

WestCare Express

The WestCare Foundation Employee Newsletter



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Honorary Campaign Chair Announced!

Richard H. Bryan, former senator and former governor of Nevada, is the Honorary Chair of the WestCare Endowment Campaign!

Senator Bryan served as governor of Nevada from 1983-1989. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1988 and served as Nevada U.S. senator from January 1989 to January 2001. Senator Bryan also holds the distinction of being the only Nevadan to have served as a state legislator, attorney general, governor of Nevada and United States senator.

Currently, he is a member of the executive committee at Lionel, Sawyer & Collins, Nevada's largest law firm. He and his wife Bonnie reside in Las Vegas.

Dick Steinberg, CEO WestCare Foundation said "I have followed Senator Bryan's career and long admired his tireless work for organizations like WestCare. Senator Bryan has supported us for many, many years and once again has stepped forward to take on this highly visible role that will be a tremendous help to the Endowment Campaign. We are truly fortunate to count him as a friend of WestCare Foundation."

We could not be happier or more honored to have Senator Bryan as our Honorary Chair. His guidance and support to our endowment campaign further ensures our success.

Kirby Burgess Named to Endowment Campaign!

Effective November 1, Kirby Burgess, senior vice president, will devote his full-time attention to the WestCare Endowment Campaign! Kirby's strong relationship skills, positive attitude and determination to reach our goal are invaluable to the campaign.

Kirby joined WestCare 2 ½ years ago as senior vice president for Arizona and Nevada after a 31- year career working in the juvenile system, with the last 11 years as director of the Clark County juvenile justice services.

He and his wife Shirley have lived in Las Vegas for 36 years and have two grown children, one granddaughter and another grandchild on the way.

Shawn Jenkins, COO WestCare said, "Kirby's enthusiasm and support for WestCare are infectious, and we are very lucky to have him focused on this important campaign! You will probably see Kirby in your area in the months ahead as we launch the Regional Endowment Campaigns in each state."

From left to right:
Kirby Burgess,
Senator Richard
Bryan, Laurie
Michaels, Debbie
Harris and
Keith Thomas.



Celebrate Recovery California Style!

By Seanna Herring-Jensen – *Special Projects Officer, WestCare California*

California



Above: Lynn Pimentel, deputy administrator, calling out raffle numbers to a crowd of more than 8,000.



Pictured: Virginia Morris, MLK director, "hot doggin" it up to boost sales.

In celebration of National Recovery Month, SoberStock III was held September 27, 2008 at the Manchester Center parking lot in Fresno, California. Our own Lynn Pimentel, the deputy administrator of WestCare California, was instrumental in making this event a huge success and drawing in more than 8,000 people this year! The event was organized by the Community Partners for Recovery (CP4R) Committee of which Lynn is a founding member. CP4R is a collaborative effort to support recovery from substance abuse. The means to achieve this is to give Fresno County resources, education and events that will bring awareness, improve communities and help families. Its membership includes nonprofit organizations that support the recovering community within Fresno County, such as substance abuse professionals, community leaders and, more importantly, members of the community.

The purpose of holding such a large community event such as SoberStock is to increase awareness of the growing prevalence of addiction problems in our community, and to inform the public about the programs and services that are available to educate, treat and provide support for those who suffer from drug/alcohol addiction and mental health issues and support their families who suffer along with them.

SoberStock has become well known for its classic car show that had many supered-up cars and tricked-out trucks. On display were also motorcycles and custom bicycles that looked like expensive works of art. The children enjoyed the bounce house, the face painting booth and carnival atmosphere. There were lots of good BBQ and refreshments on hand, but the best "must haves" were WestCare's hot dog booth! There were also recovery testimonies and raffle prizes. Who could want more from a fantastic family event on an Indian summer's day?

CP4R is planning another event for next April's Alcohol Screening Day during Alcohol Awareness Month.

Excerpts from the Substance Abuse Services Quarterly Newsletter.

Village South Women's Warriors

Contributed by – *the staff of WestCare South Florida*

Village South team members participated in the 11th Annual Susan G. Komen 5K Race for the Cure on Saturday, October 18 with 15,000 other supporters. More than 750 survivors took part in the race-walk, which was held at Bayfront Park in Miami. The Women's Warriors team held bake sales, sold candy and asked for donations and ended up with more than \$3,000 for the cause. Congratulations to the Women's Warriors Team and be sure to support them next year as they plan on making it a yearly event!

South Florida



The Cares Program – A Partnership with Our Community

By Miltina C. Fraser – Outreach Specialist, Cares Program WestCare Georgia

The Cares Program began our outreach efforts in the metro Atlanta area this past February. It's an adolescent HIV education/awareness program targeting high-risk youth. Our mission is to empower all youth and promote HIV prevention through educational workshops, free HIV testing, counseling and community-based and street outreach. We also provide wrap-around services to support infected and affected youth in our community.

