



August 2011

Lennar Homes . . . Where the Heart Is . . .

By John Wallace – WestCare Express Editor

The inventory list was lengthy, and the WestCare trucks needed every inch of space. On a mid-summer morning in Fresno, California, our agency welcomed a new friend: Lennar Homes.

As you may know, when model homes are re-furnished for sale, a builder will offer the replaced furnishings for purchase or to its employees first. Anything left over is usually returned to storage for future use or sale.

Well, thanks to the generosity of Lennar Homes (one of the nation's largest homebuilders), after employees staked their claims, WestCare California was allowed to haul off the remainder of the unused, model home inventory: Shelves, tables, chairs, dressers, cribs, rocking chairs, beautiful framed paintings, faux plants, candle holders, vases . . . the list went on!

Our menu of programs in California is extensive, including veterans housing, shelter for women and children and parenting teens, and adult residential housing for those in recovery. Every one of our programs will benefit, in some way, from this outstanding donation of furnishings.

Our thanks go to Mike Miller, Division President for Lennar-Central Valley in California, and to his cordial, big-hearted staff, led by Christine Collins. And not-so-incidentally, Lennar has projects in at least seven of the states where WestCare Foundation has social services programs. Hopefully, this generosity can be replicated in those locations, as well.



LENNAR



WestCare clients transfer donated furnishings to WestCare facilities.

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The Village Virgin Islands Partners In Recovery, Positive Changes STX

By Kendall Tutein – Vice President/The Village
- VI Partners In Recovery

The Village Virgin Islands Partners In Recovery, Positive Changes STX – Summer Program is providing an extraordinary opportunity for the youth enrolled in the alternative school on St. Croix. The youth will continue to receive behavioral interventions as part of the summer activities including gang intervention, but will also have the opportunity to experience the island of St. Croix as they never have before.

On July 15th, nine youth and program staff sailed from the Christiansted dock, 1.5 miles to Buck Island, a National Monument off the northeastern coastline of St. Croix. It was a beautiful sunny day, with lots of excitement and anticipation as they sailed out of the harbor for the day of adventure.

The youth participated in water safety training before setting sail. When they reached their destination each youngster and staff member received a snorkeling set and was lowered down into the pristine green/blue waters to participate in the Buck Island reef tour conducted by Bluebeards Boating staff.

The laughter and awe expressed at the beautiful sea life and reef as the youth were served lunch on the beach was a joyful noise. The day was spent playing on the beach and swimming in the pristine water after the reef tour.

Most young folks who attend the alternative school do not have opportunities to see and enjoy the beauty of their island home. The Village Positive Changes Summer Program will provide the youth this precious opportunity in the hope they will learn to love their home and realize they deserve to have a good time in our community.

Additional summer activities planned include a Nature/History walk in the western hills of the island in Frederiksted, and a weekend at the Sustainability Farm located in the Rain Forest. That's where the youth will participate in picking organically grown food that will be used to prepare their meals, and learn about our local Crucian culture during a retreat at the farm.

These outings serve as a reward to the youth for their hard work during the school year, and an incentive for them to continue working on setting positive goals for themselves. But most of all, it gives them some time to have fun!

U.S. Virgin Islands



Bob and Carol Bring Their TC Wisdom to Sheridan

By Charlene Hamann – Recreation Therapist

During the month of June, many WestCare Sheridan supervisors had the opportunity to attend a training on "Supervision in the Therapeutic Community" with Bob Neri and Carol Renard. Kim Jenkins and Erin Fahey shared a few thoughts on the training with us.

Kim: "I really enjoyed the supervisors' training facilitated by Bob and Carol because it taught me the importance of creating staff development plans and how supervision can assist with elevating a counselor's morale and improving their work ethic. Dealing with a diverse population daily can create difficult situations for counselors who work in the substance abuse field and having a strong foundation and being educated on addiction competencies can help with minimizing staff burnout. This training was very enlightening and is a very much needed supervisory tool. I also enjoyed Bob and Carol's teaching style."

