



WARC NEWS

We Are Really Cool !!!

www.warcreno.org

December, 2002

Special Point of Interest

WARC will no longer be known as the "Washoe Association for Retarded Citizens". Our new name is the "Washoe Arc" or "WARC".

The Arc of the United States has implemented a nationwide movement to encourage all Arc chapters to eliminate the word "retarded" from their names.

The term "mental retardation" carries stigma for many families, for many people with mental retardation themselves, and for others.

Recognizing that terminology is an issue, and that we also serve adults with various other developmental disabilities, the Washoe Arc has joined the national movement in one of many efforts to increase the quality of life for all people with developmental disabilities. We hope you will join us in this endeavor.

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Project Receives 2-Year Funding

The Task Force for the *Fund for a Healthy Nevada*, or the state's "tobacco money", has given WARC a generous grant to fund the Positive Behavior Support-Nevada Project until July 2004!

Positive behavioral supports (PBS) is an applied science that helps answer the question "Why is this person behaving this way?" Many people with developmental disabilities are prevented from fully participating in their community - such as getting a job, accessing public transportation, or going to the movies - because of challenging behaviors. PBS helps eliminate these behaviors by looking at what is wrong with the environment, not what is wrong with the person. A team approach to solving the problem is accomplished by bringing together all the people who support the person in their life such as family members, their teacher, employer, life skills trainer, professionals, and others.

Positive Behavior Support-Nevada is the only program in the state of Nevada to provide a common statewide strategy for building capacity in personnel and families who support people with developmental disabilities and challenging behavior problems. The project has built a statewide support network and information system, and provides technical assistance and training. With the collaboration of organizations such as Sierra Regional Center, the University's Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Opportunity Village, Desert Regional Center, Rural Regional Center, and many others throughout the state, the project has served almost 500 people and more than 100 different organizations over the past 3 years. Positive Behavior Support-Nevada offers on-site presentations, comprehensive training, and one-on-one consultation to people supporting an individual with problem behaviors that interfere with community living. Services are available throughout the state of Nevada. For more information about the project or available services, call Jeannine Sherrick at (775) 333-8254 in Reno or Barb Webb at (702) 486-6334 in Las Vegas.



Executive Director Retires

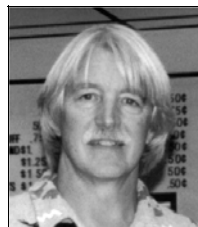
I want to take just a moment and thank everyone associated with the Washoe Arc for the privilege of working with so many wonderful people.

I will miss the daily opportunity of seeing the smiles on the faces of our wonderful clients. I have never worked with so many wonderful friends--both at the Washoe Arc and in the many community agencies we have worked so closely with over the

past ten years. It was truly a learning and growing experience that strengthened my faith in the fundamental goodness of people in general, and I look forward to continuing on as a consultant to the new executive director.

Thank you for the good times. I hope all our futures are bright and filled with happiness.

With deepest gratitude,
Brian.



Brian Lahren

The Coming Legislative Session: Brian Lahren's Report

The Governor's Task Force on Disability Planning, which it was my honor to chair until my retirement in September, has produced an exceptionally powerful and focused outline of what Nevada must do to improve services and avoid litigation over the coming decade. In addition, my friend and fellow Community Training Center (CTC) director in Las Vegas, Ed Guthrie chaired the Interim Task Force on Rates. Both of these "first ever" studies of Nevada disability services and their costs have made recommendations for funding and systemic changes to the way Nevada responds to the needs of its citizens with disabilities.

A primary task for the Washoe Arc in the coming legislative session will be to take a leadership role in assuring the implementation of the most pressing recommendations in the Rates and Disability Task Force reports. For example, the Rates Task Force documented that our reimbursement for client services is currently 34% below the national average and possibly the lowest in the nation. It will be our goal to push for a 15% increase in basic service payments. The provider community sees this as a reasonable "down payment" on reimbursement rates. Such an increase would allow decent levels of care without further risking the financial ruin of our provider system.

The primary outcome of the Disability Task Force was to identify immediate action steps that will improve care in Nevada by ending unnecessary and costly institutionalization. Equally important will be assuring the end of waiting lists for services such as CTC day programs and residential placement which developed once again as a result of state budget cuts in June of 2002. There are a number of longer time-frame goals and the Washoe Arc will be happy to share the Executive Summary of the Disability Task Force Report with anyone who is interested. Please call the Washoe Arc 333-8256 to request a free copy.

News & Events

- John Ascuaga's Nugget is again graciously providing this year's annual WARC Christmas Banquet. An elegant lunch will be served to the WARC team members and staff, and everyone will be dressed in their holiday finest. A magician will perform an entertaining show on stage, and we just might receive a surprise visit from Santa Claus! We would like to thank the Ascuagas for their generosity and support of WARC by providing this wonderful event.



Halloween Dance Best Ever!

The Washoe Arc along with the Sparks Park and Recreation Department hosted its annual Halloween Party and Dance on October 27th. It was our largest turnout to date, with over 120 people in attendance. Costumes ranged from scary to hilarious, and all were creative. A costume parade was held in which participants were able to show off their costumes, and disc jockey J.J. Christi provided his musical talents to provide dancing for everyone. Sweets and treats were served, and a good time was had by all.



Jennifer & Lannette
have a ball!

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make this year's dance a tremendous success!

WARC Receives "Law Suits"

The Washoe Arc was the recipient of generous donations when the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Nevada hosted "Law Suits Day" on October 24th. The annual event encouraged the local community of lawyers to bring their unused business suits to the courthouse as a donation to WARC. At the end of the day, over 100 suits and outfits had been collected! The suits will be used for WARC's Supported Employment Program to provide training on interview and office attire for our job candidates.

