



January 2012

“The New Faces of WestCare Service”



Redefining Our Role in National Service: Focus on Veterans Launches Larger AmeriCorps Initiative

By David Rosynsky – AmeriCorps Program Director

Hurriedly directing the crowd to “scrunch in” for a group picture, I couldn’t help but take a moment to think about the evolution of our AmeriCorps program. What began in 2007, as a modest 10-member program had grown into what one might describe as a national WestCare movement.

There in the hallway of the St. Petersburg Hilton in Florida, crowded in front of various cell phone cameras, stood the next generation of WestCare’s AmeriCorps initiative.

This year was different than previous years of the program. This time we weren’t simply recruiting

individuals to serve at WestCare. It felt more like we had marshaled the troops. The passion for service was palpable.

In 2011, the Corporation for National and Community Service (the federal agency that funds AmeriCorps) was on the chopping block. House Republicans proposed cuts in hundreds of programs across the face of government in a \$61 billion savings package. Ultimately AmeriCorps was not dissolved (as some feared), but suffered a significant cut. As grantees awaited the fallout from the cuts it became

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Redefining Our Role in National Service

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apparent that WestCare's modest 10-member program, though successful, didn't seem likely to continue. It was time for WestCare to refocus and reinvent its role in national service.

The Corporation refocused its priorities on address compelling, unmet needs in six national focus areas including "Veterans and Military Families." In a discussion with the acting Director of AmeriCorps I learned that the Corporation was seeking a grantee with the capacity to serve veterans and military families on a national scale. Enter WestCare.

In 2011, WestCare applied for an AmeriCorps National Direct grant and was awarded \$512,000 to launch United By Service.

The program, which launched in November, positions 40 AmeriCorps Members at WestCare sites in 12 states and territories across the nation. Eighty-five percent of the new AmeriCorps Members recruited by WestCare are U.S. military veterans. The program facilitates a true peer-to-peer model - veterans helping veterans.

In November, with the support of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,

WestCare and its partner, Chestnut Health Systems, flew the new AmeriCorps Members to St. Petersburg, Florida for an intensive week of training and team building. AmeriCorps Members participated in a program orientation and began the process of becoming certified to administer a shortened version of the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN-Q3). AmeriCorps Members also learned how to become certified as a Veterans Peer Recovery Support Specialist.

Now AmeriCorps Members and WestCare staff are collaborating on ways to effectively build our capacity to serve more 2,000 veterans and 400 military family members annually.

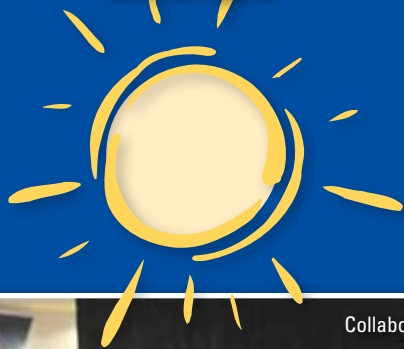
With the official end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, WestCare's AmeriCorps program is poised to do its part to care for a new generation of veterans and military families in need at a crucial point in our nation's history of care for veterans.

For more information about WestCare's United By Service program contact David Rosynsky, Program Director at David.Rosynsky@westcare.com



Dick Steinberg addresses the new AmeriCorps group

Georgia



WestCare Partners with Fulton County on 2nd Chance Re-entry Program

By Robert "Bob" Wiley – Program Director

WestCare, GA Second Chance Reentry Program conducted its four day Therapeutic Community Immersion Training for WestCare Treatment Staff, Fulton County Second Chance Management Team and Fulton County Jail

Detention Staff. The program is made available through a Federal Grant received by Fulton County and will serve 40 high risk males with the goal of reducing recidivism. This Therapeutic Community will incorporate multiple

curricula to address criminal thinking (Milkman), Seeking Safety(Najavits), Relapse Prevention (Gorski), Men's Work (Paul Kivel), National Fatherhood Initiative (24-7 Dads), and Life Skills (Bart Trench). This training provided insight into the therapeutic community process and brought together the correctional and treatment cultures to better facilitate the treatment services that will be provided to our clients. The facilitators of the training were Warden Kenneth Osborne, Sheridan Correctional Facility in Sheridan, IL, Bill Warr, Tennessee State Director, Spectrum and Bob Wiley, WestCare Therapeutic Community Program Director.