Erin: "On June 7th I had the opportunity to attend a training session with Bob and Carol on the topic of Supervision in the Therapeutic Community. This was a wonderful experience and helped me to focus on a specific training method to use with my staff to mold them into the best counselors they can be. Providing services in a Therapeutic Community requires so much more than good clinical skills and a willingness to help others and, as such, can be a demanding and overwhelming job. Therefore, as supervisors we must be able to help counselors, both new and experienced, to excel at a variety of skills. The training was comprehensive, and I left it with a sense of direction about how to supervise effectively."

The supervisors' training was followed by a second day of all-staff training where WestCare counselors enjoyed learning more in-depth ways to deal with confrontation and conflict resolution, poor behaviors, negative attitudes, facilitation techniques that work, and how to redirect group topics and to minimize sub-grouping. It was a great two days spent with the trainers. Bob and Carol are very bright and entertaining and make the training interesting and fun. We want to again thank them for all the insight they brought us.

Illinois



Bob Neri and Carol Renard.



Erin Fahey (L) and Kim Jenkins (R).

Blanket Atlanta Outpatient Program Salutes Graduates

By Joyce Randle – Administration Assistant

Georgia



We are pleased to announce the very first graduation ceremony of the Blanket Atlanta Outpatient Treatment Program. The graduation was a great success; There were twenty-three graduates, who were filled with joy on Friday, June 24, 2011, as they processed in the multi-purpose room of Victory Outreach Ministries. There were great numbers of family, friends and collaborating agencies that gathered together to celebrate this joyous event.

Our guest speaker, Rev. Jeffery S. Copeland charged the graduates to "move forward, no turning back!" Regional Vice President Michael Langford, expressed words of encouragement to all

in attendance. Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall joined us and also charged the graduates to continue to walk the path of recovery.

The WestCare-Georgia family would like to thank all of the collaborating agencies for joining us and demonstrating the love and support that our clients need every day. To the valectorians, salutorians and the entire Blanket Atlanta 2011 graduates, we salute you on such great success. We know the best is yet to come!

EXPRESSIONS

By John Wallace
– WestCare Express Editor



My name is John. I am addicted to WestCare. I don't expect to recover. And that's a good thing.

Do you ever take a moment and reflect on the twists and turns in your life that led you to this agency? I do . . . frequently. And my daydream always ends with a smile.

My association with WestCare actually began nearly 30 years ago, as a community volunteer fundraiser for a small, Fresno program called The Third Floor. Although it only served a handful of individuals with drug and alcohol addictions, it was considered a success in the social services industry. "Success," in terms of healthy outcomes.

But as my volunteerism grew deeper and I became a member of The Third Floor board, the cost of providing care and treatment to a growing number of clients nearly became prohibitive. That's when an Angel of Mercy flew into Fresno, California in the form of Richard Steinberg.

The story is lengthy, so here is the short version: Dick gave our program new life. His WestCare agency was about as old as ours, but certainly more advanced in its services and in much better financial shape. The Third Floor and WestCare danced for a short time and then exchanged vows.

I realize this melding of like-minded missions and programs has now occurred in several other states, so your histories might be similar. But with few exceptions, I'm guessing the common thread in the patchwork quilt is Dick Steinberg. He is gentlemanly, compassionate, focused, fair, inspiring and above reproach. I hope you all get to meet him some day.

I am not writing this to curry his favor. I'm just an old dude who has been friends with the 'much younger' Mr. Steinberg for seemingly half our lives. His vision is evident in the words and pictures on these pages. My guess is they will feed your own,

healthy, WestCare addiction.



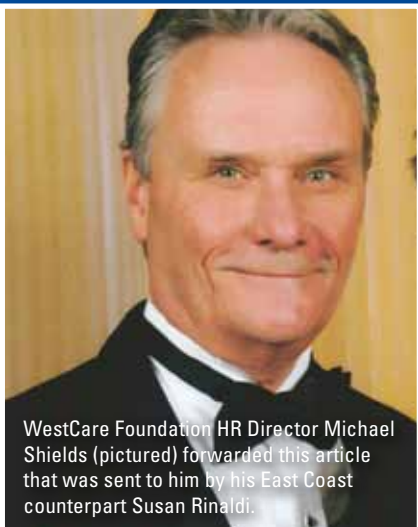
CEO Dick Steinberg and his wife, Sharon, also a key WestCare leader. Mr. and Mrs. Steinberg have their hands full these days with their beautiful three year old daughter, Olivia.

