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## Intermediate Drug Court Program

*By Ray Cox, Program Manager, Cobb County Court Services – WestCare Georgia*



WestCare Georgia partnered with Cobb County, one of the leading drug court programs in the state, to create an innovative program for people in the criminal justice system that previously have not been eligible for substance use disorder treatment services. (Georgia uses the LSI-R screening tool and people who scored 11-24 were not eligible for the Drug Court program or the state diversion program.)

Using research by **Doug Marlow** and our evidence based curricula (EBC), we developed a 12-month program that provides 195 hours of treatment (Drug Court program is 18-24 months and 200 plus hours).

Participants are required to do random drug screens, attend community based support groups (CBSG), get a sponsor/mentor, and pay for their treatment. They are also required to attend psycho educational groups.



**GEORGIA: Intermediate Drug Court Program (Con't.)**

The only one of its kind in Georgia, the program has 12 participants (with a goal of 50 within six months) and uses Certified Addiction and Recovery Peer Support to facilitate the psycho-educational groups and to assist participants in developing a recovery plan.

The program has sparked a great deal of interest, and Judge **Tain Kell**, who supervises the program, is scheduled to speak about it at a judges' conference as well as at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals conference.

PHASE	X PER WEEK	DURATION	INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS	CURRICULUM
1	13 weeks	13 weeks		Living in Balance (LIB) Thinking for Good
2	13 weeks	13 weeks	1 week	Living in Balance (LIB) MRT Anger Management
3	13 weeks	13 weeks	1 every 2 weeks	Living in Balance (LIB) Seeking Safety
4	13 weeks	13 weeks	1 per month	Relapse Prevention Therapy



**GEORGIA: A Day of Celebration**

*By Michael Langford, Regional Vice President – WestCare Georgia*

On April 20, WestCare Georgia Youth Academy, a residential substance use disorder treatment center for adolescent boys, held its official ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication in Carrollton, Georgia. The weather was beautiful and about 50 people, including the young men we serve, staff, and community partners were on hand for the celebration.

Among those in attendance were WestCare President and CEO, **Richard Steinberg**; Chief of Facilities, **Mike Lavin**; Chief Development Officer, **Molly O'Neill**; Chief Operating Officer-East, **Frank Rabbito**;



*Youth Academy Staff*

### GEORGIA: *A Day of Celebration (Con't.)*

Senior Vice President, **Steven Hornsby**; WestCare Georgia Community Action Council Chair, Dr. **Eugene Walker**; and Community Action Council Member and WestCare Board Finance Chairman, **Derrick Boazman**.



*Crystal Davison & Yomi Makanjuola of DBHDD and Mike Lavin*

We are grateful to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), our program funder and partner for nine years, for attending along with other local dignitaries and elected officials.



*Representatives from the Carrollton PH Masonic Lodge and Chapter with Program Director, Carolyn Frye, Community Service Coordinator, John Bascom, Richard Steinberg, and Steven Hornsby*

We are extremely proud of this facility and we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of our community partners who made this day possible. We have assembled a devoted team of professionals to assure that students of the WestCare Georgia Youth Academy receive the best care possible.

Special thanks to Mike Lavin and the Fitzhouse Staff for the renovation of this facility.



*Derrick Boazman, Frank Rabbito, Steve Hornsby, Carroll County Commissioners Michelle Morgan and Lee Powell, Richard Steinberg, Dr. Eugene Walker and realtors*



### PUERTO RICO: *Highlights*



WestCare Senior Vice President, Caribbean & Latin American, **Cristian Duarte**, met with the Public Relations Coordinator for USDA, Mr. **Miguel Ramirez**. Guara Bi and USDA are working on ways to unify efforts to offer services to low-income families and seniors.



We were pleased to welcome Regional Vice President, WestCare Virgin Islands-Village, **Kendall Tutein**, to Saint Croix to visit our programs and meet with Chief Operations Officer, WestCare Offshore and International Operations, **Maurice Lee**, and Cristian Duarte.



Our Dominican Republic Program, Guara Bi, was thrilled to celebrate the completion of its first year providing services to the community and helping people successfully reintegrate back into their communities.

We were grateful to Cristian Duarte and Senior Advisor to WestCare, **Amy Singer**, for helping us mark the occasion.

### WASHINGTON: *Tiny Homes for Veterans*

In a continuing effort to improve the lives of Washington state's Veterans who are experiencing homelessness, WestCare Washington is working with Home Depot and the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) on a project to develop tiny homes. These small but versatile housing structures are seen by many as part of the solution to our nation's housing crisis.



