

Workforce Directions



ARC Broward
Workforce Development

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Above picture shows Consumers stuffing the boxes with bandages.

First Aid Direct has been partners with ARC for over 5 years. They are one of the companies that provide contract work for our consumers at the skill center. First Aid Direct is a wholesale distributor of first aid and safety supplies. The consumers at ARC do some of the packaging of their private label products such as bandages, gauze, ointments, creams, antiseptics, ice packs, etc.

MISSION STATEMENT

To help people achieve their fullest potential by providing educational, employment, behavioral, health care, social and residential supports and services.

I met with Arthur Elinson, Materials Manager at their corporate office in Tamarac. He stated that in addition to providing a variety of individual first aid products, First Aid Direct is also a major supplier of first aid cabinets and kits of various sizes and fills. Their sister company, Select First Aid, does contract work for businesses ensuring their first aid cabinets are sanitary and stocked with the proper products required by OSHA and according to the business needs.

Asked why his company has been partners with ARC for all these years, he said one reason is manpower. If ARC was not involved with their operation, they would have to significantly increase their staff, but with ARC they are able to meet their production needs at a reasonable cost, while helping the consumers with gainful employment. Arthur pointed out that ARC has provided them with very good service over the years and are always responsive to his company's needs. It's a true "win win" situation and we look forward to being partners for many years to come.

Visit their website at www.firstaiddirect.com.

Workforce Development

- Electronics Recycling
- Supported Employment
- Skill Center
- Van Washing
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- Spic 'N Span



Lucia Otero (Crew Leader) on the left with Michelle W. Checking the boxes to ensure accuracy.

Helping people learn to help themselves!



Jose packing the boxes for shipping.

ARC is building community partnership



Jerry Motter, Director

Over the past year, I have been working on a United Way committee that is charged with the goal of developing a career day for consumers with disabilities who are looking for work. Another goal is to educate employers on disability awareness, addressing myths and building business partnerships. This committee involves members of the business community, other provider organizations and people with disabilities.

I am happy to report that this event, known as “Connections: People-Employers-Resources” will occur on either July 12th or 13th at Nova Southeastern University. This will be a great opportunity for our Supported Employment staff to make connections with Broward County businesses and for any of our consumers who are “job ready” to look for a good job.

The committee’s intent is not to let this event be a one-time career day, but to build a true partnership with area businesses that will commit to hiring people with disabilities as a regular business practice. Recently, the committee is starting to see the potential to turn this group into a Business Leadership Network (BLN) affiliation. BLNs are forming across the country to help establish long term commitments between organizations serving people with disabilities and area businesses. This is an exciting development and you can be sure ARC Broward, Inc. will be a leader in the initiative.

Employee of the Month



Julieta on left, pictured with Ghada Aly Supported Employment Manager

Julieta Arcila is the recipient of the Employee of the Month award for January. She was recognized for her outstanding accomplishment in completing a task that was deemed impossible. With exceptional work efforts and using excellent communication skills, Julieta was able to gain employment for a Consumer at the Broward County School Board. *Wow!*

As an Employment Specialist here at ARC for almost a year, Julieta holds a BS degree in Social Work, she is responsible for job training, coaching and enjoys working with the Consumers to help them succeed in their jobs. Julieta is a true team player, after accepting her certificate, she credited Ghada, Jerry and the rest of the Supported Employment team saying she made the accomplishment only because of their support and encouragement.

In addition to her certificate, Julieta also receives a \$25.00 gift card. *Way to go Julieta!*

Supported Employment news

Supported Employment (SE) has record 10 referrals for the month of January. Ghada SE Manager said this is a result of the Vocational Rehabilitation Center now acknowledging the good work and support that they provide to the Consumers. She also stated that 3 of the referrals are people with physical disabilities, as the SE program is not limited to people with developmental disabilities.

Also this month the SE department is recognizing Jesus I. He started at ARC in a horticulture-training program in 1987 and with the help of the SE program was employed at the Housing Authority in 1989. After 15 years of service Jesus is very consistent, dependable and is much appreciated by his supervisor and co-workers. He is very happy in his job and wants to keep it for many more years. SE provides follow along services every 2 weeks to help him maintain his superb performance. *Awesome!*

“It takes but one positive thought when given a chance to survive and thrive to overpower an entire army of negative thoughts.”