We have made some strong partnerships in the community with Dekalb Prevention Alliance, Aid Atlanta and Fulton County Department of Health, among others. Combining forces with such strong community-based organizations creates a continuum of care that fights against this virus that is destroying

our communities, crippling our young people through the lack of education and motivation to change. The Cares Team has effectively executed a curriculum-based program that energizes, educates and spreads our infectious desire to promote self-esteem, self-expression and social consciences to the all youth we encounter.

We are very excited to enhance our program with two drop-in centers located in Fulton and Dekalb counties, also forging with additional community programs such as Job Corp and Covenant House. Recent participation in USCA and Keeping It Real Conferences will guide us in instituting new methods in our program to better assist the youth we serve. The Cares Program is making continuous efforts to educate and uplift the youth in our communities.



Georgia

Kentucky Third Annual Road to Recovery Car and Truck Show



WestCare Kentucky held their Third Annual Road to Recovery Car and Truck Show on October 18.

WestCare Sheridan Model – The National Conference on Therapeutic Communities

By Stan Brooks – Sheridan Director

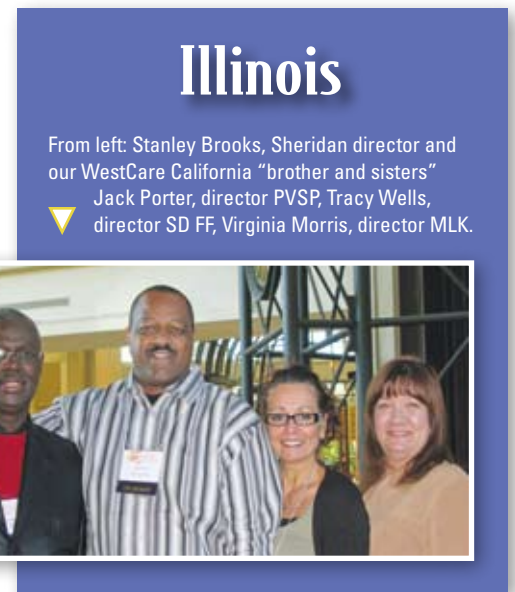
WestCare at Sheridan was very proud to be selected to present the Sheridan Model at The National Conference on Therapeutic Communities held October 5-8, 2008 in Denver, Colorado.

Leslie Balonick, sr. vice president, moderated the 90-minute presentation that included the unveiling of the Sheridan video and presentations by the Illinois Sheridan partners: Deanne Benos, assistant director of the Illinois Department of Corrections; Michael Rothwell, warden of Sheridan Correctional Center; Stanley Brooks, Sheridan WestCare director; Jodina Hicks, Safer Foundation; James Coleman, CSAC/TASC; and Dr. David Olson, Loyola University.

The panel participants discussed the successes of the program in terms of reduced recidivism and improved employment. They also addressed some

of the substantive policy and operational changes that have been implemented by correctional policymakers in Illinois. Also discussed were the opportunities and challenges in integrating multiple organizations throughout the entire Sheridan model. This conference experience reinforced the uniqueness of our Sheridan program and how fortunate we are to be a part of it.

Although we were honored to be selected to present at the conference with our partners from Illinois, having the opportunity to spend time with our WestCare family from California and Florida and our friends from Amity and Extensions is what really made this conference special.



Illinois

From left: Stanley Brooks, Sheridan director and our WestCare California "brother and sisters" Jack Porter, director PVSP, Tracy Wells, director SD FF, Virginia Morris, director MLK.

Rockin' Recovery in Florida

By David Rosynsky – *Grants Writer, WestCare Gulf Coast Florida*

On September 20, in celebration of the 2008 National Drug & Alcohol Addiction Recovery Month, WestCare GulfCoast-Florida and its partners NCADD Tampa Bay and Bay Care Behavioral Health System hosted more than 350 Tampa Bay community members at ROCKIN' RECOVERY, a concert and silent auction event. MC'd by Ginger Gadsden, anchor of Tampa Bay's 10 News This Morning, the event was held at the James B. White Performing Arts Center in Clearwater. The evening began with a keynote speech by Christopher Kennedy Lawford, advocacy consultant with Caron Treatment Centers.

Following the keynote speech and reception, the crowd was treated to a live concert featuring the band MoBetta and Las Vegas headliner Early Clover. Amanda Mason, Miss New York, joined Clover and MoBetta for some inspired duets as well.

GulfCoast-Florida's commitment to individuals in recovery, especially veterans, continued as it hosted a vocational workshop in St. Petersburg, Florida on September 25 for 27 local veterans seeking employment.

Sandy Patnode of GulfCoast's EmployABLE program said, "The workshop was a success, offering many veterans the resources and information they need to achieve their employment goals."