*Edgar Rivera presents a \$1,000 gift card to instructors for Walla Walla High School's Show Case of Skills award winning student team, Eric Matson and his colleague.*

In late March, high school and college students representing twenty different schools came to the state capital to demonstrate how Career and Technical Education (CTE) connects skills and leadership to a community service project. Students constructed 25 transitional tiny homes that were donated to the Low-Income Housing Institute to provide transitional housing for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Three weeks after this event, Veterans moved into these transitional housing units to begin their journey to stable housing.



*Alfie Ramos-Alvarado presents certificates to top four student teams.*







## KUDOS!

### WESTCARE CALIFORNIA



**Health & Wellness Committee:** Staff from our Health & Wellness Committee led a morning warmup exercise before hitting the streets of Fresno for homeless outreach with our fellow community partners in the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care.

**Julio Sanchez, Prevention Specialist (The Living Room):** Recipient of the CORE (Characteristics of Remarkable Employees) Team Player award for March for the Health & Wellness and Housing group.



**Terri Reason, Administrative Assistant:** Recipient of the CORE (Characteristics of Remarkable Employees) Team Player award for March for the Data and STOP Area 3 group.

**Eric Salazar, RMSC Vocational Specialist:** Recipient of the March Employee of the Month award for our community-based programs, pictured with his daughter.





## KUDOS!



**Erin Shelton, Interim ESG Case Manager:** Erin was awarded the “Caught Being Good” peer-to-peer recognition token by Housing Matcher, Giovanni Santangelo, for gifting him a special red “Office Space” style stapler to help him feel at home at our Housing Services office.

**Mary Ann Knoy, Program Coordinator:** Giovanni Santangelo, created this camera out of Coke cans and awarded Mary Ann the “Uplifting the Human Spirit” peer-to-peer recognition token for her encouragement and support of his work.



**Rochelle Trujillo, Director of Operations:** As a way to uplift the spirits of her fellow WestCare staff, Rochelle (on the right) has been making gifts out of balloons to brighten their day!

## WESTCARE WISCONSIN

**Elizabeth Coggs, Regional Vice President:** Congratulations to Elizabeth Coggs, who was honored at the Wisconsin African American Women’s Center (WAAW) 21st Annual Hat Luncheon “Faces of Hope.” The event celebrated leaders, advocates, survivors, and innovators in the field of health and wellness.

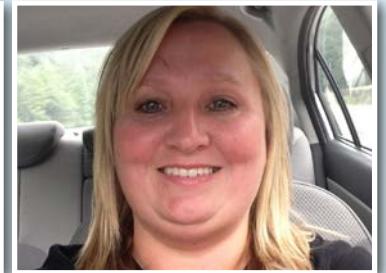




## KUDOS!

### WESTCARE KENTUCKY

**Anna Coleman, Program Coordinator:** Kudos to Anna Coleman for building an engaged community on Facebook for the WestCare Perry Cline Emergency Shelter. In the month of March: posts requesting donations (clothing, baby supplies, toys, etc.) were reshared an average of 72 times; posts reached over 31,000 people; and nearly 11,000 people liked, commented, and/or shared posts.



Please submit Kudos for the Express to [newsletter@westcare.com](mailto:newsletter@westcare.com).



## FLORIDA: Dragon Boat Festival for Heron House

By Maureen Dunleavy, Area Director – WestCare Florida

May 20 was another successful Dragon Boat Festival for WestCare Florida's Heron House!

This one-of-a-kind festival is the product of many years of planning by local Marathon residents and is the main fundraiser for Heron House, a 16-bed assisted living facility for people with mental health disorders.



Truly "Serious Beachin' Fun," the Battle in the Bay Dragon Boat Festival is a day of fun in the sun as well as serious dragon boat competition. Participants spend the day on the water paddling, in the sand playing volleyball, and cheering each other.



Guidance/Care Center, Inc. sponsored Team Tropical Depression, which raised over \$8,000. **Dave Condra** was our top fundraiser again, raising over \$6000.



