

# Beacon TIMES

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Beacon Group



Beacon Group client Brian Westover (left) and Safeway Store Manager Marian Huber

## Beacon Focuses on Developing Business Partnerships

### New Partnership with Safeway Creates Jobs for Beacon Clients

The success of Beacon Group's training and employment programs is ultimately predicated on the relationships Beacon develops and fosters within the business community.

As a result of fostering business partnerships, people with disabilities who participate in Beacon's programs have more choices, and Beacon is able to better match their expressed needs

and desires with the opportunities that are available.

One of Beacon's newest business partnerships is with Safeway, which has made a company-wide commitment to hire persons with disabilities. Safeway heard about Beacon's efforts to expand employment opportunities for people with disabilities and immediately envisioned a potential business partnership.

Joe Bribiesca,

Employment Services Specialist for Beacon Group; Betty Stewart, Safeway's Human Resources Employment Specialist; and Marian Huber, a Store Manager at a Safeway store in Tucson, cultivated the partnership. Through their efforts, in less than two months, Safeway stores throughout Tucson hired four Beacon Group clients. Two additional clients will begin working at Safeway in

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## 55th Year Brings Many Changes

**B**eacon Group SW, Inc. started out as Homecrafters more than 55 years ago. While many changes in names, facilities and services have been made since the early 50s, our mission has remained constant: to provide quality vocational opportunities to people with disabilities.

The year ahead promises additional growth and change in keeping with the promotion of that mission. On the forefront of physical changes in 2007 will be the move into our new building, nearly doubling our space with the 34,000 sq. ft. addition. This will be the first opportunity since the 2003 merger of Beacon Foundation and Tetra Corporation to unite all of our in-house clients under one roof. The new facilities will allow expanded opportunities for the work and training needed to broaden client vocational skills. You will have an opportunity to become an integral part of the expansion!

The new format in this newsletter, filled with more client and business photos, is an attempt to showcase our ever-growing opportunities for clients and customers. As you review the articles, you will be able to see firsthand the personal life changes for our clients

and their success stories, as well as the variety of services we offer to business customers. We invite you to view the growth and expansion of our document destruction business (Beacon Secure); to learn about the two new Davis Monthan Air Force Base contracts; and to be introduced to the new Web site at [www.thebeaongroup.org](http://www.thebeaongroup.org).

Being in business for 55 years is a great accomplishment and we take great pride in reaching that milestone! Ahead lays the challenge of meeting the needs of the future. We invite you to stop by for a tour to see for yourself the ever-changing, ever-improving programs and facilities, and to actually see our clients at work. We offer you the opportunity to join us in the exciting effort to provide top quality rehabilitation services to people with disabilities for our next 55 years!



Steve King, President



From left to right: Beacon Vice President Chuck Tiller, Beacon President Steve King and Impact host Lupita Murillo

### Beacon Featured on Local News Program

The local KVOA Sunday morning show, *Impact*, recently featured the Beacon Group and its partnership with Safeway. Beacon President Steve King and Vice President Chuck Tiller joined *Impact* host, Lupita Murillo, for the broadcast, which aired on Oct. 29.

Betty Stewart, Human Resources Employment Specialist for Safeway, also talked about the store's recent hiring of a number of people with disabilities through Beacon's Job Development and Placement Program.

— Patrick McCarthy



Betty Stewart (left), Safeway Human Resources Employment Specialist, and Lupita Murillo, Impact host

### SAFEWAY

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the near future.

Looking ahead, Safeway has indicated that it will be able to provide additional employment opportunities for the people Beacon serves. The Beacon staff extends its sincerest gratitude to Stewart, Huber and the other

Safeway store managers for their efforts. Beacon looks forward to the opportunity to expand its newly developed partnership as it continues to develop more employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

— Chuck Tiller



Beacon Secure hosted a free shred day for Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard.

