

## Oh, Danny Boy!



**D**aniel Uribe is someone special. Glenn Kroeger, Director of Retail Operations at Beacon's Value Village says, "He is one of the best workers we have in processing." According to Sue Elias, Daniel's Job Coach in the processing area, "He's a high achiever. He's great. When I assign him a job, it will be done."

### Value Village client Daniel Uribe really "shines!"

Having to live with Cerebral Palsy significantly limits any employment for anyone who has it. Any kind of coordinated movement is a major struggle. Daniel uses a walker but still falls constantly — even if he's sitting down. Speech can also be severely limited at best. But, Daniel is also deaf, so he has no chance of learning even simple words and phrases. That hasn't stopped our Danny. He learned sign language so he can communicate with people, or, at least, those who know sign language.

Daniel was born in Riverside, CA.

He graduated from the California School for the Deaf and had a job at Ability Counts before moving to the Tucson area seven years ago. He came to Beacon in the fall of 2009.

Due to the severity of Daniel's challenges, the assumption was that our *Day Treatment Program* (DTA) would be the best placement for him. Daniel enjoyed the program and fit in well. He really liked the day trips out into the community, and he liked riding the stationary bike in Beacon's gym. The more the staff talked with

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#### WELCOME!

*Beacon is pleased to welcome thousands of new supporters to our family! We have recently added those who donate to our Value Village Thrift Store to our newsletter distribution list. Now these people can see and read about the lives they have helped through their generosity.*

*All proceeds from the sale of donated items go to support the programs and thousands of people with disabilities in southern Arizona that we serve.*



## From the **PRESIDENT**

**A**s the Arizona economy continues to struggle, the state legislature has also struggled with the task of trying to produce a balanced budget. Having suffered through two previous rounds of cuts already, we had been assured that the *Division of Developmental Disabilities* (DDD) would not be cut again this year. The Senate version of the budget did have a provision in it that protected DDD from further cuts. Then came the bad news. The House version of the budget was passed without this provision. Ultimately, the final budget passed and signed by the Governor had no protection for DDD cuts.

We understand that, as of now, there is an *additional 5%* rate cut for DDD in the budget that begins October 1st of this year. We also have been informed that there will be a reduction in funding from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) starting this

summer. Combined, this could be as much as another \$250,000 in lost revenue for Beacon's programs.

The two previous budget cuts amounted to a 15%, or \$530,000, lost to our programs. We cannot keep taking these losses and promise to go on providing the services as we have to as many individuals. We are the largest service provider of services to people with disabilities in southern Arizona, serving over 1,000 individuals a year. Fortunately, only roughly 40% of our budget comes from state fees for service. But, more cuts means we will have to make up the difference somewhere, and that could mean un-served clients.

I have been asked by parents and interested people what they can do to help. The simple answer is, "a lot!" Personally contacting



**STEVE KING, President/CEO**

**HERE We Go AGAIN...**

state legislators and telling them your personal stories has a strong effect. It can help them understand how people with severe developmental disabilities and their families are the least likely group to be able to absorb fee cuts. I think there is a strong possibility that some programs serving this population will have great difficulty staying in business after this latest round of cuts.

Beacon *will* adapt and survive. As before, we will work to generate dollars from additional business or fundraising. It won't be easy. **And there is still a chance the legislature can find additional off-setting revenue or cuts elsewhere to protect DDD from the upcoming loss. Your personal involvement can help make that happen.**

If you'd like to help educate our legislators, please contact them, or feel free to contact us. You can call me at 622-4874 extension 122, or Patrick McCarthy at extension 166.



## *In* **MEMORIAM**

*Dean Armstrong, a Tucson institution, passed away in March. Dean and his Arizona Ranch Hands played for Beacon's client Holiday Party for many years.*

*For over 50 years, Dean and his group performed on weekends at Li'l Abner's Steak House in Marana.*



Daniel — using sign language — the more they learned about his interests and personality.

The staff learned that Daniel is very sharp and has a great sense of humor. They learned that he loves watching movies and sports whenever he can. And they learned that he really wanted a chance to work again. Luckily, Beacon has a wide variety of work experiences we can access to find the best challenge and opportunity for development for the client. Even for someone with severe challenges like Daniel.



Store manager Glenn Kroeger (at left) and Beacon client Daniel Uribe have become good friends and are just two of the reasons that Value Village is a Tucson treasure.

Daniel was offered the chance to work two days a week in the processing area at Value Village. While there, he usually cleans donated shoes and sometimes books for resale. He also helps organize the shoe racks in the mornings to make sure they are presentable for the public. Even though he cannot use his voice and cannot hear others, he has become one of our most popular clients at Value Village in the year he has worked there. His personality comes through his work and how he interacts with others. His family says that he is the happiest he has ever been. And, Daniel was highlighted as our “client success story” at a recent Board of Director’s meeting.