Leadership Character: The Role of Integrity

By Col. Eric Kail

– Excerpted and Reprinted from the Washington Post

Foundation



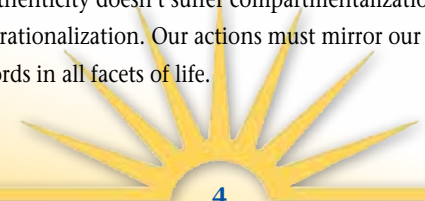
WestCare Foundation HR Director Michael Shields (pictured) forwarded this article that was sent to him by his East Coast counterpart Susan Rinaldi.

There are two critical components of integrity that go beyond just doing the right thing when no one is looking. The first is the adherence to a moral or ethical principle. This isn't simple compliance to a rule; it implies a philosophical understanding of the reason it exists. The second is the pursuit of an undiminished state or condition. Everyone makes mistakes, so being a person of integrity does not mean you haven't committed a moral or ethical violation, ever. It means having the strength of character to learn from those 'misbehaviors' and seek continual self-improvement.

The word 'character' is derived from the Greek word charattein, meaning to engrave. This provides a much richer understanding of integrity as something we can develop and strengthen, rather than as a glass ball handed to us that we try in

vain not to drop. Our integrity is shaped by our most valuable life lessons, those that involved our deepest issues of honesty and motive. Integrity requires humble introspection, not self-righteous declaration. For instance, I may say without hesitation that I do not lie, cheat or steal; but have I ever attempted to deceive someone? I may in fact be lying to myself.

So before we can even embrace the notion of integrity, we need to develop the ability to intellectually wrestle with the urge to rationalize away our underlying faults and the related consequences. Intellectual ownership produces authenticity, and authenticity doesn't suffer compartmentalization or rationalization. Our actions must mirror our words in all facets of life.



August: National Immunization Awareness Month

Courtesy of wamu.org

August is recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). The goal of NIAM is to increase awareness about immunizations across the life span, from infants to the elderly. August is the perfect time to remind family, friends, co-workers, and those in the community to catch up on their vaccinations. Parents are enrolling their children in school, students are entering college, and healthcare workers are preparing for the upcoming flu season.

Immunization is one of the most significant public health achievements of the 20th century. Vaccines have eradicated smallpox, eliminated wild poliovirus in the U.S., and significantly reduced the number of cases of measles and other diseases. But despite these efforts, tens of thousands of people in the U.S. still die today from these and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Immunization is one of the most effective ways to protect children and adults against many common infectious diseases. Keeping individuals healthier through immunizations results in lower associated social and financial costs for families, including time lost from school and work, as well as the expense of medical bills. Recommended vaccinations begin soon after birth and continue throughout life, and it's important to get the right vaccines in the right doses at the right time..

The National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB) believes in the promotion of immunization across the lifespan, and supports efforts to encourage greater acceptance and use of immunization for all ages. HMHB is committed to building partnerships at the local, state and national levels and increasing knowledge and understanding of immunization needs and practices among health care providers and the general public.

The National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition
2000 N. Beauregard Street,
6th Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22311
Phone: 703.837.4792
www.hmhb.org

The D.C. Department of Health Immunization Program

was established to prevent and control vaccine preventable diseases among District residents. The Immunization Program provides free immunization services to uninsured and underinsured District of Columbia residents. The Immunization Program works with other agencies, such



WestCare Wellness Watch



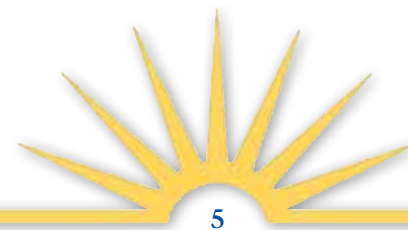
as Medicaid, the Community Health Centers (CHC), and the Early Period Screening Detection and Treatment (EPSDT) Program, that deliver immunization services. They aim to keep children healthy and prevent families from acquiring vaccine-preventable diseases.

