

Beacon TIMES

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Beacon Group

Beacon Named Agency of the Year



Beacon Group was named “Agency of the Year” by LINKAGES, an organization that works with Tucson employers and local rehabilitation agencies to bridge the gap between businesses and people with disabilities. The presentation took place on March 14 at a luncheon at the Westin La Paloma Resort. Beacon President Steve King accepted the award from

LINKAGES Board President Jim Click and Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup.

LINKAGES also honored Safeway Corporation as “Employer of the Year” during the luncheon. Safeway has established a close relationship with Beacon, to date hiring more than 10 individuals with disabilities and stocking a “mini Safeway store” at Beacon to train more potential employees.

Above: Beacon President and CEO Steve King (left) accepts the “Agency of the Year” Award from Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup (center) and LINKAGES Board President Jim Click. Left: LINKAGES named Beacon Group “Agency of the Year.”

Beacon Breaks Ground!

On May 4, Beacon held official groundbreaking ceremonies for its new 30,000- sq. ft. building expansion. See inside (Pages 4-5) for the story and lots of photos!



The groundbreaking festivities began with a balloon launch and pizza party for all Beacon clients and staff.

IN THIS ISSUE

Minimum Wage Update

Aktion Club

Client Success Story

Meet the Board

Staff Recognition

Minimum Wage Update: “Steady as She Goes”

The challenge presented to Beacon and similar organizations throughout Arizona by the recently passed Proposition 202 has, for the time being, been resolved. Thanks to your help and many others who contacted their state legislators and the governor’s office, we have what some consider a solution. The volume of legislative contacts was staggering. One state senator told me that she had received more than 1,000 e-mails on this issue alone. Your calls had a huge impact on the discussions in Phoenix, evidence that the system is working and that our elected officials are in tune with those they represent!

The Governor requested that the Industrial Commission put together rules pertaining to programs employing people with disabilities—persons who need extra support and supervision as they work in the community and/or at center based employment. Following several weeks of research and after input from various groups, individuals and parents, the Industrial Commission issued a policy statement that was ultimately approved. The Commission stated that individuals in our program and similar programs are not “employ-

ees” by the traditional definition of the word. Rather, these individuals should be termed “trainees” and, as such, the minimum wage does not apply in this case. There are, of course, many details included in the policy statement to ensure that people with disabilities will not be exploited. For complete details of the policy statement, go to the Industrial Commission Web site at www.ica.state.az.us.

Despite this change in terminology, there exists a certain degree of exposure as this policy statement does not have the force of law. In addition, it could take up to two years to get the actual rules guiding this policy statement from the Industrial Commission. As a result of this vulnerability, Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities (AAPPD) has introduced HB2245, which would protect organizations from lawsuits resulting from actions done in accordance with the Industrial Commission rules. Basically, this bill protects organizations like ours from legal action for following the rules and policy set up by the Industrial Commission. Logic tells us an organization should not be sued for complying with the state rules and regulations!

As we go to print, we understand that the legis-

lature has agreed to hear this bill. Hopefully, they will have dealt with the bill before ending this session. If the bill is not passed, your help will again be needed to contact our state legislators for next year’s session.

Thank you for your help in assuring that people with the most severe disabilities have a continued opportunity to work and to be productive citizens in our society!



Steve King, President/CEO

Beacon Clients go into Aktion!

Beacon agreed with local Kiwanis Clubs to sponsor an Aktion Club for Beacon’s clients. Organized just like a Kiwanis Club, an Aktion Club is specifically for people with disabilities, but is a chartered Kiwanis Club in all respects.

Local Kiwanis Lt. Gov. Sherry Jennings explained the purpose of the Aktion Club is to provide adults with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative and leadership, serve their community, be integrated into society, and demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens living with disabilities.

According to Chuck Tiller, Beacon’s vice president of Rehabilitation Services, the Beacon Aktion Club will meet once a month initially.

“Many people in the workplace belong to groups like Kiwanis,” said Tiller. “We want our clients to have the same opportunities for socialization, group interaction and personal growth as anyone else.”



Kiwanis Lt. Gov. Sherry Jennings (standing) is shown here with Beacon’s Aktion Club.

04/11/2

Angela Conner worked on both the Jim Click Ford and the Jim Click Nissan worksite crews for nearly 20 years until the death of her grandmother, when she and her family had to relocate to Kentucky. Because of her work performance and her outgoing personality, the Beacon Group family was sad to see her leave.

More than a year ago, Conner returned to Tucson, faced with no services and no job. She and her family contacted Suzanne D’Albini, a Beacon Group program manager, about returning to Beacon’s program. D’Albini was instrumental in helping Conner qualify for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. As a result, her VR counselor, Judith Spiel, referred her to Beacon Group’s custodial training program at the Evo A. DeConcini U.S. Courthouse. She began her training in May of last year.



