

ONE Community

2013 Newsletter, Issue 1



PROJECT SELF

In October, the Council Executive Committee met and approved a new employment project targeting persons with developmental disabilities interested in developing small business skills. The "Self-Employment Leads to Freedom" (SELF) Project is being rolled out in collaboration with the [Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center \(SARRC\)](#), pairing to their extensive programming in building supports for persons with autism spectrum disorders. The SELF Project will focus on the [Home Baked and Confectionary Goods Program](#), which was established in Arizona in 2011. Since its inception, almost 2,000 people have registered to bake products in their homes that can be sold commercially, and it's hoped that Project SELF can be a part of this unique entrepreneurial opportunity.

PAID STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM

Since 2010 the Council has been involved with [Interns in Action](#) a program operated by the Arizona Department of Administration. The program invites students enrolled in community colleges, colleges and universities to become involved as interns to either meet academic requirements or to obtain real-life experience that will benefit them when seeking employment in their field of interest. The Council has worked with 5 interns and all have participated in important activities related to special projects that would have not be achievable without their help. Up until now, student interns have been unpaid, but now the Council will be offering pay for work completed during the internship. The move to pay interns was undertaken to encourage qualified interns interested in assisting the Council with special projects to apply and become involved. For more information on the Interns in Action program, contact [Susan Laurence](#) (602) 542-4757.



2012 DREAM FAIR

On Thursday, October 18th, the Council participated in the Building A Dream Job Fair at Gateway Community College. Thirty-nine local businesses representing retail, healthcare, and janitorial services provided job and networking opportunities for 362 individuals with disabilities. Realizing power in numbers, 9 non-profit, private and government agencies collaborated to sponsor the event. The sponsoring organizations were excited to provide employment related services, resources, information and ideas on placing even more people with disabilities into meaningful long-term employment. The group is anxious to plan next year's event and has a goal to double the number of business recruiters and participants.

ONE Community Working Together

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DAY FOR SPECIAL SMILES

A couple of years ago in response to the budget crisis being experienced in Arizona, several modifications were made in funding optional services under the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System or [AHCCCS](#). Known as



Title 19 or Medicaid, AHCCCS is the federally subsidized medical program available to low income individuals as a safety net when other resources are unavailable to pay for medical care. One of the most serious changes was the elimination of dental care to AHCCCS recipients. This reduction in service meant that no AHCCCS member could receive dental care as a preventative, routine, or emergency service. The results were particularly troubling for persons with developmental disabilities, due to the many special needs which have historically made accessing appropriate dental care difficult. With elimination of coverage, many persons with serious dental needs had no place to turn. Fortunately, Arizona has spawned outstanding resources that have risen to the occasion of addressing this issue. The [A.T. Still School of Dentistry and Oral Health \(ASDOH\)](#) is one of the organizations that recognized the unmet need and stepped to the plate in 2011, hosting the “First Annual Day for Special Smiles” offering free dental care to persons



Cindy McCain and clinical personnel at the Day for Special Smiles Event

with developmental disabilities. The Second Annual event held on November 29, 2012, was bigger and better, providing free dental care to 45 people, including 30 athletes from Special Olympics Arizona. The event was supported and partially funded by the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council along with the Arizona Dental Foundation, Arizona Department of Economic Security – Division of Developmental Disabilities, Arizona Department of Health Services – Office of Oral Health, Delta Dental and Valley Life.

On hand for the event was Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Dean of the Dental School and many of the clinical and program leaders in the ASDOH program that have paved the way for the event.

In addition, Dr. Steve Perlman, founder of the [Special Olympics Day for Special Smiles](#), and Tim Martin President and CEO of [Special Olympics Arizona](#) were in attendance and spoke to the dental students who participated. Cindy McCain, Chairperson of [Hensely and Company](#) and an Ambassador to the upcoming 2013 Special Olympics World Games in Pyeongchang, Korea, spoke with dental students and clinical staff, met with student leaders in the Arizona Special Olympics Program and lent her support to the activities.



Volunteers assist in the registration of a participant in the Day for Special Smiles event.

Dr. Denise Frances, Associate Director of Special Care Dentistry at ASDOH, commented on the outcome of the day by noting that “Not only would the majority of the Day for Special Smiles patients have difficulty in affording the dental care they received today, many would be unable to find providers skilled to treat them.” Her words stake out the future work to ensure that dental care will be available to all that need it.

INTERN IN ACTION – “OPERATION FACEBOOK FACELIFT”

Rachel Collyer



Rachel Collyer a [student intern](#) majoring in Communications at [Arizona State University West](#) has recently begun working with staff to rejuvenate the [Council Facebook page](#) used to communicate with site visitors seeking relevant and up-to-date information. Rachel has used her skills not only to develop a fresh look but to also seek advice from other organizations such as [Special Olympics Arizona](#) on how to successfully sustain creativity and innovation in making the page an appealing destination. The page will soon contain a variety of topics and media with postings updated several times a week. Visit the Council on Facebook and “Like” Us!

INTERN IN ACTION

Velvet Williams

During the month of October, the Council was involved in a number of events related to National Disability Employment Awareness Month, including developing website information and collaborating on the development of the 2012 Building a Dream Job Fair. Through a team effort with Council staff, Velvet Williams, Student Intern, participated in the management of tasks and activities leading to success. A college student working towards a Bachelor of Science Degree in Project Management, Velvet has been working with the Council since the spring of 2012, utilizing her skills gained in health care, grant writing, management of website content and marketing.

Upon graduation in 2013, Velvet is seeking to branch out into work supporting women’s issues tied to services such as domestic abuse. Velvet exemplifies what can be accomplished through volunteerism and public service.

