

# Beacon TIMES

SPRING 2011

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BEACON GROUP



Safeway shopper Frank Gray with Beacon Group alum Karen Maxey

**K**aren Maxey is a good employee. Her boss says so. Customers say so. And Frank Gray says so too! If Karen hadn't been doing her job so well last May; if Karen wasn't such a nice person; if Karen hadn't been so "on the ball", Frank might not be around to say *anything*. He has no doubt Karen saved his life that day in May.

Frank Gray is a regular customer at Safeway. Although he's 86 years old and has a history of medical problems, he is still pretty independent and gets around by himself most of the time. He was in his car by himself in the Safeway parking lot around noon on May 26th last year. He remembers Karen

Maxey coming over to say "Hi," but he remembers almost nothing that happened after that.

Karen Maxey has worked at the Safeway store on Golf Links since November of 2006. She was one of the first Beacon clients to be hired by Safeway, which has employed over 65 Beacon clients since then.

**Karen is a great example of how successful the relationship between Beacon Group and Safeway has been for both organizations and, especially, for the clients.**

Karen came to Tucson with her family in 2005 from Deming, New Mexico. She had worked as a crossing guard for 13 years and hoped to find work here as soon as possible. Because Karen has been diagnosed with mild developmental disability and Crohn's disease, she was eligible for services through vocational rehabilitation. That's where she first heard about Beacon.

For many Beacon clients — especially the most severely challenged — training and work experience has to come from within the safe and supportive environment of our 64,000 sq. ft. facility. For many others, they can learn about and

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**N**ot too long after the tragic shooting that took place in Tucson on January 8th, most of us began to search for names of victims to learn if a friend or loved one might have been involved. It seems we all know someone who was a victim, or was maybe attending or nearby. Of course, a great many of us knew Congresswoman Giffords in some way — but, I'll get back to her in a minute.

As we grieve with all those who lost family and loved ones, we also think about those whom we know and consider a friend. You can't help but think about how they touched our lives.

I'm sad to say Beacon lost a friend that day, and nearly lost two others.

Chief Federal Judge John Roll, who lost his life that Saturday, worked at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Tucson. Beacon has custodial crews of clients and staff who clean the courthouse. As the "boss" of the courthouse, Judge Roll would often take the time to greet our clients and would go out of his way to befriend them. His affection for the Beacon clients was even mentioned by one of the speakers at the Judge's funeral.

Reports say that when Judge Roll was shot, he was trying to push Ron Barber, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' District Director, out of harm's way. Ron was hit and seriously wounded, but is well on his way to making a full recovery. Before working for the Congresswoman, Ron was the local head of the Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities. We had the chance to interact often with him in that capacity. After he moved to his responsibilities with Rep. Gifford's local office, we had many opportunities to once again work with Ron. He has been to Beacon on different occasions in both capacities.

Lastly, there is Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who now virtually everyone refers to simply as "Gabby." Her near-miraculous recovery from a gunshot to the head thankfully continues. As we await daily reports on her progress, undoubtedly everyone has heard what a great person and dedicated public servant Gabby is. It's all true!

Gabby Giffords has been a great friend to Beacon as well as a great "Champion" for people with disabilities — both literally and figuratively. Gabby came and spoke at the groundbreaking for our new building in 2007. Two years later, she toured the Federal Courthouse to see the work of Beacon's Custodial crew there first-hand. Based on her support and advocacy, a national organization, NISH — which trains and employs people with disabilities on contracts for the Federal government — named Gabby one of their official legislative "Champions" on behalf of the people we serve.

The old saying, "A friend in need is a friend indeed" is commonly understood to mean that when you're really in need, is when your "real" friends show up ready to do what they can to help. That certainly describes Tucson's good friend, Gabby Giffords.

While Gabby continues to heal and recover, there isn't a great deal most of us can do for her other than to keep her in our thoughts and prayers. But I know Gabby: She always thinks of others first. And, I'm pretty sure I know what Gabby would want right now. I think she'd say, "Take care of each other 'til I get back."

*That's what friends are for.*



ABOVE: Steve King, Beacon President/CEO, with Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords; Visiting the Beacon crew at the Federal Courthouse.

## "A Friend in Need..."

BELOW: Ron Barber (at left) with Beacon's Chuck Tiller during a recent visit.



adjust to the world of work in one of the 25 Beacon worksites at businesses scattered throughout Tucson. For high-functioning individuals like Karen, we work with local employers, such as Safeway, to directly hire them as regular employees working at minimum wage or better. This program is referred to as “Job Development”. We provide job search and interviewing advice, help with employment applications, and even provide on-site job coaching for recently hired clients for as long as they need to adjust to their new job.

