



Community Haven's News Line

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TO PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND FRIENDS OF PARTICIPANTS IN COMMUNITY HAVEN FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, INC.

FEBRUARY 2010

Development:

Community Haven had a very chilly day at Thunder By the Bay; however, we want to extend a big thank you to Suncoast Charities for Children for including Community Haven as one of the charities they will be donating funds to. Our clients had fun doing the commercial that aired on Channel 7 advertising this event. Community Haven attended the 5th Annual WEDU Be More Awards in Tampa. Phyllis, our angel of the agency, was nominated for the Mason Dixon award for volunteerism. Phyllis was one of the 5 finalists out of 22 individuals that were nominated. Although she didn't receive the overall award, PHYLLIS is an absolutely unbelievable individual who gives of her time, talent, and money to so many needy individuals and organizations in our community. We are a better agency because of YOU Phyllis! The 45th Annual Service Club Antique show is February 26-28 at the Civic Center in Bradenton. Tickets are \$10.00 and Marla has them for sale. Please come out and support this event since they have provided the agency with many funds for years. March 23rd is our Mad Hatter Tea at a Board Member's home in Bradenton. Mark your calendars and come join us and the wonderful children from Selby for an afternoon of fun. **Marla Doss, Director**

Transitions:

The Transitions students have been very busy participating in Random Acts of Kindness (RAK). We currently have Booker and Palmetto High Schools participating in the RAK Club along with High School/High Tech students who give up a Saturday each month to participate. Florida Writes will be taking place in the schools February 9-11. Our visit with Palmetto High School to PETCO was exciting; the students were able to learn about the pet industry and were able to hold a Ferret. Students at Venice High School did an awesome job during their Mock Interviews. Just a reminder, FCATs will be taking place in March. **Carolyn Marchbank, Director**

Projects With Industry/Community Employment Services:

Staff of the Employment Programs anticipate a prosperous, successful 2010. PWI has the pleasure of adding Corie Haring to our staff. Corie brings experience and enthusiasm to the team and we look forward to working with her. The entire employment staff is "on the road" job developing for our participants. It appears as if employers are hopeful about better economic times as we are seeing more people going on interviews and more jobs being offered to our participants. Donna and her entire PWI staff are attending a job development seminar presented by Job Development Training Resources. Staff is very excited to have this opportunity to hone their job development skills. Rachel and the Community Employment staff have been steadily receiving new referrals both from Voc Rehab and Med Waiver. It was announced that VR will have a new benchmark payment for 40 hours of employability skills training and will be raising their overall benchmark payments for both Supported Employment and Employment Services. This is a much needed increase. **Karen Brocklehurst, Director**

Community Living:

At our last staff meeting I was reminded of how lucky Community Living is to have such a dedicated force. I would like to share with you a staff's response to being asked what they had learned working here.

After many, many years working in the field as a direct care counselor, supervisor and director, I have come to the conclusion much to my surprise that I have been the "student" all along. I have learned: 1. That love and friendship are so important. 2. To listen, just listen. 3. Patience, Patience, Patience. 4. Trustworthiness (Say what you mean and mean what you say). 5. Sense of self and inner strength. 6. That a simple pat on the back, a simple hug and a simple smile speaks volumes. Andrea Riccitelli, Direct Care

Here's hoping your New Year is off to a good start. **Chris Baker, Director**

Selby Preschool:

Now that the holidays are over it's back to concentrating on everyday tasks and exploring new enrichment activities. At Selby Preschool, we are always trying to improve and update our program offerings. Yoga, art and music are now enjoyed by all the children. Yoga and art are given in the Resource Room and music is given in the Multi-Purpose Room. The Resource Room is equipped with a computer, puppet theatre, a library, a practical life and kitchen center, and a fully supplied art center. The children and teachers enjoy the interaction and the change in scheduling that the Resource Room provides. It also is an important readiness skill that the children will need as they enter elementary school. All are welcome to come by and visit the Resource Room. **Michele Carusona, Director**

Occupational Training:

Things are growing down at ADT! Despite Mother Nature's best efforts to freeze us out, we are coming back strong. The heaters in the greenhouses are up and running and we are nurturing our first big order with the Sarasota/Bradenton International Airport. The nursery is also busily creating miniature butterfly gardens and herb gardens that we will be selling at various events and on weekends. The arts are active and this month's theme is Truthfulness. *"The greatest homage we can pay to truth is to use it."*—Ralph Waldo Emerson. Lessons and activities will focus on Flexibility, Integrity, and Sense of Humor while the emotions explored will be Trust and Distrust. Consumers will be reading Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mocking Bird* and learning about the music of Sergei Prokofiev through his *Peter and the Wolf*. **Madeline McGrail, Director**

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE IS

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

