



EARC News Express


EARC MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MARCH 2008


AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW:

 This month of March always brings thoughts to mind of Saint Patrick's Day, four leaf clovers and other icons of the Irish, like the Pot of Gold at the end of the rainbow. As children, we are fascinated with the idea of finding that gold, and we may imagine going on a treasure hunt for the end of the rainbow. How do you locate the rainbow's end? No map exists. It is the reflection of light off the water; so where the end is for one viewer, it is different for another. Where the rainbow ends is really just all in your perspective. Is that how it is with finding the elusive Pot of Gold?


 At EARC we strive to set our sights high. We want to see the people that receive our services get recognized for their abilities and achieve, as they desire, to their potential. Sometimes when people are first aware that a person new to them has a disability, they lose focus of that person and only see the disability and only see the disability and what the person cannot do. At EARC we are trying to change that perspective. By providing employment and residential opportunities that increase job earnings and improve the daily living skills of the people we serve, we help them gain financial and functional independence. That is our mission, to find that pot of gold hiding within the rainbow of abilities in each of our client's potential and help them to shine!

 Bonnie B. Wells
Executive Director


GROUP HOME #2- REMODELING STAGE 2:

 February 28th & 29th, the Group Home located on Wynn Circle will be getting a makeover once again!! The kitchens, dining, laundry, office and downstairs bathrooms will all be receiving new flooring. It is a beautiful fiberglass covering that is durable, easy care, and long lasting. It is sure to improve the house's appearance. All of the men that reside there are excited about the new look for their home. This Group Home was purchased in 1985 by EARC. Its purpose is to provide training in areas of independent living skills. It

EDMOND'S WOMEN'S CLUB VALENTINES DANCE:

 On February 11th the Edmond's Women's Club hosted their annual Valentines Party at the First Christian Church. Two individuals from EARC's community residential program were crowned King and Queen. James Oliver and Shannon Morton danced their first dance as the 2008 Valentine's King and Queen for this event. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the evening, the food, socializing, and the music selections of the DJ and, of course, the dancing.

NOVA CENTRE NEWS:

 February 8, 2008 started out as a rather ordinary day at the Nova Centre, however by 1pm it was anything but ordinary. It seems a rather unlucky bird became electrocuted on the power pole outside the Nova Centre, sparking a grass fire. Fortunately, some wonderful people driving by called 911 and alerted staff to the fire. The Edmond Fire Department responded promptly and had the fire out within 15 minutes. I guess the one good thing to come out of this will be lush green grass next year!




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Employee of the Month


Moji Obe has been a CMA/CAN at the Nova Centre since September 2007. She is a hard worker and loves assisting the residents.


 **Mari Sanders** received the January employee of the month recognition for our residential programs. Mari is the evening (3-11) staff at EARC's daily living support (DLS) home on Holly Hill in Edmond. She has been working for EARC ever since this second DLS home opened last April (2007). Mari is a very compassionate young lady. She worries about the residents if they are sick or upset. Mari is willing to help out even when she is tired or reeling down herself. In January, when we had another icy day, Mari's vehicle got hit from behind on her way to work. Mari still made it to work in time for her shift and even without being able to get home that night, agreed to cover an extra shift at the workshop to help out.

Thank you Mari for your extra caring way!!


 **Andre Gentry** has been with the processing center for just a few months but is a go getter. The second day he was on the job he told me he wanted to work really hard and do a good job so he could be the employee of the month. He said he really liked his job here and all the people that he worked with. Andre is great with the customers and will do anything asked of him with a smile on his face. He always comes to work with a smile on his face and is ready to get it done. Andre is a real example to us all!

THE TRAILS – A SWEET PLACE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

 The Trails had their Valentine's Party on The Day, February 14th, 2008. The festivities started at 2:00 with dancing and the crowning of The Trails King, Joe Stone, and his Queen, Lee Ann Watkins. Thanks to Mike McGaugh, our favorite sound guy and Kevin's dad, the music was GREAT!

 Then came the food. Pizza for all was furnished with a plentiful donation from the Little Caesars' Pizza at Santa Fe & Edmond Road. True sweetness came to light with homemade heart-shaped cupcakes made with love from Tammy's mom, Mary Jo Smith. Fun was had by all at this special event for all of our

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES NEWS:

 Overall the residential program is doing very well. The staff continues doing a great job making sure the individuals are getting to all the events scheduled. There have been many functions they were unable to attend due to the weather, but they look forward to making them up. Thank you staff for all of your hard work.



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THE EARC GUTHRIE THRIFT STORE MIRACLE:

Last week as I was stopping by the Guthrie Thrift Store to take Shirley to lunch for her birthday I came into the back door and saw Shirley, Saadia, and a lady I assumed was a donor going through some boxes in the backroom. They were all intent on finding a yellow shirt with fish on it that the lady's husband had donated on Monday with some other items. The lady looked really concerned about finding this shirt and Shirley and Saadia continued going through boxes. It seems the lady and her husband had moved to Guthrie the week before and when she cleaned out items that she didn't want any more she made a donation to the thrift store. On Friday morning she realized that she was missing her mother's rings, her husband's wedding ring and another very valuable ring and remembered that she had put them in the pocket of his shirt that was yellow with fish on it. Somehow the shirt was placed with the donation items and taken to the thrift store. As I watched the lady actually found the exact shirt that she had donated and inside the pocket were the three rings. The lady was so happy she cried. She said I just knew they were gone and I prayed last night that somehow I could find them again. I told her it was a miracle because of the huge amount of donations that we get every day that it was found. She blessed us all and said she would pray for us at the thrift store. Saadia told her just remember us and come back to shop. She said she would be telling this story for a long time. Thank you Shirley and Saadia for your dedication to our customers and donors! Submitted by Kim Pittman-Edmond Thrift Store Manager.

HR NEWS:

St Patrick's Day honors St. Patrick, the patron Saint of Ireland. We celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th-which is the day Saint Patrick died. Saint Patrick was born in Wales and given the name Maewyn. He was sold into slavery at age 16. During his time in captivity he went to Gaul where he studied religion to become a priest. He then traveled to Ireland to teach the people about God and Christianity. There are many stories and legends of Saint Patrick-but the most famous is how he drove all the snakes out of Ireland. Some believe it is a myth, but the Irish will tell you that there is not a single snake in the whole country. The icon of St. Patrick's Day-the Shamrock-is what he used in his sermons to explain the Trinity. St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in America in 1737, in Boston.

HAVE A HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY!!!!



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>Jacob Murithi</i>	12	13 <i>Kimberly Pittman</i>	14	15
16	17 <i>ST. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20	21 <i>John Rhi- nehart</i>	22
23 <i>Margie Miller</i>	24	25 <i>Marcy Guest</i>	26	27 <i>Debra Pen- nington</i>	28	29
30	31					

March Birthdays and Calendar of Events