D.C. Department of Health Immunization Program
6323 Georgia Avenue, NW
Suite 305
Washington, DC 20011
Phone: 202.576.7130
www.dchealth.dc.gov

The Immunization Coalition of Washington, D.C.

(ICDC) represents the combined forces of the former childhood and adult immunization coalitions of the District of Columbia. Its mission is to improve the health of families in the District of Columbia by promoting linkages to immunization services across the lifespan by linking healthcare providers, patients, payers and community organizations with education, resources, and technical support and through partnerships with regional groups.

Immunization Coalition of Washington, D.C.
Phone: 202.783.7034 ext. 13



Shrinking Federal Funds for Meth Lab Cleanups Hitting Tennessee Hard

By Join Together Staff – June 20, 2011

A major reduction in federal funds to clean up meth labs is having a negative impact in Tennessee, where methamphetamine use has been spiking. From 2007 to 2010, the state saw a 250 percent rise in meth lab incidents, busts and explosions, CBS News reports. Tommy Farmer of the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force called meth an epidemic in the state.

According to the CBS report, meth is not difficult to make. The “shake and bake” method uses a soda bottle and meth’s key ingredient, pseudoephedrine, which is found in many cold medicines. Once meth is made, it leaves behind a toxic mess that costs about \$2,500 per meth lab to clean up.

Until this year, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) spent as much as \$20 million annually to help states clean up meth labs. In 2011, however, the DEA budget for meth lab cleanups has been reduced to \$8.3 million, and may be wiped out entirely next year, according to the report.

Since federal funds have been reduced, meth lab seizures have fallen by as much as 50 percent in Tennessee.



Tennessee

Tennessee Law Enforcement Officials Say New Anti-Meth Law Isn't Tough Enough

By Join Together Staff – June 17, 2011

Law enforcement officials in Tennessee say that a recent law aimed at shutting down methamphetamine labs isn't strict enough because it doesn't make meth's key ingredient, pseudoephedrine, available only through a doctor's prescription. Pseudoephedrine is found in many cold and cough medicines.

The new law lowers the amount of pseudoephedrine a person can buy over-the-counter in one day. Critics of the new law say it does little to reduce the meth-making practice called 'smurfing' – getting people to buy small amounts of pseudoephedrine, which is then combined with others to make a batch of meth.

“We basically have a whole cottage industry out of here, of people who do nothing but go around and buy ephedrine and pseudoephedrine,” Tommy Farmer, Director of the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force, told The Tennessean. “They run under the radar by not exceeding those legal limits, those thresholds.”



The Village South is Growing Green!

By Eric Singleton – EOC/General Services Director

The term “green” has come to be defined as a holistic approach to improving environmental aspects of the built environment through energy, water conservation, healthy indoor environments, and the use of recycled and recyclable materials.

In 2007, Sr. Vice President Frank C. Rabbito initiated The Village South’s Going Green Initiative by recognizing our responsibility to practice and promote behaviors that support activities which contribute to environmental sustainability within our local, national and international community. The Village’s Green Initiative is being approached from five areas; Energy, Lighting, Water Conservation, Recycling and Eco-Friendly Cleaning.



We have set forth on this journey with the goal of obtaining LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for the agency.

The first “Green Project” was part of the renovation of our food service facility in 2008 where compact florescent lighting fixtures replaced incandescent light bulbs and high efficient T-8 bulbs replaced high heat, in-efficient T-12 bulbs. Also as part of this project we started recycling the cooking oil used during food production.