## Beacon Secure Provides Free Shredding for AZ Attorney General's Shred-A-Thon

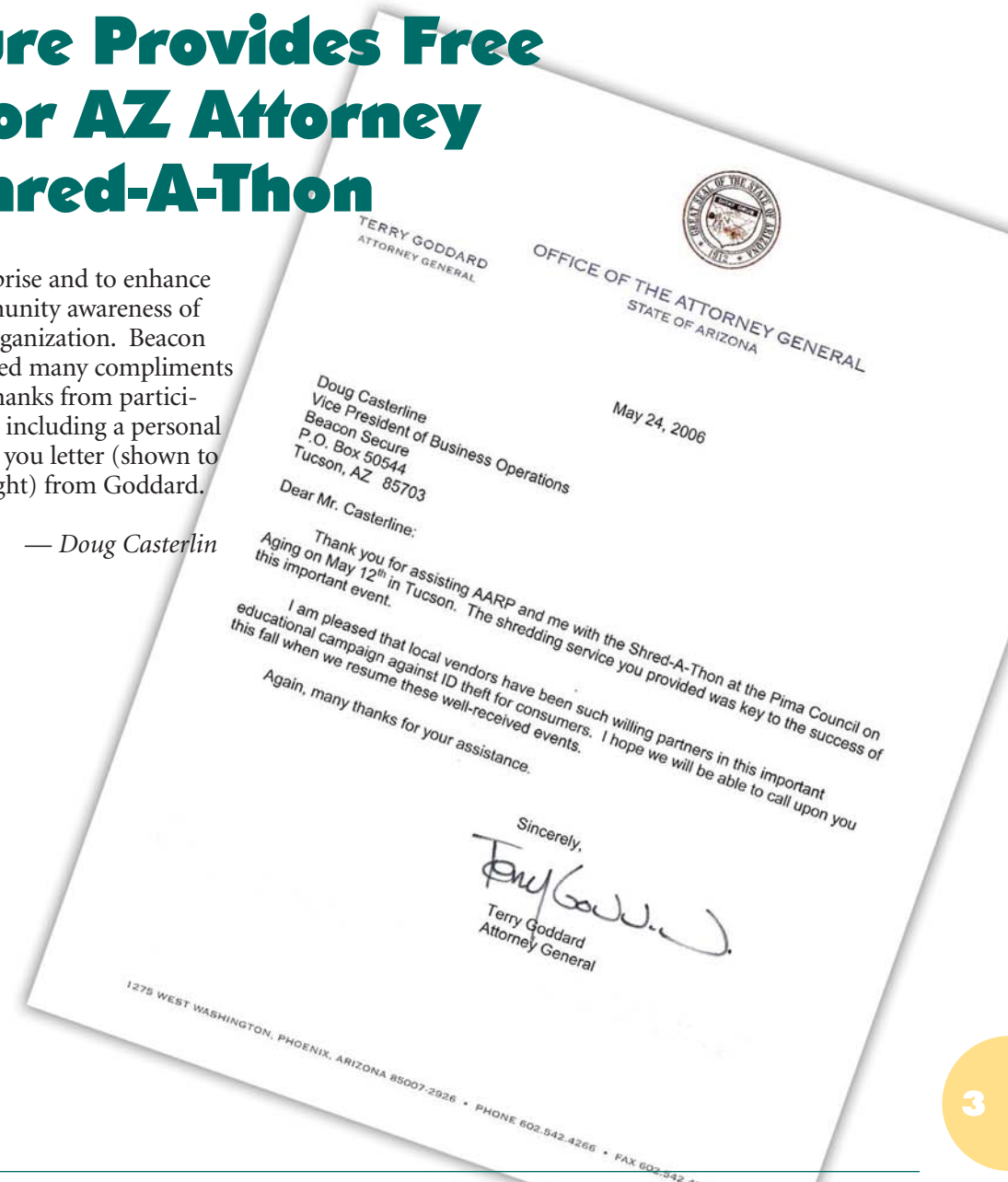
**A**rizona Attorney General Terry Goddard sponsored a free shred day last spring at the Pima Council on Aging offices at 8467 E. Broadway. The Attorney General's Office selected Beacon Secure from among many shredding vendors to participate in the event, which was held on May 12.

As the day began, a line of cars began forming in the Council on Aging parking lot. Beacon staff and clients were on-hand to take the bags and boxes of documents from the cars and place them on Beacon's secure document destruction facility.

The day was a great opportunity to showcase Beacon's newest business

enterprise and to enhance community awareness of the organization. Beacon received many compliments and thanks from participants, including a personal thank you letter (shown to the right) from Goddard.

— Doug Casterline



## Barbara Eisele Secretary



**B**arbara Eisele has generously volunteered her time to Beacon since 1997 and is the current board secretary.

Eisele said she is passionate about people being able to “fulfill their greatest potential, use their abilities and to be given the opportunity to learn and move themselves into productivity and accomplishment.”