Collaboration in Fulton County

Time Nurtures a Creative Mind

(Editor's note: The following was written by a WestCare Sheridan client to explain the drawing that he created in his housing unit)

By Daniel Peters B51300
 – WestCare Sheridan client

From Ms. Addiction to Ms. Opportunity:

The definition of the transformation of Ms. Addiction to Ms. Opportunity stems from the ideas of my life being used metaphorically as a woman. Ms. Addiction represents a soulless life, someone hollow on the inside, someone whose life has reached the abyss. But being here as a resident of Sheridan and participant in the WestCare program, I have been afforded another opportunity in life. Ironic as it is, the housing unit (C21) I am currently located in is known as the House of Opportunity. Here I have been introduced to a part of my life known as Ms. Opportunity. The drawing illustrates the before and after, whereas the eye serves as my "brother's keeper." We have agreed to watch over and out for each other's growth. The ribbon represents acknowledgment of "Red Ribbon Week," which we also celebrated here. The transformation from emptiness to a sign of beauty speaks of the opportunities that lie ahead for me as a result of the treatment I have received here at WestCare.

Illinois



U.S. Virgin Islands



Two of 14 Academy students who paired up for this project. ▲

▼ Good turnout at the University on St. Thomas



The Village VI Partners In Recovery, Inc/ WestCare Positive Changes Program

By Simone Edwards – Assistant Program Coordinator

The Edith Williams Academy Monthly theme "Respect For Those Less Fortunate." 14 students from Edith Williams Academy volunteered at the Project Homeless Connect Initiative held at University of Virgin Islands Sports and Fitness Center on St. Thomas as a community based activity to provide an opportunity to experience the monthly theme.

In preparation for the event, the students researched factors that can contribute to homelessness. Upon arrival at the event, educated with information on homelessness in the Virgin Islands (demographics, contributing factors), our students were prepared and excited to offer assistance to the cause. The students were paired and assigned to a vendor/ service provider



station where their duties included collecting client information, recording client demographics and setting up and breaking down of vendor/service provider stations.

The students really embraced this activity and were sensitive to the clients needs. It was a very humbling and thought provoking event for the students.



Kickin' It Old School – Music on the Mountain 2011

By Jennifer Hilton-Director
– Harris Springs Ranch and Alumni Liaison Therapist

From old school jams to doing the Dougie the WestCare Nevada's Alumni team put on a seriously rockin' party this year! The WestCare Nevada Alumni hosted its 21st Music on the Mountain event this year. The Alumni team has been going strong since 1990, when now Senior Vice President **Michael Lavin** began coordinating the Alumni Groups in Las Vegas. With Alumni members dating back to 1987 and as young as 2010, they band together every year in the heat of a Vegas July to work a 24/7 firework booth for 6 days. The funds raised are used by Alumni to host special events for current clients to help show Peer to Peer support and teach them that Sober Fun is the best fun there is.

This year's event feature the world's youngest DJ, as verified by the Genius Book of World

Records, **DJ Baby Chino**. This little man set a rockin' stage causing everyone to shake their grove things. Not only did everyone get to jam, Mr. Doug's famous chili and sandwiches filled the bellies of many. Last, but of course not least, was the main man himself – Santa. Santa listened to all the Christmas wishes, let everyone sit on his lap big and small- and then made sure that everyone got a special gift: The Music on the Mountain shirts.

Client Quotes –

"The Dancing was one of the best parts of the event, I loved the food and I loved how they brought up DJ Chino." Serafin
"I had a fun time. One of the best days I've had here." Collin

Nevada



How does this kid do it? Baby Chino rocks! ▲

"Oh, to have that energy again." ▼

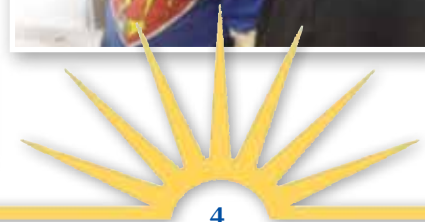


"Have you been a good boy, Charles?" ▼

Our guest deejay at work. ▼



Stanley and Chino. ▼



January Calendar

January 1st
Happy New Year!

