

Beacon **TIMES**

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BEACON GROUP

SUMMER 2009



On Friday April 24th, Beacon held our official Grand Opening for the all "new and improved" sixty-four thousand square foot

facility at Oracle and Glenn. It's been two years since the formal ground-breaking event, followed by more than a year of construction and months of finishing and furnishing the new space. It also meant closing the older Beacon Foundation facility at Drachman and Stone, which we hope to have sold or leased very soon. So, there was a lot of interest from our family and friends in seeing the new completed facility, and celebrating the final piece of our merger of two great organizations five years ago. Over 250 people were on hand to see the building and learn more about all the good work that goes on here every day.

OPEN *for* GOOD!

LEFT: Beacon client, Lynne Ursiny, welcomes Open House attendees.
BELOW: Board Chair, Skip Whitley, and President, Steve King, do Ribbon Cutting honors as Board Members, clients, family members, staff, donors and guests show their approval.



PHOTO FEATURE CONTINUES ON CENTER SPREAD

Client SPOTLIGHT

There are many benefits to employment besides the money you earn. *There really are.* This idea is the foundation for most of what we do at Beacon. Work is the vehicle we use to give people with very little, *some self-esteem, dignity and a sense of purpose.* We see the benefits everyday. Having a job—keeping to a schedule, following directions, staying focused and being productive — gives people a feeling of self-worth and an identity. Everyone, including those with developmental disabilities, needs these things to grow, develop and thrive as human beings. A clear example of the positive power of work is Matt Carlin.

Matt has been diagnosed with *Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD)*, which is a form of Autism. He is bright and can function at a high level. He can also



Matt “cleans up” his act

be combative or difficult at times, socially inappropriate and lack adequate grooming habits. All are typical behavior traits within the Autism range, but *not* good employment qualities. He also sings a lot. In fact, *all the time*, and sometimes, *very loudly*. He will stop long enough to repeat random quotes from favorite movies—over and over again. It was hard to see Matt’s high-functionality when he first came to Beacon last fall.

Matt came to Tucson last summer to live with his Aunt and Uncle. He grew up in Connecticut where he lived with his parents. When they got divorced, he lived first with his mother and then his father. His mother moved into a rural area where there were no services available for Matt. His father had health problems and could not give Matt the time and attention he needed. Matt’s Aunt Chris and Uncle Grant brought Matt to Tucson to give him a stable environment, and to find local services to help Matt progress. They really hoped that someone might be able to find somewhere Matt could work.

After Matt was approved by Vocational Rehabilitation for services, he and his Aunt and Uncle heard about Beacon Group. After their first visit, all three knew Beacon would be a good place for Matt to get the help and support he needed. His Aunt and Uncle saw Matt change immediately. He really enjoyed going

to work. His attention became more focused, his behavior more appropriate, and his productivity increased dramatically. His confidence grew by leaps and bounds. They noticed he was more cooperative and was more interested in his personal grooming.

Initially, Matt worked on rivet assembly at Beacon, where he excelled. Then he tried another position in the paper shredding operation. This was more challenging for Matt. But, instead of moving Matt back to the safety of rivets, Beacon staff had a bold suggestion. They knew Matt’s Aunt and Uncle were hoping Matt could make enough progress to at least earn minimum wage somewhere. This would give him enough income to move into a semi-independent living arrangement. Matt’s Program Manager, Wayne Bell, suggested Matt try working on the grounds keeping crew at Raytheon. If it worked out, Matt would be making minimum wage on this job.

The Carlin’s were skeptical at first since Matt never helped with work around the house and never went outside. His first day on the job, his Job Coach, Carmen Vallejo, found out Matt had never handled a shovel, or a rake, or even a broom before. No one knew if Matt could handle work like this. It was hard work and it was outside in the heat for the whole time. And there were tools!

Continues next page



STEVE KING, President/CEO

The UNKINDEST CUT of All



By the time you read this, the State of Arizona will, hopefully, have a budget approved for fiscal year 2010. It appears that there will be a rate cut to organizations like Beacon, that provide services to DD clients. If it is in the 10% range currently proposed, it will cost Beacon roughly \$400,000 a year in lost revenue. Although this would be a difficult challenge for us, we can survive this with the cost cutting we have already put into place. Everything we've done was done to have the least direct impact on programs and services to our clients.

Please be assured, during the next year Beacon will be doing all that we can to bring in more

clients, more sub-contract work, more paper-shredding customers, more community work sites, and more donations to minimize the effects of the rate cut.

Another thing we plan to keep working on is our communications with our legislators as well as our parents, guardians and family members. We need to stay involved in the political process. We've learned the hard way, through this whole budgeting process, that our clients need someone to speak for them. We can't wait for a crisis to let people know their stories, their struggles and their strengths. They have so much to offer and only ask for a chance. Denying *that* would be one cut too many.