Glenn Kroeger has been thrilled with Daniel’s progress at work and even more pleased with his positive attitude and sense of humor. When Daniel sees Glenn, he makes the sign for “G” and holds it way over his head. (Glenn just happens to be six-foot, eight-inches tall!) When asked what he wanted as a reward for his hard work, Daniel signed that he wanted “Lunch with the boss.” So, Glenn took Daniel to lunch.

Glenn is learning more sign language on his own and uses “*SigningSavvy.com*” to help when Daniel comes to visit him in his office. You can type in a word or phrase and a person on the screen will say that in sign language. The two of them have clearly bonded even though they are real opposites: One is a quiet, gritty, hard worker, and the other is a big softy — *who happens to be the boss!*

At Beacon there are many hundreds of individuals dealing with serious and severe physical, mental and psychological challenges. There are lots of close friendships between staff and clients based on the mutual respect and admiration for each other. For most of the clients, Beacon has given them the only chance they have ever had to do meaningful work and to be productive.

For our staff, how can we not be moved by the effort, great attitude and the drive to overcome that we see in the clients everyday? Clients just like Daniel. For all he does — against all odds — Glenn and the rest of the Beacon staff say, “*Atta boy, Danny!*”

# Three Cheers for our Volunteers



Beacon volunteers Kris, Shelli and Holli, show our enthusiastic clients how to say "I love you" using American Sign Language.

**"Nobody need wait  
a single moment before  
starting to improve  
the world."**

**— Anne Frank**

**W**ill you help?"— "Yes, I will." This has been called the most beautiful duet in American history. Volunteering has played a huge role throughout our history. And it's surprising how the simple act of volunteering affects people. No money is exchanged, but all parties are enriched. Think about it: When you go out of your way to help other people, you learn about them. Through this we learn about ourselves and this helps us improve ourselves. Basically, the more we give, the more we get back.

We've had volunteers at Value Village for years, and a volunteer auxiliary that hosts quarterly dances for our clients on the weekend. Recently, Beacon has increased efforts to attract and to utilize more volunteers in our programs. We want to begin using regular volunteers in other areas, such as our paper shredding area, in our workout facility and in our *Day Treatment Program* (DTA).

We started actively advertising our volunteer opportunities this spring. Not long after, we got a call from Kris Gedney — a student at the U of A — looking for a volunteer experience. Kris was somewhat familiar with Beacon already when she found out that one of her classes required that she do some volunteer work in the community. Kris is a Deaf Studies

major. The class is called *Language & Cultures of Deaf Communities* and it required 30 hours of volunteering with a local nonprofit.

Kris also told two classmates, Holli Thenhause and Shelli Goodman about our program. All three volunteered this past semester in our Day Treatment Program. "The staff has been fantastic," says Kris, "I feel part of a family when I'm here." She adds, "I can work one-on-one with clients, and sit and talk with them. I can make a difference in somebody's life."

Holli Thenhause agrees with Kris. She used to nanny for a little girl with Down syndrome. "I was unaware of all the resources available. It's good to know there are options for her when she grows up." After graduation Holli

intends to go into K-12 education as an interpreter for deaf students.

"I loved it," says Shelli Goodman. "Everyone was friendly and helpful." She and her fellow volunteers helped the clients with arts and crafts, games and other activities in the DTA program. They also went along on day-trips to the mall, bowling and the movies. Shelli had worked with younger Special Ed students before, but not with adults with disabilities. "This gave me a great understanding of working with people with different challenges," she adds.

Beacon is very happy to offer many volunteer opportunities within our DTA program, our paper-shedding business Beacon Secure, at our Value Village Thrift Store, in Production (manufacturing or assembly), as well as in general administration. If you are interested



in applying or simply getting more information, please contact Melissa Aguayo at (520) 622-4874 ext. 121.

**Whether they were helping on trips and activities, talking with the clients, or just helping serve chili-dogs for lunch...**

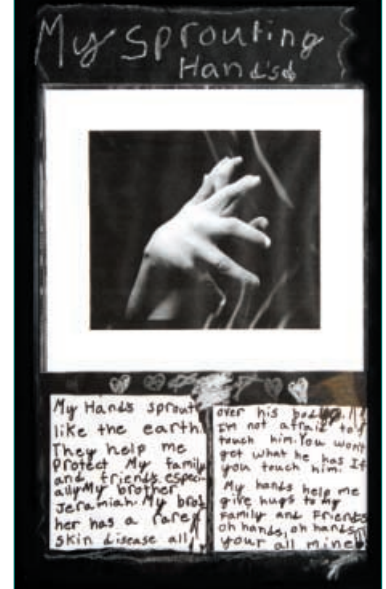
**...Beacon was truly grateful for the volunteers!**

**Volunteering last semester in Beacon's DTA program were (below, left to right) Kris Gedney, Shelli Goodman and Holli Thenhouse.**



## In the COMMUNITY

“**B**elieve in the beauty of your dreams.” These words are on the office door of Jolene Eggert-Ciha, Child Life Manager at Tucson Medical Center. Jolene, who is also the parent of a Beacon client, is very proud of the new facilities to serve children and families at TMC. She is also very proud of the works of art hanging everywhere. Works from local artists, works from children and teens who are patients at TMC, and a few works donated by Beacon clients and staff.