January 4th
CAC Monthly Report Due
12:00pm / 1:00pm
(Executive Committee)

January 11th
Executive Committee Meeting
Pre-board
8:00pm PT/11:00am ET
East/West/Foundation

January 16th
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

January 20th – 22nd
Foundation Annual Board Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada

January 23rd
Chinese New Year

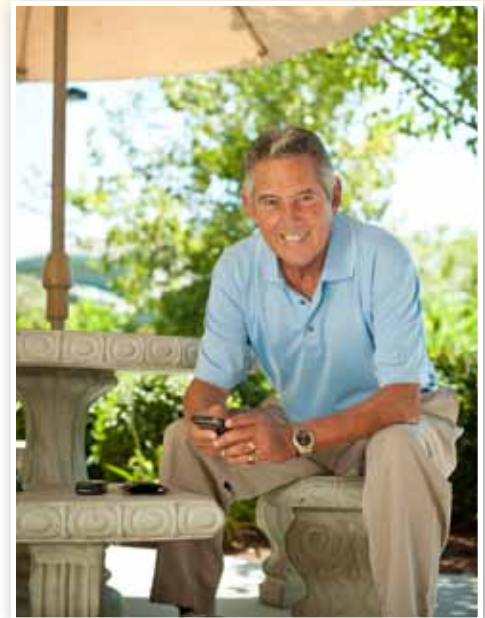
Cupid's Call for Valentines!

Okay all you hopeless romantics out there, in advance of the mushiest day of the year (Uh, that's February 14th, guys), how 'bout sending me a photo and brief description of someone you'd like to give a Valentine's shout-out to? It could be a spouse, a co-worker, a client, alum, donor, volunteer, CAC member etc. Have fun with it!

I will just need the information by January 15th for inclusion in our February issue of the Express. Come on! Be a hero! Score big points!

And may I take this occasion to wish you and yours a most rewarding and thriving 2012. Our beloved leader Dick Steinberg loudly sings your praises every day for the job you are doing to *'uplift the human spirit.'*

Personally, you bring joy into my otherwise retched and boring life by allowing me to serve as an information clearinghouse showcasing your wonderful accomplishments.



John Wallace – Express Editor

News from Around the Treatment Industry

Courtesy:
jointogether.org

Mortgage Crisis in Las Vegas Turns into Opportunity for Marijuana Growers

From the Los Angeles Times

The surplus of empty houses caused by the mortgage crisis has led to an increase in the number of homes in Las Vegas that have been turned into marijuana greenhouses.

In 2010, Nevada authorities seized 153 indoor marijuana greenhouses containing more than 13,000 plants. That represents a large increase from the 18 sites and 1,000 plants seized in 2005. So far this year, authorities have discovered at least 130 indoor growth sites, more than at the same point last year. Nevada still lags far behind California, which found 791 indoor growing sites last year.

"You can't have crime without opportunity," William Sousa, a criminologist at the University

of Nevada, Las Vegas, told the newspaper. "And all those empty homes present an opportunity for criminal activity."

With so many homes in the state abandoned because of foreclosure, a marijuana greenhouse with dark windows and empty driveways is less likely to attract attention, the article notes. Suspicious neighbors are usually the ones to tip off authorities about suspected indoor marijuana growing sites.

Marijuana grown indoors, where temperature and light can be controlled, can be sold for more than marijuana grown outdoors – at least \$3,000 a pound compared with \$750, according to Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman Jeffrey Scott.



The Best Defense is YOU!

Submitted by Dee Wirth – Program Coordinator

Nevada



The ladies at the Women’s Treatment Service campus in Las Vegas recently acquired new empowerment skills, thanks to self-defense instructor Sam Wirth. Here is one client’s critique:

“What a wonderful opportunity I was given to be able to attend this self-defense class. Mr. Sam was a TERRIFIC teacher! He took his time so that each of us was able to learn the moves in their entirety. What I learned can save my life one day. I was extremely impressed and learned so much! It gave me a lot of confidence in myself, too!”

A Domestic Violence Survivor, Michelle B



News from Around the Treatment Industry

Courtesy:
jointogether.org

Kids and the IQ-Drug Use Theory

Children with high IQs are more likely to use drugs when they become adults, compared with children who score lower on intelligence tests, a new study indicates.

The findings come from a British study that has been following thousands of people since 1970. The children’s IQ was tested at ages 5, 10 and 16. When the participants were 30, they were asked about their drug use in the past year.

Researchers discovered men who had a high IQ

in childhood were up to twice as likely to use illegal drugs compared with those who scored lower on intelligence testing. Women who had scored high on IQ tests in childhood were up to three times as likely to use drugs when they were adults. The study defined a high IQ as a score between 107 and 158; the average IQ is 100, CNN reports.

