



WARC NEWS

We Are Really Cool !!!

May, 2002

BIG NEWS!!!

WARC is in the process of officially changing its name from Washoe Association for Retarded Citizens to Washoe Arc. This is in line with other Arc of the United States chapters and better reflects a more respectful use of language when referring to the people we serve.

May 16-18 is the Grand Opening of the new Arc Thrift & Gift, located at 580 Prater Way. This store is 7,200 square feet and will be the first of our new brand of stores. Check out the new and thrift items available at the store, located next to Longs Drug Store at Prater & East McCarran.

Thanks to Sierra Pacific Power Company for awarding WARC a \$5,000 Take Control Grant, which was used to modernize the lighting in our Sutro store. The new lights are energy-efficient and the store is much brighter for shoppers!

No More Square Pegs In Round Holes!

WARC is very happy to have our Supported Employment Program (SEP) up and running! Welcome to Don Waldeck, WARC's SEP Coordinator, who has been developing jobs for people with disabilities for the last nine years!

Our new Supported Employment Program will be open to all WARC crew members. The goal of the program is to assist people who want to work in the community to find and maintain jobs that they will enjoy and in which they can grow. The job candidate, family members, WARC staff and others will be involved in the process of finding meaningful competitive employment.

"My main concern is the person's motivation and enthusiasm for finding work," said Waldeck. "The disability is very secondary. Each person has his/her own special gifts and talents and the SEP team will help them explore what kind of long-term employment will make them happy. We want to find long-lasting careers for people, not just short-term jobs."

WARC's new program is being funded by generous grants from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Nevada State Legislature. Besides accomplishing successful placements, our program will gather data about the cost-efficiency of employment for people with significant disabilities. We believe that most people with disabilities who want to work, can work with some degree of ongoing supports. We plan to show the positive effects, both financial and psychological, that meaningful work can have on people with significant disabilities.

To date, WARC's SEP program has

- ◆ Put 12 WARC crew members through "Job Club" which prepares each person for job interviews and helps them determine the type of job they would enjoy
- ◆ Created a Job Coach Training program
- ◆ Set up a Job Lab Resource Center
- ◆ Set up working relationships with several local businesses where job seekers can sample career options

See *Training Opportunities* story on page 3 for more exciting developments!



VISTA member Jerry Adams, SEP Coordinator Don Waldeck, Job Coach Emma Schlobohm, Job Coach Coordinator Tim Renner

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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE AT WARC

One of WARC's proudest moments in the last quarter was watching staff supervisor Scott Meyer run as an Olympic torch bearer on January 21. Scott was nominated by several people and ran with the torch down Foster Drive from Hunter Lake to Reno High. The air was filled with excitement as proud Reno friends and family cheered for Scott on his mission. Congrats Scott, You did a great job!



Scott lights his torch

The holiday season brought great cheer and accomplishment to people at WARC. The Mothers' Group Christmas Party was a great hit! Food, fun, and dancing were on the menu. Many people dressed in their holiday best and even enjoyed a visit from Santa!



*Michelle, Vicki, Riana
Kathy, Doug, Travis
At Mothers' Group Holiday Party*

John Ascuaga's Nugget once again treated WARC to an elegant holiday banquet and show. This yearly event is treasured by everyone at WARC and it is the highlight of many people's holiday season. This year, the luncheon was served in the showroom, followed by a magic/variety show. WARC wishes to thank the management and staff of the Nugget for making all of us feel very welcome and special!



*Mike gets a laugh
at the Nugget show*

WARC tied for 1st Place in the City of Reno's



*Kathy, a volunteer,
Megan, Alan decorate the
award-winning tree*

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest! Decorations were made at WARC by staff and crew members and a small group decorated the tree, which stood adjacent to the downtown ice skating rink. Congrats to all involved!



*John speeds down the hill
on a bi-ski steered by
Scott*

Many of the people at WARC enjoy and excel at winter sports. First-time skiers are sometimes amazed at what talent and tenacity they possess. This winter we made several ski trips to Lake Tahoe. Alpine Meadow's Adaptive Ski Program sponsored our crew members and provided excellent equipment and instructors. People who may have doubted their ability to ski were quickly convinced that there is no limit to their abilities, once they gave themselves a chance. Staff member Scott Meyer, himself an adaptive ski instructor, is the force behind our group's continued skiing successes.



*Mike hits the slopes
on a snowy day*

Another great winter sport that WARC enjoyed this year is snowmobiling! Disabled Sports USA provided snowmobiles and drivers to three WARC crew members on a beautiful spring day. The trip took the group up trails to a scenic overlook high above Lake Tahoe. Everyone had a great time and are looking forward to more winter adventures next year.



Amanda and her driver

Thanks to Disabled Sports USA and Alpine Meadows Adaptive Ski Program for bringing the excitement of winter sports to us!!!

There were many more accomplishments than we could mention so watch for our June newsletter!



