



"The People Company"

Serving Persons with Special Needs Since 1998

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From the Program Director's Desk ~

During the month of October AmeriServe experienced all kinds of activity and enjoyed some new experiences.

Of note were the Youngtown Gain Event and the Wickenburg Open House. Both events sought to increase awareness about services for children and adults with disabilities and mission accomplished! I wanted to take the time to thank the people involved in preparing for and participating in each event:

Thanks to Dean Anast, Marilou Rix, Wayne Nielsen, Linda Nielsen, Candy Blackburn, Michael Pollard and everyone from Ducks in a Row.

Team work and collaboration really made a difference and made each event fun and enlightening.

Thank you also to the people who attended both events.

Thanks again and Happy November.

As always have a good month and gobble, gobble.

Michelle Shriver, Director

The Connector

Choice ~ Respect ~ Participation ~ Presence

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AmeriServe International, Inc.

Interview with Jennifer

Ameriserve International, Inc. after school program has been in service for about 2.5 years and one of the children who has been attending for a good amount of time volunteered to be interviewed for the newsletter. Jennifer has some awesome goals for her future, which she talks about a little during our time together.

Michelle: What kinds of things do you do at program?

Jennifer: Library, go into the community, movies, bowling.

Michelle: How long have you been coming to the after school program?

Jennifer: 2.5 years

Michelle: What grade are you in?

Jennifer: 12th

Michelle: What do you like about school?

Jennifer: It's fun...to see your friends and school staff.

Michelle: What is your favorite subject?

Jennifer: Math

Michelle: It is? What is your second favorite?

Jennifer: Reading

Michelle: Do you play any sports?

Jennifer: Baseball, soccer and bowling.

Michelle: Do you have a favorite?

Jennifer: Baseball

Michelle: Jennifer, do you like the people that work with you?

Jennifer: I miss some staff that used to work with me but I like the new staff too.

Michelle: Do you have a favorite?

Jennifer: You Michelle...cause you are fun!

Michelle: Oye Vay! You are just saying that! (lots of laughing happens at this point)

Michelle: Jennifer what do you want to do when you are out of high school?

Jennifer: Be a security guard or work at Ameriserve.

Michelle: How do get to be a security guard?

Jennifer: Um, I don't know.

Michelle: What skills are you working on before you get a job?

Jennifer: I need to have a good attitude and not get mad.

The AmeriServe International, Inc. After-School Program in Youngtown, AZ, has been in operation since Summer 2005.

It is a after school programming for children ages 6-21 (cut off at high school graduation). Focus on social skill

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What We Do

NEW!

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 A SUCCESS!!!

What do you get when you cross a highly motivated AmeriServe Team and extremely determined Ducks in a Row Foundation? SUCCESS.....

We had a fabulous Open House on Saturday November 27th! The team was prepared and the public responded. The response was from different sectors of Wickenburg. One area responding was the Wickenburg School District. They were happy to know that there are resources available for people with Developmental Disabilities and for those with general disabilities as well.

AmeriServe established the resources for the areas of Residential Service, Day Program and

In Home services, and extended more information regarding our new program for people with Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury and Children and Youth with special health care needs.

Ducks in a Row provided resource information from the Department of Economic Security, Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, and further viable information for those with general disabilities. They also had an opportunity to show the public that there is now an area for further Duck functions, the hub of community resource activities, if you will that is now housed in the AmeriServe Day Program located at 4020 E. Industrial Way, Suite 150, Wickenburg, Arizona 85390

The outcome was pure joy, especially to see people that needed information and did not know where to find it in the past. The attendees had an opportunity

to meet each other, exchange information; the children played games, and the adults played games of pool, which turned out to be a big hit! The Day Program was filled with people eating and enjoying the environment and that was more than anyone could ever ask for.

I want to thank my team members who supported our event and made it such a success; thank you Michelle Shriver, Wayne & Linda Nielsen, Candy Blackburn, Josh Warne, and Michael Pollard; and thank you Ducks in a Row, Marilu Rix, Dave Hayes, and Sonoma Temple, and a **special thanks to Pete Petersen of KBSZ Radio in Wickenburg for an "Around the Town" interview to help make the public aware of the open house.** Great job to everyone that was involved and made our day unique, let's do it again soon!

Dean Anast, Lead Client Service Coordinator
Wickenburg, Arizona



November/ December Activities in the West Valley

Surprise

6th Annual Surprise Party

November 30, 2007 through December 1, 2007. Address: 15850 N. Bullard Ave., Surprise, AZ 85374
Location: Surprise Recreation Campus - 8 Acre Park. Handicap Accessible: Yes
Cost: FREE!

Come celebrate with the City of Surprise for the 6th annual Surprise Party! Enjoy 2 days of fun and activities for the whole family!

