



# MARCH 2020

## Welcome New Employees!

**Carlos Delacruz, DSP**  
**Amanda Delgado, DSP**  
**Luis Gallegos, DSP**  
**Yazmin Gutierrez, BLS**  
**Annette Hecker, DSP**  
**Andrea Lopez-Henderson, Beh Asst**  
**Audrey Mays, DSP**  
**Faith McCarroll, DSP**

**Sheila Mejia-Tatman BLS**  
**Anthony Neil, BLS**  
**Dajea Palacios, DSP**  
**Leticia Sperry, Admin Asst**  
**Heidi Taylor, Beh Admin**  
**Gabriel Verzani, DSP**  
**Richard Wilson, DSP**

### ***A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO...***

***Submitted by Grant Jackson***

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month and is a time for us to reflect on the accomplishments of the amazing people we are lucky enough to support here at STRIVE.

It's all too common in our country that people who experience a disability have unjustified stigmas placed upon them by society and face widespread discrimination that attempts to stifle their ability to succeed. We need to step up and help our community see and fully understand that having a developmental disability does NOT mean that someone has less worth in society, is less capable or is unable to be independent and experience all the joys and emotions, the highs and lows that come along with being human. Everyone experiences life differently. Our life experiences and sense of self are as varied as can be and are what truly make life worth living.

Developmental Disability Awareness Month isn't a time where we show pity for our fellow community members, it's a time where we celebrate having them as part of a diverse and wonderful community. We need to show the community that inclusion matters, for everyone, regardless of our differences. A community that is rich in humanity, that values inclusion and shows true respect for people who experience developmental disabilities is a community that I want to live in.

### ***DEPARTMENT UPDATES...***

***PR/DEVELOPMENT...***

***Submitted by Doug Sorter***

#### **Striving for Success:**

We had a great turn out at our STRIVING for Success luncheon thanks to our Foundation Board members. It's a one hour exactly luncheon and we go through most of what the agency does.

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**Vocational:**

- Alida's Fruits is starting to take shape and there are several individuals who are
- applying for the jobs that are available.
- The Botanical Gardens are gearing up for spring and the weather looks like sunshine!
- The woodshop is becoming the go to spot in town for corn hole boards, so if you
- want custom corn hole boards woodshop is the place.

**Grants:**

We are working on several grants currently, to name a few:

- CDBG
- US Bank
- Kenneth King

**Find the fun in STRiVE:**

We have had several fun activities with concert tickets, City Market Gift card, Movie Ticket GIVE AWAYS. That's right, employees have had loads of chances to win all kinds of fun stuff. Our last concert ticket give away, was a scavenger hunt where 2 tickets to Fitz and The Tantrums and 6 tickets to Stones vs Beatles were handed out. It was super fun for all those who participated.

**Community Outreach*****Submitted by Cindy Willms***

- I am excited to announce that we are currently working with Fusion Marketing Group to update and revamp our brochures. This is a large endeavor and will be completed in phases. The first phase, which is currently underway, will include Alida's, Uniquely Yours and Host Homes. An updated logo for Alida's incorporating STRiVE is part of the project.
- We are also working on a series community outreach videos with an up-and-coming local video producer. Currently we are in production on a video highlighting our clients in STRiVE's Community Employment Program. It is with great pride that we are able to showcase these individuals contributing to our community!
- Spring is right around the corner which means so is our big fundraiser, Tulips & Juleps Derby Watch Party. The event will be Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00pm to 6:00pm at The Botanical Gardens. We are gearing up for another amazing year. Proceeds from this event benefit the amazing work being done by our Early Intervention Services. A big thank you to our Presenting sponsor, Rosecap Investments, along with our Title sponsors, Timberline Bank, Subaru and Valley Surgical. If you happen to do business with these fine establishments, don't be afraid to thank them for supporting STRiVE!

**VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS...****2850 Chipeta*****Submitted by Peggy Gordon***

February was a big month for all of us!!! All of the programs at 2850 Chipeta worked on a float for the Lion's Day parade. The theme was "Rock of Ages," and the theme of

our float was "Kiss." We made cardboard flames that went around the whole truck and trailer, and painted faces of each of the band members. There was a drum set on the trailer, and some of the staff dressed up as 80's rock stars. All the individuals were so proud that we came in first place!!! We also helped setup and build the Lion's Club carnival, by building shelves, putting together food bags, and putting out the pies, cakes and soda. Lots of fun was had by all.



**Fruitvale**  
**Submitted by Kelly Lupo**  
**Wellness and Active Wellness**

Wellness and Active Wellness worked on Valentines activities throughout the month! This included baking cookies, strawberry cakes, making heart crafts, and watching and listening to romantic films and movies. We spend a few days cleaning up the courtyard and getting some fresh are when the days warmed up. We also celebrated Valentine's day as a whole 508 group.