In May 2010, The Village applied for and was awarded a grant from the Grants to Green Non profits (G2GN) program. The G2GN program is a competitive re-granting program created and designed by Miami-Dade County and approved by the U.S. Department of Energy using funds from the “Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant” which was made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This act represents a Presidential priority to deploy the cheapest, cleanest, and most reliable energy technologies we have - energy efficiency and conservation - across the country.

The G2GN award allowed The Village to:

- Install up to 4,900 sq. ft. of ceiling insulation with R-value of at least 19 rating.
- Replace up to 6 existing 5-ton EER 9 Split Systems with up to five new 5-ton Split Systems with at least an EER 14 rating.



- Replace up to 12 existing fixtures from 40-watt T12 to 28 or 32-watt T8 electronic florescent lights.
- Replace place up six existing fixtures from 65-watt incandescent light with 15-watt hardwired compact fluorescent in the Children Services Nursery.

The Village South will continue to work on energy efficiency and recycling while implementing innovative ideas in water conservation and eco-friendly cleaning solutions.

Community Volunteerism at Its Best!

Sheriff’s Colonel Rick Ramsay traveled to Orlando earlier this summer to accept an award from the American Legion as their Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Colonel Ramsey serves as Community Council Chairman in the Florida Keys.

He received the award during the American Legion Department of Florida 93rd Annual Department Convention. Colonel Ramsay was sponsored for this award by Keys Memorial Post 145 in Islamorada for his outstanding career with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, but also for his dedication to the community in which he lives and the donation of his time to various non-profit organizations including WestCare.

The criteria considered by the American Legion for this award includes someone who is well-rounded, has exceeded the duty requirements of his/her position, exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication, demonstrates a distinct pattern of community service and has proven his or her personal dedication to societal security and protection.

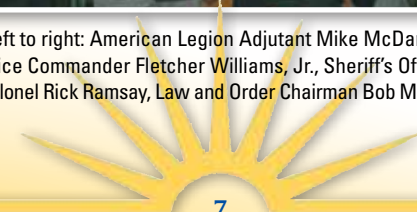
Based on this award, Colonel Ramsay’s name will now be submitted for consideration for the American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.”

WestCare salutes our fabulous volunteer on this most outstanding award!

By Wendy Ramos – WestCare Florida



Left to right: American Legion Adjutant Mike McDaniel, Vice Commander Fletcher Williams, Jr., Sheriff’s Office Colonel Rick Ramsay, Law and Order Chairman Bob Meyer.



Kudos!

By John Wallace
– WestCare Express Editor

Before I proceed, I should offer a disclaimer: I am often compared with the first four letters in ‘analyst.’

Okay, did you know the word ‘kudos’ takes a singular verb? In other words, it should be used as a singular noun: “Kudos is given for the great performance.” And “The kudos was appreciated.” It’s been reinvented over the year, to my dismay. Much like “I could (not) care less.” And “walk the walk.(talk)”

Sounds funky, I know. But ‘kudos’ is derived from the Greek word ‘kydos,’ meaning praise, honor or accolade.

As for MY kudos this month, IT goes to every one of our WestCare receptionists in each of our states and programs. I was recently reminded that a behavioral health client’s success in a program is often determined by his/her first 15 minutes of exposure to the agency. That can mean street counseling, intake or placement. But the real influence, in my opinion, is wielded by the person at the front desk.

I have seen and heard the absolute best communicators being used in that WestCare role. And I salute you for being, in my opinion, our most important employees.



A.B. Maloy continues to spread the WestCare gospel far and wide. And now she’s extended her reach, thanks to a new radio gig. The Area Director of Guidance Care Center in the Florida Keys, A.B. is now a regular on a popular community news program every Monday in Key West. www.us1radio.com



Congratulations to Dr. Michael Miller, Village South Special Projects Officer and the BSFT team! Their manuscript “Brief Strategic Family Therapy versus Treatment as Usual: Results of a Multi-Site Randomized Trial for Substance Using Adolescent”, has been formally accepted by the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology.



