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B-4 Day Program and Residential Services

Owner/Director Joyce Armstrong
129 Colorado Ave. Pueblo, Co 81004
719-542-2688

First Day of business: June 1, 2008

B-4 Services was formally PALS ACF and Day Program. Joyce Armstrong worked for PALS for six years. When the owners, Patrick Armstrong and Lisa Rodriguez (formally Waldero), chose to take their lives in other directions, Joyce was offered the Day Program and Residential Home and she gladly accepted.

Many people have asked why the name of the company is B-4. Here is the explanation: When the original company first opened its doors they had three individuals. Every week these three wanted to play bingo and so they did. Every time an employee would call the letter B and number 4, one of them would say, "Before What?" and all three would laugh like it was the funniest thing they had ever heard. To this day, when Bingo is played, someone will hear B4 and say "Before What?"

B-4 Day Program and Residential Service offer Specialized Day Habilitation, Supported Living Services, and one staffed PCA Home in Pueblo West. B-4 is still a small agency and would like to increase its Day Program and expand more in residential services.

IN TOUCH

-a publication of Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc.

Fall 2008

COLORADO STATE FAIR WINNERS

CBE Mission: We believe that all people have the right to live, learn and work in the community with the same hope, dignity, choices, opportunities and responsibilities accorded all citizens. Pueblo Community Resources Day Program has truly met this mission. It provides ceramic classes three days a week to the consumers who attend the day program. Every year the consumers are allowed to pick a ceramic piece to enter into the Colorado State Fair Art Show. Many of the consumers were previously told that they would never be able to do ceramics as a result of their disabilities. These individuals have been able to learn and work toward success. Three years ago one of the consumers was only able to paint dots or spots. He had no technique or education in ceramics and many believed that was all he could ever do. As a result of the assistance from his class instructor, Shawna Bachmeier, he was able to secure a first place award in this year's Colorado State Fair Art Show. Shawna has been able to learn and identify ways to modify items like paintbrushes so that those who have physical challenges, such as cerebral palsy, are able to succeed.

Shawna knows and believes in our mission. This is why she entered our consumers' ceramic projects into the general art show instead of



Sitting: Kathy Iverson, Jim Bunn
2nd Row: Melanie Cole, Ray Marquez, Debbie Romero, Alfred Romero, Irene Chavez
Third Row: Irene Montano, Theron Willson, Shawna Bachmeier, Debbie Jones, Mary Medina
Not Pictured: Cindy Chavez, Jenna French

into the section designated for people with disabilities. The judges had no idea that any of the contestants had disabilities. This year there were four 1st place winners, Jenna French, Kathy Iverson, Raymond Marquez, and Irene Montano, and five 2nd place winners, Jim Bunn, Mary Medina, Alfred Romero, Theron Willson and Debbie Jones. Debbie Jones entered two ceramic pieces which both won 2nd place. The three 3rd place winners are Debbie Romero, Irene Chavez, and Melanie Cole. Cindy Chavez

placed 4th in the Art Show. We are so proud of the accomplishments of these consumers and hope that they will continue to move forward.

I was so amazed when I heard that one of the consumers that I work with had won 1st place in the general section of the Colorado State Fair Art Show. I was even more excited when I heard that a large number of individuals with development disabilities had also placed. I think that many times we put limitations on these individuals without considering their true potential, but it is obvious that they can continue to surprise us with their abilities to succeed. It is important that we remember that they have the right to live, learn and work toward success just as we do.

Stacey Carbajal

- *In-Service Day*
 - *Colorado State Fair Winners*
- In This Issue...*

Address Service Requested

115 West 2nd Street
Pueblo, CO 81003



Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc.

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Mission Statement

We believe all persons have the right to live, learn, and work in the community with the hope, dignity, choices, opportunities and responsibilities accorded all citizens.

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IN-SERVICE DAY

Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. held its 28th annual In-Service Day Workshop on September 11, 2008 at the Sangre De Cristo Arts and Conference Center. The guest speaker was Albert Mensah, an internationally known motivational speaker. The workshop was free of charge. The only request was

for donations of school supplies, personal hygiene products, and croc shoes which will be sent to a village in Africa.

There were thirteen booths in the lobby of the Sangre De Cristo Arts and Conference Center from various Pueblo businesses exhibiting their products. Each of the booths' owners donated a gift to be given as a door prize for those attending the workshop.

In addition to the workshop, CBE gave each of its employees a certificate of appreciation for their years of service to the agency and a key chain with a charm of the world and the saying "You Make a World of Difference."