“Although it is not yet clear exactly why there should be a link between high IQ and illicit drug use, previous research has shown that people with

a high IQ are more open to new experiences and keen on novelty and stimulation,” lead researcher James White of Cardiff University in the United Kingdom said in a news release.

The researchers published their findings in *the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.



Wrapping up the Holidays Around WestCare Florida

Submitted by WestCare Florida staff members

Florida



Enjoying the Village South Holiday Luncheon

Village South



Enjoying the Village South Holiday Luncheon

Gulf Coast



Gulf Coast Holiday Party!

Gulf Coast Holiday Party!



Key Largo Holiday Party



Key West Annual Holiday Conch Train Ride

Key West



Key Largo

Key Largo Holiday Party



Marathon Tree Trimming

Marathon



WestCare a 'Driving Force' Behind Community Campaign – Excerpted from *keywest.com* *Outreach RV Effective, Despite Bumps*

By Gwen Filosa – Citizen Staff

The city of Key West's first mobile outreach unit for the homeless has gotten off to a bumpy start, but those behind the pilot program haven't been deterred by a few mechanical challenges.

The renovated 31-foot recreational vehicle designed to bring social services, information and other help to the city's homeless population, has spent the past three weeks in operation – for the most part.

The 15-month pilot program, funded in part by \$52,000 of public money, was officially launched Nov. 7, but there have been some stops and stalls. First it was finding the right driver, and then the used RV, outfitted as a mobile office, needed mechanical repairs. A week ago, the exhaust system came loose.

"They tied it back up and kept working," said Wendy Coles, executive director of the Southern most Homeless Assistance League, which has

staffed the RV with a case manager, Steve Clark, and driver Steve Harris.

And when the RV wasn't able to keep going, Clark simply grabbed his clipboard and hit the streets on foot.

"I've walked to and from the soup kitchen to Old Town," said Clark, who has a master's degree in social work and years of experience working with the most vulnerable homeless populations, including children in Arizona who lived on the streets. "So when people say, 'Oh, I'd meet you but I'd have to walk,' I say, you know what? I've walked this town. You can walk this town, too."

The mobile unit has helped at least 50 people so far, said Clark.

Lauded by Key West Mayor Craig Cates as a progressive move toward reducing the island's homeless population, the program is funded largely by the Klaus/Murphy Foundation, which gave \$65,000.

Florida



Using the mobile unit's Internet connection, the staff can provide on-site help for people eligible for food stamps and disability benefits, and help them apply for identification documents, health care and other services.

EXPRESSIONS

A message from Human Resources Director Michael Shields

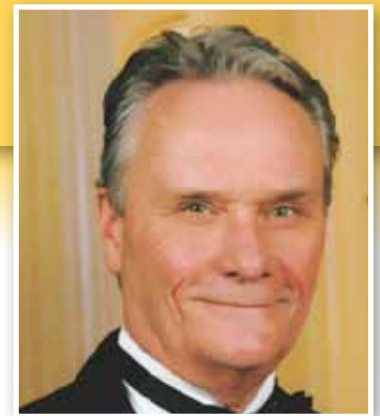
First of all, let me take the time to wish you a blessed 2012. I trust you all had a great Christmas and Holiday season with your families. That's what it's all about. All of the "stuff" we do while providing excellent services to our WestCare clients is important, but spending quality time with our families and friends trumps all that!

Which kinda leads me into the topic of this brief article. Why can't we keep the Christmas Spirit-The WESTCARE Spirit-alive all year? Why can most people – even politicians! – be respectful of each other; be polite to one

another; and "uplift the human spirit" of one another for about 2 weeks in December, only to completely forget how to act for the other 50 weeks?

Previous articles have been about our Mission and Vision; the WestCare "EDGE," and integrity. They all follow the same theme. Be kind to each other. Be respectful. Be supportive. Treat each other the way you'd like to be treated. Forgive. Forget. Lift each other! As one of us makes a positive change, all our lives are enriched.