Congratulations to Rhonda Jordal, who has been appointed by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad to that state’s Advisory Council on Brain Injuries. Rhonda is Chairman of FAVA, Family Alliance for Veterans of America, and is at the forefront on military service issues. FAVA is a partner with WestCare on many veterans causes/



Congratulations to Raymond Gonzalez and his new bride, Sharon, who were married in Fresno, California on June 25th. Raymond is a counselor in the Residential Multi-Service Center.

Thought for the Month:

“The truth that seems discouraging does in reality only transform the courage of those strong enough to accept it; and, in any event, a truth that disheartens, because it is true, is still of far more value than the most stimulating of falsehoods.” – Maurice Maeterlinck





SMART 2 News!

SMART 2 works collaboratively with First 5 Fresno County, Exceptional Parents Unlimited and Babies First. It is funded by a federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Youth and Families and First 5 Fresno County.

What Is A Tantrum?

Some parents may think that a tantrum is an act of a child being “bad”. As parents, we should all try to evaluate what our child is trying to tell us as apposed to reacting to the behavior they are acting out. Ask yourself . . . “Why is my child acting badly?”

Children display two types of tantrums, each of which requires very different handling responses according to Margot Sunderland, author of “The Science of Parenting” SMART 2 will be able to assist our parents with the ability to identify the two types of tantrums as a “distress tantrum” and the “little Nero tantrum.”

In a distress tantrum, the alarm systems in a child’s lower brain are activated sending the child into emotional tension state with waves of stress hormones coursing through his/her body. When your child is having a “distressed tantrum” they need sensitive handling from you. At this state, the child cannot talk or listen to you when you are trying to communicate with them.

How to Handle a “Distress” Tantrum –

Move towards your child and console them by a touch on their back and acknowledgement that you are there for them. During this time, minimize distractions; help him/her to feel safe and most important avoid isolation. Make sure to tell your child, “I am here for you when you are ready to talk to me.” Remain available for your child’s needs and this will enhance your child’s social/emotional developments in their Prosocial Behaviors.

Submitted by SMART 2 Staff – *WestCare California*

The little Nero tantrum is very different from a distress tantrum in that it is about the desire to control and manipulate. A child having a little Nero tantrum doesn’t experience or show the anguish, desperation, and panic that characterizes the distress tantrum, and he/she doesn’t have stress flooding hormones flowing through his/her body.

How to Handle a “Little Nero” Tantrum?

- Don’t give your child an audience - if you are sure it is not a distress tantrum, ignore your child’s little Nero tantrum. Your child will stop this behavior because it is no fun when no-one is watching.
- Don’t try to reason, argue with, or persuade - attention and words reward this behavior.
- Don’t negotiate - negotiation only rewards angry, controlling behavior. A child who has discovered that rage controls his parents will continue to use this tactic later in life.
- Give clear, firm “No’s”
- Use humor and play when appropriate.
- Time out should be used as a last resort - for instance, when your child is hurting someone else by using physical violence.

California



WestCare Mainstay Heads Into Retirement

By John Wallace – *Express Editor*

When you can give your very best to one commitment for nearly a quarter-century, you deserve a restful retirement. And that’s what’s in store for Gilbert Aguilar, one of the original WestCare employees.

In fact, Gilbert served as Court Liaison with the original Third Floor in Fresno, before that program merged with WestCare in the late 90’s. He then held a number of other positions, each with increasing responsibility, finishing his stellar career as Operations Director.

As Regional Vice-President Shawn Jenkins stated in announcing Gilbert’s retirement: “His commitment and compassion has been felt over the past 23 years by his co-workers and countless client lives he has touched. Gilbert serves as an example of how one embodies the WestCare mission.”

Gilbert Aguilar’s friends and colleagues will honor him at a special celebration next month.

SASCA Region One

Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency



Bakersfield Staff Keeps Chin Up During Tough Times

By Melodie Estle
 – Senior Community Service Coordinator

Beginning in May of this year, the California SASCA program (Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency) was advised of pending budget cuts that would seriously impact services. The Bakersfield SASCA staff has been recognized as Employees of the Month for pitching in and keeping the team effort together.