Robert H. Schuller

Former crew member shares his story

At January’s consumer meeting, the holidays and observances of the month of February were the highlight of the meeting. February as you know is the shortest month of the year, but it is also a special month where important issues are observed such as Black History, Low Vision Awareness, Burn awareness, and the celebration of Valentines’ and President’s Day. Also, we discussed a Florida Bill of Rights, which is the right to receive medical treatment when sick. Staying awake and alert was also discussed as one of the workshop policies.

The second phase of the meeting featured an interview with Eric S, a former worker of the Spic N Span Cleaning Crew, and a true success story. Eric has made a smooth transition from the production line, to the cleaning crew and is now employed at a McDonalds full time, thanks to our **Supported Employment** team. Eric’s advice to those who want to work in the community is to listen to staff, stay out of trouble by practicing self-control, and work hard. Eric thanked Ghada, Denise, Jerry, and Mathias for supporting him. Eric said he is happy with his job because it allows him to be more independent and to work more on his personal goals. Eric’s goal is to one day become a Store Manager.

Eric you are on the right track. *Congratulations!*

Calypso Grill servicing the community

On February 4th the Calypso Grill catered its first community-based event. Eleven members of an active senior’s group, the Prime Timers, enjoyed an early Valentines Day luncheon in the Great room. After indulging in a delectable menu, compliments of chef Nancy and Chef Janice. The group wrapped up the event with a tour of ARC.

The Calypso Grill welcomes a new staff member. Chef Janice Adams comes to us with a wealth of experience and enthusiasm. Janice had been employed with the State of Georgia for 6 years when she decided to follow her heart and pursue a culinary career. She has worked in various kitchen settings over the past 5 years, owned her own catering business and is currently pursuing a degree in restaurant management and culinary arts at Broward Community College.



Coming soon! Our “*Chef for a day*”, Marcia Wright will be tantalizing our taste buds with a Jamaican cuisine.

By Michelle Culmer—Calypso Grill Manager

“If you fail to prepare then prepare to fail.”

What’s new at Electronics Recycling



We welcome Maria A. as our new trainee at the computer lab. Maria is a part of a 4 week assessment program, implemented to determine if she is taking the right career path. Maria will be assisting with cleaning and testing the computers for the retail store. She is eager to learn and shows great enthusiasm. Good luck Maria!

The picture at the left shows Recycling Tech Abi Peake working in the computer lab.

Retail Store

Place your order today for a computer, complete with monitor, keyboard, mouse and CPU. Starting at \$75.00.





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**WORKFORCE
DIRECTIONS**

Ideas, suggestions?
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Happy Birthday!

Julian Robinson February 10

Lucia Otero February 16

Congratulations!



Octavia Ferguson will be walking down the aisle on
March 26.

Let's welcome to the Skill Center

Jonathan B.

Kenny L.

Bart A.

How to play your part in fostering a Great work atmosphere!

One of the goals of the Good to Great Campaign is to have the right people get on and stay on "the bus". The first step I believe is teamwork, which is conducive to a good working environment. We should all display mutual respect for each other and eliminate negative speech such as gossip, lies and arguments, which can be both hurtful and damaging.

Effective communication is also a key factor, try not to "over-think" an argument. Be upbeat and positive, focus on the brighter side at all times. Smile, it is simple and contagious. Also, share your knowledge, show a co-worker an easier or quicker way to do a task or to use a computer program. Don't forget to have fun and be authentic. Let us work together to create a more enjoyable work atmosphere.

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Henry Ford

The Editor

Van Wash Crew



The Van Wash Crew is expanding their service to include the washing of staff's cars. Backed by their new crew leader Roxanne Razi, staff members can have their car washed and vacuumed at a reasonable price while they work. This service is offered weekdays at the back of building 3, between 9:30AM and 3PM.

The cost for cars will be \$6.00 for wash only and \$8.00 to wash and vacuum, and for SUV's \$8.00 for wash only and \$10.00 to wash and vacuum.

Get your car washed today!

