



"The People Company"

Serving Persons with Special Needs Since 1998

The Connector

Choice ~ Respect ~ Participation ~ Presence

August 2008

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Making Music

We are excited to announce our new music program for the adult day program and the after school program. As a team, we will be introducing music, teamwork, and fun through music to both groups. We have purchased many instruments to get the groups started and will have class once a week. Some of us are brushing up on our musical "talents," and will work hard to make this a positive and exciting addition to programming.



AmeriServe International, Inc.

Skills - Acquiring New Ones

One thing that all people have in common when it comes to acquiring new skills is the willingness and desire to take the necessary steps required to obtain a new skill. Growing as a person, as a team, a family, and community is very difficult work. It takes commitment, communication, acceptance, sacrifice, and help from others. That is why I believe the desire to acquire new skills and the willingness to do whatever it takes to obtain them is one of the greatest attributes of any person. Asking for help from others is often the most difficult thing any of us have to do, but if you are willing and desire growth, you will go to any length. Most importantly, though, these are not skills that can be taught. You either find them within yourself through experience and inspiration



from others, or you do not.

This will be my final article with AmeriServe International. My family and I are moving back to my home state of South Dakota and I want to take this opportunity to thank the people at AmeriServe International for providing me with so many growing, learning, and sharing opportunities. I have learned a lot about myself, the potential of my skills, and how to do what I love which is support people in improving the quality of their lives. This was an

opportunity that I will always be grateful for and I will cherish the experience for the rest of my life.

The desire to learn, grow, and develop new skills will never leave me and this is an important fact for me to know. The single greatest thing about AmeriServe, I believe, is that whether a person is an employee, client, family member, or member of the community and has the desire, willingness, and commitment to grow, then AmeriServe is there to support their effort. I am not sure if I will ever come across another company that can duplicate the wonderful support I have witnessed

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What We Do

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Habilitation, Respite, Attendant Care, In-home Supports

Day Treatment

Adult and Child Day Treatment, After School and Summer Programs

Residential Support

Supported Community Living, Specialized Living Arrangements

Family Resource Coordination

Children with Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, and other Special Health Care Needs

As this summer continues to fly by, plans for the school year, and for expansion of our space in the Adult Program Area are underway.

*We will be opening more space in the fall to expand our **adult program** area. The area (and the kitchen) will be tiled and will provide the opportunity for offering more on-site practice of goals, production, and FUN!*

*The **after school program** will resume on August 11th as the children head back to school. We will continue to help with homework, goals and community involvement. It has been a great summer with fun and learning. Thank you to everyone involved and to companies in the valley that helped to support our participant's needs during activities.*

From the Program Director's Desk



We have started a music/theater program in both adult programs and in the after school program, and plan to put on a couple of performances this year for friends and family. As always, we will continue to encourage learning, growth and community involvement in all of our programs.

We are now offering on-site habilitation and respite for all ages throughout the day. We have the opportunity to provide services

on-site from morning to early evening for all age groups (3 and up.) This will provide the opportunity for individuals to get socialization and 1:1 care and focus at the same time.

As always, we are open to ideas and feedback. We appreciate all of the surveys that have been sent back, as they provide and opportunity to share what we are doing well with employees and give KUDOS to them. They also provide us with the opportunity to think outside the box and try new things. Thank you!

Have a great August. The cool is coming!

Michelle Shriver
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Dean's Blog

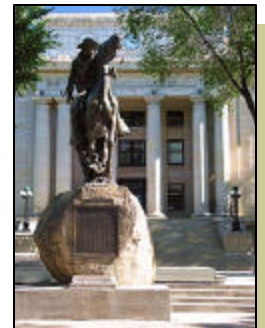
AmeriServe International Inc. would like to welcome Elizabeth Wagner as our new Day Program Manager in Wickenburg, Arizona. We are very excited to have her on board, as she will facilitate a teaching system that involves music therapy, physical education, skill building, arts and crafts, and much more! The participants at our planning center are already enjoying their new teacher by the techniques used to interact and stimulate individual and group interests. As we move forward to making personal growth a way of life, we will give updates to our readers on some of the progression used in our programs, and how they

improve the quality of life.