Throughout her training program, Conner demonstrated excellent work skills and behaviors and was well liked by both her co-workers and the tenants at the courthouse. As a result of her dedication and exemplary performance, Conner was hired by Beacon Group and

is now competitively employed at the courthouse, working five hours per day at \$9.03/hour with full benefits. Her goal is to eventually work eight hours per day. Given her desire and commitment, everyone at Beacon Group is confident that she will achieve that goal very soon.

Angela Conner

Beacon Hosts Past Presidents

On March 29, Beacon hosted a luncheon for nine past presidents of Beacon Foundation and Tetra Corporation.

From left to right, back row: Dee O’Neill; Barbara Sadler; Jim Sender; Skip Whitley; Ira Adler; and Stan Hilkemeyer. Front row: Gail Bornfield; Kent Kloeping; Charles Ares; and Beacon President and CEO Steve King.





Beacon proudly displays its "Dignity of Work" Building Campaign banner on its headquarters building in Tucson.



Above: Beacon President and CEO Steve King addresses Beacon clients during the groundbreaking ceremony.

Right: Arizona State Sen. Charlene Pesquiera speaks during the groundbreaking ceremony.



Breaking Ground and Breaking Barriers!

On May 4, Beacon held groundbreaking ceremonies to officially begin the six- to eight-month construction project that will double the size of the facility at Oracle Road and Glenn Street in Tucson. Since the merger of Tetra and Beacon Foundation four years ago, Beacon has continued to operate both facilities by splitting jobs and staff between the locations. By uniting the organization under one roof, Beacon will be better able to coordinate work and staffing, bring in more jobs and serve up to

50 percent more clients than it currently serves.

The groundbreaking festivities began at noon with a balloon launch and pizza party for all Beacon clients and staff. The clients from the facility on Drachman Street and all the community worksites gathered at the Glenn site. Beacon President Steve King gave a brief address to inform the clients of Beacon's plans, noting that all the construction would be worth the inconvenience and that the new expanded facility would be a bigger, brighter place to work for all of Beacon's workers. He then led a countdown and all of the

more than 400 clients released a green, white or gold balloon into the early afternoon sky.

Later in the day, Beacon held a community kick off celebration. More than 150 dignitaries, donors and friends of Beacon gathered to symbolically break ground, hear about Beacon's plans for the future and generally enjoy a beautiful Tucson evening. Joining King and Beacon Board Chair Skip Whitley on the stage were Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup, Arizona State Sen. Charlene Pesquiera and U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona. All had heartwarming best

wishes to offer for Beacon's continued success.

However, the highlight of the program was when Beacon's Client of the Year Verl Foley addressed the audience. Foley started the evening by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their support. He then shared these thoughts from a poem that hangs in the Beacon offices:

"The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow. DO GOOD ANYWAY! What you spend years building might be destroyed overnight. BUILD ANYWAY! People really need help, but might attack you if you help them. HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY!"

Beacon's Dignity of Work Building Campaign



Beacon clients and staff enjoy pizza during the groundbreaking ceremony.



Above (from left to right): Beacon President and CEO Steve King; Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup; Arizona State Sen. Charlene Pesquiera; U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords; Beacon client Verl Foley; and Beacon Board Chair Skip Whitley.

Right: After Steve King led a count-down, more than 400 clients released green, white and gold balloons into the sky.



At the groundbreaking ceremonies, Beacon Board Chair Skip Whitley announced that Beacon has already raised more than 50 percent of its \$2 million fundraising goal for the building expansion project. With \$1.1 million already raised from leadership gifts, Beacon is now launching the public portion of its campaign. The total building project will cost just over \$4 million. Some of that will come from the sale of the Drachman Street facility and some will be financed from operating revenues.

The ability to have all of Beacon's clients under one roof will provide a number of real benefits and cost savings. Beacon is currently the largest employer of people with disabilities in southern

Arizona and the 166th largest employer overall in Tucson. As Beacon's facility grows, so will its client work force.

"As we focus on the construction

and the fundraising efforts to pay for it, we are aware that, ultimately, the 'Dignity of Work' Campaign isn't about bricks. It's about people – the often forgotten people," said Patrick McCarthy, Beacon director of development.

Gaining dignity through work, developing skills through training and practice, and building independence through employment in the real world is the Beacon promise. With a new, unified facility, Beacon hopes to offer that promise to 50 percent more individuals and their anxious families.

You can join the list of generous donors who have already made a gift to the Dignity of Work Campaign. (See Page 6.) Gifts can be made with cash or stock, by credit card in monthly payments, or through a pledge spread out over five years.

To make a gift to the campaign; find out about naming opportunities, donor recognitions, tax deductions and credits; or for answers to any other questions you may have, please call Patrick McCarthy, Beacon director of development, at 520-622-4874 x 166. Additional information is also available on the Beacon Web site, www.thebeaongroup.org.

