



A quarterly publication of Sertoma Centre

# NETWORK

Volume 21, Issue 1/Summer 2013/Supporting Individuals with Disabilities

## The Snack Shack is Open for Business!

Contributed by Dana McFarlin-Lloyd, EDS Program Coordinator Services Manager

After months of planning, the Snack Shack opened on June 3. The purpose of the Snack Shack is to provide consumers the opportunity to gain experience in customer service, cash register training, taking stock, and monitoring inventory. Participants that were interested in being in the training program were referred by their service coordinator or direct service professional. Potential participants were required to complete a money skills assessment and an interview.

The Snack Shack has two positions: a trainee and an intern. A trainee handles the money transactions. An intern assists the trainee in gathering the orders and restocking the fridge and counter. The participants that complete the program and demonstrate competency will be referred to Insite Training Systems for assistance in finding community employment. There are currently four consumers (Jonathan T., Milton B., Nicholas T., Deborah S.) working as trainees. Five consumers (Derrick H., Dashaun D., Carrie P., Aaliyah A., Ruthie W.) serve as interns.

The Snack Shop sells a wide variety of items including burgers, chicken sandwiches, pizza, nachos, sweet rolls, granola bars, and ice cream. Business has been steady every day. Consumers attending day programs at our facility located at 4100 W. 127th Street have come to rely on the Snack Shack for their lunch and/or afternoon snack. All profits made are used to pay trainee wages, purchase new equipment and additional products for the Snack Shack. If you're ever visiting or near our Alsip facility on 127th Street, please come by and support the Snack Shack!



Nicholas and Carrie man the Snack Shack during break time at Sertoma. Skills developed include food services, money transactions, and customer service.

## Sertoma Participates in Special Olympics



An enthusiastic group of consumers participated in the Special Olympics Track and Field qualifications.

Nine consumers won gold medals at the Special Olympics Track and Field Qualifications conducted by South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA). Archie Garrett, Joe Stewart, Derrick Hudson, Derrick Brooks, Cordell Anderson, William Gordon, Annette Rumisek, Ida King and Carrie Pedretti qualified for the Special Olympic Summer games by winning the gold. They competed against other gold medalists during the Special Olympics Summer Games held in Bloomington, IL from June 14–16, 2013. We congratulate the winners and the participants:

### Winners of the 2013 Special Olympics Summer Games:

- Derrick Brooks - Gold
- Carrie Pedretti - 4th Place - Softball Throw
- William Gordon - 4th Place - Softball Throw, 3rd Place - 50m
- Joe Stewart - 5th Place - Softball Throw
- Archie Garrett - 4th Place - Softball Throw
- Annette Rumisek - Participant Ribbon - Softball Throw
- Ida King - Participant Ribbon - 100m walk
- Cordell Anderson - 3rd Place - Softball Throw

Sertoma  
Centre, Inc.



Gus van den Brink, Executive Director



# WE CANNOT ACCOMPLISH ALL THAT WE NEED TO DO WITHOUT WORKING TOGETHER

Bill Richardson

In this issue of our newsletter, much of the information is focused on employment and the things we do at Sertoma Centre to train and assist individuals to secure and retain work in the community. Sertoma Centre has been providing community employment services since 1974. We are proud to have helped many individuals secure jobs in the community over the years and are committed to continuing this important work.

Employment for individuals with disabilities is currently an issue of significant interest in Illinois and even more so nationally. Labor force statistics for October 2010 estimate that 28.4% of working age adults with disabilities are employed compared with 71% of those without disabilities. For individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability, the rate of community employment drops even further to 14.7%, according to data from the National Core Indicators Project.

Illinois just passed the Employment First Act that states: "It is the policy of this State that competitive and integrated employment shall be considered the first option when

...serving persons with disabilities of working age; the policy applies to programs and services that provide services and supports to help persons with disabilities obtain employment; State agencies shall follow the policy and ensure that it is effectively implemented in their programs and services."

Some believe that the only good employment is in the community and must be provided at minimum wage or better. For a number of years, some advocates have been working to pass legislation to eliminate the section in the Fair Labor Standards Act, 14(c) that provides for paying an individual with disabilities less than the minimum hourly wage. Sertoma Centre has a 14(c), Certificate and pays the individuals with disabilities that complete the subcontract work in our facilities under this federal law based on their productivity.

Two states, Oregon and New York, are currently making system changes to move employment for individuals with disabilities from sheltered workshops to the community with the goal of ending sheltered employment in these states over the next several years.

There is a lot of debate around these issues and I could write a paper on the pros and cons of sheltered workshops and the 14(c) subminimum wage provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act alone. I know that most of the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities want a job and want to work in the community like everyone else.

