



“The word “Alegria” can be translated as happiness, joy, gladness, contentment and satisfaction.”

June 2014

Semi Annual Newsletter

Executive Director's Update

In 2013 the Alegria team worked hard to make our residential and day program services solid and consistent agency wide. We have accomplished this through more frequent and effective trainings, such as The Mandt System® (which will be high-lighted later in this newsletter), increased quality assurance, and various programs to motivate our team to be creative in supporting the residents we serve. As we move into our 9th year of operation we feel confident that we can now consider expanding our services. In the first quarter of 2014 we submitted proposals for new services. We have also begun offering selected provider trainings. Our Nursing Manager, Ashton Paul RN, has developed a course on Common Health Issues Affecting Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, and in June we are scheduled to provide a course on a crisis intervention method, in collaboration with Mandt, through the Regional Center CTEC program. It's fun to think about new possibilities and Spring/Summer is such a wonderful time for “growth” ...we are looking forward to an exciting 2014. We'll keep you posted as new ideas unfold!



ALEGRIA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Richard Caldwell, Partner Triumph Investment Group and Triumph Real Estate Corporation

Diana Jorgensen LCSW, Past-Director Developmental Disabilities Council & Board of Supervisors' appointee to Area Board 5

Jeanne King, former President of the Board of Directors for the Regional Center of the East Bay and parent advocate

ALEGRIA CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING TEAM MEMBERS!

Promotions/New Hire Updates

John Gutierrez LVN, Lead Staff - Jasmine Home

Jennifer Yun MFTI, Home Administrator II, Therapy

Intern – Sand Beach Home



Here's John Gutierrez leading a presentation at the All Staff Meeting in May 2013.

In 2013 we have had some new employees join Alegria – welcome to our team!

Shady Spring Home

Jessa Alberto

Dichondra

Armando Bautista

Fernando Fernandez

Otis

Ferdinand Delacruz Suyat

Try Phiri

Stonehedge Home

Monique Alana

Kenny Canlas

Jasmine Home

Kenisha Carter

Angela Ramirez

Myra Soriano

Sand Beach

Rommel Mangila

Synne Prasad

Manuel Manalili II

Paulo Dayao

Fairfield Home

Michael Young

Ashiana Ali

Ejere Elekwachi

Sheenal Kartika Charan

Rodney Voloria

New Meridian Day Program

Dax Olvido

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 5, 2014 6 p.m. - Developmental Disabilities Council Annual Dinner Celebration - Scotts Seafood, Jack London Square (for more info contact Sandi Soliday (510) 267-3261

July 30, 2014 - Alegria All Staff Meeting - Save the date! Location TBA.

Schedule for Upcoming Alegria Community Support Committee Meetings. These meetings are held at The Regional Center of the East Bay every other month. For more information please contact us (510)287-8488.

July 7, 2014

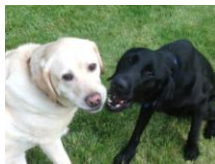
September 8, 2014

November 3, 2014



Dr. Lisa Keliher, the owner of Innovative Perspectives, a behavioral consulting firm providing services to Alegria, welcomes a new addition to her team. Meet Romeo. Romeo will be assisting Dr. Keliher in her work with adults with developmental disabilities, and in working

with our veterans. He is also good friends with Elan, our very own Canine Companion for Independence. Elan and Romeo are hard at play...who says therapy dogs don't get to have fun? For more information regarding Dr. Keliher's work you can contact her at drkeliher@gmail.com.



THANK YOU to BATH AND BODY WORKS

Store #0375, Stonestown Galleria for their very generous donations to the individuals we support. We received lovely scented shampoos & conditioners, body washes, hand sanitizers, body polishes and even self tanning gels. A special thank you to Laura Kalmon, friend of Alegria, for making this connection. Our homes and residents have never had softer skin or smelled better!

Laura has been an advocate and friend of the individuals we serve...volunteering her time for our various events (as a face painter at our annual

picnic). She so clearly understands that people with a disability should be regarded with the same courtesy and respect as anyone else. She touches others with this knowledge wherever she goes. Thank you Laura!

ALEGRIA ALL-STAFF CHALLENGE!

Our Alegria team members work hard to be creative and to keep the individuals we support engaged in both their home life and in the community. Alegria has been very successful over the last several years in supporting our clients to attend activities in their community. It's always difficult to keep life interesting at home. Over the years in this field, I have visited many homes and have been saddened to see residents sitting in front of the TV for hours on end. Of course, there will be some down time, but it shouldn't be the only form of sensory input in our lives. Not only does it improve the quality of life of the people we serve but it makes our work much more rewarding and meaningful. In an attempt to address this issue in the Alegria homes we decided to challenge our team to share with us ways that they truly make a difference in the lives of the individuals we serve in our homes. (Not just in the community but actually in the residents' homes.) We received several fantastic entries and it was difficult to choose a "winner". The team selected their favorite entry (by secret ballot) at our annual All Staff Meeting in 2013.