Karen was a hard worker and willing learner from the very beginning with Safeway. She has received regular raises for her performance, and got great reviews from her store manager, Susie Wash, and from the customers. She knew her job as a Courtesy Clerk, and didn't have to be told to do it. That's what Karen was doing last May when she went out to the parking lot to do “cart roundup.”

While she was out collecting shopping carts, Karen recognized Frank Gray sitting in his car and decided to go over and greet him. That small act of friendliness most likely saved his life. Karen saw that Frank was having some difficulty and was somewhat confused. Karen asked him if he needed some help. Frank had trouble speaking when he tried to answer. Karen immediately went into the store and had someone call 9-1-1 and then went back out to help Mr. Gray. The paramedics got there pretty quickly and they could tell Frank was in real trouble. As they were on the way to the hospital, Frank suffered a full Grand mal seizure. Two weeks later, now under a doctor's care, Frank had a heart attack.

Later that summer, Frank's



daughter, Aletha, wrote a letter to the Safeway store manager. In it she said, “Thanks to the quick thinking of Karen — she saved my father's life, and for that I will forever be grateful.”

**...That small act of friendliness most likely saved his life...**

If Frank Gray had experienced any of those medical emergencies while sitting in his hot car that day, he would have undoubtedly died. Karen Maxey's good work habits and friendly outlook was the difference between life and death.

Now, *that's* some real savings!

# Special RECOGNITION

**D**uring our annual holiday party in December, Beacon recognized the staff, clients, businesses and community leaders that made 2010 — *our 58th year!* — a success. We'd like to congratulate all of our winners!



**LINDA NOWLAND**  
*Leadership Award*



**BEV HERMON**  
*Leadership Award*



**GEORGINA REYES**  
*Employee of the Year*



**BASHA'S FOOD CITY**  
*Visionary Award*



**BOBBY MATTHEWS**  
*Outstanding Achievement Award*



**CHRIS JOHNSON**  
*Outstanding Achievement Award*



**BRIAN DILL**  
*Leroy Adams Award (staff)*



**TUCSON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**  
*Visionary Award*

**4**  
**fast facts!**

**470** ... Total number of clients employed by Beacon in 2010\*

**\$1,214,484** ... Total client earnings in 2010

**727,314** ... Total pounds of paper shredded in 2010

**18,519,232** ... Total number of "pieces" processed by clients in 2010 (assembled, packaged, folded, mailed, etc.)

\* Does not include Beacon's non-vocational clients (Day Treatment, Job Development) or those already placed in outside employment.

**T**he Chapel Haven program, a Connecticut-based nonprofit, works with college students with mild developmental disabilities — such as Autism — to ease the difficult transition from home to life in the outside world. While they attend college classes, the students receive support from trained staff and educators in the form of independent living skills and socialization training.

In 2008, Chapel Haven West was established here in Tucson in association with the University of Arizona. It is the only program outside the original location in Connecticut. In addition to their formal education classes, the students learn and practice life skills that can range from cooking and banking to social relationships and recreation. In

## Learning to Live



*Beacon's Job Developers help teach clients the skills they need to find and keep a job.*

addition, there is an employment component. This is where Beacon comes in.

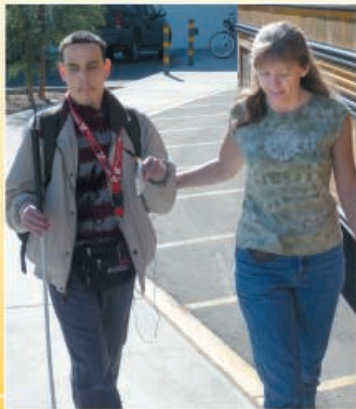
Chapel Haven West contacted Beacon to help their students find part-time work for 10-20 hours a

week. Beacon's Job Developers will work with 8 students this semester, helping with things like job seeking, interviewing and résumé building. Ultimately, we hope to assist each student find an appropriate job in the community.

As Beacon has known for many decades, the identity and self-confidence that comes with employment, however humble, can be the critical factor for *anyone* — let alone someone with a disability — being able to live a full independent life.

If you or someone you know might be interested in hiring one of these students part-time, please contact Employment Services Specialist Anissa Brown at Beacon (622-4874 ext. 153).

# Feel Great When You Donate... Your Time!



**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

- \* **Fitness Instructor:** Lead and oversee workouts in our on-site gym. Flexible days and hours.
- \* Provide **Administrative Support** in our document destruction department; assist with general office support, including answering the phone, schedule shredding pick-ups, data entry and file organization. Flexible hours M-W-F, between 9:00am and 3:00pm.
- \* Work at **Value Village**, Beacon's resale store, sorting and pricing donated merchandise.