Wickenburg Ducks in a Row is sponsoring a trip to Prescott, Arizona, for the residents of our group home. When a trip to Sierra Vista, promoted by the Arizona Governor's Council fell through this year because of short funding, Ducks in a Row stepped in to help the disappointed men who were anticipating their annual event. This yearly trip, south of Tucson, allowed the men an opportunity to meet new people, participate in activities, and advocate their concerns publicly to the council. This was a huge loss, and we certainly hope that this grand event returns and becomes permanently available. The Prescott trip will have AmeriServe staff that will chaperone the entire

event, and allow for transportation to and from Prescott.

The participants will have free lodging, meals, and visits to local museums in and around the Prescott area. AmeriServe would like to thank Ducks in a Row for the funding. We will take pictures and provide our reading community descriptive details of our trip.



Museum in Prescott, AZ

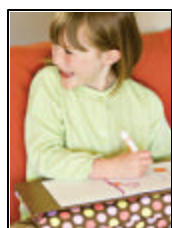
Dean Anast
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Skills - Acquiring New Ones

AmeriServe giving to so many people or to myself. I can, however, duplicate my desire to grow, willingness to go to any length, and commitment to help others improve wherever I go, and because of my experience and growth at AmeriServe I have received a unique life long gift.

I will always be able to carry with me and share with others a piece of "The People Company." Thank You!!!

Josh Warne



Desk To Go

We are so busy that sometimes home work must be done on the run. This is a perfect helpmate to getting that homework completed whether it is in the car or as I did when I went to school - on my bed. What an awesome craft to do together or to make as a gift. You can select the pillow in their favorite colors and paint the clipboard to match the pillow. How about adding pockets to hold pens, pencils or markers?

CRAFT MATERIALS:

- Legal Size Clipboard
- Tacky glue
- Pillow

1. Cover the bottom of the clipboard with tacky glue, leaving bare a one-inch margin around the edges.
2. Lay the clipboard onto a pillow that's about the same size as the clipboard. Rest a heavy book or two on the clipboard as the glue sets.

Hey, with the "desk to go" there is no excuse for not completing that assignment.

On my scale of 1 to 5, this craft gets 4 thumbs up..... Let me know what you think. Next month, I will let you know what my granddaughter thinks of it.

Craft Corner



Calendar Markers



If you're tired of trying to decipher the scribbles on your family calendar, here's a fun way to make sure that important school dates, like sports meets and field trips, really stand out. With a fine-point marker, print the events on round, color-coding, self-adhesive labels (available at most office supply or department stores.) Your kids can even embellish them with mini sketches. Then, press the stickers onto your calendar. Keep extras handy for highlighting significant dates throughout the year.

CRAFT MATERIALS:

- Any kind of calendar
- Round, colored, self-adhesive labels
- Fine-point markers

Going back to school is such a busy time for all of our family members. So when I saw this, I knew that this was the perfect addition to our calendars. I love color coding so this was right up my alley! I can assign a different color to each family member and delegate one color for an "all family event." Then, I can place the color code at the bottom of the calendar.

Ex: **Red**=Family Events **Green**=Candy's events

On my scale of 1 to 5, this craft gets 5 thumbs up! Let me know what you think!

Email me with your comments and/or suggestions!

Candy Blackburn

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Support Options

1. **In-home Support**—training to increase self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills within the home and community.
2. **Day Treatment**— specialized sensory-motor, cognitive, communicative, social, interaction and behavioral support.
3. **Residential**— designed to maximize consumer successes through the use of habilitative therapies, special developmental skills, participative enhancement, and sensory-motor development in the group home or specialized living setting.
4. **Family Resource Coordination**— for Children with Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, and other Special Health Care Needs.

Call for more information today!

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