

Workforce Directions

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Core Purpose

Enriching the lives of people with
disAbilities



ARC Broward
Achievement and Rehabilitation Centers, Inc.

Unsolicited Act Of Kindness

By Jerry Motter - Director Workforce Development Division

Frequently I find myself inspired by the accomplishments of many of the people who we serve at ARC Broward. With my office in the back of Building #3, I am fortunate to witness many individual successes and share the moments of achievement. However, it is not often that we witness complete unselfishness, doing something only for the good of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. This last month, we all witnessed one such act of totally unsolicited act of kindness.

Raylene S., completely unprompted by any staff member, proposed a food drive to benefit the hungry and homeless. Initially, people dismissed her and her idea. Raylene did not let the initial negative response stop her, she persisted. Soon, there were posters to be put up around campus. Then there was her personal appeal to staff and her peers. I am thrilled to acknowledge the wonderful gracious spirit of Raylene resulted in approximately 200 hundred pounds of food being collected and given to the Edward W. Smith Jr. - Family Nutrition Center.

Raylene has been an inspiration to us all, thinking not of herself and her needs, but of those who do not have the food and shelter we too often take for granted. I now hear she is thinking of starting a clothing drive to follow up. Raylene, we salute you. Thank you for your caring and loving spirit.



Raylene is pictured above delivering food that was collected to the Edward W. Smith Jr. - Family Nutrition Center



Social Enterprise - What is it and what does it mean to ARC?

By Jerry Motter - Director of Workforce Development Division

I was fortunate to be able to attend the “7th Gathering of the Social Enterprise Alliance” March 8 and 9 in Atlanta. You ask, what is a social enterprise? **Social enterprises** are organizations which trade in goods or services and link that trade to a social mission. The need to deliver on both financial and social performance targets (outcomes) is often referred to as having a double bottom line. As government dollars become increasingly sparse, a few not-for-profits have started to develop business enterprises that create unrestricted dollars to support the organization’s mission. Done successfully, this creates a much more solid financial foundation on which to pursue the organization’s core purpose.

You may not realize the fact, but ARC Broward is a leader within the not-for-profit world with our business enterprises, Calypso Grill, Electronics Recycling and the Production center. It is no accident that one of our core values is creating the “**entrepreneurial spirit.**” Coupled with the strategic goal of increasing ARC’s financial stability, we are actively looking for ways to grow mission-driven business enterprises. We believe both Calypso Grill with its spin-off training program funded by Able Trust, “Culinary Arts” and the Electronics Recycling program are great matches of business enterprises that specifically provide added value to the lives of the people we serve.

You are about to see a significant increase in consumers directly engaged in the recycling program, as an assessment, learning and/or work opportunity. Room 312 will become a training room for consumers interested in learning to work with computers.

As you can see, both Calypso and Electronics Recycling offer potential of not only creating excess revenues but great training opportunities for our consumers to learn real-world skills that are marketable in the community. These are unique opportunities that we must treat as serious assets, protecting and carefully growing to meet the future needs of ARC Broward and our consumers. ARC Broward’s social enterprises are a significant component to our becoming a great organization.

“Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence.”
Anonymous

Electronics Recycling Retail Store



For \$100.00 you can own a Pentium III computer system. Place your order today for a computer, complete with monitor, keyboard, mouse and CPU. We have 3 available, contact Miguel at ext. 3047.

Don’t forget to recycle your printer, copier or fax cartridges. Drop them off at the recycling center at the back of building 3.

Employment Services

Ghada Aly, manager of Employment Services (ES) is happy to announce that last month ES made 8 job placements. This resulted in the addition of one new employer to our network. Comcast has hired a Consumer as a Camera Operator, a position that pays \$28,000 per year. Ghada is proud of Comcast’s approach to hiring people with disabilities. The following is a list of employers who hired Consumers for the first quarter of this year and the position they were hired for:

- ▲ Albertson’s - Courtesy Clerk
- ▲ Comcast - Camera Operator
- ▲ Handicap Sales Workshop - Graphic Designer
- ▲ Nova University - Copy Technician
- ▲ Plantation Hospital - Housekeeper
- ▲ McDonald’s - Fryer
- ▲ Executive Tank Service - Aircraft Mechanic
- ▲ Publix - Front End Clerk
- ▲ Ross Dress for Less - Stocker
- ▲ Champions Learning Center - Teachers Aid
- ▲ Lowe’s - Loader
- ▲ UPS - Loader

Electronics Recycling and PEER Center Computer Care Partnership

By Matt Leachman

ARC Broward Electronics Recycling and PEER Computer Care are now working in an exciting collaboration effort to rebuild computers.

The Peer Center is a non-profit advocacy and support center for mental health consumers providing alternatives to traditional services. This center also serves as a consumer operated open door agency where members can meet for social activities, support groups and access a computer lab. The computer lab offers access to email, games, basic typing, resume preparation and job seeking capabilities. PEER Computer Care, a sub-company of the PEER Center, specializes in refurbishing computers and then selling those computers to members and the general public.

