



WARC NEWS

We Are Really Cool !!!

Volume 1, Issue 4

February, 2001

Special points of interest:

- Disability Resources, another organization that serves people with disabilities, owns "New To You" Computers. This business donates computers to people with disabilities, sells computers at reduced rates to the public, and now has a technician-for-hire, who can come and service your computer at a greatly reduced rate. They especially cater to non-profit organizations that may not have technical assistance on site. For info, call 329-1126.

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WARC to Host "Road to Independence" Workshops

WARC, with support from the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Nevada Commission for National & Community Service, will present a five-day workshop in Reno that will explore practical ways for people with disabilities to achieve independence through person-centered supported employment. It will also address funding options available to people with disabilities such as SST, SDI as well as Work Incentive programs.

The workshop is intended for people working in the disability field, advocates, members of the disability community, their family members and friends and other interested people. Participants must register in advance and may attend all five days or individual days.



Monday, March 19:

An Introduction to Person-Centered Supported Employment

This session is intended to expand your mental flexibility by examining new strategies for supporting people with disabilities in becoming vital members of the community. Topics include:

- Why community employment?
- Community employment models
- Your changing role: Job restructuring for direct care staff

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WARC Remembers

On Sunday, January 21, WARC lost a good friend and long-time employee. Marie Guthery, manager of the Pier 1 Associate Store for almost 20 years, died suddenly of a heart attack.

Marie's work at Pier 1 made the franchise, which is owned and operated by WARC, one of the most profitable Pier 1's in the nation.

Mostly, we will remember Marie's zest for life and the great

love she shared with her daughters, Alisha and Michelle.

Marie's funeral was held on January 27 and was attended by about 150 friends and relatives. The service was conducted by Marie's friend and mentor, Tu Bears. The service was a celebration of Marie's life and her love of the Native American culture and spirituality. Some of her

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Tuesday, March 20

Person-Centered Job Development: No More Square Pegs in Round Holes

This session will examine the job placement process.

Topics include:

- Career planning
- Utilizing the team approach vs. the "Lone Ranger" approach
- Developing partnerships with businesses
- Job carving vs. job placement
- Developing & maintaining Business Advisory Councils

Wednesday, March 21

Supporting the New Employee: A Person-Centered Approach

This session focuses on providing supports to the new employee, his/her support network, the employer, co-workers, etc. Topics include:

- Pre-employment issues: Transportation, how wages will affect Social Security and other benefits
- On-the-job issues: Training strategies, identifying natural supports, crisis intervention

Thursday, March 22

Understanding Social Security Benefits: It's Easier than You Think

This session is intended for individuals who need a BASIC understanding of the two Social Security adult disability programs (SST & SDI), the application process, appeals, etc. The intent is not to create "instant experts" but to heighten awareness so the participants can ask the right questions and work more effectively with SSA personnel, families, etc.

Friday, March 23

Putting Social Security Work Incentives to Work: An Advanced Workshop

This session is for individuals who have had previous training in the basics of SSA adult disability programs but need an update on the new regulations and more information concerning the utilization of the Work Incentive Programs (PASS, PESS, IRWE, Subsidy, Trial Work Period, etc.). This is an interactive session providing "hands on" activities, so it is recommended that all participants bring a calculator.

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Marie Remembered...

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favorite chants and drum songs were beautifully performed and a smoke ceremony sent her spirit on to the "Happy Land".

There were some very moving moments during the service. Friends, family and co-workers spoke about their relationships with Marie. With many young men reluctant to show their emotions, Bruce Crystal spoke tearfully about Marie hiring him in his very first job and lending him the money to buy his first car. Leah Cationer, Pier 1's Assistant Manager, recalled that Marie was more than just a boss to her staff. She was a friend, mentor, mother and sometimes even a doctor to each of them. Each of Marie's daughters spoke about their special relationships with their mother, and her ex-

husband spoke tearfully of his life with Marie and their newly established friendship after divorce. Many of us who knew Marie from her work life, felt we got to know her better through her many other friends and family members. Everyone who attended the funeral got a glimpse at Marie's life and how much she meant to the many people whose lives she touched.