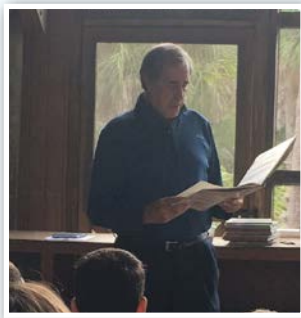


## FLORIDA: *Camp Mariposa - A Place for Healing and Hope*

By Renee Salyers, Camp Director – WestCare GulfCoast-Florida



On April 22, campers and 11 mentors completed the 2nd camp session of 2017 at WestCare GulfCoast-Florida's Camp Mariposa in Boyd Hill Nature Preserve (St. Petersburg). Campers were treated to a reading by **Peter Golenbock** (close friend of Regional Vice President of WestCare GulfCoast-Florida, **James Dates**), a sports writer who wrote nine New York Times best sellers, including *The Bronx Zoo*, one of the best-selling baseball books of all times.



Campers also went on nature hikes, made dream catchers, and wrote letters to their loved one's addiction and then burned them in the camp fire. After all the therapeutic and fun camp activities, campers and mentors made s'mores and sang around the camp fire.

Camp Mariposa staff received this feedback from a care giver:

*"Our camper talked non-stop from the moment we picked her up until we arrived home 45 minutes later about her awesome experience at the camp. She told us about the addiction letter, the campfire, all the new friends she made, the fun activities, the great counselors, Mr. David (the best cooker ever!), the author and his talk with the kids, and getting an award. She can't wait for the next camp and in that short time, I could already see her healing process begin. You are changing lives, healing wounds, and instilling confidence, happiness, and hope."*



## CALIFORNIA: Fresno Adventist Academy Service Week

By Gabriela McNiel, Director of Marketing & Michael Mygind, Special Projects Officer – WestCare California

WestCare California got help from junior high students volunteering on behalf of the Fresno Adventist Academy as part of their Fresno-wide week of service. They helped us make green ribbon pins for our staff to wear in support of Mental Health Matters Month, organized the donations in our clothing closet at the MLK Residential treatment facility, organized the storage garages, and did yardwork at our HomeFront transitional living facility for female Veterans and their children. We had a wonderful time working with them and we are so grateful for their help!



## CALIFORNIA: MLK Residential Salsa Contest



Our MLK Residential facility celebrated Cinco de Mayo by holding their annual salsa making contest. All the salsa entries were made by the people we serve and were judged by our staff. Thank you to everyone that took part!







## CALIFORNIA: *Home Ground Breaking for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness*

WestCare California was honored to be part of the ground breaking ceremony for Renaissance at Parc Grove, an affordable community in Fresno for Veterans who are disabled and/or who are experiencing homelessness. Renaissance at Parc Grove is a collaborative effort led by the Fresno Housing Authority with support from WestCare California, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other community partners. We were joined by Congressman **Jim Costa**, Secretary **Vito Imbasciani**, MD, from the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Director of National Initiatives for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, **Beverly Ebersold**, and Fresno Mayor, **Lee Brand**.



## CALIFORNIA: *WestCare California Spring Graduation 2017*



Congratulations to WestCare California's Spring 2017 graduating class! More than 40 people walked the stage of Fresno's historic Tower Theatre to celebrate the completion of their respective recovery programs from Fresno and Bakersfield.

The keynote speaker was ABC 30's Emmy-award-winning anchor, **Liz Harrison**, who shared a powerful message about looking to the future and not getting caught up in the past. We are inspired by the hard work that these men and women have done and look forward to seeing what they can accomplish!





## FOUNDATION: *Marketing Works with WestCare Midwest*

*By Molly O'Neill, Chief Development Officer – WestCare Foundation*

WestCare Foundation's Marketing crew was grateful for the opportunity to work with WestCare Illinois and WestCare Wisconsin to support them in building community and getting the word out about the amazing work they are doing in their communities.



Social media tutorials provided staff with tips on how to ensure that Facebook posts get more attention as well as how to use social media to connect with other

organizations, government officials, and reporters/media outlets. Media relations training offered strategies for building relationships with reporters and news outlets. We also worked with both programs to get media coverage on specific stories.

WestCare Illinois announced the implementation of Project RISE, targeting at-risk youth in Chicago. We worked with the staff to create a compelling press release and then we helped distribute the press release to local news outlets. One news station was interested and staff is working with a reporter to develop that story idea. More importantly, we have begun the process of building relationships with the major news outlets in Chicago.

WestCare Wisconsin's Youth Action Council held a press conference to address gun safety and to announce their summer "Love Up, Lock Down" campaign to pass out free gun locks. We helped create a compelling press release, distributed the press release to local news outlets,

and followed up with phone calls. The press conference attracted 5 news cameras which lead to two stories on the evening news and two stories in Milwaukee's major daily newspaper.