In preparation of notifying the participant's we serve all members of the Bakersfield office continued to work toward the single goal of "uplifting the human spirit" of the participants we serve. As with any of us, change is difficult however the professionalism and care my staff maintained in assisting participants with their many questions and concerns should be recognized. Again, thank you Bakersfield SASCA staff: Leticia Woodruff, Deysi Montano, Tonette Boyd, Danny O'Neal, JR Hester, Holly Bishop, Vanessa Bowman and Tiffany Horn for all you have contributed to the SASCA as a whole.



Tiffany Horn



Vanessa Bowman



Tonette Boyd



Did you know?

Did you know that the month of August is named for Augustus, Julius Ceasar's grandnephew?

After he defeated Marc Antony and Cleopatra to become emperor of Rome, the Roman Senate voted to name a month after him, just as they had named the month of July his great uncle. Not only was August named after him, but the Roman Senate decided to lengthen the month from 30 days to 31 days – since Julius' month, July, also had 31 days.



August Calendar



August 2nd

Florida GulfCoast CAC Meeting
9:00pm PT/12:00pm ET
Key Largo, Florida

August 3rd

CAC Minnesota
8:30am PT/10:30am CT
VICTRI, Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 3rd

CAC Monthly Report Due
12:00pm PT – Executive Committee

August 9th

Nevada CAC Meeting
12:00pm PT/3:00pm ET
MLK, Las Vegas, Nevada

August 9th

Florida GulfCoast
CXL – CAC Meeting
3:30pm PT/6:30pm ET
David Bradley Building

August 17th

Executive Committee Meeting
8:00am PT/11:00am ET

August 17th

CAC Minnesota
8:30am PT/10:30am CT
VICTRI, Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 31st

CAC Minnesota
8:30am PT/10:30am CT
VICTRI, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Takin' It To the Streets . . . in Vegas

Submitted by Erin Kinard – *Outpatient Coordinator*

Our Street Outreach Team (Jermaine Wroten and Heather Harmon) is primarily focused on meeting the needs of the homeless/at-risk youth throughout Las Vegas. There are many facets of this process, such as Truancy Court participation with at-risk youth in many schools, as well as street outreach at several mainstream park locations throughout the valley. Immediate needs are met through hygiene pack distribution, water cooler outreach (summer temps of 90 -120 degrees and time spent in youth drop-in centers. This dynamic duo also works in conjunction with the Hope Corridor/ Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and participates in several weekly outreaches to spread the message of hope and help.



Nevada



Billboards Send Graphic Warning About Meth Use

By Join Together Staff – June 20, 2011

New billboards throughout Wyoming graphically show the health effects of an addiction to methamphetamine, the Associated Press reported June 28.

The statewide billboard campaign uses “before” and “after” photos of individuals addicted to meth along with the caption, “Extreme Meth Makeover.” Images of emaciation, hair loss, rotting teeth, and bad complexion are featured.

“People always ask the question, ‘Does that really happen?’ And of course it does,” said Rodger McDaniel, director of the Wyoming Department of Family Services.

McDaniel said the campaign is aimed at young people. “In Wyoming, kids younger and younger are experimenting,” he said.

The billboards will be posted throughout the summer and will be complemented with posters and other information.

Wyoming



To see the other billboards in this ad campaign, go to:
http://www.wyomingmethproject.org/View_Ads/print.php



Casual Dress Days Raise Cash for Kentucky

WestCare Kentucky was the recipient of a nice check for \$402, thanks to the Estill County Schools central office staff. The donation was amassed creatively, as the staff in Irvine, Kentucky each chipped in \$2.00 for the opportunity to wear jeans on "Designated Jeans Days." WC Kentucky was honored to be chosen as the beneficiary of that clever idea!