First off, we want to congratulate everyone who entered. All of the stories that were shared were lovely examples of how we can be truly engaging with the clients we serve.

STAFF'S CHOICE - The 1st place winners of this contest were Elizabeth Jolivet and Janny Agoot.

They compiled a very special video showing their interactions with a resident we serve who requires very intensive behavioral support. In this video, she is singing and dancing with her team mates. It was truly beautiful to watch and is what makes this work worthwhile. Thank you Elizabeth and Janny!

Other submissions included:

2nd place -

"The Shady Spring Drive-In" - Danny Martinez.

He worked with the team to create a "drive-in" type atmosphere, popcorn, and huge movie screen with a projector. Family members joined in on the fun and were interviewed for the video.

3rd Place –



“Barbara’s Journey to 5K” – Qin Ma worked with one of our residents to jog/walk a 5 K in her community. She made it! Qin took this opportunity to chronicle it in a lovely diary for Barbara.

“Sharing Music”- Davis Kamugisha

A beautiful video with Davis sharing songs from his culture with our residents.

“Pizza Time” – Najia Alemi & Rachel Egbuonu

A pizza party.....truly Italian style with checkered table cloths and all! The residents made their own pizzas and really enjoyed them.

“Fitness Time” – Tewa Keifa shared a terrific video of a dance workout she leads with one of our Dichondra residents!

“Fairfield Spa” – Patinawar Tedja provided us with photos and a story of one of the Fairfield residents who enjoys a foot spa and pedicure. He looked so relaxed – he needs to purchase a spa robe and slippers!

“Swing Low Sweet Chariot” - Jayne Uchendu shared her lovely voice with us – singing to one of the residents.

“Scrap Booking” – Sharilyn Treas shared her very creative scrap booking work with one of the ladies we serve at Sand Beach.

“Working for the Queen of Stonehedge” – John Gutierrez shared a presentation with the group which was both humorous and insightful regarding his excellent work with a resident from Stonehedge.

“Brian and the Blue Tape” - Lacey Popichak shared how her team discovered that one of the residents LOVES blue tape and games that he will play for hours. Sometimes it’s the simple things in life that are the most beautiful.

New Training at Alegria!

Emily Matias (upper right) and Elizabeth Jolivet (lower left) are pictured here celebrating the completion of their 1 week instructor training for The Mandt System®. Mandt is a crisis intervention training that is new to California. The model addresses crisis intervention with a focus



on prevention, and the relationship between the staff and the clients they serve. So far the evaluations from staff are excellent.

Alegria will be offering a Mandt Training at the Regional Center on June 19th and 20th from 9:30 – 4:30. Participants will receive a 1 year certification. Contact The Regional Center of the East Bay regarding their CTEC program or call us at Alegria (510) 287-8488 for more information.

The Alegria Friends and Family Annual Picnic

This year we hosted our annual picnic “Hawaiian” style. We had a special demonstration from “Lick Your Eye Balls”, a very cool



reptile show. We also had Hawaiian dancers who got everyone up to hula dance. Many thanks to Sarah Longduriyang for all of her party planning. It was a fun time!



The Holidays at Alegria

Thanks to Shady Spring for again hosting a lovely holiday party and to Mr. Serpa (the best Santa Claus ever)!



The staff also had an opportunity to celebrate at a fantastic place in Berkeley, Marica Restaurant.

***Alegria Team, Residents, Friends
& Families – Good Times!***



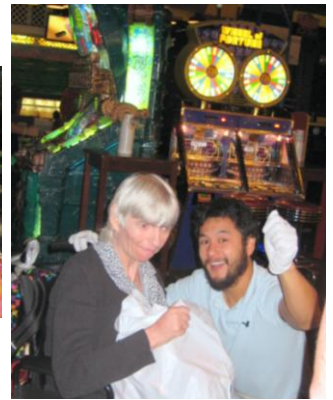
Willie plays a mean drum.



***Vicki and Elaine love
riding roller coasters!***



***Mrs. Hansen and her
daughter Judy enjoying
the picnic!***



***Keith and Elaine's big win
at the casino.***



***Alegria welcomes our
newest resident!***



***Staff and residents get
their hula on.***



***Jeffrey inspecting a tank
at the Naval Base.***



***Keep the money comin!
Bruce cashing in.***



1440 Broadway, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 287-8488
www.alegriaclo.org