Let's make this our collective pledge for



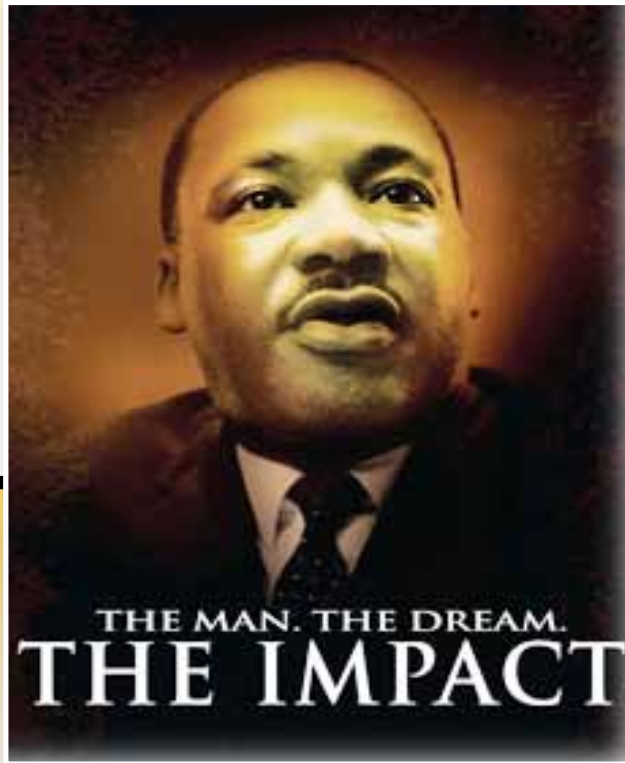
2012 – It's WAY easier than losing weight!

Oh yeah. One piece of official biz. So that you receive your "W-2" as quickly as possible- and gets sent to the right address-make sure your name, address and other contact info is up to date. If you need to make any changes, now is the time! Contact your HR Department to get the proper form. We'll be glad to help you!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a United States federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around the time of King's birthday, January 15. The floating holiday is similar to holidays set under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, though the act predated the establishment of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by fifteen years.

King was the chief spokesman for



nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed on January 20, 1986. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.



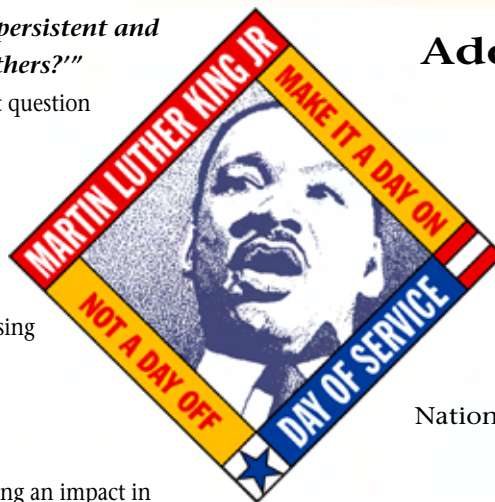
What is the MLK Day of Service?

Courtesy of Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, *"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"*

Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the King Holiday to serve their neighbors and communities.

The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.



Additional opportunities to serve include:

- AmeriCorps
- Citizen Corps
- Federal Civil Service
- Foreign Service
- Learn and Serve America
- Military
- National Conference on Volunteering and Service
- Peace Corps
- Senior Corps
- State and Local Government
- U. S. Public Health Service
- Volunteers for Prosperity
- Volunteer.gov

Plan

MLK Day is a chance to start the year off right by making an impact in your community. Use the Action Guides and Tips and Tools to plan for the Day of Service: <http://mlkday.gov/plan/actionguides/index.php>

Serve

Join the hundreds of thousands of people who serve on MLK Day and throughout the year. Find a project in your community or register your own project so that volunteers can find it: <http://mlkday.gov/serve/register.php>

Impact

What are your plans for MLK Day? Share your plans and share your project's impact after MLK Day: <http://mlkday.gov/share/index.php>



Kentucky

Reaching and Teaching

Submitted by Kentucky staff



Jerod Thomas, Program Director, spoke at a local high school recently about the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse. Jerod is in recovery himself and related his experiences on a level that the high schoolers could understand. He feels that trying to reach out and educate these young people as early as possible may put distance between them and the drugs that ruin an education, career and possibly a life. The following Monday, these same students toured the Boyle County Detention Center and saw first hand the Substance Abuse Program in action.

