assistance from

the Supported Employment program, and a job developer was able to help him find an opening and get hired at Eternal Hills. He started in September 2006, and with the help of job coach Steven Schayer, has overcome many hurdles to become a very valued employee there.

Zack's co-worker and mentor at Eternal Hills, Gary Miller, cannot say enough good things about Zack's work ethic and the progress he has made on the job. "Our boss recently told us that Zack is a real success story and shining star here," Gary said. "I've been honored and inspired to work with Zack, and to see him grow as he learned the job. When he started, he tended to be shy and withdrawn, and he's really come out of that. He's a fantastic fit for the job, and we've gotten to the point where we can communicate almost telepathically during services so things go smoothly. Zack knows what to do and how to handle situations; he's always reliable and sensitive to the family's needs." Zack and Gary surely must be doing things right, as they were both recently named Employees of the Quarter.

Zack's co-workers don't even think of him as having a disability. Gary lets Zack know that his disability doesn't really matter and he can't get hung up or held back by things in his past—all that matters is the kind of person he is today and how well he does his job. Zack looks forward to being even more successful in the future, and says he "likes working with the staff at Eternal Hills, they're nice people and have a good sense of humor."

Five Years of Service!

A quick congratulations to Alison Henning, another service recipient in the Supported Employment program. Alison works at Petsmart in Oceanside, and was recently awarded a "Certificate of Achievement" for five years of dedication and commitment on the job. Alison loves her job because it lets her work around animals, which are her passion. She receives individualized support on the job from job coach Michelle Vaeena. The Supported Employment program helps people to not just find jobs, but to find meaningful work doing something they care about. Alison (and Zack, featured in the previous article) is a great example of the importance of matching personal interests and preferences with job openings. With the right support, both Alison and Zack are well on their way to satisfying, productive careers they can feel good about. Great job, Alison!

vocational services

CIT Group Works to Save the Planet

A group of service recipients in Community Interface Services' Community Integration Training (CIT) program has been working hard in the community promoting recycling as a way to make a difference and help the environment. Service recipients Todd Watwood, Tom Frangie, Steven Arnott, and Scott Arnott, along with resource counselor Nancy Chrisopulos, have included recycling as part of their daily activities in the community for years. Recently, the group presented information on recycling to other service recipients and staffmembers at Community Interface Services' Advisory and Safety Committee meeting.

Steven began the presentation by explaining that recycling is re-using or fixing things rather than throwing them away, and pointed out that recyclable materials are not garbage, they are resources. Scott explained that recycling aluminum cans consumes 95% less energy and creates 95% less air and water pollution than creating new ones.

Nancy gave an overview of how various materials are recycled, and Tom suggested ways that everybody can participate in recycling. Some of the more obvious ways are collecting and returning cans, bottles, and newspapers, but even things like holding yard sales or donating old clothes and toys to organizations like Goodwill help to make a difference. Scott said "It is important for people to understand why we have to recycle; it helps keep the air clean and saves the earth from being dirty," and Steven added "It was good to share this information because people should recycle all the time, because it is very good for our environment and for our planet."



Scott and Steven Arnott recycling aluminum cans and paper.

MORE LOCAL

HOUSING AGENCIES

SAN DIEGO COUNTY (includes chula vista, coronado, del mar, el cajon, escondido, imperial beach, la mesa, lemon grove, poway, san marcos, santee, solana beach, vista, and the unincorporated areas of the county)

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

3989 RUFFIN ROAD
SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1890
(877) 478-5478
WWW.CO.SAN-DIEGO.CA.US/SDHCD/INDEX_RENTER.HTML

NATIONAL CITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
140 E. 12TH STREET, SUITE B
NATIONAL CITY, CA 91950-3312
(619) 336-4250
WWW.CI.NATIONAL-CITY.CA.US

Just Ask Us...

Community Interface Services welcomes input from the public regarding its services. If you have questions about what we do, how we do it, or suggestions about how we could do things better, please reach us using the contact information on the front page.

The San Diego Housing Commission and the County of San Diego Department of Housing and Community Development have published a great resource on affordable housing in San Diego County. In one book, 2006-2007 AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESOURCES, gathers together information on Section 8 rental assistance, public housing, shared housing, homeownership assistance, and property repair and rehabilitation. The publication covers all of San Diego County, and is a great starting point for persons looking for affordable housing in the area. A link to this great resource can be found online at www.communityhousingpartnership.org.

supported living

Living the Good Life

Angie Unruh knows what it's like to be busy, but she wouldn't have it any other way. Between work, sports, family vacations, and activities with friends, she might soon need the services of a personal scheduler. Angie lives in Scripps Ranch and receives Supported Living services. Her live-in support person, Alexis Payton, helps her to manage her household and get more involved in the community.

During the week, Angie works as a teaching assistant in a special education class at a local elementary school. On weekends, she typically is busy with Special Olympics, where she demonstrates her prowess and determination in track and field events. In fact, at the first meet of the season this year, Angie took home three First Place medals—in the 50 yard dash, long jump, and shot put—and one Third Place medal, in the relay.

Angie and Alexis have also been participating in some unique events where Angie has had the opportunity to meet a lot of new people. On March 18, they attended the "World Peace Youth Festival" at a Buddhist temple in Kearny Mesa. Over four hundred people participated in the festival to encourage world peace, which featured singing, dancing, and art. Angie liked it so much she went back for another festival the following week.