If your program/region needs help building community through social media and/or wants to build relationships with news outlets, contact the Marketing crew at [marketing@westcare.com](mailto:marketing@westcare.com).

*WestCare Illinois would like to thank Liz Gilbert and the Marketing department for their help on developing our media and social media relations campaign – we already have an inquiry from Fox News that will highlight our staff members' positive work with youth who are justice-involved! They really have helped us get the word out on the anti-violence work that is happening in Chicago.*

*Stacy Munroe, Regional Vice President*

*A special high five goes to Liz Gilbert and the Marketing department. Their efforts for WestCare Wisconsin, have helped to carve a place in the minds of many in southeastern Wisconsin and beyond, whether it is capturing the media's attention for our Veterans' Homeownership star studded event, getting the local ABC, NBC, CBS affiliate TV stations to our Youth Action Council "Love Up, Lock Down" Gun Safety Campaign press conference, or a training on how to maximize our social media efforts. A call to the Marketing crew is a call for action in doing what we all do best "uplifting the human spirit!!!"*

*Elizabeth Coggs, Regional Vice President*



## ILLINOIS: *Sheridan Correctional Center Spring Re-entry Summit*

In April, Sheridan Correctional Center hosted the Spring Re-Entry Summit. This year, 300 people attended and received information from 27 vendors. Representing WestCare Illinois were Director, Crossroads Adult Transition Center, **Willie Hall**; Program Manager, Cook County Jail, **Sixto Garcia**; and Counselor, Sheridan Correctional Center, **Jeff Adams**. WestCare shared information on outpatient treatment, the work release center, and Veterans' services.



Key speakers for the summit this year were **Tim Ryan**, who was a former inmate at Sheridan Correctional Center and participated in WestCare programs, and **Chris Baker**, the founder of Ink 185, which offers prison and gang tattoo removal free of charge. Both speakers talked openly about their lives and shared about the services they offer to those who want to heal and make positive changes.



## *How Anyone Can Support WestCare Online*

If you know someone who loves to shop online, they can help WestCare by shopping at **AmazonSmile** (bookmark <https://smile.amazon.com/cb/86-0852629>) and selecting **WestCare Foundation**. A portion of the purchase will be donated to WestCare at no cost to the shopper.



WestCare is registered with **PayPal Giving Fund**. When shopping on eBay or using PayPal online, users can select WestCare as their charity of choice. Donations can be made by visiting <https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/105865137050618816/charity/74402>.



WestCare is also on **Razoo**, the online fundraising engine. The organization participates in events like #GivingTuesday. Donations can be made by heading to the following link: <https://www.razoo.com/us/story/Westcare-Foundation>.



### LGBT: *A Month of Celebration and Remembrance*

*By WestCare's LGBT Awareness and Advisory Council*

June is an important month for the LGBTQ community and its allies, as it is internationally recognized as LGBT Pride month. June was chosen to commemorate the Stonewall riots, which occurred in 1969 and were a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In June, the ebb and flow of LGBTQ progress stirs a mix of emotions in a month of celebration and solemn remembrance.



This month will mark two years since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality in all fifty states, one year since the dedication of the Stonewall National Monument, one year since the lifting of the ban on transgender people serving openly in the US military, one year since the Boy Scouts of America removed the national restriction on gay leaders and employees, and one year since the Senate confirmed the first openly gay secretary of a US military branch. June is also the one year anniversary of the establishment of WestCare's first national LGBT Awareness and Advisory Council.

Sadly, this June marks one year since the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, the worst mass shooting in modern American history that took the lives of 49 LGBTQ individuals and allies and profoundly impacted LGBTQ and Latinx communities around the world. City and county officials in Orlando have dedicated June 12 as Orlando United Day, asking people across the nation and around the world to remember the victims with acts of love and kindness.

Pride Month commemorates the history and accomplishments of the LGBTQ equality movement, and provides opportunities to increase the visibility of the LGBTQ community as a social group. Pride Month energizes LGBTQ individuals and allies to celebrate the diversity of their gender and sexual identities. Pride Month is a reminder that the fight for full equality continues in the face of anti-LGBTQ actions and legislation.

Within our organization, WestCare's LGBT Council continues efforts to foster knowledge development about LGBTQ issues and the importance of LGBTQ-competent care.

To join WestCare's LGBT Awareness and Advisory Council contact [david.rosynsky@westcare.com](mailto:david.rosynsky@westcare.com).