Jerod Thomas speaks at Boyle County High School

World Aids Day

Observances

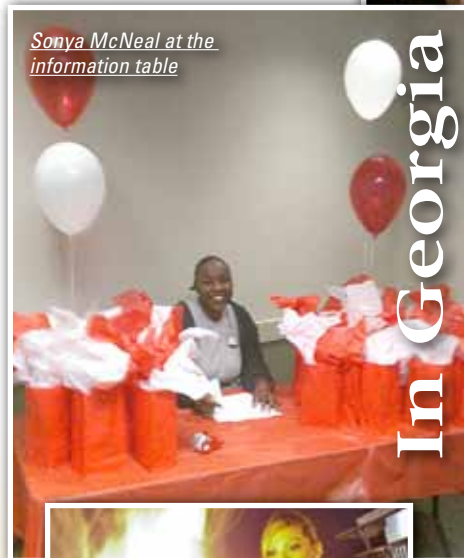
Nearly 200 people gathered at Fresno's Tower Theatre to observe World AIDS Day. The event is celebrated globally every year and asks people to unite in the fight against HIV and show support for those living with HIV and AIDS. The event, a WestCare tradition, featured information about the history of HIV and AIDS as well as a variety of performances from local artists. The event was concluded with a candlelight vigil honoring people who have passed away from AIDS.



In California . . .

Courtesy: Esteban Cortez, Fresno State Daily Collegian

The CARES program focused their education, testing and awareness efforts on several universities in the Atlanta area. CARES workers, including WestCare alumni volunteers, tested 150 people, distributed 250 safe sex kits and gave out over 300 pieces of educational material.



Sonya McNeal at the information table

In Georgia . . .

Our Guahan Project and its community partners held a torch-light ceremony at the historic Lujan House on Guam. Project Director Kate Baltazar said the theme "Getting to Zero" means zero AIDS deaths, discrimination and new infections. She says many new cases involve heterosexual women.



Courtesy: Pacific Daily News



In the Pacific Islands . . .

Courtesy: Pacific Daily News

Kudos! WestCare Honors Their Employees

Editor's note: If your WestCare program has honored an individual or group – whether staff, client, or community figure – please send brief description with jpeg photo to john.wallace@westcare.com

Kudos in Florida

Carlos Martinez

“Village South CAC member Carlos Martinez earns a big cheer for his tireless work as a WestCare volunteer and as Miami Dade Public Defender.”
He's pictured with Senior VP Frank C. Rabbito.



Kudos in California

Raymond Gonzales

The oft-honored Raymond Gonzales picked up more hardware as WestCare California's Employee of the Month. Keep up the great work, Counselor Ray!



His latest honor has Raymond dancin' in the streets.

Yolanda Armendariz

Also in the Golden State, Yolanda Armendariz, an AmeriCorps member, joined Vincent Garcia in receiving special honors at a Veteran Resource Luncheon. (see article in this issue)



An excited Yolanda receives her veterans trophy.



Flower of the Month: Carnation

The carnation is the January birth flower. Carnations have been cultivated for the last 2,000 years. Originally from the East, these hardy and fragrant flowers have the flower meaning of pride, beauty, fascination, love and distinction.

The carnation also known as dianthus, sweet william, pinks, and maiden pink. This January birth flower is derived from Greek words that mean “flower of the gods.” The carnation has many meanings depending on the color it takes. A white carnation has the flower meaning of friendship, a pink one romance, red carnation for love, striped carnation for refusal and yellow for disdain.



WestCare Wellness Watch



What's It Really Going to Take to Get us to Zero?

Courtesy The Body the Complete HIV/AIDS Resource

By Kellee Terrell

This last year, the World AIDS Day theme was a challenge: "How are we going to achieve zero new HIV infections in the future?" Given that there are currently 33 million people around the world living with HIV, including 1.2 million people in the U.S., have we learned enough from past mistakes to meet this challenge?

While each year is accompanied by some sort of theme that aims to incite people to do something or be more aware of a certain aspect of this fight against AIDS, this year's mantra of "Getting to Zero: Zero New HIV Infections. Zero Discrimination. Zero AIDS-Related Deaths," really intrigued me. It's a simple, yet incredibly complicated idea that advocates and people living with the disease have been striving toward for 30 years.

Let's just look at transmission rates.

Given that 33 million people around the world are living with HIV/AIDS, including 1.2 million people in the U.S., what will it really take to achieve zero new HIV infections? And have we learned from past mistakes to help us achieve this in our lifetime?

This year alone, we have seen some interesting developments aimed at reducing infections from scientific, grassroots and educational standpoints. But I must be frank: It was only a year and a half ago that the U.S. National HIV/AIDS Strategy was released, and I remember quite a few advocates balking at the goal of reducing new infections by 25 percent before 2015 (from 56,300 to 42,225). Of course the lack of increased funding to actually make this happen played a huge role, but the issue remains the same.