As a successful owner of her own consulting and life coaching business, her emphasis is to work with “people in transition.” She primarily works with people who find dissatisfaction with their current work, such as women in their 50s who want work to be more meaningful in their lives.

Eisele has long been a caring, service-oriented person. Prior to establishing her coaching business, she was the head of the Health Education Department of InterGroup – the first Tucson HMO, now known as Health Net. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, a Master of Counseling degree from the University of Phoenix and Certification in Newfield Network Coaching.

Recruited by fellow board member Dee O’Neil, Eisele initially served as a director on the Beacon Foundation. Since the 2003 merger of Beacon Group and Tetra Foundation, Eisele has served on the board of directors of the Beacon Group, SW, Inc.

In addition to her work with The Beacon Group, Eisele actively volunteers many hours per week for Trees for Mt. Lemmon, an organization in which she co-founded and served as the first director. She presently serves as an active board member. She is also a member of St. Francis United Methodist Church.

Eisele, a 26-year resident of Tucson, also finds time to lead an active and full personal life. She has been married for 40 years to John Eisele, and is the mother of two adult children, Cynthia and Mike. A grandmother of two young children, Lauren and Ryan, she enjoys spending a lot of time with them at their cabin on Mt. Lemmon. Eisele’s favorite hobbies include reading, learning, hiking and traveling, and she has an insatiable curiosity about many things.

Eisele beckons to members of the Tucson community to come in and see Beacon Group for themselves. Come participate and work with Beacon’s dedicated staff and board, who all serve a unique community.

“You will see how much they can delight and surprise you and how rewarding the work can be,” she said.

—Bo Popovic



Robert Peterson performs the “pressing” operation for rivet assembly.

## Beacon Group Breaks All Records for the Production of Alcoa Fasteners

**B**eacon Group’s assembly and packaging business provides outsourced labor services for a variety of customers in Southern Arizona. Throughout the past seven years, Alcoa Fastening Systems (formerly known as Huck) has grown to become Beacon’s largest customer for this service line. For this project, Beacon assembles Alcoa Fasteners that are used in commercial jets.

Beacon learned of Alcoa’s requirement for “Zero Defects” early on. About one million of the aerospace fasteners are used in the construction of each commercial jet; therefore, the quality of Beacon’s assembly work is of the utmost importance. Every assembly has to be correct.

After attaining the contract, Beacon’s first production goal was 50,000 fasteners per day. Each day, Beacon picked-up the component parts

from Huck early in the morning and returned the completed assemblies by the end of the day.

Beacon’s partnership with Huck grew rapidly. As Beacon’s clients increased productivity and Huck increased its business with Beacon, daily production continued to increase. Each year, new record production quantities were achieved as Beacon’s clients became more and more successful, and as more and more clients became assemblers.

On Sept. 19, Beacon’s daily production reached an all-time record of 203,606. This is a wonderful achievement for all involved. The Beacon staff extends its sincerest gratitude to Alcoa Fastening Systems for its continued support. Thanks also go to Beacon’s clients, production supervisors and Ba Nguyen, Beacon production manager, for their hard work on this project.

— Doug Casterlin



## Bob Steimle Secures Competitive Employment

**B**ob Steimle was 17 years old when he began his employment with Beacon Group in 2002. His first assignment was on the car prep crew at Jim Click Nissan. Like many teenagers, Steimle had trouble focusing. He was often late for work and didn’t seem very motivated. He also often missed work altogether. Slowly, throughout his first year – with a lot of close support from the Beacon job coach – his work habits started to improve.

Steimle had experienced a hard life to that point. Having a develop-

mental disability, he had been virtually abandoned by his family. He lived in many different group homes and had many different case workers, counselors and support coordinators in his life.

But, Steimle decided to take control of his own life. He left his group home, found a roommate and moved into his own place. With his improved performance at work, Steimle asked if he could get a “real” job through Beacon. Last summer, he got his wish when a local business contacted Beacon about hiring someone. Asked if he wanted a shot at it, Steimle said, “I can do this.