Knowing the low employment rate for individuals with disabilities and the fact that most individuals want a job in the community makes our work in employment services even more important and urgent. It also makes your help and support critical to us. If you know of a potential employer, job in the community or subcontract work for our workshop, please give me a call at 708-630-6216. Alone, one may not be able to accomplish much, but many working together can accomplish what seems to be impossible.

Thanks for any assistance you can give to make the vision of Sertoma Centre move closer to becoming a reality. (Sertoma Centre envisions communities where all people with disabilities live, work, and fully participate.)

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www.sertomacentre.org



South/Southwest Suburban

## Sertoma Centre, Inc.'s Mission Statement

At Sertoma Centre, Inc., our mission is to provide opportunities that empower individuals with disabilities to achieve personal success.

CARF Accredited  
501 (c) (3) Organization

## Sertoma Centre, Inc. Code of Ethics Policy

Sertoma Centre has the obligation to act in ways that will merit the trust, confidence, and respect of individuals, their families, and the community.

To this end, we have a Code of Ethics.

Our commitment is to ensure any allegation of violation of this Code by individuals, family members, guardians, staff, and members of the community are investigated and addressed.

For a complete copy of the Code and the complaint process, please visit the Sertoma Centre website: [www.sertomacentre.org](http://www.sertomacentre.org).

## NEW JOB TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CONSUMERS

Sertoma Centre's Transportation Department started a new job training program called "The Car Wash". Washing vehicles in Sertoma Centre's 50 vehicle fleet is a daily scheduled job opportunity from April through October. "The Car Wash" is open every day from 9 a.m. to noon weather permitting.

Consumers have been learning how to detail vehicles in Sertoma Centre's fleet. Some of the specific areas include washing the outside with soap and water, cleaning the windows with squeegees, and cleaning the rims and tires. The consumers have also been learning various ways to clean the inside of buses, vans, minivans and wheelchair vans. This includes washing or vacuuming floors, cleaning vinyl and/or leather upholstery and dashboards, and cleaning the windows from the inside. Four workers wash an average of 12 vehicles per day.



Jarrod, Archie, and Michael are excited about the new job training opportunity as well as learning new skills.

## THREE CHEERS FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS AT SERTOMA CENTRE

Contributed by Laura Gardner, Volunteer Services Manager



Mt. Greenwood Honor Students assist Patrick with his craft project.

Ignite the Light, the Volunteer Program at Sertoma Centre, has seen a wonderful increase in the amount of youth that are volunteering with the agency. Through outreach efforts and family involvement, more and more young children, aged 12 to 18, are volunteering on their own, to fulfill school requirements or through religious organizations. According to a fact sheet released from the University of Nevada, youth who volunteer in their communities receive many benefits. Young people who volunteer are more likely to have a stronger work ethic, are 3 times more likely to volunteer as adults, gain important job skills and experience while exploring career options, and are able to expand their social circle and enhance their social awareness. And 81 percent

of Americans who have volunteer experiences when they are young give to charitable organizations as adults. This is great news for Sertoma Centre as we expand our youth volunteer opportunities. We have welcomed young volunteers at our Super Sale, BIG Event, Silent Partner Dinner, and Holiday Bazaar. Our youngest volunteer to date, little Anne Gardner, age 8, said she had the "best day ever" volunteering for our recent Autism Jamboree on June 14. Anne and her brother, Joshua, age 12, ran the ring toss at the event. The two young volunteers enthusiastically cheered on consumers as they won prizes for playing the games. Our Ignite the Light Volunteer Program is a perfect opportunity to expose your children and family to a great time while helping others in the process. We are looking to expand our volunteer relationships to other schools, churches, and even local boy or girl scout troops. If interested in volunteering, please contact Laura Gardner at (708) 730-6211 or email her at [lgardner@sertomacentre.org](mailto:lgardner@sertomacentre.org).

fun activities run entirely by the students. Consumers participated in 5 different activity stations including bingo, arts and crafts, indoor bowling, freeze dance, and Pictionary. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from Mt. Greenwood were amazing. They were so polite, very interactive with our consumers. They jumped right in and volunteered with us for several hours. When asked how the volunteer event went for them, the students said they had a great time. They said they felt that bowling and bingo were the biggest hits of the day. This Volunteer "Field Trip" is not the only event to see more youth volunteering at Sertoma Centre.



Anne Gardner hands Darryl the rings for his turn at ring toss.

# Programs With Purpose - Insite Employment Services

*Contributed by Jason Clark, Director of Employment Services*

Throughout the world, paid work is a crucial aspect of culture and identity, with many individuals organizing their lives around employment. Employment helps define an individual's place in the community. As is true for those without disabilities, people with disabilities have a right to fair and equal wages, working hours and opportunities, and the cultural benefits of being employed in the community.