ARC Broward Electronics Recycling provides the PEER Center with computers to be refurbished. In the very near future computers from the ARC Broward/PEER Center partnership will be listed for sale, posted for staff and the general public to purchase. ARC Broward Electronics Recycling is also optimistic that with the growing business, new avenues for ARC consumers will be available. Plans are underway to step up further consumer labor within this business venture.

A new Public Service Video spot has been produced and donated by Advanced Cable. This 30 second Electronics Recycling Spot will be aired on Advanced Cable stations as well as other TV stations in the community.

Our goal is to continue is to provide viable economical electronics recycling alternatives, diverting harmful electronic waste from entering landfills.

Culinary Arts Training Made Fun and Easy

By Mathias Louis, Skill Center Manager

Thanks to the ABLE Trust grant, ARC Broward has developed a Culinary Arts Training program that incorporates job survival skills, technical cooking skills, and the application of culinary lesson plans designed for individuals with disabilities. Under the direction of new Culinary Arts Instructor, Nicole Schwedock, the program has taken a strong leap forward. Nicole's many years of experience working with individuals with disabilities, and her strong culinary and teaching background is greatly benefiting the students.



Culinary Arts Class preparing for a bake sale.

You may wonder why should you choose to attend ARC Broward Culinary Arts Training program. Few of the main reasons are ARC Broward has been providing services to people with disabilities for decades; students receive individual one-on-one session with the instructor; and equal classroom and kitchen training. In addition, our services continue until they are employed.

Here are a few quotes from the students about ARC Broward Culinary Arts Training program. Aymee K, a transferred student from Sheridan Technical Center states "it is a lot better", as she refers to the smaller class size and the individual attention she receives from the instructor. Another student, Lorin P states, "the teacher is great", and believes that with his culinary arts certificate he will be qualified to be employed at Disney World and other theme parks. The program is set to give all participants valuable training that will give them a competitive edge in the food service industry.

For program registration please contact Mathias Louis at 954-746-9400 Ext. 3533 or E-mail mlouis@arcbroward.com.

Coming Soon - Consumer Expo Day

One of ARC Broward's core values is to have an Entrepreneurial spirit, consumers at the Skill Center have been demonstrating this core value time and time again. We have decided to promote their entrepreneurial skills by hosting a Consumer Expo Day in June of this year. Talented Consumers will get a rare chance to offer their creations for sale, art and craft designs will also be displayed not on sale, but as a way to spotlight their artistic ability. Invitations will be sent to parents/guardians, Waiver Support Coordinators and friends of ARC. More updates soon. Contact Racquel Henry for more info. The picture to the above right shows bracelets made by Maria A.



Calypso Grill Update

The Calypso Grill has come out with its new menu, which includes some new items and most of your old favorites. We also have come out with the ARC staff dollar menu. We hope you have all been made aware of this. If not please stop by the Calypso and pick up your copy. We offer the same great food at smaller portions and at a more economical price. We want to thank everyone for his or her patronage. The Calypso Grill is moving forward within the local business community but enjoys seeing our friends right here within the ARC Broward environment every day. Pick up a copy of our updated menu.

Meet Nicole, Instructor of the Culinary Arts Program



Workforce Development Division is pleased to introduce Nicole Schwedock as the new Culinary Arts Instructor. Nicole has over 10 years experience in the food service industry. She attended Johnson and Wales University and worked as an apprentice at restaurants in Miami and New York City. After graduating she opened and operated a successful catering and pastry business for 4 years. Nicole then decided to go back to school and graduated from Florida International University with a Bachelors Degree in Special Education and Liberal Studies. Prior to ARC, Nicole worked for The Department of Children and family, and the YWCA as a Nutritionist and an At-Risk Counselor. Nicole declares that her family's love for good food helped created her passion for Culinary Arts and she is enthusiastic about making ARC Broward's Culinary Arts Program a success. *Welcome Nicole!*

ary Arts Program a success. *Welcome Nicole!*

Stop Whining - Make that Change

Les Brown speaks of the dog that lies on a nail moaning and groaning, but refuses to move because it doesn't hurt that badly. This is used as a metaphor for some of us, who I guess at some point in our life whine day after day about something that is happening in our life, instead of making a change. Some people whine about work, yet they honor their schedule everyday, some whine about their vehicles, spouses, not making enough money, or the neighborhood they live in. These are all things that they have the power to change to make their lives easier, but they never make that change. Whining is a negative energy drainer. The best solution is to stop complaining. Don't be afraid to direct your energy towards getting out of your unfavorable condition. If you are doing something that you are not passionate about you will forever be complaining and whining, because you are not happy. Make whatever you do fun, cultivate positive thinking which will result in positive actions. Take control of your own destiny by making steps towards a change.

Editor



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