

Halloween Fun at Greater Opportunities!



Mr. President, with Sharon Farrar



Cliff Bishop, Shana Smith, Craig King, Les Gardner, Mark Stone



Gangster Molls

SARC "Service Above Self" Award Winners



Cliff Bishop



Tenia Henderson Reid

Two of Greater Opportunities' staff were honored with awards at the annual "Service Above Self" dinner hosted by San Andreas Regional Center. Nominated by families whom they serve, Cliff Bishop, Coordinator of Independent Living Services, was selected as "Support Staff of the Year", and Tenia Henderson Reid was awarded "Recognition of Merit". We are delighted by the special appreciation of their caring, dedicated work.

For more information about Greater Opportunities Programs and Services, please visit www.GreaterOpportunities.org or call (408) 248-4464.

Upcoming

Holiday Party, San Jose Airport Garden Hotel – December 12



GREATER OPPORTUNITIES

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES
900 LAFAYETTE STREET, SUITE 700
SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities



Greater Opportunities

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www.GreaterOpportunities.org



Milestones on the Path to Independence



Thanks to a healthier diet and regular exercise, Melissa has gone from 270 lbs to 180lbs.

Melissa has made healthy changes to her lifestyle by sticking to smaller food portions at home, with assistance in meal preparations from her Supported Living Services staff Alexandra Monroy. Melissa follows portion guidelines that the size of a stomach is the same as that of a hand.

Melissa cut out chips and dip from her diet, substituting fresh spinach leaves to dip into melted cheese or ranch. It's yummy, she says. She also drinks less soda and more water without calories or sweeteners.

Exercise had not previously been part of her lifestyle, so staff helped her get into a regular exercise routine. She likes to walk by doing something fun such as window shopping at the mall or taking pictures around the parks and museum. In addition, she enjoys playing badminton, tennis, swimming and dancing.

Melisa is still working to lose a little more weight. She is already feeling better about herself, her clothes and overall well-being. Melissa learned that keeping busy with activities keeps her mind off of snacking between meals. Melissa has become a great success story and role model!



Kevin Ball and Linda Rodeback proudly share their new apartment – an inspiring story of personal growth and independence.

Coming from group homes and living with parents, Kevin and Linda aspired to live on their own. They joined Greater Opportunities' Cortez Apartments Semi-Independent Living Program and attended daily on-site classes including Cooking, Nutrition, Anger Management, Budgeting, Sexuality, Community Integration, and Health and Safety. They began dating in November 2005, fell in love, and moved from separate units to a unit of their own.

In November 2013 they made the big move to the brand-new Monterey Villa Apartments.

Staff worked collaboratively at Greater Opportunities, San Andreas Regional Center, Eden Housing, and Housing Choices Coalition to achieve this wonderful independent living opportunity.

Continued support from Independent Living Services staff at Greater Opportunities will help them accomplish new goals. Currently, they are planning their wedding ceremony in the courtyard of the new complex.

We congratulate Kevin and Linda on their successful graduation from the Cortez program and their exciting journey into independent living!

**Bill Berg –
Celebration of Life**



Staff, consumers, and family members shared memories and released prayer balloons at a Celebration of Life for Bill Berg, who was served by Greater Opportunities for 25 years. He passed away recently following an acute illness. Bill was quite a character and will be missed by all.

A dedicated and valued employee, he worked right up until his illness at Carl's Jr. restaurant. In his non-working hours, Bill enjoyed playing a Star Wars commander, directing his troops, and virtually zapping enemies (aka, innocent passers-by) with his light saber while riding in Johnny Neves' open-topped convertible.



Sending good wishes aloft

Greater Opportunities Community News

Executive Director's Update

There is much to be thankful for at Greater Opportunities with many exciting new developments in our services and facilities. And more is on the way! Our consumers have enjoyed recent program innovations including:

Adult Development and Activity Center (Day Services Program)

- Two new, wheelchair lift-equipped vans, enabling every consumer to access integrated daily activities in the community.
- New computer and photography classes for the digital age
- Updated interior design and furnishings
- New, expanded volunteer work sites and revamped curricula for all activities

Cortez Apartments Semi-Independent Living Services

- New, low water-use landscaping
- New carpet, paint and furnishings in all units
- Renovated classroom unit
- Four graduates placed successfully in new, affordable independent housing

When renovations are completed in Spring 2014, the Adult Development and Activity Center will relocate to a larger facility at 687 North King Road in San Jose. Square footage and occupancy capacity will be doubled. Our new space will provide dedicated activity rooms for skill development in art, music, computers, cooking, and more. Our own vans, Outreach/para-transit, and public transit located just outside our doors will ensure ample opportunity for daily community-integrated activities.

Holiday Fundraising Appeal

Your generosity will support continuing investments in our programs. With your assistance, our consumers will enjoy new opportunities to achieve fulfilling, community-integrated, independent lives. Please consider us in your charitable giving plans this year. We appreciate your support!

Wish List

Do you have valuable items for our consumer activities that you no longer need? We can use your gifts of:

- Musical instruments
- Computers
- Art supplies

End of Summer News from the Day Program

We ended the summer with a field trip to Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. The weather was perfect, consumers were excited and staff was ready for a day of fun. We brought bag lunches, had a nice picnic and then were off to see the animals, see some shows and last but not least, get on a ride! The time seemed to go too fast. Everyone wished we could've spent more time at the park and zoo. As you can see in the photos on the right, we made friends with the critters and even had a few "younger" guests walking with our group. What a day!!



Making friends at Happy Hollow



Our Adult Development Center Classes Continue to Grow

We now offer the following classes; Beading, Communication Skills and Techniques, Computers, Photography, Music, Vocals and Keyboard, Reading, Writing, Math, Health and Personal Hygiene.

Computers, Social Media and Digital Photography

Wednesday's Computer Class, led by Anthony Rowe, Director of Operations, has been a big hit with participants. With four new PCs in the lab, they've learned basic computer operations, how to use browsers and all have an email address. They got really excited when they went to Facebook. There's no end to what they will be able to do on the computer. Some of the consumers would love to visit another state or country and now they can go onto the computer and visit their favorite place on line.

We provided eight digital cameras to our creative and imaginative photographers who are learning how to take pictures and to download them. They will soon be able to edit and share their photos on social media.



Alan practices PC skills



Sharon surfs the Internet

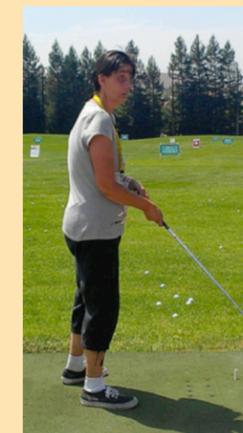
Special Olympics Golf Medalists

After months of practice every Wednesday and Saturday, Debbie, Jeanene and Andy participated in the Special Olympics Golf tournament at The Villages Golf and Country Club in San Jose CA.



Before the games started, participants were treated to hot dogs, chips and drinks. Despite the heat and humidity, the group was ready to show their golfing skills.

Debbie nearly sank a long putt. The ball rolled over the cup and rolled out. But, that did not discourage Debbie. She continued the rest of the day and received the SILVER Medal!!! Way to go Debbie!!



Jeanene had to chip over a sign and boy did she do it. Out of 6 strokes allowed, she made it in 3! Jeanene never gives up. She always tries to do her best and her hard work paid off. She received the GOLD Medal! Congratulations Jeanene!!