All of us at WARC will miss Marie greatly. She was an important part of our organization and she worked tirelessly to make Pier 1 successful. She will not be forgotten.

Miscellaneous Milestones

⇒ Congratulations to Elizabeth Downie, who was chosen to participate in Nevada Partners in Policymaking! Partners is an advocacy training program for people with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. It is eight months long and full of information that will be valuable to Elizabeth and everyone at WARC.



⇒ The elevator at WARC is finally installed and operational! Thanks to funding from The Nell J. Redfield Foundation and the Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation, our second floor is now accessible to people in wheelchairs. Perseverance finally paid off in this two-year "project from hell".





Doug was our veteran skier and on the move!

WARC SKI DAY AT ALPINE MEADOWS



Donald used a cool bi-ski and was a natural!

Thursday, January 18, was a very special day for five of the people at WARC! Thanks to WARC staff person Scott Meyer and generosity of the Tahoe Adaptive Ski School, our group had a great time! The afternoon included a ski lesson for each person, four of which had their first experience on skis. Each person was assisted by a professional ski instructor and a volunteer instructor. After the lesson, it was up on chair lift and soon they were "swooshing" down the hill. Everyone took a few spills, but a good time was had by all. We're looking forward to our next outing at Alpine Meadows. Many thanks to the wonderful staff at the Tahoe Adaptive Ski School for making our experience the best ever! We're looking forward to our next Ski Day on March 29!



Tony finds his "ski legs"



Rick looks ready!



Jason gets some tips

WARC to Advocate for Disability Issues in New Legislative Session

The staff at WARC has been busy getting ready for the new legislative session which began February 5. Since the legislature meets only every two years and for only 120 days, there is a lot to get done.

Since 1977, Nevada has ranked 51st in overall spending on people with disabilities. The number of people we serve is much lower than the number of people who qualify for services. For example, Nevada serves:

- 100% less people than Colorado and Utah
- 200% less people than Montana
- 400% less people than South Dakota
- 500% less people than North Dakota

The three actions that WARC will be supporting in this

session are:

- 1 Establish an official Olmstead Planning Process (BDR #970), which will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the needs of people with disabilities in our state, formulate a method for reaching those who have needs and standardize services based on needs;
- 2 Establish a permanent effective rate commission to review the rates paid to private providers of services to people with disabilities (BDR #931) and;
- 3 An immediate 7.5% increase FY2001-2002 and 5% increase FY2002-2003 to avoid the collapse of the disability service system.



Washoe Association for Retarded Citizens

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- Brian Lahren, Ph.D.*

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Cost: The cost of this workshop is just \$5 per day, which will cover the cost of continental breakfast and afternoon beverage break. We are happy to waive the fee for anyone for whom it would be a hardship. We appreciate your financial support if possible.

Location/Time: The workshop will be held in the Girl Scout Conference Room at 605 Washington Street. It will be held each day from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lunch (on your own) from noon till 1:15 p.m.

For further information, contact WARC at (775) 333-9272.

To register, complete the application and return to WARC at 790 Sutro, Reno, NV 89512.

The Road to Independence 5-day workshop

I will be attending:

- Monday, March 19 @ \$5**
- Tuesday, March 20 @ \$5**
- Wednesday, March 21 @ \$5**
- Thursday, March 22 @ \$5**
- Friday, March 23 @ \$5**

OR

Monday, March 19, 6-8 p.m. free special 2-hour session on the Basics of Social Security Benefits and an overview of the new Work Incentives Programs.

Please note: We are happy to waive the fee for anyone for whom it would be a hardship. Just indicate below.
 I cannot pay
 I can pay and am enclosing \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

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