Since employing people with disabilities has a positive impact on employers, increases in customized and supported employment will not only help individuals with disabilities, but also benefit the workforce and society as a whole. Unfortunately, throughout the world, individuals with disabilities

remain employed at lower rates than people without disabilities. According to disabled-world.com, only 32 percent of Americans with disabilities, aged 18 to 64, are working. Two-thirds of those unemployed have expressed a desire to work. This is where Insite Training Systems comes in. Insite is the Community Employment Division of Sertoma Centre.

This past year Insite has focused on developing employment training programs in addition to assisting individuals obtain and maintain jobs in the community. Consumers are training and learning work skills at Advocate South Suburban Hospital in the areas of clerical and janitorial skills. We are working with a national chain for a job readiness program and recently started a training program with a major department store. At South Suburban Hospital, consumers learning clerical skills organize and file patient emergency room records while other participants learn janitorial skills cleaning hallways, stairwells, and program rooms.

Most recently, Insite began working with the major department store where consumers participate in a 6-week training in the store learning retail tasks. Participants will be considered for employment at the conclusion of each training session. There are plans to expand to other area stores in the area.

Future plans include continuing to expand these training and volunteer opportunities as well as establishing ongoing relationships with employers. The future is very bright at Insite Training Systems.

## Programs With Purpose

For more information regarding this program, please contact Jason Clark, Director of Insite Employment Services at 708-730-6265 or [jclark@sertomacentre.org](mailto:jclark@sertomacentre.org). Additional resources are available at [www.sertomacentre.org](http://www.sertomacentre.org).



*Rachel with Job Developer, Diane Williams, searches the Internet for possible job opportunities in her area of interest.*

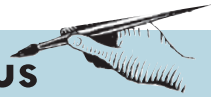


*Mark is training and learning work skills at Advocate South Suburban Hospital.*



*Hector works at Olive Garden and celebrated one year on the job. Congratulations!*

## Stroke of Genius



Allow us to introduce a very talented young man who participates in the School Transition Program here at Sertoma Centre. His name is Armando Moncada. Although he tells us that drawing is just his hobby, when you take a look at his sketch book you quickly realize he has a real gift. He draws detailed pictures of celebrities, co-workers and friends with a pencil and colored markers.



*Armando designed the Snack Shack Logo.*

Armando used his artistic skills to design the logo featured on the signage and menus for the new Snack Shack. He has a great

imagination and was able to develop his logo design in about 4 days. His favorite treats from the Snack Shack are nachos, cinnamon rolls, and Nutrigrain bars.

Armando, 19, has been in programs at Sertoma Centre for almost a year. He is responsible for the skid work in his work area. His job involves placing packages on the skids properly and then wrapping them to ensure the items stay securely on the skid. Armando said, "I am saving a little of my paycheck for something special."

There is no end to his interests and abilities. Armando also likes singing, dancing, and comedy. His favorite entertainers are Zendaya and Chris Rock.



Armando plays basketball and likes to stay fit. He does sit-ups, push-ups and swims to stay in shape.

Thank you, Armando, for sharing your goals and your artwork with us!

## New Mental Health Program to Benefit Community

Sertoma Centre's Mental Health Services was recently awarded a Title XX Grant to provide prevention and education programs to raise awareness about mental illness. Programs will be offered to community groups, schools, law enforcement agencies, religious organizations, schools, and other community groups. Programs will include Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), Mental Health First Aid for Youth, Questions, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) and Anxiety/Depression Screenings.

MHFA is a 12-hour, interactive training and certification program, which enables participants to identify and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training focuses on: understanding the risk factors and identifying warning signs of mental health problems, gaining an understanding of the impact, responding appropriately, and providing referrals for professional treatment.

MHFA Youth introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents (ages 12-18), builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and most importantly, teaches individuals how to help a youth in crisis or experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. This program demonstrates how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

QPR Gatekeeper Course is the CPR for mental health. Just as people trained in CPR help save thousands of lives each year, people trained as QPR Gatekeepers learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

QPR Suicide Triage Training is for anyone wishing to learn how to conduct a first level suicide risk assessment and to establish a collaborative crisis management and personal safety plan

for someone considering suicide. This is a "best practice" approach for how to engage with a suicidal person, determine immediate risk of a suicide attempt, and how to reduce risk factors while enhancing protective factors.

Our trained staff will provide the Anxiety and/or Depression Screening at your college, place of business, health fair, community organization, club, social service agency, faith community or other organization. Referral information for treatment will be provided, when needed.