Sean Pearson of Woodburn and Wedge coordinated the event and organized 11 volunteers to collect the suits throughout the day. WARC would like to thank Sean, all the volunteers, and everyone who came out for generously contributing their time and effort – and their suits!

- Have you been to our newest store in Sparks? The Prater Arc Thrift & Gift store has proven to be a great location. We have a large selection of clothing, housewares, linens, books, furniture, jewelry, and a wide variety of new gift items for your Christmas presents. Our customers tell us we have the best prices for clothing and accessories anywhere in town, and we think so too. Come by and say "hello," our store is located at 510 East Prater Way next to Longs Drug Store.



Washoe Arc Participates in National "Make A Difference"

On the morning of Saturday, October 26th, 2002, national Make a Difference Day, you could feel the excitement in the air. The Washoe Arc Variety Show cast had been rehearsing for weeks polishing their acts for three shows they would perform at assisted living homes as their contribution to this national day of volunteerism.

Rick was dressed up and ready to "MC" the show. June's jokes were prepared, Camella and Allen had their swing dance down pat, and Joe and Tony knew their music trivia inside and out. Veronica, Christy, and Becky had their dancing shoes on, while Scott, Patti, Camella and Kim were ready to perform their "Three Bears" skit. The whole cast was geared up to sing for the finale.

Now the day had finally arrived, and the group of twelve performers and their stage manager, Alexis, were ready to hit the road. The first stop was Lakeside Manor. Tension filled the air as the first performers hit the stage. One by one, each act found the spotlight and their nervousness melted into pride and joy.

At the end of the finale, the audience thanked each performer, inviting them to come back. But they could not bask in the glory for long, because the show must go on, and two more audiences were waiting!

The second stop was Alterra where the cast members got a big treat as Joe played Christmas carols on a Grand piano. Their second show was also a hit. Some of the residents even joined in
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Jester June prepares to tell jokes

Jim's Notes

Hello, I am Jim Meyer, the new Executive Director of the Washoe Arc. I started on September 16, 2002, and have been busy learning about the programs, services, and business operations of the Washoe Arc. I am fortunate to have been so warmly welcomed



Jim Meyer,

by the Board of Directors, the staff of the Washoe Arc, and all of the individuals we serve. I have toured all of our locations and tried to spend time in our programs to familiarize myself with all of the services. I have been impressed with the quality of everything and everyone associated with the Washoe Arc. My job coach, Brian Lahren, has been particularly informative and helpful.

I am originally from Wisconsin and had been the director of BARC Industries in Green Bay for over 20 years. BARC Industries is a similar program that provides employment and support services to individuals with developmental disabilities. I have also been involved at the state and national levels with organizations that have worked to improve the lives of all people with disabilities. I will continue to work with those organizations and the organizations in Nevada to define the needs and then develop the services and resources necessary to meet those needs.

My wife and I are looking forward to relocating to the Reno area. In addition to being interested in the Washoe Arc and the opportunities and challenges it will provide to me, we were both ready to leave the harsh winters of Wisconsin.

I look forward to meeting and working with you. Together we can help make Reno a better place to live for all of its citizens.

Pier 1 Holiday Shopping!

Now through December 24th is the most wonderful time of the year... to shop!

At Pier 1 Imports you can find everything to deck the halls with holiday décor, one of a kind ornaments to decorate your tree, beautiful tableware and linens for your parties, and unique gifts from hand-crafted furniture to candles that will be sure to bring delight to all on Christmas morning.

Remember to use your WARC



membership card and receive 10% off all regular priced items. For additional savings check the back page of the Reno News & Review for our advertised specials and take advantage of our extended shopping hours during the holidays.

Think of Pier 1 Imports for your first and last minutes gifts. For the hard-to-buy-for, we offer gift certificates. From all of us at Pier 1 Imports in Reno, we wish you and your family a happy holiday season!
(See store holiday hours on Calendar, pg. 4)



Washoe Association for
Retarded Citizens

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Silvana Stokely
Senator Randolph Townsend

Executive Director:

James L. Meyer

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for Camella and Allan's swing dance number, proving that after all these years they were still "in the mood".

Their third performance at Hearthstone was the most exciting of all. There, the performers were greeted from a member of the press. A writer and a photographer from the Reno Gazette-Journal were there to do an article on the Washoe Arc's participation in Make a Difference Day. The journalists were impressed with the small ensemble and the wide variety of talents and skills represented. The reporter enjoyed quizzing Joe and Tony on music trivia and was amazed at their depth of knowledge.

As the cast sang their finale for the last time, I could not help but wonder how many others across the United States were showing their patriotism by giving something back to their communities today. Then my heart swelled with pride for the Washoe Arc employees who gave up a Saturday to bring some joy into the lives of others. To me, they are all 'shining stars.'

- Wendy Firestone



Veronica breaks hearts at the talent show

WARC Calendar

Pier 1 Holiday Hours (month of December):

Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

December 7, 2002:

Mother's Christmas Party for WARC team members!

December 9, 2002:

WARC's Christmas Banquet sponsored by John Ascuaga's Nugget.

December 25, 2002:

Christmas Day – All WARC businesses will be closed in observance of the holiday.

January 1, 2003:

New Year's Day – All WARC businesses will be closed in observance of the holiday.

January 31, 2003:

In-service Day – WARC training center closed to provide training to direct care staff; stores will be open.

February 14, 2003:

Valentine's Day Dance at O'Brien Middle School – Please call 333-9272 for volunteer oppor-