**Uniquely Yours**

Uniquely Yours was busy making beautiful valentines crafts to sell on the floor. We also got some recent community contracts with honey and postcards. We have been working hard on moving new items out on the floor and getting ready for spring.



**1505 Chipeta**  
**Submitted by Casey Gordon**  
**Coffee Klatch**

- This February has been a good one. At the Art Center, we made a heart exhibit that took second place. Everyone's pieces were amazing. I was very happy to see SM contribute to

the exhibit. We also began another project at the Art Center, "Student Rebuild", which aims to donate \$3 to every piece made to help fight child hunger.

- Baking has stayed on track and everyone is participating, we made cheesecake, brownies and cookies. The individuals also decorated brown bags, which we filled with sandwiches, chips, and water. We took the bags to the park and distributed them to the homeless. They really enjoyed the sense of helping another person out.
- As always, bowling has been great. PA has joined us this month. They enjoyed bowling with this larger group. Everyone is doing Karaoke now, including PS, who is coming out of his shell when it comes to singing.
- On Wednesdays we learn about foreign cultures. This month we learned about, Italy, Rome, Russia and Polynesia. LS and AH are a great new addition to the group.

I look forward to another fun month with this group and to watch them improve their skills.

### **Performing Arts**

- This month we did a number of activities. Throughout the month you could really see everyone's growth and creativity continue to blossom. Over the last few months, the group also worked on the heart exhibit at the Art Center will be involved with the "Student Rebuild" project.
- Mondays Photography group is beginning to understand different photo styles and have begun experimenting with different angles as well as changing ISO settings and with the weather fluctuating so much, we were able to capture beautiful landscape photos. Tuesdays we have been going bowling with Coffee Klatch and then finish the day with karaoke.
- Wednesdays are fun filled days full of crafts, and an outing to the Art Center. We have recently been learning of different countries and their culture as well as their geographical characteristics.
- On Thursdays we work on motor skills, help with Kids Aid and meditate in the afternoon. We have also begun going on biweekly lunch outings, as well as, helping prepare PB & J sandwiches to deliver to the homeless. Friday is another Art center day, as well as karaoke in the afternoon. We finished off the month with amazing friends, a million laughs and most importantly fun experiences with peers.

### **Healthy Body, Healthy Minds**

- The month of February was a fun and busy month. Everyone enjoys playing pool at Bank 8 on Monday mornings. Angel Brewer has shown improvement in her game.
- The group averaged 2 – 2 ½ miles of walking the Mall every Tuesday this month.
- Healthy Body Healthy Mind volunteers their time bagging food at Canyon View Church. Web bagged 60 - 90 bags of food for the needy every Wednesday. Our programs also volunteer their time bagging food for Kid's Aid for two schools in the valley. This month we bagged four 450 bags of food.
- All our guys continue to improve their Archery skills every week. It is an activity they all enjoy on Thursday afternoon.

- On Wednesday and Friday mornings, we go to the Fruita Rec Center for swimming and exercising. MG joined our Wednesday group and he works out on the exercise equipment at the Rec Center. Healthy Body, Healthy Mind finished our month Friday afternoon with a nice walk at Salt Wash Park in Fruita.

## Teller/Belford

*Submitted by Amber Stuble*

### Labor Solutions

Over here individuals are doing what they do best shredding the day away, and having fun doing it. Shredding anywhere from 6-12 pounds of paper a day. They celebrated Valentine's Day having a small party and making clay valentines. In the mix of all this they openly welcomed a new staff member to their team



### Milestones-

Individuals worked hard creating an ocean for February's room theme. We celebrated Valentine's Day by making special heart fish for our ocean. Individuals are working on different skills and personal goals whether it be getting up and walking around more, distinguishing shapes, or learning to set the coffee pot.



### Retirement

We've been kicked backed and relaxed enjoying the life of golden retirement. They threw a party for Valentine's Day and enjoyed eating cupcakes. Individuals here spend their day how they would like. Many spend their time doing crafts, listening to music, or watching television.



### Sweet Beginnings

The month of February was a good one for this program introducing candles into the array of products that they make as well as continuing their crocheting and making soaps. They have even brought some new and interesting scents for men into the mix such as Dirt, Leather, Tobacco, Campfire, and many more!



### **Sweet Success-**

Individuals and staff worked hard baking their always delicious cookies and selling them at 790. They also began creating beautiful cakes for the Lion's Club. They celebrated Valentine's Day with chocolate covered strawberries. While doing all this, they even developed a new recipe for popcorn balls. These delicious treats come in multiple flavors and are gluten free!



