



"The People Company"

Serving Persons with Special Needs Since 1998

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### From the Program Director's Desk ~

*I would like to take this time to wish everyone a happy holiday season. Whether you celebrate Kwanza, Hanukah, or Christmas, I wish you the happiest holiday season. I would also like to thank all of our families and consumers for making 2007 a great year. Some positive relationships have been built and this is a tribute not only to the great people we serve, but also to the amazing client service representatives at Ameriserve. I thank you for your commitment and dedication to teaching, helping, promoting community, and great customer service.*

*Happy December. Try not to stress. Be mindful and enjoy the holiday season.*

**Michelle Shriver, Director**

# The Connector

*Choice ~ Respect ~ Participation ~ Presence*

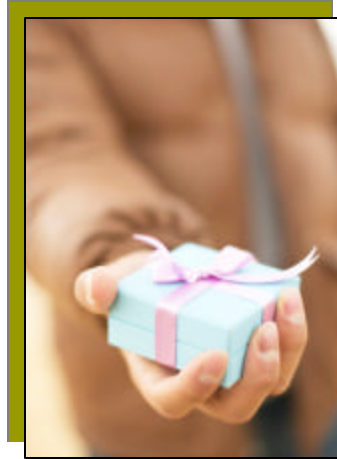
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## AmeriServe International, Inc.

### Skills: The Gift of Education

The holiday season is here and everywhere you go you can see it, hear it, feel it, and even smell it. Some of us are over joyous and engulfing ourselves in the festivities. Others of us are wondering why the music has to start so soon and are still in disbelief that it is already December. No matter what the case is, one of the things that makes this time of year truly spectacular is the willingness of people to go above and beyond for others. The giving of time, money, gifts, and self is wonderful to witness.

One of the things I enjoy most about AmeriServe is that giving happens year round. It was obvious when I joined "The People Company." I was becoming part of something truly special that was ready to give me many opportunities to do what I enjoy most, which is teach and be of



service to others. I have learned many new skills at AmeriServe and all of them I feel have helped me become a better teacher.

This opportunity, though, was not just made available to me; it was made available to every person that has come in the door.

Learning is an extremely fundamental part of life. Every person will continue to learn incidentally throughout the course of

their life. What makes the education program at AmeriServe so special is that people choose to participate for the advancement of themselves with the intentions of helping someone else. Each week Client Service Representatives from all areas of service take the opportunity to come together to learn and increase the quality of service they are offering someone else. The skills learned are no doubt a gift waiting to be given.

As a beneficiary of every single one of these weekly meetings I want to say thank you to each Client Service Representative that has attended these meetings. I have enjoyed being both a teacher and a

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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



## Dean's Blog

### OPEN HOUSE II

#### Out Wickenburg Way:

Hello again! Last month we talked about the success of our open house and the roles AmeriServe International and Ducks in a Row played in making the event so successful. This month, let's reflect further on the importance of this event and the outcomes that have manifested as a result.

Collectively we wanted the opportunity as advocates to reach out to the public the awareness of resources that are available to people of all ages that have developmental or physical disabilities. For all those reading this newsletter, you are for the most part well aware of the resources that AmeriServe International Inc. has to offer because of your exposure to the material and content that **The Connector** has to offer. Imagine for a minute, you're living in a small community where resources are few and far between. Where do you turn for assistance? Until 2005, Wickenburg's only viable resource was the public school system,

combined with the Department of Economic Security's Department of Developmental Disabilities office.

AmeriServe International Inc., with the support of other advocates such as Ducks in a Row, the public school system, and the DES/DDD office, can finally reach out to people who have needs that earlier may not have been fully met. One area of focus is the importance of community outreach.

#### Community Connections

**First:** The importance of community outreach is to establish viable connections with people, in or around one's community. Why? People very easily can become cut off from their surroundings without enough social integration within their community. The resources may be there, but the connection is absent. The open house was established to create relationships with people thus creating or establishing a resource in the form of community network tailored for people and families with disabilities.

**Second:** The importance of teaching community connections to persons with developmental

disabilities allows their relationships to become permanent with long lasting supporters who are able and willing to help them move comfortably from one area to another. This network of support is paramount to social survival. This is accomplished by building relationships in five areas of the community; Government & Education, Vocational & Work, Service & Life, Recreation & Leisure, and Home & Family.

**Open House Outcome:** We were able to connect with a variety of people looking for some kind of assistance in one form or another; and as a result, were able to offer services to them that they previously never knew existed! As we continue to connect within our community, the public will become more aware of the advocacy movement and the resource that is available for persons with disabilities.