...Both long term and short term commitments are available. We'd love to hear from you!

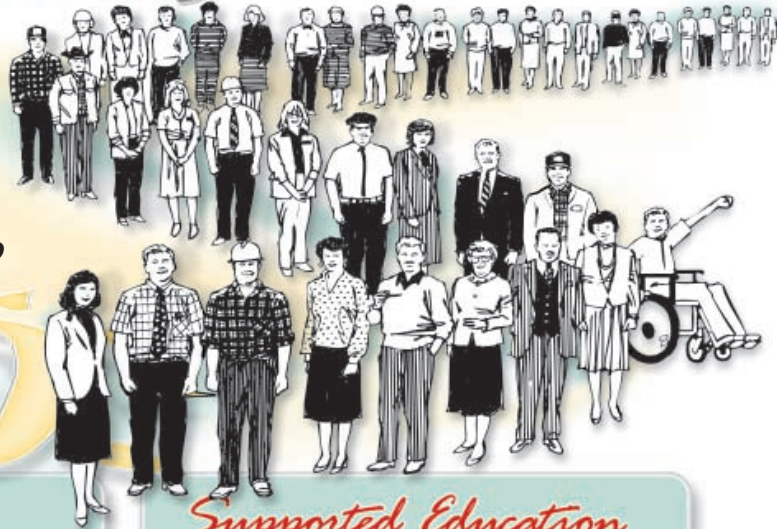
## Become a Beacon Volunteer

For more information, please contact Melissa Aguayo at (520) 622-4874 ext 121 or [mmeicke@theBeaconGroup.org](mailto:mmeicke@theBeaconGroup.org)

# EXPANDS

## Beacon EXPANDS Services

**Beacon Group was recently awarded a new contract from the Rehabilitation Services Administration to provide two new specialized services to persons with a wide variety of disabilities.**



### Career Exploration

#### Our services to include:

1. Assisting clients to organize their exploration activities.
2. Introducing and orienting the client to the world of work; including the meaning, value, and demands of work; effective stress management/conflict resolution in the work place; and other work-related requirements.
3. Developing self-assessment skills to gain an increasing awareness of a client's unique abilities, interests, values, and needs.
4. Guiding the client through available employment networks, navigating through the One Stop Centers and their resources, and/or utilizing other community resources.
5. Developing three realistic vocational goals.
6. Exploring and reviewing occupational trends, wages, job responsibilities, education and training requirements, job outlook, and other relevant information.

### Supported Education

#### Our services to include:

1. Assisting the client to identify educational/training goals.
2. Utilizing community resources as well as the internet to locate educational and/or training programs that are most suitable for the client.
3. Assisting the client to evaluate educational costs and any financial aid resources that may be available.
4. Assisting the client to coordinate with Disabled Student Services and other support services available at the educational/training institution or within the community.

**Although Beacon has always served persons with a severe mental illness, this new expansion means that we will be extending similar services to individuals referred to us by the Behavioral Health System. Our expanded referral base will now include CODAC, COPE, La Frontera, and the Marana Health Center, and will offer the following services:**

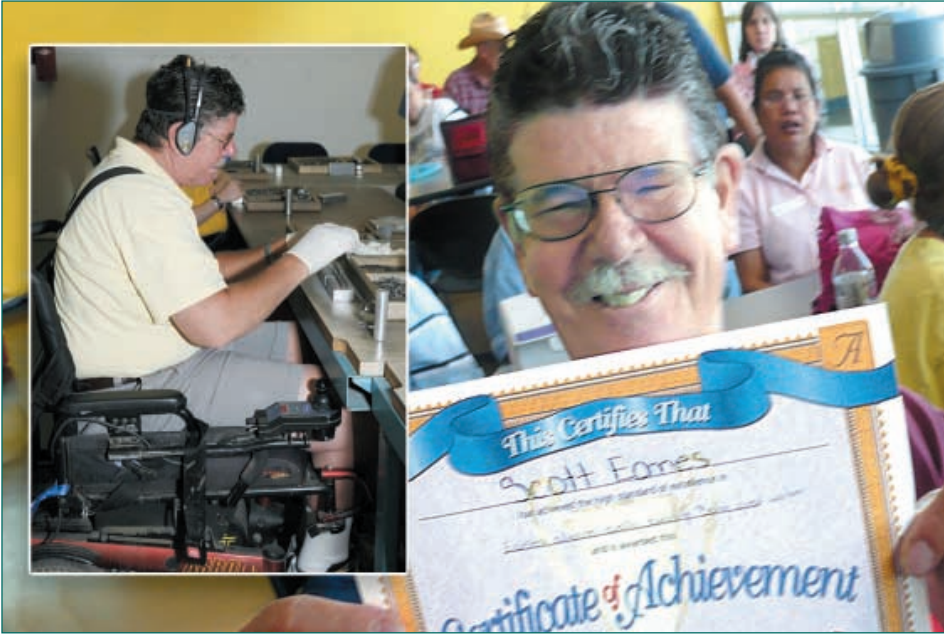
**Career Exploration Services** to help clients answer basic questions while considering employment as a future option, such as:

- Do I want to work?
- Do I need/want training?
- Will I lose my benefits?
- Should I disclose my disability?
- Should I consider volunteering?
- Do I need support to further my education?
- Can I benefit from other community resources?

**Work Adjustment Training** to develop basic job readiness skills and behaviors necessary to successfully obtain and maintain employment. Job Development and Placement services are also provided, as appropriate.

**Job Shadowing** to help clients make an informed choice about a job based on observing and experiencing the work actually being done.

For more information, please contact Chuck Tiller at (520) 622-4874 ext 127, or email [ctiller@theBeaconGroup.org](mailto:ctiller@theBeaconGroup.org)



Scott Eames had been successfully employed at Beacon since 1999 and was well-liked by clients, staff, and customers at Value Village Thrift Store where he most recently worked.

Beacon client, Scott Eames, passed away on January 20th at his assisted living apartment. Scott was 50 years old and had worked at Beacon since 1999. Most recently, Scott worked at our Value Village Thrift Store. In fact, Scott was featured in a local news piece about Value Village that ran last year on KUAT-6 TV's *Arizona Illustrated*. You can see that video and Scott by going to [www.theBeaconGroup.org](http://www.theBeaconGroup.org) and clicking on the Value Village page.

Scott's family has asked that if people want to remember Scott, they can make a donation in his name to Beacon Group. Memorial donations can also be made in his honor on the Beacon website.

**DONATE AND SHOP AT OUR NEW CONVENIENT NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATION!**

Ya Gotta Visit the Village!

Beacon's  
**VALUE VILLAGE**  
THRIFT STORE

- FURNITURE
- ELECTRONICS
- CLOTHING
- COLLECTIBLES
- BOOKS • TOYS

[www.BeaconsValueVillage.org](http://www.BeaconsValueVillage.org)

Open Mon-Sat 8am-8pm and Sun 10-6pm



**2700 N. STONE AVE at GLENN**

**CALL 622-JANE**

# Gifts and MEMORIALS

Beacon gratefully acknowledges the following gifts for the following individuals.

## IN MEMORY OF...

### CLAIR JONES

-Preston & Helen Jones

### DORIS MARIE WARNES

-Steve & Kathy King  
-Jason & Lisa Wedman

### HELEN HOUSMAN

-Steve & Kathy King

### JOSEPH ROSADO

-Steve & Kathy King

### MARTY RADBILL

-Kenneth A. Radbill

### MARY ADDISON

-Donald & Robin Laidlaw

### WILLIAM & FLORENCE

**SCHMIDT**  
-WE Schmidt Charitable  
Foundation

## IN HONOR OF...

### ALFREDO MARTINEZ

-Alfredo & Olga Martinez

### DENNIS & NORMA PARRY

-Peter Parry

### E. PHILLIP KRIDER

-Phillip Krider

### INA KASPER

-Eugene & Johanna Sherman

### JENNIFER O'NEILL

-Donald & Deanne Lindholm

### PATTI and RUTH WYLIE

-Jacque Friedman

### SAM WYLIE

-Mark & Ellen Wylie

### STEVE & KATHY KING

-Richard & Vickie Babbitt

## IN HONOR OF...

### WILLIAM A. KRIDER

-E. Phillip Krider

### THOM SHERWOOD

-Patrick & Shannon McCarthy

Gifts and memorials honoring family, friends and Beacon clients may be made online at [www.theBeaconGroup.org](http://www.theBeaconGroup.org) or by US Mail. Please include your contact information as well as the party you want notified of your gift.

For more information, please contact Patrick McCarthy at (520) 622-4874 ext 166

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(520) **622-4874**

### Tetra Services - Phoenix

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

### Value Village Thrift Store

2700 North Stone Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85705  
(520) **792-1454**



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

[www.theBeaconGroup.org](http://www.theBeaconGroup.org)



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