

Westview

CREATING A BETTER WORLD... ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

Volume 3, No. 2

ORANGE COUNTY NEWSLETTER

May 2012

FOCUS ON ABILITIES

Celebrating 25 Years of Continuous Employment by Robert Woelfle



Robert Woelfle of Westview's Supported Employment Program in Anaheim is honored as Westview's first client to achieve twenty-five years of continuous employment. Pictured L to R: Javiera Cartagena, representing Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez; Ronnie Guyer, representing State Assemblyman Jim Silva; Robert Woelfle; Gregg Gann, Westview CEO; and Pethuru Lourthu, Westview OC Operations Director

A Message from Lourthu – Operations Director, Orange County

In this issue of our newsletter, we are focusing on abilities as the underlying premise which guides all that Westview does to assist its clients in leading the most fulfilling lives possible. What our clients need most of all are opportunities. We have seen over and over again that when they are given opportunities, training, and encouragement, they respond with a desire to develop their skills and with an enhanced sense of self-confidence.

On April 26, Westview's Orange County region held its first annual client talent show. It was a truly memorable day for our clients, staff, and guests. Foremost among the proceedings was a ceremony recognizing Robert Woelfle's significant accomplishment as Westview's first client to achieve twenty-five years of continuous employment. Robert was awarded certificates from the offices of Senator Diane Feinstein, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, State Senator Lou Correa, and State Assemblyman Jim Silva, and was presented with a crystal trophy from Westview by its CEO, Gregg Gann.

At the talent show, there were clients who participated that only a short time ago would never participate in any kind of public event, and there they were performing in front of a large audience! This is truly a big step forward for these clients. The decorations, too, were beautifully made at our programs by the clients and staff. We know that this first annual client talent show has set the stage for an even greater participation of our clients in the future. When some of them saw their peers performing, they responded by saying that they also want to participate next year. Truly our greatest disability is our inability to believe. ★



Cindy Ling of the Community-Based Program sings "Material Girl"



Max Nguyen of the Multi-Cultural Program dances



Francisco Chavez of the Community-Based Program sings "I Drive Myself Crazy"



The Korean Dance Ensemble from the Multi-Cultural Program performs. Pictured L to R: Hye-Ji Kim, Samuel Cho, Won-Hee Chang, Dae Kim, Song-Mi Kim, and Yujin Choe



Khoa Duong of the Multi-Cultural Program plays the keyboard



Darryl Martin of the Community-Based Program dances



Arthur Reyes of the Community-Based Program performs a rap



Tania West of the Hy-Lond Home Program sings "Elvira"



Sandra Hill of the Starbright Program sings "Paper Roses"



Thomas Springer of the Multi-Cultural Program does voice imitations



Stephen Perez of the Community-Based Program dances



Anayeli Sandoval and Diego Luna of the Multi-Cultural Program perform a Mexican hat dance



Melissa Bateman of the Supported Employment Program sings "My Heart Will Go On"



Lionel Daniel of the Supported Employment Program dances



Sandra Grover of the Starlyte Program sings "Puff the Magic Dragon"



The Vietnamese Dance Ensemble from the Multi-Cultural Program performs. Pictured L to R: Linda Ly Vo, Kim-Lan Nguyen, Hoang-Anh Nguyen, Lisa Vu, Linda Qui Nguyen, and Kathy Ho



Crystal Olvera of the Community-Based Program sings "Judas"



An ensemble from the Community-Based Program performs "It Will Rain". Pictured L to R: Haydee Mendoza, Diana Luu, TJ Isaac, and Larry Quiniano



Renan Miranda of the Starlyte Program dances



An ensemble from the Garden Grove Program performs the limbo. Pictured in front is Maria Gonzales



All the performers join in the finale, "So Long, Farewell" from The Sound of Music

Lucy de Jesus Employee of the Quarter

Lucy de Jesus, manager of the Starlyte Program in Westminster, was recently honored as Westview's employee of the spring quarter. Lucy has used her organizational skills to implement a truly creative vision for her program. She has revitalized her staff by encouraging them to use their strengths to improve on and implement enjoyable activities. One result of this is the implementation of the program's General Store where clients can practice purchasing, and The Beauty Shop and The Barber Shop (with barber poll) where, by appointment only, clients learn to comb and style their hair and take care of their hands and nails. With contributions from Home Depot, a strong supporter of the program, clients have a garden where they grow fruit and vegetables that are used in their cooking classes.