Kentucky



PADD Disbanding After 7 Years, Donates Money to Kiwanis and WestCare

Courtesy of Citizen Voice & Times News

Parents Against Drug Dealing, a drug prevention non-profit organization in Estill County, is disbanding after more than seven years of service to Estill County. PADD board members voted to distribute the remaining money to other organizations in the community. 60 percent of the remaining money, approximately \$6,000, was donated to Irvine-Ravenna Kiwanis Club and 40 percent was left to WestCare. At a recent Kiwanis Club meeting members of PADD, including Founder Patty Miller and Treasurer Terry Williams handed over more than \$3,500 to the club. Miller and Williams said they chose to donate back to Kiwanis because the club

has been a huge support for the organization since it was founded in March of 2004. A total of \$2,412.92 was donated to WestCare Monday evening. PADD's office equipment was donated to other non-profit organization in the county including the Agency for Substance Abuse Policy Board (ASAP). Williams wrote in the final PADD newsletter, "In many ways it is hard to end the organization. But change sometimes is necessary. PADD has made a positive impact in Estill County. Each one of us can continue to make an impact. All we have to do is look around and we will find someone who needs help and prayer."



Drunken Driving Watchdog Group Benefits WestCare Kentucky

(Left to right) Renee Alexander – WC Director, Terry Williams-PADD Treasurer, Petty Miller-PADD Founder



Flower of the Month: Gladiola

Gladiola, the August birth flower, represents strength and moral integrity – not surprising when you consider that its name comes from the Latin word for sword, "gladius." But while its sword-shaped stems may imply Roman gladiators, its romantic flowers are capable of piercing a heart with their beauty – explaining why infatuation is another one of its meanings as well.



Ribbon-cutting Heralds New WestCare Program in Guam

Submitted by WestCare Pacific Islands Staff

Top-level Guamanian leaders and WestCare officials took part in the formal introduction of the Sagan Mami Drop-in Enrichment Center for persons with a mental illness or at-risk for homelessness. This was held on Friday, June 10, 2011 at the drop-in center, Hagatna, Guam. Also, Sagan Mami means "Our Place" in Guam's indigenous language, Chamorro. Sagan Mami is funded by the Guam Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse.



Left to Right:
 Senator Ben C. Pangelinan, 31st Guam Legislature
 Speaker Judith Won Pat, 31st Guam Legislature
 Maurice Lee, Senior VP, Western Region, WestCare
 Kate Baltazar, Project Director, WestCare PI
 Dick Steinberg, CEO, WestCare Foundation
 Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio
 Senator Tom Ada, 31st Legislature



Pacific Islands

WestCare Pacific Islands Improving the Quality of Life for Vets in Micronesia

By Kate G. Baltazar – *Project Director/Barrigada, Guam*

A young, homeless mother with two children. A young man who is no longer able to work his construction job due to a permanent back injury and suffers from PTSD. Both veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi freedom.

Since early this year, WestCare Pacific Islands has been assisting veterans of the Global War on Terror through a new program, *Early Intervention and Transition Assistance Program or EITAP*, funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This program aims to link OEF/OIF veterans in United States Territory of Guam and the neighboring Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with brief interventions, sustained counseling services at the Guam Vet Center, as well as other community resources such as housing, employment, medical and others. Because Guam has among the highest number of veterans per capita, and in light of the ever-emerging challenges of new veterans, this is a vital program for the veterans of our community.

Our wonderful EITAP team, themselves currently serving in the military, coordinates

outreach events, training workshops, home visits and other means by which to reach as many veterans as possible, to get them the care and services they need and deserve. **George Andrew Sablan**, Veterans Outreach Coordinator for EITAP, is a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves. 2nd Lieutenant **Janette Sudo**, also a Veterans Outreach Coordinator for EITAP, serves in the Guam Army National Guard and is pursuing her Master's degree in Public Administration. Under the mentoring of Guam Vet Center Outreach Worker, the late Cristobal Reyes, our two-person team has increased the numbers served at the Guam Vet Center by over 30% in just three months, with those numbers growing each day.

Our team goes beyond maneuvering the quagmire of paperwork for VA benefits. They see the tears, listen to the stories, some of tragedy, some of triumph. They see the injuries, some show with sadness, others with stoicism and honor. It is our mission to improve the quality of life for our veterans, for all they have sacrificed for our freedom, one veteran, one story at a time.