## Beacon helps make Tucson Beautiful

Another way (pictured at right) that Beacon helps make Tucson more beautiful is at the Federal Building downtown. As part of Beacon's custodial contract to clean the interior of the building, we also are responsible for planting and maintaining the raised flower beds outside.



## Special AWARD Beacon client recognized for life-saving act

In a past issue of *Beacon Times*, we told the story of Karen Maxey — a former Beacon client — who saved a man's life last May in the parking lot of the Safeway store where she now works. Frank Gray was suffering symptoms of a stroke when Karen found him sitting in his hot car confused and unable to speak. Karen had the paramedics called and they immediately took Mr. Gray to the hospital. Mr. Gray says he can't remember very much about the incident that day, but he has no doubt Karen saved his life.

## An Honest to Goodness Hero!

On Friday, March 4th, Karen Maxey received the *Citizen Award* from the Tucson Fire Department for her heroic action. This is Tucson's highest civilian award, and is presented to "those civilians who become personally involved in heroic acts taking place within the city of Tucson."



ABOVE: Karen Maxey received her award at the Annual Awards Ceremony at TFD's Fire Central. Fire Chief Patrick Kelly (at left) and Mayor Bob Walkup helped make the presentation.



LOWER PHOTO: Congratulating Karen are Safeway employees (left to right) Joyce Lingle, Betty Stewart, LaArnie Lucas, and Peggy Terlisner.

# Senior Year

**F**or a number of years, Beacon has offered a program called *Day Treatment for Adults* (DTA) to help those individuals with the most severe challenges and medical conditions. Those individuals are not able, or eligible, to work in our workshops or out in the community because of their fragility, but they can still come to Beacon. There are currently forty clients in two DTA programs at Beacon. These clients require specialized sensory-motor, behavioral and communication training along with regular social and recreational interaction.

By definition, Beacon's DTA programs serve clients who in most cases have worked elsewhere in our organization for many years — and, now, are older than our general population. But, there is something even more significant going on.

**Here is a startling fact: In the 1930's, life expectancy for people with developmental disabilities was just 18.5 years of age. Today, it is 66.2 years old!**

It is clear that better medical attention, awareness of health and improved support programs have had a dramatic effect on longevity. Although this has to be seen as a very positive development for the people we serve, it does present another very real challenge for them at the same time.

The greater need for supervision, health and medical care, mobility

*As our client population gets older, specialized programs are needed.*

assistance, and personal grooming/hygiene attention, when working with a senior population, is far greater for those with developmental disabilities. The older they are, the more likely that they never received an education or special training and very little of the support services available today. There are currently 54 DTA programs in Tucson, but only one is dedicated to serving seniors. Make that two! *Beacon is opening a third DTA program to specifically serve seniors!*

We are very pleased to announce that we have raised \$29,000 to convert some existing space here at Beacon, and to add a new DTA program specifically for

developmentally disabled seniors. Beacon has received donations of \$16,500 from the Emerald Foundation, \$10,000 from BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona and \$2,500 from Sundt Foundation for this project.

The new DTA should be ready to open early this summer. We will start with 8 clients who will transfer from our existing DTA programs and we will begin accepting new clients from outside Beacon. At capacity, we expect to serve an additional 20 clients through the new program.

All of us hope that our senior years will continue to be productive and fulfilling. Our clients and their families have the same hopes. Thanks to Beacon's program staff and the generosity of some special donors, we will offer that chance to Beacon's new "senior class."

**Beacon has received donations of \$16,500 from the Emerald Foundation, \$10,000 from BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona and \$2,500 from Sundt Foundation for this project.**



# Gifts and MEMORIALS

Beacon gratefully acknowledges the following gifts for the following individuals.

## IN HONOR & MEMORY OF...

### PATTI WYLIE

- Phillip & Amy Jean Knorr
- James & Karin Mather
- Laurie Dean
- Carol Phillips
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## IN HONOR OF...

### ELIZABETH DWAN

- Robert Dwan

### KAYLA HAM

- Susan Ham

### FRANK NESPOLI

- Anthony R. Nespoli

### DEE O'NEILL

- James L. De Girolamo

### SAM WYLIE

- Richard Lamb

### WYLIE FAMILY

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### DESERT QUEST DAY TREATMENT

- Jack Abraham
- Skip & Cindi Woodward

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- Wm E. Schmidt Charitable Foundation
- John Schmidt

### JEFFREY SCOTT EAMES

- Dan & Dee O'Neill
- Richard & Cherry Harper
- John Steven Willock
- John Willock, Jr.

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

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

**COVER STORY: Value Village employee Daniel Uribe gets a "kick" out of work!**

## Client SPOTLIGHT



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*Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities*  
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