Client Feature, continued from previous page

His Aunt and Uncle saw more positive changes in Matt from the first day he worked with Carmen on the grounds keeping crew. He loved it! Matt was happier and helped more with work at home. He gets himself up in the morning without an alarm. And now that he is earning minimum wage, Matt has moved into a semi-independent house with a roommate this month.

Work — even the simple act of cleaning up the grounds at a business — can give a person the pride and purpose they need to grow. It can change how you see yourself and how others see you. It can provide benefits that can't be measured in dollars and cents. Work is more than about making a living... *It's really about making a life!*



OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: Matt Carlin with his Job Coach, Carmen Vallejo

RIGHT: Matt and Grounds Keeping Crew get ready to clean up at Raytheon

COVER STORY CONTINUED

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!

FRIDAY, APRIL 24th, 2009



Open House guests enjoyed tours conducted by senior staff...



...and refreshments donated by Safeway



Staff took our new facility to the next level. We were grateful for the enhancements and programs that were donated. Gord and Desi



Campaign donors, like Jim Click (above, at left), received custom blown glass sculptures... created by local artist Tom Philabaum



Campaign Chair, Steve Touché (top photo, on right), was recognized for a successful "Dignity of Work" fundraising campaign



Building Campaign **UPDATE**

Beacon's new facility would not have been possible without the uncommon generosity of donors to our *Dignity of Work Building Campaign*. We want to thank and recognize those special individuals, Board Members, staff, client families, local businesses and foundations that have helped make our new showplace a reality!

**Total donations to date:
\$1,473,000**

**Final Campaign Goal:
\$2,000,000**

CONTRIBUTORS AS OF JUNE 1, 2009

\$100,000 and Up

Emerald Foundation
Jim & Vicki Click
Alayne & Bruce Greenberg
William & Mary Ross Foundation
Catherine Morton

\$25,000 and Up

Steve and Kathy King
Rick & Deborah Williams
WE Schmidt Charitable Foundation
Lovitt & Touché
Arizona Portland Cement
Snell & Wilmer
Russell Garrett Foundation
The Diamond Foundation

\$5,000 and Up

Dwight & Lille Whitley
Robert & Barbara Sadler
Eugene & Patricia Goldsmith
Steve & Perri Touche
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
Margaret T. Morris Foundation
Long Realty Cares Foundation
Seaver Franks Architects, Inc.
Brandon McCarthy/Texas Rangers
Southwest Gas Corporation
Joe & Amanda Maltos
Dan & Dee O'Neill
Cliff & Judy Wood
Barbara & John Eisele
Bank of the West
Marc & Debbie Simon

Rays of Light

Steve & Kathy King
Melissa Meicke
Ronald & Fonda Holtmyer
Glenn & Michelle Kroeger
Alan & Judith Van Brocklen
Timothy Secor
Max & Juanita Pensinger
John & Susan Nord
Hugh & Jackie Grinnell
Ann Trebon
Stan & Susan Hilkemeyer

Others

Joan Kaye Cauthorn
Sundt Foundation
Sign Age, Inc
Donald Peterson
Larry Leege
Patrick & Shannon McCarthy
Paul Lindsey/Kathy Alexander
Charitable Fund
Thomas Johnson
Ronald L Stearns
Wendy Cockerham-Bell
Roger Stutz
Denise and Ronald Ramsey
Charles and Sharon Tiller
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Tina Higdon
Jerry Harrell
Elizabeth Bryant
Suzanne D'Albini
Anneliese Frank
Linda Kezman
Gail Lutz
Ann Trebon
Donald & Robin Laidlaw
Bruce & Jenny Felber
Patio Pools Philanthropic Fund
Diane Frisch
Tanya Wilson
Timothy Secor
Robert & Frances Martin
Karl Mattes
Deborah Pucci
Helen F. Housman
Joe Bribiesca
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Elena Ardon
Elizabeth Packard
Bonnie Allin
Penny Gonzales
Benjamin Plumbing Supply
Cathy Rankin
Ortrud Scholz
Sarah Schmerl
Elizabeth H. Barksdale
Penny Dunn
Kenneth A Radbill
Marty Mendoza
Elizabeth Willis
Sue Elias
Christy McCabe
Jared Bybee
Consuelo T. Sattem
Martha Ramos

If you would like to help Beacon reach our goal by contributing to the Dignity of Work Campaign, you can send a donation in the attached envelope, or you can contact Patrick McCarthy at Beacon (622-4874, extension 166).

When
ZERO
is a
great
score!



Above: (left to right) Karl Mattes, Doreen Bejarano, and Georgia Reyes focus on quality.