Gulf Coast Florida

Pictured below: The MoBetta band joins Las Vegas headliner Early Clover and Amanda Mason (Miss New York).



5 Questions with . . .

Denise Johnson-Williams grew up in a military family. Born at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, she has called Washington, D.C., Indiana and Germany home before her family settled in San Francisco in 1960. She graduated from San Francisco State University, originally pursuing a career in recreational management. Denise met Tom, her husband, in 1977 at a ski resort in Lake Tahoe where they were both resort managers. They lived in Truckee, California, where their daughter, Danielle, was born during a horrendous weeklong blizzard in March 1982. In 1985, they left behind the mountain life of Truckee and relocated to Boulder City, Nevada. Denise has worked in the nonprofit administrative field for more than 20 years. In March 2005, she began working at WestCare and enjoys her job as office manager at the Las Vegas Foundation office.

What is your most rewarding experience and biggest challenge working for WestCare?

My most rewarding experience at WestCare is hearing the wonderful success stories of the individuals who have graduated from our WestCare programs. One of the biggest challenges working in my position at the Foundation office is keeping up with WestCare's continual national growth and knowing the various regional programs.

What do you do in your spare time?

I am an avid snow skier and try to hit the slopes every weekend during the ski season. I also enjoy gardening, especially helping my husband with his vegetable garden. And I am very active in Beta Sigma Phi, an international women's group, with service and community projects.

What would everyone be surprised to learn about you?

I have a great fear of public speaking. I am very social and love being around people, but scared to death to speak in front of a group. I remember throughout my school years how all my friends wanted lead roles in plays, but I was perfectly happy backstage as the stage manager . . . no spotlight for me.

What is your proudest personal or professional accomplishment?

Danielle, now 26 years old, is my pride and joy.

What is your favorite TV show?

My favorite TV show is "CSI Las Vegas," along with "Dancing with the Stars" and "Big Brother."



Making Choices for My Choices

Kenia M. Leon – BA, CADC-I WestCare Nevada – Healthy Families Program

Uplifting the human spirit and empowering women is the work we do at Rancho Women’s and Children’s Campus. Restoring confidence and putting pieces back together is the key to uplifting the human spirit. In recovery, we learn to overcome our struggles, gain knowledge and become responsible, not just to ourselves, but to family, friends and our society. Becoming responsible to our society includes community action and exercising our right to decide how we want our future to be. The right to make that decision is exercised by voting.

Abraham Lincoln said that, “A ballot is stronger than a bullet.” Voting is an opportunity for us to remember that our democratic way of life is predicated on the capacity of ordinary people to participate and speak out. Having this opportunity not only fulfills an important self-purpose but a

historic and important purpose in this presidential election. The ability to learn to use our voice is a skill that transcends through our ladies’ lives and into the voting booth.

Our vote is our voice, and it is time to speak out for what we believe in and what we want to see in our future. As an initiative to foster social responsibility and boost personal growth, the ladies in both Healthy Families Project and Women’s Residential program participated in a voter registration drive. We registered 26 ladies to vote for the first time. The ladies were able to learn about why voting was important and were able to discuss issues that were important to them. This voting initiative will be followed by research on imperative issues, team discussions, mock debates and, finally, voting on election day. Including these ladies in this process not only makes them

feel a part of the process but also serves as an educational tool for themselves and their children.

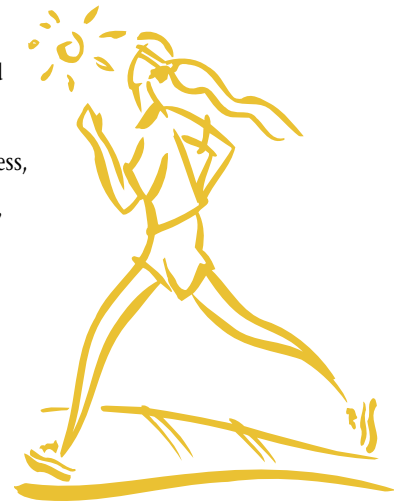


10th Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk for Domestic Violence Awareness

By Kim Mitchell – Office Manager, WestCare Arizona



On October 11, WestCare Arizona held our 10th annual 5K Fun Run/Walk for Domestic Violence Awareness at Bullhead City Community Park. Walkers and runners showed up on this unusually windy and chilly morning, including Richard Steinberg, CEO; Kirby Burgess, V.P. for Arizona and Nevada and his wife; Lois Wakimoto, board chair; and Ken Zueger, regional accountant for Arizona. We had several corporate and water station sponsors, which raised more than \$5,000 for WestCare Arizona. Raffle prizes were donated and given out at the end of the event. Thanks to all the Arizona employees who helped make this another successful event. It is one of the highlights



**Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th!
Don't Forget To Vote!**