### **Reception**

#### ***Submitted by Annastacia Schollian***

- Next time you are at 790 Wellington, please take a moment to say hello to the hard-working reception staff. In addition to greeting, directing, and interacting with visitors to STRiVE, reception is working with all departments to learn both new administrative skills, and polish up on their existing office skills.
- Reception has been working with HR, Training and other departments to assist in daily administrative tasks, as well as special projects. If your department has a project that you would like help with, please email [wasplund@strivecolorado.org](mailto:wasplund@strivecolorado.org) for details on how to get it scheduled.

### ***FINANCES...***

#### ***Submitted by Chris Bergquist***

- We met with our auditing firm last week and found out our assigned firm Partner is retiring 4/1/20. She is being replaced by someone we have worked with for several years so feel that we are good hands with Dave Studebaker, our new EB assigned partner. Dave is very familiar with our organization.
- Recently, we have felt that our Microsoft Dynamics support has been lacking. We have made the decision to hire Sally Higgins to be our Microsoft Dynamics support partner. She is replacing RSM who had grown too big to supply us with the needed support

### ***BEHAVIORAL & CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY...***

#### ***Submitted by Christina Cruz***

- Spring is in the air. Please take time to enjoy the sunshine and the fresh air.
- The Behavior Department would like to welcome 3 new staff: Heidi Taylor - Admin. Assistant., Sheila Mejia-Tatman – Behavior Line Staff, and Anthony (Tony) Neil – Behavior Plan Specialist/Behavior Line Staff.
- As of March 1<sup>st</sup>., Christina Cruz is the Regional Liaison for the AAIDD (American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities). This is a great addition and asset for the Strive team and organization.
- March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is a time where our great nation reflects on the achievements of people who have developmental disabilities. Many people still assume because one is disabled, it means that they need help with everything. Or they aren't bright enough for school or get a job. Or they can't find love, get married and have kids on their own. This is why months' such as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month are important for the public. They spotlight the disability community and show how people with developmental disabilities live normal lives. In return, the public can learn how they can help people with developmental disabilities achieve their dreams.

#### **Tidbits of Knowledge on Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)...**

- An estimated 1.7 million people sustain a TBI annually.
- Falls are leading cause of TBI, accounting for over 40.5% of all TBI-related emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and deaths in the United States.
- Colorado ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation for fatalities due to a TBI.

### ***Early Intervention...***

#### ***Submitted by Jennifer Cutts***

- Early Intervention currently has 196 families on its docket.
- We are shoulder deep in our community and loving it. Having a complete Service Coordinator staff has helped us connect with families to provide support, services and resources. Providers and therapists are changing the world every day with their coaching of parents in helping their children within their everyday routines. They are an amazing group.
- It's with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to a one of our provider team member's, Jess, as we wish her our best in her future endeavors. We will miss you.

### ***MDS RESOURCE COORDINATION...***

#### ***Submitted by Kayla Purdy***

- For the month of February, we had 2 children approved for the CES waiver. Our Intake Team is still working hard at getting more individuals enrolled into services each month!
- This month the Case Management Department wants to recognize Ashleah Yates, Connie Reust, and Brittney Lauer from



Ariel for working very hard to maintain services for an individual. They made this a top priority and did their part in supporting the individual. Thank you all!

- We received approvals for 2 emergency enrollments into the DD Waiver in February, we did not receive any approvals to enroll via the ASAA wait list.
- In February, there were 2 SIS's completed for the month. We continue to work on getting more individuals enrolled into services.

BIRTHDAYS	
DAY	STAFF
1	Mary Francks
2	Rebecca Ponda
5	Kiel Lynn, Ed Madaris
6	Lisa Vargo
7	Mickey Burns
8	Kat Goodwin
9	Charles Dawson
10	Brandy Gebbie
13	Yvonne Renova
14	Shana Green
17	Karissa Belden, Jenna Grako
19	Kaylee Deem
20	Kyle Vansetten
21	Joe O'Connor
22	Ruby Gutierrez
26	Ashley Moriarity
27	Sharon Francis, Brittney Gardner, Troy Moyer
28	Brielle Farrell
29	Gavin Campbell, Logan Mason
30	Bekah Wampler
31	Angie Eustice, Doug Sorter, Tanya Workman

ANNIVERSARIES	
YEAR	STAFF
1	Brady Bruns, Tyler Castle, Catherine Coomer, Lisa Ellis, Ellise Gonzales, Anabelia Hegwood
2-4	Tracy Brown, Alexandra Daranyi, Sandra Mendoza, Stewart Page, Maria Safken, Doug Saterlund, Caleigh Zedicher
5	Jeff Fouts, Sharon Francis
6-9	Christina Cruz, Lauren Heath, Vanessa Roberts, Michelle Roe, Doug Sorter, Chris Woods