Albert Mensah

Albert Mensah was born and lived the first nineteen years of his life in Ghana (Africa). He was born in a mud hut and living far from any urban center, Albert's life was hard. When he was just a small boy, he carried water several miles each day to help his family survive.

Albert's powerful message of hope and inspiration is based on his own life experience as he shares the practical skills and tools he used to become successful. Albert believes that any person can become more successful if they can conceive a powerful dream that touches the heart of their existence. Albert's life in Africa and his amazing success since coming to America demonstrates that high achievement always begins with Aiming High in the pursuit of such a dream.

Spring/Summer 2008 Donations

Infant/Toddler Program \$100 - \$499

Avondale-Vineland Lions Club
Regina DeSalvo
Pueblo Eagles #145
Pueblo Eagles Auxiliary #145
Pueblo Elkettes
Mr. & Mrs. Ansel Gower
Debbie & Douglas Tihonovich
United Way

\$10 - \$99

Amamda Bickel
Anthony & Barbara Bravo
Anne Henne
Emma Jagger
Louie & Jenny Sosa

We would also like to thank The Chamberlian Foundation for its grant in the amount of \$7,500 to the Infant/Toddler Program.

Colorado Bluesky Foundation \$1,000 +

Sally Smith
\$500 - \$999
Logan, Thomas & Johnson
\$100 - \$499
Regina DeSalvo
\$10 - \$99
Eleanor Boyd
Elizabeth Cox & Kendra Benson
Ralph & Jeane Dille
Ruth Louise Hulsey
Jerry Jackson
Caroline & Joseph Rosales
Alan & Janell Shubert
Mary Smith
F. W. & J. P. Zugelder, Jr.

In Kind

Mary Arnold
Mark & Rose Morris

Tree of Life

Caroline & Joseph Rosales



Executive Directors Report

By

Michael F. Atlas-Acuña

This issue of *In Touch* will feature wonderful stories about some of the people we serve and the agencies that support them. Our feature service agency is B-4, a new/old agency in our community. Read the article and you will understand why they are new/old.

So what is going on in the system? Or better yet, what is not going on in the system? We continue to have a difficult time keeping up with the changes, but, to the credit of consumers, families, service agencies, and CBE staff, we have been able to tackle the challenges and maintain our sanity. While I believe change in general is good, that is not always the case. We have experienced some good outcomes, but at the same time some of the results have not benefited consumers and families. Nevertheless, we have to comply and that is what we will do while maintaining consistent services.

In the midst of all the changes occurring in the system, the ARC of Colorado's Initiative to End the Waiting List has progressed to the next level. The ARC delivered over 130,000 signatures (only needed 70,000 to be considered for the November Ballot) to the State. By now you should have received a letter from Stephanie Garcia, Arc of Pueblo, and me requesting your support to end the Waiting List. Please educate all your friends about the importance of this issue. This is not a Republican or Democratic issue, but an issue of persons with developmental disabilities who need services. We are certain that the Initiative will make the November ballot so please encourage your friends to vote **YES**.

Over the past three years the system has been changing and most of those changes have occurred in Comprehensive Services. While more needs to be done by the State in that area, the next focus of Medicaid adjustments will be in Supported Living Services program. It is important that everyone involved with this service stay informed about the status of the program. As we receive information I will ensure that it is passed on to consumers, families, and service providers. The more informed we all are the better equipped we will be to address future challenges.

Enjoy this issue of *In Touch*.

The following winter donations were not recognized in the Spring 2008 *In Touch*. Please accept our apologies for this oversight.

Dave & Sue Crockenberg	I/T
Linda Garcia	I/T
Knights of Columbus #12720	I/T
Mel & Heather Otero	I/T
Paul & Maxine Palermo	I/T
Pueblo Bank & Trust	I/T
United Way	I/T
Stephen & Annette Warfield	I/T
Jan & Ralph Williams	I/T

CONTRIBUTION CARD

Name of Donor _____ Day Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Donation: \$10 ____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ \$250 ____ Other \$ _____

Please make check payable to: **Colorado Bluesky Foundation**
and mail to: **115 West Second Street, Pueblo, CO 81003**

Please apply my donation to: **Infant Toddler Program** _____ **Foundation** _____ **OR**
Tree of Life Engraved Apples _____ (\$50.00 each) **Number of Apples** _____ **Total Amt. Enclosed \$** _____

Please engrave the apple(s) as follows (up to 45 letters per apple) _____

Please inform _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ that a donation has been made in honor/memory of: _____