Front L to R: Linda Callaghan, Quality Assurance Coordinator; Lucy de Jesus; Pethuru Lourthu, OC Operations Director; Rear: Gregg Gann, Westview CEO

Lucy is one of Westview's shining stars. ★

CARF Audit

Our Westview Supported Employment Programs had their triennial CARF audit in March, and all the programs received their 3-year accreditation. We are most grateful to our Orange County managers, Shannon Stevens of the Anaheim Supported Employment Program and Angie Fisher of the Multi-Cultural Supported Employment Program, and all their staff for the excellent job they are doing in helping our clients to become more independent.



You suppose you are the trouble
But you are the cure
You suppose that you are the lock on the door
But you are the key that opens it
It's too bad that you want to be someone else
You don't see your own face, your own beauty
Yet, no face is more beautiful than yours

—Rumi

Putting Ability First—Coach Ahmed Belmadani of the Starbright Program

The Starbright Program in Santa Ana is very fortunate to have Ahmed Belmadani as one of its coaches. Ahmed joined the Starbright program in November 2010, and it wasn't long before he began using his creative vision to develop programs for the clients. He is a gifted artist, so he developed painting and craft classes especially adapted to their needs. Some of their art projects have been on display at Westview's art exhibits, and some of them have even been purchased. Ahmed also developed a quiet computer room with several computers where clients can use some very innovative computer programs. These programs allow the clients to manipulate different pictures and sounds to create a diversity of visual and audio stimuli. They are especially beneficial for clients with autism because they allow the individual to regulate his/her own environment.

The Starbright Program and Westview are grateful to Ahmed for seeing the potential in our clients and developing programs that promote their abilities. ★



Clockwise from top left: Kelly Lu paints with her feet; Ahmed with clients in the computer class; clients in the clay modeling class; Ahmed showing a client how to mold the clay

Our Featured Employer: IKEA in Costa Mesa

IKEA in Costa Mesa has employed one of Westview's clients, Karl Ahlf, for the past eleven years. By recognizing and utilizing Karl's numerous abilities, IKEA has helped to instill in him a belief in himself and provided him the opportunity to be productive and reach his potential. IKEA holds Karl to the same high standards and expectations as all of its other employees. IKEA's manager, Chella Murphy, says that IKEA has deep appreciation and respect for Karl, which he has earned through his strong work ethic.



An IKEA representative accepts a certificate from State Senator Lou Correa at the Autism Town Hall Meeting at RCOO

On April 27, 2012, IKEA was presented with a certificate of appreciation from State Senator Lou Correa for its contribution to people with autism at the Autism Town Hall Meeting at Regional Center of Orange County.

Westview is grateful for its partnership with IKEA. ★

Westview Orange County Client Special Events Through December 2012

JUNE

19-22, 9:30-1:00: Westview Orange County's Seventh Annual Sports Fest (June 19 & 22 at Liberty Park in Westminster, June 20 & 21 at Modjeska Park in Anaheim)

JULY

3, 9:00-1:00: Fourth of July Dance, Garden Grove Women's Civic Club
18, 8:30-11:30: Orange County Fair

AUGUST

23, 9:30-12:00: End of Summer Dance, Garden Grove Women's Civic Club

SEPTEMBER

Special Olympics Bowling, Irvine Lanes (date to be announced)
27, 10:00-1:00: Westview Orange County's Third Annual Carnival, Liberty Park
28, 11:00-1:00: Moon Festival Celebration, Liberty Park

OCTOBER

Halloween Program Decorating Contest
31, 9:30-12:00: Halloween Dance/Party, Garden Grove Women's Civic Club

NOVEMBER

Arts and Crafts Fundraiser (location and date to be announced)
Special Olympics Regional Fall Games, Bowling, Fountain Bowl (date to be announced)

DECEMBER

6, 9:30-12:00: Holiday Dance/Party, Garden Grove Women's Civic Club

For information on these and other Westview events, contact Carole Cooper, Westview Activities Director, at (714) 635-2444 or ccooper@westviewservices.org

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Flora Villarey

Westview is a non-profit service agency dedicated to enriching the lives of people through services designed to realize their potential.