Glendale

Glendale Glitters Spectacular Weekend

November 23-24, 2007, 5-10 p.m. Historic Downtown Glendale will be aglow with 1.5 million sparkling lights, and Murphy Park will be filled with entertainment, arts and crafts, delicious food and horse-drawn carriage rides.

Gingerbread Nights

Friday, Dec. 7 - Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007, 6-10 p.m.

Enjoy family fun all about ginger bread, including a gingerbread house, a gingerbread building competition, fairy tale performances and all sorts of treats to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Wickenburg

Cowboy Poetry Gathering -

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Interview with Jennifer (cont'd)

building, self-help skills and independent living skills. A peer group is provided for children where they can have a safe structured environment to learn skills with a peer group.

The After-school program is in place for building skills and providing a social environment for children to grow and flourish with peers is vital to development and growth of skills, self-esteem, community connections, and provides family support. Children can participate in

structured, fun, educational activities after school with other children with like needs.

AmeriServe provides a structured environment with the tools children need to practice goals. There is a monthly schedule of activities. There are daily scheduled times to work on homework and personal goals. The AmeriServe team prides itself on running programs and working to teach skills in different ways to suit all learning styles and needs.

We also teach that there is:

Choice: children provide input daily and monthly regarding activities and new ways to try things.

Respect: Children are respected by employees and peers and through building presence in the community are building self-respect.

Participation: The children participate in a variety of activities at program and in the community. Through participation in community activities the children

November/ December Activities in the West Valley (cont'd)

19th Annual

December 7th - 8th, 2007. Join cowboy poets the first weekend in December for offerings of poems, songs and ideas with a western theme. Noted cowboy poets will join us on the Saturday Evening Performance at the Wickenburg Performing Arts Center.

Christmas Light Parade - 11th Annual

December 14th, 2007. Join us in a hometown pre-Christmas Parade of Lights. Luminating entries in a variety of categories from stagecoaches to floats and individuals draped with colorful lights.

Goodyear

Holly Jolly Festival

December 1, 2007, 5PM-8:30 PM
Location: Goodyear Community Park
Address: 3151 N. Litchfield Rd., Goodyear AZ. 85395, Free parking and shuttle from Estrella Mountain Community College. Enjoy more than 30 tons of snow while watching some great local performers. We will have plenty of food and arts & crafts vendors. Kids will enjoy arts & crafts projects, cookie decoration, face painter and balloon twister!

Peoria

Peoria's Old Town Holiday Festival

December 7, 2007, Time: 5 PM - 9PM
Location: Peoria City Hall Municipal Complex. Address: 8401 W. Monroe St., Peoria, AZ. 85345. The city hall is located between Monroe St. and Cinnabar Ave. between 85th and 83rd

avenues. Entertainment, Valley wide high school choral contest, children's snow play area, unique crafters, hay wagon rides, children's crafts, cookie decorating, food booths, puppet shows and more!

Litchfield Park

Christmas in the Park,

Litchfield Park Town Center. December 8, 2007. Address: 214 W. Wigwam Blvd., Litchfield Park, AZ. 85340. Bring the whole family for this fun packed day. A Parade with Marching Bands, drill teams and floats starts at 10 a.m. going up Old Litchfield Rd. Snow, visits with Santa, Live Entertainment throughout the day, Craft Show, great food. Evening activities include a DJ, live entertainment a BBQ and great fireworks!

Phoenix

Electric Light Parade -- Theme "Holiday Lights, Starry Nights"

Dec. 1, 2007, 7 p.m. The Fiesta of Light celebration began in 1983 as part of the Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony and consisted of just five entries. Today, the Electric Light Parade attracts up to 70 entries. As many as 200,000 spectators line the parade route, and another 200,000

people view the parade on television, according to the Nielsen ratings.

The parade route will be approximately two miles long. The parade will begin at Central Avenue at Montebello

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WEST VALLEY AREA

November events

Nov.7-8

Phoenix-Maricopa Bowling Tournament

North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix
Bethany Home Road and Central Ave.,
Phoenix, 85013

Nov.10th

Phoenix-Maricopa Soccer Tournament

Rose Mofford Sports Complex, Phoenix
9833 N. 25th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
85021. (602) 495-5047
Left side of I-17 heading north between
Dunlap Ave. and Peoria Ave.

December events

Dec. 3,4,5

Holiday Tree Decorating Party at

Heritage Square, Phoenix
Heritage Square is located at 6th St. and
Monroe St., Phoenix, AZ. 85003
(602) 534-2243

Dec. 7-8

Special Olympics Arizona Holiday Classic

Bowling, Soccer, Cycling, Flag Football
No location has been provided at this
time.



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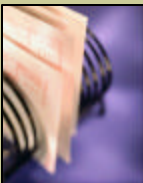
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Support Options

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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