***Happy Holiday's from all of us in the Most Western Town in the United States!***

Dean Anast,  
Lead Client Service Coordinator  
Wickenburg, Arizona

### After School Update

November was "helping hands" and "giving thanks" month. Some of our activities were making "I'm thankful for you" cards for friends and family and discussion about what we are thankful for. We also made caramel apples and decorated turkeys for thanksgiving. The big activity this month was collecting canned food for

a food drive. It was a big success! The children delivered the food to a local store to add to their collection. It was great to get the children involved in an activity that gives back to the community. Thanks to all who participated.



## December/ January Activities in the West Valley

### SURPRISE

#### **Northwest Regional Library**

16089 N. Bullard Ave.  
 Surprise, AZ. 85374  
 (602) 652-3000

#### **RANGER PAT'S ARIZONA TALES**

Event Type: Children  
 Date: 12/28/2007  
 Start Time: 11:00 AM  
 End Time: 11:45 AM

Description: Ages 3 and up. Ranger Pat from Estrella Mountain Regional Park visits the library with tales relating to Arizona. She's known for wearing costumes and bringing desert creatures. Kids Corner.

#### **RANGER PAT'S ARIZONA TALES**

Date: 1/11/2008  
 Start Time: 11:00 AM  
 End Time: 11:30 AM

#### **RANGER PAT'S ARIZONA TALES**

Date: Friday, January 25, 2008  
 Start Time: 11:00 AM

#### **Heard Museum West**

16126 N. Civic Center Plaza  
 Surprise, AZ. 85374  
 (623) 344-2200

Christmas at the Heard Museum West  
 Date: 12/26/2007 through 12/30/2007

#### Details:

- 12/26 Yolanda Hart Stevens, Pee Posh/Quechan, will demonstrate her style of beadwork.  
 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. &  
 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m
- 12/27 NosotroSOUND will perform their Latin American folk music at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- 12/28 Don't miss the kid's version of Movie Mania at 10 a.m. &

2 p.m.  
 Christmas at Wapos Bay.

12/29 "Christmas in Africa" - Join us for a special presentation by mother-daughter, Navajo weavers, Lola and Melissa Cody. They traveled to South Africa to study weaving. Listen as they talk about their adventure. Lecture begins at 1 p.m.

12/30 Daisy Simms, Quechan, will demonstrate her elaborate cape necklaces.  
 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. &  
 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

#### **Movie Mornings at the Heard Museum West**

Date: 12/28/2007

Details:  
 This edition of Movie Morning is especially for kids complete with cocoa and cider.

Christmas at Wapos Bay (48 minutes) In this claymation three children visit their grandparent at his cabin in the bush. When an emergency arises, they learn self-reliance and the spirit of the traditional Cree way of life.

Hours: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.  
 Contact: 623.344.2200

### GLENDALE

#### **Jingle Bell Rockin' Nights**

Friday, Dec. 14 - Saturday, Dec. 15 2007  
 6-10 p.m.

Bring your dancing shoes for a rockin' good time in downtown Glendale's Murphy Park, which will be packed with music, lights and excitement. Think you got what it takes to 'cut a rug?' Instructors will be on hand to give lessons to those brave enough to give it a whirl! Practice your moves on Saturday evening to the tunes

of the Road Runners.

#### **Winter Wonderland**

Friday, Dec. 28 - Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007  
 6-10 p.m.

Won't it be nice to play in the snow without having to shovel your driveway? Winter Wonderland weekend will feature a children's snow field, so bring the mittens and sip hot cocoa as you enjoy delightful winter fun not usually found in Arizona. One exciting highlight of the event will be ice sculptures carved right before your eyes, created by Ice Sculptures by Armitage. Between 8-9 p.m., this dazzling artwork will be made from 300 pounds of water!

More winter fun will include a free make-and-take snowflake craft, face-painting, a train ride, inflatable rides and miniature pony rides, in addition to the regular horse-drawn carriages rides offered. Arts and crafts merchandise vendors will be on hand, as well as delicious food and beverage offerings.

If you'd like to sit and watch a flick, then bring blankets to sprawl out on the grass to catch a family-oriented movie showing at 6:30 p.m. both evenings.

#### **Glendale Glitter & Glow Block Party**

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008  
 3 - 10 p.m.

#### **The Gift of Education (cont'd)**

student during the time we have spent learning together. Most importantly, though, I look forward to continuing this education program at AmeriServe; teaching and learning so that we will have a new gift to share every day.



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### How to Contact Us



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24 hours



#### By EMAIL

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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!**

**AmeriServe International, Inc. 623-584-3408**



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