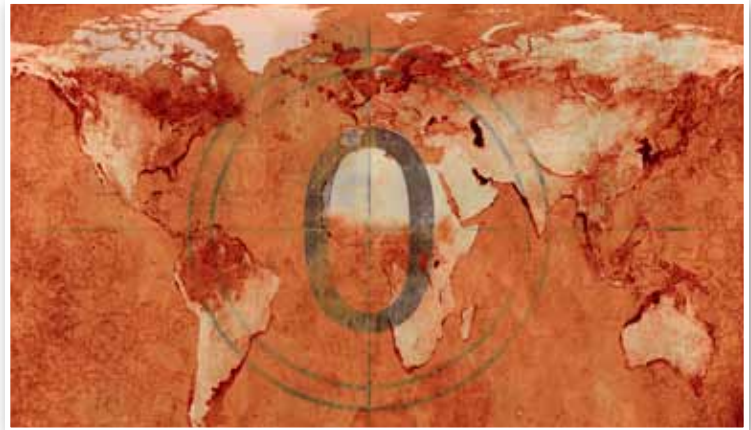
If reducing 14,000 infections in the U.S. is considered difficult, getting to zero new infections worldwide, especially in the developing world, might be asking for a miracle. And I don't say this to be a downer, because aiming high is the only way to get us out of this pandemic. But it's important for us to look at our current situation and be realistic about the possibility of making this dream our reality.

Just looking at the U.S., we have so many obstacles standing in our way. To name a few that push this disease further into the closet: conservative lawmakers and constituents who view this epidemic as a moral issue as opposed to a public health crisis; a lack of funding and support for life-saving policies such as needle exchange and comprehensive sex education; a broken health care system that makes itself too hard to access for those

at the highest risk; doctor's own bias about who needs to be tested; and silence, stigma and misinformation about the disease.

Now add in issues such as poverty, racism, homophobia, gender oppression and the overall lack of compassion for people living with the disease and it's easy to see how 30 years later, this epidemic continues to run rampant in this country. And it's not a secret as to which communities this disease runs rampant in: the ones that are the most vulnerable, the most fragmented and with the least amount of power, influence and options.

And so if we are really serious about dramatically reducing HIV infections, we can't solely rely on the medicines, PrEP and microbicides, or pour a majority of our efforts and funding into a cure or a vaccine. If we are truly ready to put our money where our mouths are, we need to have more conversations about strategies that will give those with less power in society more power in order to prosper and stay HIV negative. This shift also means thinking outside of the box, being open to new ideas and uplifting and partnering with the folks who are actually doing this kind of transformative work.



We can no longer be content working in our own silos separated from other social justice movements and causes, because in the end all of our work is somehow connected.

Just think about it: Having a vaginal gel that reduces a woman's chance of contracting HIV and herpes really means nothing if the women who need it the most can't afford it, don't receive the outreach they need to know that it exists, don't have the health literacy to use it properly and don't have the power to make their own health a priority. For example, what will happen if our government ends up defunding Planned Parenthood, the place most likely to offer many women access to these microbicides? We could find ourselves with a gel that won't ever live up to its full potential.

This is why striving for social and economic equality and equal access for all – both negative and positive – is crucial if we are going to end AIDS, not just in the U.S., but around the world. No, it won't be easy or immediate. It's going to be a long and difficult struggle that will require a commitment from all of us in the community.

In the end, we hope our World AIDS Day 2011 section has challenged you to do more and expand your mind on what it's going to really take to get the world to zero.

Kellee Terrell is the news editor for TheBody.com and TheBodyPRO.com.

Some of your WestCare peers are resolute! . . . How 'bout you?

ARIZONA

WestCare Arizona's Office Manager, Kim Mitchell:

has decided that as of January 1, 2012 her New Years resolution will be *to actually come to a complete stop at stop signs* rather than roll through them (Otherwise known in these parts as a California Stop).



CALIFORNIA

Jannette Knaus:
"To quit smoking."

Administrative
Assistant, WestCare CA,
MLK Residential Facility



FLORIDA

Andres Savransky
Project STYLE Coordinator and
also the Village South 2011
Coordinator of the Year:

"To find hobbies." My new year's resolution is to find one or two hobbies. Sometimes we are so busy that it's hard to find time for other activities, but I would like to have something I can do in my few spare hours. Some of the things I'm considering are: biking, watching/playing new sports, and reading.