And, to top it all off, Angie just returned from a week long vacation in Hawaii with her family. Angie and her family went to visit her brother, and had a great time. Angie has what so many people strive for—a full, productive life.

independent living

"Mister Ivey Ranch" Makes a Difference

Kevin Roe, a service recipient in the Independent Living program, recently celebrated his 22nd year on the job at Ivey Ranch. Ivey Ranch is a nonprofit facility in Oceanside that provides therapeutic recreational services to disabled and non-disabled children and young adults. Kevin helps to maintain the grounds and facility at Ivey Ranch, and has been there almost since the beginning—hence his nickname, "Mr. Ivey Ranch." As he likes to say, "Nothing would be there, the trees or anything, if I wasn't there."

Kevin enjoys working at Ivey Ranch because he feels needed and he likes to help the kids who benefit from the organization's programs. "I get a good feeling knowing that I'm doing something good for all the kids that go there." The job is an especially good fit because Ivey Ranch is just a couple blocks from his condo, which he purchased about ten years ago. He can often be seen riding his scooter around the community. Congratulations to Kevin on his years of hard work, and hopefully he will have many more good years at Ivey Ranch.

feedback

Tell Us What You Think

Inside this issue of *Community Focus*, you will find a short survey form seeking your feedback and suggestions on this newsletter. We are always looking for ways to improve and your feedback can be a big help—so let us have it! Completed forms can be mailed, faxed, or handed to any Community Interface Services staffmember.

Recent Employees of the Quarter



Rey Lunario

Since he joined Community Interface Services about two and a half years ago as a vocational resource counselor, Rey Lunario has demonstrated the kind of work ethic and compassion that have made him a great addition to the team. With experience in the Army as a medical specialist, Rey has an ability to take it all in stride, always remaining easy-going and polite. He learned his job quickly, and helps his service recipients work all over North County, including Escondido, Vista, and Fallbrook. Rey is very independent, organized, and

dependable, and is always timely and thorough with his paperwork. He always has a great, energetic attitude, and is well-liked by his service recipients, family members, and co-workers.

Norma Pena

Wow, talk about dedication—Norma Pena has worked as a roommate in the Supported Living program for just over 11 years. She has lived with several different service recipients over the years, sometimes long-term and sometimes temporary arrangements to help people get through emergencies. Whatever needed to be done, Norma has packed her bags and gone to help. She has always put the needs of her service recipients first—just recently, she cancelled her own family's holiday plans to support a couple of service recipients who would have had no one to spend the holidays with. Helping people with disabilities is not just a job for Norma; she is committed to her service recipients like they were her own family members, and she has even recruited her own family members into the agency!

upcoming events

The Special Needs Trust Foundation (SNTF) is sponsoring the following seminars in June, which may be helpful to persons with developmental disabilities and/or their family members and support staff.

Understanding Social Security and SSI Benefits

Presented by Peter Prather, Social Security Administration

WHEN▶ Saturday, June 2, 2007 9:00 a.m. – noon

WHERE▶ The Arc of San Diego, North Shores
9575 Aero Drive, San Diego 92123

COST▶ \$8.00 per person, \$10 per family

Special Needs Trust Seminar

Presented by Nancy Spector, Attorney

WHEN▶ Saturday, June 9, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

WHERE▶ The Arc of San Diego, North Shores
9575 Aero Drive, San Diego 92123

COST▶ \$8.00 per person, \$10 per family

For more information on either session or to register, please contact the Special Needs Trust Foundation at (619) 338-4477.

2007

CPR/FIRST AID

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2007
SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007
SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2007
SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2007
SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2007
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2007
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2007
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2007
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2007
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2007
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2007

All classes are open to the public and are held at the Community Interface Services office. CPR classes start at 10:00 a.m., first aid classes start at 12:00 p.m. Call Cheryl Carman at (760) 729-3866 to register.

The cost with preregistration is: CPR \$17, First Aid \$17, combined CPR/First Aid class \$30.

The cost without preregistration is: CPR \$20, First Aid \$20, combined CPR/First Aid class \$35.



2621 Roosevelt Street
Carlsbad, CA 92008-1660

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARLSBAD, CA
PERMIT NO. 931

Community Interface Services

directory of services

Detailed information on services may be obtained by calling the service contact person at (760) 729-3866
or by visiting our web site at www.communityinterfaceservices.org.

Vocational and Transitional Services

info@communityinterfaceservices.org

Community Integration Training—

Vocational and community integration skills training in community based settings.

Contact: Kristine Simpson

Supported Employment—

One-on-one or group job development and coaching support in competitive paid employment.

Contact: Sherry Davison

Community Housing Partnership

housing@communityinterfaceservices.org
www.communityhousingpartnership.org

Assistance accessing Section 8 waitlists and individual home ownership; available to all Regional Center service recipients.

Contact: Bruce Willbrant

Community Living

info@communityinterfaceservices.org

Individually tailored support arrangements with a commitment to service recipient empowerment and choice. Services assist people with developmental disabilities to have lifestyles and living situations like those without disabilities.

Independent Living—

Skills training typically ranging from 2 to 65 hours per month.

Contact: Judy Jamell

Supported Living—

Support for individuals with comprehensive needs not typically met through independent living services.

Contact: Michelle Flores

Fiscal Management Service

info@communityinterfaceservices.org

For individuals participating in Self-Determination for assistance with bill paying and employer of record services.

Contact: Kim Larsen

Social Support Facilitation

info@communityinterfaceservices.org

Promotes access to social and community recreational opportunities for adults and children with developmental disabilities throughout San Diego County.

Contact: Michelle Flores