DIGNITY OF WORK

Building Campaign Contributors (as of 5/3/07)

LEADERSHIP LEVEL GIVERS

The Click Family
Emerald Foundation
Catherine Morton
Tim Garigan-Ross Foundation

GROUNDBREAKING LEVEL GIVERS

Arizona Portland Cement • Freeman Trust
Rusty & Mary Garrett Foundation
Schmidt Foundation • Alayne & Bruce Greenberg
Steve & Kathy King • Lovitt & Touche
Diamond Foundation • Snell & Wilmer
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BUILDERS LEVEL GIVERS

Bank of the West • Margaret T. Morris Foundation
Barb and John Eisele • Barbara Sadler
Gene and Patty Goldsmith • Joe and Amanda Maltos
Judy and Cliff Wood • Skip and Lille Whitley
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Joan Kaye Cauthorn • Dee and Dan O'Neill
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona

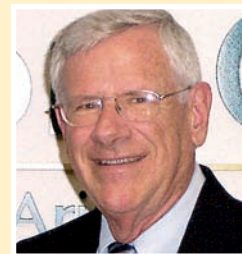
SUSTAINING LEVEL GIVERS

Don Peterson • Stan Hilkemeyer • Darryl Jones
Patrick McCarthy • Doug Casterlin • Chuck Tiller
Wendy Rosado-Toth • Bo Popovic • Teresa Stubbs
Denise Ramsey • Denise Beauchamp • Suzanne D'Albini
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Linda Kezman • Martha Ramos • Tina Higdon • Tim Secor
California Portland Cement • Shelley Jo Pozez
Wendy Bell • Roger Stutz



MEET THE BOARD

Roger Stutz



Roger Stutz was first introduced to Beacon 28 years ago by former board member Gordon Crawford. Having a close family member with a developmental disability and feeling a strong need to learn more about the available options, his initial interest was from a personal perspective. However, it wasn't long before he became actively involved with the organization, and he eventually served two terms as chairman of the board.

Stutz's business career has spanned more than 30 years in the area of Human Resources (HR), including 20 years as HR Director for Tucson Medical Center. He had relocated to Tucson from Akron, Ohio in 1975. His background and extensive experience in human relations were key factors that made his association with Beacon a great fit. The many capable board members who have served Beacon over the years are directly tied to the organization's growth and stability, according to Stutz. As a group, they've brought a lot of knowledge and many years of invaluable experi-

ence to the table. Additionally, under the leadership of Steve King, Beacon Group president since 1980, the organization has broadened its base of revenue-producing avenues with the inception of new services such as the shredding program, now available to the public. "I feel it's been a privilege to be associated with this organization for this length of time, and to see its growth. Beacon is a dynamic organization and, in the future, we'll be able to help a lot more people," says Stutz, summing up his commitment to the organization.

Stutz has been married for 47 years to his wife, Margaret, is the father of six and grandfather of nine. He encourages members of the community to visit the Beacon facility and experience its clientele and dedicated staff for themselves.

"Giving back to the future is what it's all about," he said.



Roger Stutz (center) with Beacon clients.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Michael Gomez

Michael Gomez has worked for Beacon Group since July of 1985. During that time, Michael has been through two mergers with other organizations and has held various positions within Beacon, including Day Program manager, Warehouse manager and now his current position as a proud member of Beacon Secure's shred-

ding department.

Michael drives a 24-ft. box truck to various locations within the city and picks up confidential material from Beacon customers. The bins Michael and his co-workers have to push all day long can weigh up to 350 lbs. This year alone, Beacon's shredding department will shred at least 2 million pounds of material. Michael provides Beacon's

customers with exceptional quality service. The shredding department often hears from its customers regarding Michael's efficiency, his great personality, kind heart and superb work ethic. We are very proud to have Michael as part of our Beacon team. Thanks for all you do Michael!



Beacon Holiday Party

In December, Beacon hosted approximately 600 clients, staff, parents, board members and friends for its annual holiday party at the Inn Suites hotel. In addition to the great food and dancing, Beacon also presented its annual Awards for Excellence.



Beacon clients, staff, parents, board members and friends dance at the holiday party hosted by Beacon in December.



Don Johnson, Clarion Hotels, received the Employer of the Year Award.



Alison Whitley from the Division of Developmental Disabilities received Beacon's Leadership Award.



Above: Beacon recognized Esperanza Ramirez as Employee of the Year during its holiday party.



Left: Beacon Group honored Verl Foley with an Outstanding Achievement Award.



Left: Gary Oelklaus received an Outstanding Achievement Award from Beacon during the nonprofit agency's holiday party.

Visit Beacon online at
www.thebeacongroup.org

Beacon Group *Creating Opportunities for People With Disabilities*

Donations

Beacon Group is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that accepts donations to support its programs and services. Beacon believes in ethical fundraising and follows the Code of Ethical Principles and Standards of Professional Practice of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Gifts to Beacon are tax deductible and will only be used for the donor's intended purpose.

Gifts in Memory or Honor of special individuals are accepted and acknowledged. Send the name of the person you are honoring, and the name and address you wish us to send the acknowledgement to, along with the donation. The amount of the gift is not mentioned in this acknowledgment.

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September 2006

center for planned giving
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