**Happy
New Year!**

2012

New Year

RESOLUTIONS

KENTUCKY

Michele Estes

represents the reason we all work at WestCare. "My goal this year is to stay focused . . . to stay clean and sober . . . because my life and my family depend on it." Michele credits Drug Court and WestCare Kentucky for her 2012 resolve.



"Breaking News!"

'Unguarded,' the ESPN film chronicling the life of Chris Herren, and prominently featuring WestCare, has been named Best Sports Documentary of the Year by Sports Illustrated!



For Young Moms It's a Special Time of Year

By Quincy Marshall – Case Manager

AZP participants and their children were in enthusiastic holiday spirit 2011 when they went to Santa's Village for a free family event sponsored by Southwest Fresno Policing District and Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back To Life. Participants had a merry blast spending quality time with their children and bonding with their fellow sisters. They hardly noticed the two hour wait in line to receive their free picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus. AZP children were most excited about the toy awaiting them after photo completion, and their mothers were anxious to receive their precious Christmas pictures.

After taking pictures, each person was able to participate in several other activities. Their indulgence in entertainment, child finger printing, face painting, and scrumptious food was just a small portion of the night's activities. Before leaving, each participant was given the opportunity to receive slightly used clothing and shoes for their children. AZP mothers were grateful for their numerous Christmas presents and spent the ride home wiping hot chocolate and cotton candy off of their children's happy little faces.

And wiping away their own tears.

California



'Mr. and Mrs. Claus are REAL!'

SJVV Events!

Veterans Shine at Awards Event

By Vincent Garcia – Case Manager SJVV

San Joaquin Valley Veterans recently had a Veterans Resource Luncheon. This event was put together in order to bring the services to the Veterans, and to bring up everyone up to speed with the new SSVF Grant that we have been working under for the past two months.

The Work Force Investment Staff also presented two veterans with awards for Outstanding Veteran 2011 under the WIA program. Yolanda Armendariz and Vincent Garcia both received this award for their dedication while enrolled in the program.

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) made a lot of important contacts during this event that will allow us to better serve our local veterans.



"A little warmer in the chow line"



"Burgers sizzle in a little drizzle"



"It was a sweet year for SJVV"

San Joaquin Valley Veterans



WestCare Foundation

Job Postings

Editor's note: We periodically will list WestCare employment opportunities in The Express, although they are automatically sent by Human Resources. This month, we feature a brand new program in North Carolina! Check it out

WestCare, a progressive, quality-minded, non-profit behavioral healthcare organization, is opening a 16 bed, community-based residential program for girls aged 13-17 in February of 2012, in a beautiful, camp-like setting in Manson, North Carolina.

We offer competitive salary; and an excellent benefit package that includes a 401(k) program with a partial company match.

The following full and part-time positions need to be filled with qualified individuals who are able to pass a drug test; pre-employment physical exam/TB test; and State/FBI criminal background check. Interested, qualified individual must submit resumes to kimberly.anthony@westcare.com. Interviews of qualified candidates will be conducted very soon, in preparation for a mid-February 2012 opening.

WestCare is an Equal Employment Opportunity and Drug Free Workplace Employer

Program Administrator – Masters Degree required, along with recent management experience in a social/behavioral services program.

Research Assistant/Quality Assurance Specialist

Registered Nurse-Current/active North Carolina License

Certified Teacher

Social Worker (I &II)

Counselor-experience required

Substance Abuse Counselor/Educator-experience required

Recreational Leader-License or Certification required

Residential Direct Care Counselor – Degree preferred. Experience required (Supervisors/Shift Leaders needed as well).

Food Service Supervisor

– Certification and experience required

Food Service Worker

– Certification and experience required

Independent Contractors also needed:

Psychiatrist

Psychologist

Therapist



New Years Non-Alcoholic Beverage



Quenching Creamy Raspberry Punch

Ingredients:

- 2 (64 fluid ounce) bottles raspberry cream soda, chilled
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can frozen concentrated raspberry juice
- 1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream
- Garnish with fresh raspberries and whipped cream

Serves 20

Directions:

In large punch bowl combine both bottles of raspberry cream soda and raspberry juice concentrate. Stir until concentrate is dissolved. Carefully add ice cream. Stir briefly. Best served chilled.