No problem!” After interviewing, he was offered the job of assembling evaporative cooler pads in August. Although Steimle is a full-time employee of Aircool, Beacon provided a job coach to assist with the transition and to ensure that he could, indeed, do the work as required. Steimle’s supervisor reports that he is an excellent employee and is performing very well. Aircool is now interested in hiring additional clients through Beacon Group. Steimle now lives independently and finally has that “real” job he always wanted.

— Chuck Tiller

Bob Steimle, who has worked at Beacon Group since 2002, recently moved on to competitive employment at Aircool, where he assembles evaporative cooler pads. A job coach for Beacon Group provided close supervision and oversight throughout the transition process.

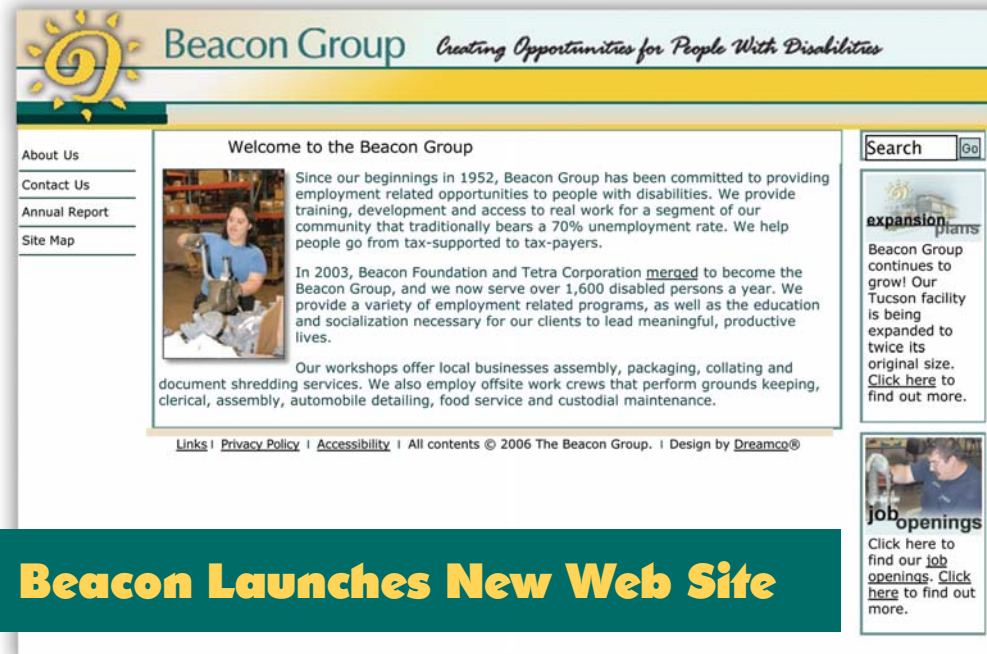
## Beacon Group Awarded Two JWOD Contracts

**N**ISH recently awarded the Beacon Group two new contracts through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. Both of the projects are for work to be performed on Davis Monthan Air Force Base. The first, which started Oct. 2, consists of recycling items such as bottles and cans. Beacon's clients, under the supervision of Laurie Rich, collect the recyclables at several locations at Davis Monthan and take them to the recycling center on base for processing.

The second contract, which will begin in February 2007, is for custodial services for the Air National Guard. For that project, Beacon Group clients will provide cleaning services at five locations. The new JWOD contracts provide employment opportunities for four new Beacon Group clients.

Through the JWOD Program, NISH awards federal contracts to community-based nonprofit organizations, providing 48,000 jobs to people with disabilities nationwide. Including those recently awarded, Beacon Group now has a total of four JWOD contracts.

- Joseph Maltos



## Beacon Launches New Web Site

**B**eacon's "new and improved" Web site is up and running at [www.thebeacongroup.org](http://www.thebeacongroup.org). In addition to program

information, color photos and staff department contacts, the site features Beacon's Annual Report and commercials about Beacon

that ran on local television last summer. So, next time you're "surfing," stop by and check it out.

## IN MEMORIAM

**B**eacon client, Pamela Ann Philabaum, born September 30, 1962, passed away on Oct. 5. She is survived by a great circle of family and friends. She was "our little social butterfly" who charmed all she met. She enjoyed working at Beacon, singing Karaoke to "her Woman" Wynonna, having her nails done and socializing with her great network of friends, especially in the pool at Fit Center and bowling with the SunBirds for Special Olympics. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given in Philabaum's memory to: St. Cyril Church or the Beacon Group.