Tony takes the driver's seat

New Training Opportunities

WARC has several new training opportunities for job seekers in our Supported Employment Program. Included are:

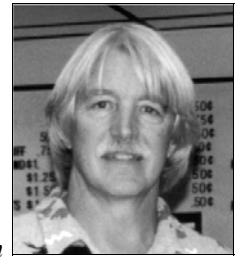
- ◆ A group of seven WARC crew members recently received instruction on our newly-purchased floor cleaning equipment. The class met with Carl Johnson, owner of ACE Janitorial Supply Company. The class met and learned about the equipment and chemicals and each participant was certified in MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet). Carl trained the group on the proper setup for cleaning, stripping and waxing the cafeteria floor. Our plan is to have our janitorial crew trained to industrial standards and then have them become employees of WARC's newest entrepreneurial enterprise. The new business will be responsible for the floors at all of WARC's retail businesses and develop contracts for floor cleaning with other businesses in our community. Hopefully, this new training will also lead to some self-employment opportunities for the people at WARC.
- ◆ WARC job seekers interested in technical jobs are learning dis-assembly and assembly skills at Recycled Computers. Four job seekers are working 20 hours/week at the facility, and we are anticipating the permanent hiring of some of them at a variety of community businesses in the near future.
- ◆ Coming soon will be a new project that will offer people at WARC adapted instruction and on-the-job training to become Personal Care Attendants for people with significant physical disabilities. This will offer our people a new career option and be a solution to the ongoing shortage of reliable, competent PCA services.



Tim learns some new skills from Carl

Brian's Notes

These are exciting times for all of us associated with the Washoe Arc. We are going through a fundamental reassessment of our basic business activities. The Executive Committee has already approved a short-term business plan for this year with a long term business plan to follow by late summer. You will see some of these short term changes discussed in other parts of this newsletter. Our Program Committee has also been reactivated and is taking a comprehensive look at what we're currently providing for our clients, as well as what we may want to offer in the future. To support the Program Committee's work I put together a paper on the history of U.S. and Nevada services to people with mental retardation. This paper is available to anyone that would like a copy by calling 333-8256.



Brian Lahren,

I want to thank Chuck Zeh for taking his term as board president seriously and for challenging all of us to think clearly about what we are doing and where we are going. I also want to thank all our Board Members for being willing to put their busy lives aside during the long hours we spend sorting through the implications of all the potential changes for our businesses and for our people. There couldn't be a better or more conscientious group of people steering this large and active organization.

Our management team is stronger today than at any time in the past. The variety of skills we represent is just right for all the roles the Washoe Arc plays in our community. Perhaps as important as anything else is that we love what we do. We thank every person that reads this newsletter for the support you give to our cause and to the people we strive to serve. What each of you readers do for the Washoe Arc matters as much as what we professionals contribute. Thank you.

Not "Business as Usual" at WARC's Retail Operations



Karel & Ryan

Over the past year, the board of directors made it a priority of their business plan to increase our profits in order to ensure our fiscal future and our ability to deliver the best services to the people we serve. To this end, we have made some

great strides in upgrading and expanding our retail potential. Among the developments are:

- ◆ Pier 1 Manager Karel Rogers was promoted to the

new position of Retail Director. She oversees all of our retail operations as well as our donation and processing operations.

- ◆ Ryan Jones was hired with the dual responsibility of managing the Sutro store and the processing department. Ryan brings a wealth of experience in thrift store operations and development to WARC.
- ◆ The Pyramid Thrift Store was sold and our new location we will be the first of a new generation of "Arc Thrift and Gift" stores at 580 East Prater Way. This is an excellent location at Prater & McCarran, next to Longs Drug Store. **Grand Opening May 16-**



Washoe Association for
Retarded Citizens

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Executive Director

Brian Lahren, Ph.D.

Become a WARC Member!

When you become a member of the Washoe Arc, you help to develop and promote the programs and services you have been reading about in our newsletter. Membership means your belief in and support of the Arc's mission of improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities through education, research, and advocacy.

A few of the **exciting and innovative achievements** the Washoe Arc and its members have been accomplishing for people with developmental disabilities are:

- ⇒ Ensuring full rights as citizens
- ⇒ Teaching self-determination and self-sufficiency
- ⇒ Enacting laws to further well-being

Membership benefits include

- ◆ Our bi-monthly "WARC News", full of WARC activities
- ◆ Invitations to our annual membership meeting and other WARC events occurring throughout

the year

- ◆ Discounts at all of our locally owned businesses
- ◆ Opportunities to contribute your time and talent through volunteering at our stores or with the clients
- ◆ Recognition as an affiliate of the National Arc organization.

The various **levels of membership** are:

Individual.....\$25
 Family.....\$50
 Patron.....\$100
 Guardian.....\$500
 Lifetime.....\$1000

WARC and its members endorse awareness, promotion, and legislation for people with developmental disabilities. Become part of this progressive organization and help improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Your tax-deductible membership can be mailed to 790 Sutro Street, Reno, 89512, or call (775) 333-8254 for more information.