

# EARC News Express

OCTOBER 2008

EARC NEWS EXPRESS

*From the Director—Proud to be a partner agency*

The United Way Fund Drive for Central Oklahoma is off and running. This is a very busy time for representatives from *our* United Way's sixty (60) partner agencies, because we are called upon to speak to companies across the metro to explain first-hand where and how their donations will be utilized. From local businesses to large universities, we request of their employees to give in support of their Community.

I've worked for non-profit charitable organizations serving adults with developmental disabilities for twenty of my thirty years in Administration. I still get emotional when I hear some of the testimonials told by individuals about how they and their families were assisted by United Way. These speakers are volunteers who come to share with strangers their personal tragedies so that others might understand the circumstances in which United Way contributions have helped to give a hand up to everyday people in a time of crisis.

I refer to The United Way of Central Oklahoma as *our* United Way, because as a Partner Agency we are part of a *team*. *Our* United Way utilizes its connections with its Partner Agencies in times of need for the **Community**. Any time a disaster occurs, United Way starts mobilizing these social service agencies to assist those in need. They pull us together and ask for sharing of expertise and resources, usually human resources, because that is the best of what we have to offer.

This year EARC received the full amount of *our* United Way allocation request to provide job training and sheltered employment opportunities to thirteen (13) individuals with more severe disabilities that had no vocational funding. Through work contracts with local companies and our own thrift stores, our program at The Trails Workshop offers a variety of vocational training and a pay check. Everyone is motivated to work and acknowledged for the job they do. Being given the **opportunity to be allowed to be productive** is all that our clients ask.

This year when you are asked for your pledge to United Way, know that your gift is going to **YOUR COMMUNITY** and is **MOST SINCERELY APPRECIATED!**

Bonnie B. Wells, Executive Director



# EARC News Express

OCTOBER 2008

EARC NEWS EXPRESS

As we are getting closer to the Holidays I want to take time to again recognize some of our unsung heroes of the Thrift Stores and Processing Center.

Warren Smith has been a volunteer since the early 70's. Warren has also served on our Board of Directors in the past. He loves working with the Thrift Stores and the folks we serve. We lovingly call him, "Mr. Fix It" because he is really handy when we have a flat tire on the dolly or if we have furniture that needs a little mending, lamps that need rewiring, or if we need some advice on just about anything. (He also brings us donuts once a week!) When asked why does he do it? Warren said, "It's the difference we make in the lives of others." Thank you so much Mr. Warren Smith for your dedication to EARC!



Kay Shough has been a volunteer with EARC for fifteen (15) years. When asked how she first got involved with EARC, Kay said her good friend, Brenda Johnson, was volunteering one day a week and invited her to come along. Now, Kay is in the Third Street Thrift Store almost every day for two to three hours to sort linens, shoes, purses, belts, ties, scarves, etc. Kay said, "I enjoy helping the organization and the people we serve. I have always liked helping someone else. Our clients are very appreciative of what we do for them." Well, Ms. Kay, we certainly appreciate your time, hard work, and dedication to EARC and the individuals we serve!

Toddy Shewbart has been a volunteer for EARC for the past twelve (12) years. Toddy has worked with people with developmentally disabilities for a long time. She has worked at a hospital in occupational therapy and loves giving her time to EARC. In the past she has sorted clothing, fabric, worked with the books, and at present she works with the jewelry that is donated by sorting, pricing and repairing some items for sale in our Thrift stores. Toddy just loves our clients and wants to make their lives better. She says, "I think EARC is doing a fantastic job!" Thank you, Ms. Toddy Shewbart, we are very fortunate to have you as a volunteer at EARC!

Submitted by Kim Pittman Thrift Store Manager

If you are reading this article and think **volunteering** sounds like something you would like to get involved in, contact EARC, Inc. at (405) 341-7132 and say, I would like to volunteer my time! Just ask Warren, Toddy or Kay. They will tell you EARC is a great place to be!

# EARC News Express

OCTOBER 2008

EARC NEWS EXPRESS

## Nova Centre News

Melody Welch is our newest addition to the Nova Centre Nursing Staff. Melody is a Certified Medication Aide (CMA). She started at the Nova Centre in early August of this year. Melody has proven to be a "Team Player" and a hard worker. Melody states, "I like to stay busy." This is evidenced by her willingness to pitch in and help wherever she is needed. Melody has been a CMA for six (6) years, and she is very proficient at administering medications. She also is willing to help cover extra shifts. Melody has three (3) children. Her previous employment was with the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Welcome aboard Melody!

Submitted by: Martha Sander, Director of Nursing

## Moving Mountains

**Great News!!!** EARC's Donation and Processing Center (located at Third & Littler Streets in Edmond) has conquered the Mountain! The Mountain of Clothing that is, which has been covering a whole room for over the last three months. We have Dustin, Stephanie, Mark, Lee Ann, Clint, Shannon, James B., James O., Heather, Robert, Matt and Assistant Manager, Suzy to **thank**. Great job team! We appreciate your efforts. You all make it a great place to work!!!

Submitted by Kim Pittman, Edmond Thrift Manager



## Halloween Party At The Trails

Goblins, ghosts, ghouls and all sorts of grotesque monsters have been invited and so are **YOU!** The fun is scheduled for Thursday evening of October 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. It is a costume party with plenty of food, music and a cake walk. You never know who or what might show up at The Trails' Halloween Bash. So put on your scariest costume and try to blend into the crowd.

# EARC News Express

OCTOBER 2008

EARC NEWS EXPRESS

## A Dozen Years of Service

Shirley Crume is EARC's Guthrie Thrift Store Manager and has been with us since August 8<sup>th</sup> 1996! Shirley hired on as a part-time employee at the Guthrie store under Manager Kim Pittman. In four years the income of this store was doubled. Kim became Manager of the Edmond stores, and Shirley became the new Manager of the Guthrie Thrift Store. It has been Shirley's hard work and dedication that has made Guthrie Thrift what it is today. Shirley has been assisted in her efforts at the store for the last eleven (11) some years by Tina Pickard, our Assistant Manager.

In 2007 our Guthrie Thrift Store was voted **#1 Place to Find the Best Bargain in Logan County** by the Guthrie News Leader. Guthrie is also a great place for a fun and friendly shopping experience. Stop by Guthrie Thrift Store sometime just to say Hi. Thank you, Shirley, for being a great asset to **EARC!**

Submitted by: Kim Pittman, Edmond Thrift Store



## Human Resource News

Marissa Davis is our new Human Resources Assistant in the Administration Office. Marissa, as they say, has had to "hit the ground running" in our very busy office. She is quickly getting to know the more than one hundred and twenty (120) new faces of all EARC's staff and client employees. So it is a good thing that Marissa is enthusiastic and eager to learn. Coming on board at a time of health insurance renewals, surveys and the United Way campaign, has made our always active office more like a hive of bumble bees. Marissa, we are very glad to have you here!