When you're looking for mistakes, *less is more*. Beacon could not compete for work from local businesses if we could not assure them that we adhere to the highest quality control standards. Let's face it, when bidding on jobs to be performed by people with disabilities, your quality standards are going to be a critical issue. Being able to say you have a "zero defect standard" — and mean it — is going to make or break more deals than cost. The people responsible for ensuring a score of zero are Beacon's Quality Assurance Department (QA).

Doreen Bejarano and Georgia Reyes are Beacon's full-time quality inspectors, and Karl Mattes is the Quality Assurance Manager. They report directly to the Vice President of Business Operations. They must verify that all jobs performed by Beacon are of the highest quality standards. Using something called *Military Standard-105E* sampling tables, the QA team performs inspections on all mechanical or wire harness assembly, collating, packaging and mailing jobs. Because Beacon has actively pursued more "high tech" contracts, our Quality

Management System has aligned itself with ISO 9001-2000 standards — the recognized benchmark of excellence.

At Beacon, Quality Controls begin with the floor Supervisors. They perform inspections on 100% of all work done by clients in their departments. Zero defects is the expectation. Our QA team follows

up on all work before it is delivered to a customer. By monitoring each job as it is being performed and upon completion, the QA team is ready to make any adjustments or recommendations to the Production Department to ensure a job is done correctly *and* to our customers' satisfaction. In their work, to get an "A," you need to get a "0" first!



For more information on Beacon's production capabilities, quality assurance and contract services, please contact: Greg Natvig
VP of Business Operations
(520) 622-4874 ext 157



*This is the money
you could be saving with....*

...ESTATE PLANNING!

In March, Beacon held an "Introduction to Estate Planning" seminar for our parents and families. Steven Wagner, JD, CPA with BeachFleischman (pictured below), presented an overview of strategies for protecting your assets and providing for your family when you are gone. Of special interest to many of the attendees was "Special Needs Trusts" that supplement the benefits of a disabled individual without risk of losing government benefits. Clearly, many had not made the proper arrangements for their son or daughter and needed further information on how best to do this.



*Beacon plans to offer another estate planning seminar this fall. Please watch for details about this in September, or contact:
Patrick McCarthy
Director of Development
622-4874 ext 166*

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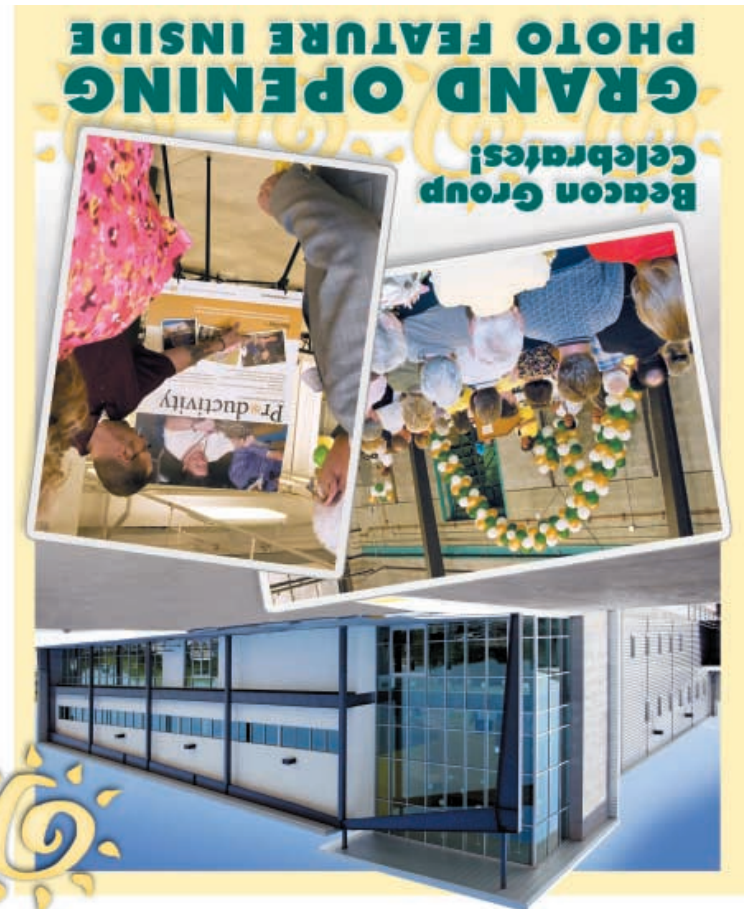
Tetra Services - Phoenix
2222 North 24th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602) **685-9703**

Value Village Thrift Stores
300 North 4th Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) **623-9830**

2700 North Stone Ave #150
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) **792-1454**

The Beacon Group is proud to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

www.thebeaongroup.org



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Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities
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