## New Beacon Video Now Available

Thanks to a generous donation from Robert and Joan Kaye-Cauthorn, Beacon has a new, exciting video of its programs and services. The video was produced by Film Creations of Tucson and features interviews with Jim Click and Jim Pignatelli of TEP, among others. The video is 8.5 minutes long and is valuable for large or small group presentations. To request to see the video or to obtain a copy, please call Patrick McCarthy, Beacon Group, at 520-622-4874 x 166.

## STAFF RECOGNITION

### Esperanza Ramirez

**E**speranza "Espie" Ramirez has worked for Beacon since August of 1990. During that time, Ramirez has worked as a dedicated production supervisor, teaching Beacon's clients new skills and helping them to deliver the quality service Beacon is so proud of. Espie says that her favorite part of her job is working with the clients and seeing them succeed.

About a year ago, Espie answered the call for a volunteer to supervise a new project. A new customer, American Bio Medica, had

contracted with Beacon to produce drug tests, which are FDA-regulated products. A special humidity-controlled production area was built and Ramirez became the first supervisor of the "dry room." She quickly learned the complex assembly and packaging procedures, record keeping requirements and quality standards. During the past year, she has successfully trained more than 20 clients on



these new jobs and has been responsible for the successful production of 500,000 drug testing products for the customer. Congratulations Espie!

— Wendy Rosado-Toth

## Tetra Services

### Meet the Phoenix Team

**T**etra Services, a division of Beacon Group that is based in Phoenix, recently welcomed several new team members, including the individuals listed below. See the next edition (Winter 2006) of *Beacon Times* for additional bios of Tetra team members.

**LINDA RUSAY**  
*Director of Operations*  
Linda Rusay began with Tetra last June as a Career Services Coordinator. Three months later, Rusay was promoted to Director of Operations. Linda is from Buffalo, N.Y., where she was Director of the

Goodwill Technology Training Center for four years. Rusay has a master's degree in Organizational Leadership.

**JOYCE JOHNSON**  
*Career Coach*  
Joyce Johnson, "J.J.," has been with Tetra Services for more than four years as a Job Coach Specialist. She has been assisting people with disabilities for more than 20 years. Johnson left the sunny shores of California many years ago to bask in the sands of the Arizona desert. "On the Road Again," is her theme song because most of her day is spent zipping across

the Valley, assisting clients in need!

**LA TOYA SUELL**  
*Office Administrator Assistant*  
LaToya is the newest team member to Tetra Services. LaToya displays excellence in customer service and organization, but more importantly, she is the "glue" that holds everything together. Suell was born and raised in Arizona. She has almost completed her associates degree in business and plans on obtaining her bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Arizona State University.

## BEACON'S WISH LIST

**B**eacon is looking for donations of the following items, which will be used by the clients and staff in support of the organization's programs:

- 3-in-1 hand truck
- 2 Fax machines
- Laminator for 8 1/2 X 11 paper
- 2 Laser printers
- 1-2 electric hole punches
- Large paper cutter
- Photography paper cutter (8 1/2 X 11)
- Artwork/prints
- Copier paper
- Toys (new) for the Parenting Program (birth to 3 yrs.)
- Rolls of different colored butcher paper (30" or 36" width rolls)
- Loppers
- Rakes
- Gas cans
- Road hazard triangles
- Locking medication boxes
- Blankets
- Water coolers
- Sunscreen
- Work Gloves
- Client games for break time
- Educational games

# Value Village Thrift Store Celebrates 41 Years

**T**his year, Beacon's Value Village Thrift Store celebrated its 41st year in business. Since opening in April of 1965, Value Village has sold or recycled tens of millions of dollars worth of good used merchandise. All of the merchandise sold at the 300 N. 4th Avenue store is donated by Beacon's loyal supporters throughout Southern Arizona.

The merchandise is varied and treasures are



found daily. Whether you're furnishing a college apartment, putting together a Halloween costume or looking for a good bicycle, Value Village is a fun place to shop! If you don't find something on your visit, just come again next week

as the merchandise changes daily.

And, remember Value Village when you're done with your spring closet cleaning, garage reorganization or residential move. Call Jane (520-622-JANE) and she will send out a truck to pick up your good used items. The proceeds help Beacon with its programs and, in return, donors are eligible to receive a tax deduction.

— Stan Hilkemeyer

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