



The Unity Newsletter

UNICORN CENTER



Read All About It!



Festive Fun

Hello family and friends!

December has been such a cheerful and joyful month chock-full of festivities. Huge *THANK YOU* to USAA for kicking off our month with a very merry Christmas party. A team from USAA brought our individuals lots of wonderful presents, served everyone a delicious catered lunch, and surprised us with a visit from Santa! We are very grateful to USAA!

The merriment got everyone into the Christmas spirit. A group of our individuals even learned and performed three dance routines and songs. Our wonderful reindeer group pictured above (far left) performed at parties, including our own Mission Road Employee Christmas Luncheon. They did an amazing job and we are so proud of all their hard work!

A huge thank you as well to Trinity United Methodist Church, Junior League, and special guest Jason Brown (pictured above, far right) for hosting another holiday party. We were gifted gingerbread cookies to decorate, served hot chocolate, had tons of fun singing Christmas carols and dancing, and were grateful for all the holiday cheer!

We also visited Wonder Theatre for a performance of "A Very Merry Holiday Musical". We had fun watching the actors on stage and even had the chance to take pictures with the cast. There was so much festive fun to enjoy this month. We can't wait to see what the new year will bring!

A Look Ahead

Watch out for some fun activities in January

- Martin Luther King Walk
- Basketball Game
- San Marcos Boat Tour!
- Snake Farm Museum

Don't miss any of the fun moments. Scan to follow us on Facebook!



Sussel Carreon
COO of Day Programming

Supported Employment Department



Congratulations to Fathia and Rudy!



Story time!

Fathia's Story:

Fathia came to the US as a refugee from Egypt. In Egypt, she earned her chemistry degree and was a journalist for 25 years. Even though Fathia had skills and was well-educated, upon coming to the US and searching for employment, communication barriers were challenging to overcome.

When Fathia joined MRDC's Community Employment program, she began working with Thomas, her job coach, to explore her skills, talents, needs, and past experiences to match her with the perfect job. At times they'd use Google Translate to communicate, and together, began to prepare Fathia to secure employment.

It turned out that Fathia had learned to sew well from her mother when she was young. With this knowledge, Thomas got Fathia an interview at David's Bridal, where she immediately passed a sewing test and was offered a seamstress position. Fathia never thought she would be able to use her hobby to find a job and get a high-paying wage at the same time. With the help of her job coach, Fathia overcame the challenges she faced and got a great job!



Not the end, but the beginning...

Rudy's Story:

Rudy had previously worked in our sheltered workshop program for many years doing contract labor. However, due to new State regulations, our sheltered workshop was closed last February, leaving Rudy without a job and without pay. Rudy liked working in the workshop and he was good at it, so the workshop closure was difficult. Fortunately, when one thing comes to an end, a new opportunity begins.

Thankfully, our strong Supported Employment team was ready and able to help! The team, along with TWC, suggested Rudy take VAT courses to better prepare him for a job out in the community. Rudy decided to enroll and worked hard to complete the VAT courses. He was then paired up with his job coach, Mrs. Bea, after completing them.

Together they worked hard and Rudy received a job offer from Bigz Burgers. Rudy went to the interview well-prepared and well-dressed. Then he rocked the interview by showing off his skills. All of his hard work and training paid off. *Literally!* Congratulations, Rudy, for securing employment as a Dining Room Attendant!



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FREE TO BE NEWSLETTER

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Festive Fun!

Hello family and friends!

December has been such a cheerful and joyful month chock-full of festivities. Our individuals started the month by getting together and continuing the tradition of Christmas caroling under the flag pole in the center of campus. We decided one day of caroling wasn't enough, though, so our individuals visited the different departments and classrooms around Main Campus to bring the Christmas cheer to all throughout the entire month of December! We loved being able to pass out the candy canes, sing, and spread Christmas joy.

We also enjoyed several different holiday performances. We were able to get great seats at the Tobin Center for "The Nutcracker" performance. Another group had the chance to see a holiday musical put on by our friends at Wonder Theatre. We even had the opportunity to meet and take pictures with the actors. We had such a great time that a few of us even volunteered to help with a play!

All of these activities lead to our favorite end-of-year parties. We had Cheesy Janes for Christmas outside in the pavilion, exchanged presents, and had a blast. We ended the year and month with our New Year's Eve party where we danced some more, popped holiday crackers, and raised a glass of grape juice to ring in the new year. We can't wait to see what 2024 brings!

A Look Ahead

Watch out for some fun activities in January!

- Martin Luther King March
- Big Bingo with Great Prizes!
- San Marcos Boat Trip
- Museum Trips

Scan the QR Code to visit our Facebook page where you can enjoy more information and pictures!



Sussel Carreon
COO of Day Programming

Follow us on FB! www.missionroadministries.org