Other trainings will include a mental health overview, "Hearing Voices That Are Distressing," presentation and Specific Disorders Presentations tailored to your group.

**To learn more or schedule a training, contact Gia Washington at 708-748-1951, Ext. 418 or email at [gWASHINGTON@sertomacentre.org](mailto:gWASHINGTON@sertomacentre.org).**

## Autism Jamboree



Lynn Kolbe, Direct Service Professional (DSP), helps Enrique work on his bean bag technique at the Autism Jamboree.

## Tinley Park Sertoma Club Donation



Members of the Tinley Park Sertoma Club warmly hosted an Appreciation Dinner and made a donation to Sertoma Centre, Inc.

## Learner Box Method of Learning



Preston, Nick, Cora, and Thaddeus all participate in Learner Box which is ideal for individuals with limited literacy skills, speech or learning difficulties, cognitive impairment, and transition learners.

## Consumers Shop at Super Sale



The Housewares Super Sale was a big hit with our consumers. Debra and Geraldine stopped by to check out the great prices.

## BIG Event - Consumers Join the Band!



2013 BIG Event Band, The Walk-Ins, invited Joe, Archie, and Derrick up on stage.

## Sertoma Volunteers Support High Tea



Sertoma Centre volunteers Pat Chancellor and Lois Purrazzo, along with Lois' guest, Mary Purrazzo, enjoyed the High Tea Event.

## SERTOMA WISH LIST

The Sertoma Centre Sensory Room is in need of a few items. We are looking for 1-2 rocker/glidiers and 4 extra large bean bags. We prefer these items be covered in vinyl rather than fabric so they are easy to clean. If you have one of these items in good condition that you would like to donate, please contact the Advancement Department at 708-371-9700. If you would prefer to make a donation to underwrite all or a portion of the cost to purchase the new items, the consumers would be extremely grateful.



Extra Large Bean Bags  
Retail \$150



Rocker/Glidiers  
Retail \$180 and up

## Silent Partner Members

Marilyn Aspan  
Jean Biela  
Lane Brady  
Glenn Bylina  
Barbara Campbell  
Kathy Carlig  
Tony Casale  
John Cencig  
Robert Clifford  
Sue Colella  
John Collie  
John Cosich  
Tory Cosich  
Robert Cozza  
Jerry Crotty  
Pat Danaher  
Brian Denk  
Scott Doerfler  
Tom Donnelly  
Mark Duncan

Dennis Dureno  
Gene Esposito  
Gene Esposito, Jr.  
John Fanning  
Richard Finger  
D.J. Fioretti  
Steven Foertsch  
Daniel Hack  
James Hamann  
Katherine Hamann  
Al Haraf  
Dan Harris  
Dr. George Harris  
David Hartley  
Debbie Hunt  
Arthur Katzmann  
Edwin Krupa  
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Kelly Ryan  
Vince Sabia  
Mary Ann Sain  
Dr. Chris Sarlas  
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James Watters  
Linda Welsh  
Rich Zarembo  
1 Anonymous

*Supporting the work of Sertoma Centre on a very personal, quiet, and committed level. Members give an annual gift of \$500 or more to this program.*

*For more information, call Amy Chmura, Director of Advancement & Communications, at 708-730-6206.*

## Star Society Members

Cheryl Assise  
David & Kathy Carlig  
Gene Cunningham  
Beverly Harpold  
Roger & Pat Harpold  
David A. Hartley  
Greg Hase  
Cindy & Dave Isabel  
Robert McKenna Estate

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Edward & Donna Sumner  
Frank Tomecek  
Gus & Jayne van den Brink  
Ruth Walsh Estate  
Ernie Wulff

### *Sertoma Centre Foundation*

Star Society members name the Centre Foundation as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy, in a will, or in a bequest. For more information on the Star Society, contact Amy Chmura, Director of Advancement & Communications, at 708-730-6206.

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[www.sertomacentre.org](http://www.sertomacentre.org)



## Please Mark Your Calendars With These Important Dates

**SERTOMA CANDY DAYS  
SEPTEMBER 6-7**

**SILENT PARTNER FALL EVENT  
SEPTEMBER**

**SERTOMA CENTRE ANNUAL  
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION DINNER  
OCTOBER**



Call The  
**J-Team** For 

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*Sertoma's Janitorial Service crews maintain the highest levels of cleanliness and sanitation through a continuous follow-up program. Our Janitorial Services provide top quality general cleaning and specialty services to businesses and homes of any size. Sertoma's Janitorial Service is a registered State of Illinois Vendor, MAFBE Certified, NISH Associated, CARF Accredited.*