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What's new at STARS?

STARS is thrilled to announce our community partnership with Chick-fil-A! Through this partnership we have been able to develop a new community based employment enclave for our participants.

Enclaves allow our participants to transition away from STARS vocational programs and begin to develop their job skills. Our goal is to guide our participants through their job training and help transition them to direct employment.

Our partnership with Chick-fil-A has allowed for four STARS participants to begin their career development at Chick-fil-A's 14995 N. 87th St. location.

Our participants will learn a num-

ber of tasks that will aide in their career advancement such as filleting and breading chicken, dishwashing, making hand-made lemonade, light cleaning duties, emptying trashcans and greeting customers during the lunch hour.

We are so excited for all that they will learn through this new opportunity! If you have a chance stop on by and say hi to our participants and grab yourself a cup of their refreshing hand-made lemonade, it will certainly help cool you down!

The new Chick-fil-A team!



Featured Art



Taylor Buttrey, STARS Creative Art Director helps our participants create beautiful works of art through our creative arts program *Drawn Together*. Drawn Together focuses on improving participants motor & cognitive sensory skills. We achieve this by guiding the participants through the entire process of creating an art piece.

Each participant is able to contribute their vision to the project and work with one another to express themselves through art. The participants and Taylor collaborate on each piece from the medium, colors used and inspiration for the piece.

This painting was made using liquid watercolors that are diluted and then poured on to the canvas. Participants, with help from Taylor, move the canvas forming puddles of paint. Colors blend and beautiful organic shapes emerge. In this piece, warm colors were used since the

summer heat has hit!

Let us know what you think of this month's featured art piece on our social media sites! Please use our hash tag #drawntogether and like and share!



Please contact Taylor Buttrey for information on how to purchase this piece and others like it.
tbuttre@starsax.org
480.994.5764

End of year Dance!

Every year STARS puts on an end of year dance party for our participants. This year's theme was Black Ties & Burgers!

The dance is set up similar to a prom. We provide food and beverages, themed decorations, music and a ton of fun! Participants are encouraged to dress their best and boogie the night away.

This year's event was a hit and our participants had a wonderful time. Check out some of the pictures from the event.



Let us know what you think on our social media sites!
#blackties&burgers
#endofyeardance

"You have to work hard! Always have a good attitude. Be positive!"

- Matt

Get to know our STARS!

Matt is one of four participants that have transitioned to our Chick-fil-A enclave. Matt has been with STARS since 2005 and has worked in our center based employment program and our administrative enclave. Through these programs Matt has been able to earn a paycheck and develop his job skills.

We sat down with Matt to find out how his new opportunity with Chick-fil-A will impact his life. Find out what he had to say!

Q: Why do you want to work for Chick-fil-A?

A: I am a hard worker. I always work hard. I am excited for the money!

Q: What are you most excited for at your new job?

A: The money! Learn some new skills, meet new people and a new environment.

Q: How has STARS helped you in your career development?

A: I have helped myself for most of it. I always work hard.

Jules (STARS Community Based supervisor) helped me by talking to Chick-Fil-A and helped me get my new job.

Q: What advice would you give to other participants that would like to work in an enclave?

A: You have to work hard! Always have a good attitude. Be positive!

We are so happy for Matt and proud of his many accomplishments. Good luck Matt!



From Dave's Corner

Greeting STARS supporters-it's summertime and the monsoons are here. So much for dry heat! Welcome to our refreshed STARS newsletter. We will be publishing it on a monthly basis – look for it the first of every month. Please share it with your

friends and contacts. As I begin my second year as CEO, I think about the individuals I've had the pleasure to meet: participants, family members, community supporters, transportation providers, volunteers – our impressively splendid staff – the

list goes on. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and all the good things we are doing at STARS. I appreciate being in conversation with members of our STARS community. Please stop in for a visit sometime. My office is just inside the lobby at Osborn and I

would welcome your visit.

Have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July weekend!
Dave Henderson
President & CEO

How can you help STARS?

Are you aware of the recent changes in Arizona Charitable Tax Credits? Well if you haven't heard don't worry because we've got you covered!

Why is a tax credit better than a deduction?

A tax credit will allow you to subtract dollar for dollar from the amount of taxes owed.

How can your Arizona Charitable Tax Credit help you & Stars?

Your donation can be used towards your owed taxes if you choose. The donated money will be applied to STARS programs to continue our mission to improve the lives of

individuals with developmental and cognitive disabilities.

We believe that the Arizona Charitable tax credit gives individuals an opportunity to improve their financial standing and contribute to our organization. We feel this is a wonderful opportunity to build a community partnership that will positively impact you & STARS. We thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact our office with any questions.

Questions & Inquires please contact Anne Gray P:480.994.5704 E: agray@starssaz.org

Update to the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit:

An Opportunity for Increased Giving

Single filers can now claim up to \$400 (previously \$200)
 Joint filers can now claim up to \$800 (previously \$400)
 PLUS,
 Cash donations made through April 15, 2017 will qualify for a State Tax Credit on your 2016 taxes.

To learn more:
STARSAZ.ORG/TAXCREDIT

Special Shout Out!

Stars would like to give a special shout out to our community partner Quicken Loans! Quicken has been so generous to our organization over the past two months. They have donated funds to help us provide a recreation equipment for our participants at our STARS Cholla campus. They donated additional funds for our Black Ties & Burgers Dance to purchase food &

beverages for participants. They went one step further and even volunteered their time to help prepare and serve the delicious food.

We are so grateful and overwhelmed by their generosity. They have gone above & beyond in assisting in our organization's mission. Thank you so much Quicken for all

Quicken Loans®

you have done. Your time and contributions have impacted our organization for years to come!



"How a society treats it's disabled is the true measure of a civilization"
 -Chen Guangcheng

In Memoriam



It is with heavy hearts that we inform you that our longtime participant Rusty passed away on Friday June 17th, 2016. Rusty was laid to rest on June 22nd, 2016 in Phoenix, AZ. Rusty joined STARS in December of 1980, he spent his nearly 36 years in our DTA classrooms and work center.

Rusty loved to spend his time contributing to our creative arts program. He had an enormous influ-

ence on several of the art pieces that his DTA classroom created. He would often create entire pieces by himself.

We spoke with DTA classroom instructor Russ Ker on his memories of Rusty, "Rusty loved art, he was the biggest contributor to some of our most successful pieces. Everyone would anxiously await to see what Rusty had created."

Rusty was such an extraordinary person and will be dearly missed by the entire STARS organization.

A memorial contribution may be made in Rusty's name and will be used for the purchase of supplies for the art program.

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure." -Author unknown

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