

Hope in *Action*

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“I Chose Home Depot!”



TERESA IS A LONG-TIME CLIENT of Hope Services, who recently chose to work at her local Home Depot outlet. She's a great example of the success of Hope Services Employment, Media and Community Connections (EMCC) program, our initiative to reduce the number of clients working in non-integrated jobs and, instead, facilitate their employment at companies where they can enjoy a collegial environment and successfully work within a team.

For years, people with developmental differences were put into work training programs that placed them in paid jobs performing solitary tasks, such as piece work assembly, packing bottles into boxes, etc. This outdated approach to job training and placement did little to improve the client's social skills, or to optimize the employee's self-esteem and personal growth.

In the past 6 months, we made great progress in re-directing our job development and preparation efforts

to increase the number of our clients working in integrated jobs. We also expanded the variety of employers and work opportunities available to them, so they have the power to choose where they would like to work.

To date, our EMCC program works with approximately 40 employers, and provides community-based work opportunities for 365 clients. This is a substantial increase over last year. In addition, the number of hours of paid work in the community increased by 17%, to 17,467 hours for the second quarter (October-December 2017).

Among the employers who have stepped up by increasing hiring in integrated settings are Home Depot, 7-Eleven, DeAnza College, Safeway, Orchard Supply, Agilent, KLIV, J Lohr Vineyards and Monterey Bay Aquarium.

On behalf of Teresa and hundreds of clients like her, we could not be more proud.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Hope Services client Jenny Doyle

THIS MONTH, JENNY IS TRAINING for the Special Olympics. She plans to run the 100-yard and 200-yard dash, and, feed her many other passions – basketball, weaving, bowling, working out at the gym and to be with her friends.

“Jenny, she’s this little firecracker, she’s got a huge heart. She’s stubborn, in a good way, and determined, says her Hope companion Marlee Craker. She’s got this fire for life and brings out the best in others.”

“She’s blind, has cerebral palsy and a slight intellectual disability but she accomplishes more in a day than most of us. She has a hunger for life. She just wants to experience everything. Jenny has had other situations where she was limited, now she has the freedom to move full steam ahead.”



SLS: Life Without Boundaries

OUR SUPPORTIVE LIVING SERVICES

(SLS) is a unique program that brings support and housing together to enable people with developmental disabilities to live their best lives — even if that means facilitating some unexpected life goals, like jumping out of an airplane at 13,000 feet.

Typically, our SLS team solves more down-to-earth challenges. This means giving people with disabilities the same life choices that other members of their community enjoy, like where they live and with whom, what plans to make for their futures, and what activities to pursue, depending on their individual abilities and personal preferences.

We're here to support people with disabilities and their families in making their own choices and living life on their own terms. And sometimes, that requires members of our support team to raise their sights. *High. Really, really high.*

“It’s really about empowering people to turn their choices into their reality,”



thrilled with the experience. In fact, he was practically walking on air.

On the ground, SLS staff supports people with disabilities in three key areas:

- Choosing and securing a house, condominium or apartment, hiring support staff, and becoming the leaseholders or owners of their living space
- Planning daily activities, including money management, assistance with medical appointments, leisure activities, and domestic skills
- Participating in their community and becoming valued community members

When you support Hope Services, you're supporting the idea that everyone, including people with disabilities, should have control over their lives, and the dignity, happiness, and quality of life that comes with that.

And sometimes that means yelling “Geronimo!” and jumping out of a plane.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Nick Wilson, Companion with Supported Living Services, with Steven, a Hope Services' client and a volunteer at the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

Recently, Nick shared his thoughts about his work at Hope Services and his relationship with Steven:

“The most rewarding part of this job for me is seeing our clients with a smile on their face. The magic happens when we allow our clients to feel like themselves – integrating into the community at work or at a social event.”

“My experience has shaped my future in the sense that I want to do this work for the rest of my life. I have learned compassion on a very deep level. The compassion to connect the humanity, the struggles that I go through with the struggles that our clients go that are incredibly similar on so many different levels.”

HopeTHRIFT Super Centers: These Heroes Need a Cape



TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE BUSY making the world a better place. It's been one year since the grand opening of our first HopeTHRIFT Super Center in San Jose and what are year it's been! The community's response has been nothing less than, well, super. We ended our first year far ahead of expectations, with 76,000 sales transactions and more than 320,000 items sold.

Equally important, the Super Center created jobs for more than 20 Hope Services clients. These individuals

chose to put their skills and passions to work while reaping the benefits that come from participating as productive members of our community's workforce.

And as it turns out, we were just getting warmed up. Last March, we opened our second HopeTHRIFT in Watsonville. Again, the community embraced us. We were front-page news in the Santa Cruz Sentinel and prime time news on KION-TV, the local CBS affiliate. In our first 3 days, we sold more than 10,000 items.

Plus, the store created 20 new jobs for our clients — all dedicated, enthusiastic, capable people with developmental disabilities who are making the most of this opportunity.

So why stop now? This summer, we will be opening our third HopeTHRIFT Super Center in Fremont.

Learn more about HopeTHRIFT happenings and watch a video of our San Jose store. Visit hope-thrift.org.

A Visit, A Bond, And the Choice of Hope



Bob McLalan

MY INVOLVEMENT IN my sister Toni's life was involuntary. I had not seen her since we were 5 and 6 years old. My parents decided that with three boys and my father's career in the Marine Corps caring for child with Down syndrome was too difficult.

I returned home from serving overseas in the Marine Corps in January 1969 at the of age 20, In 15 years I had only seen her for a day or two. I was her first visitor in five years – she had been institutionalized at Agnews State Hospital.

No one came to see her. I only planned on saying hello but when she was brought out the nurse bent down and said "Toni, this is your brother" at which point she grabbed me around the legs crying "My brudder!" Little did I realize how that introduction would carom my life in an entirely unplanned and unanticipated direction until she died at age 67 in June 2017.

For 47 years, I was Toni's voice and learned the 3B's: Be cautious, be adversarial if necessary and always be present.

What I hope to accomplish in subsequent columns is to share my experiences with those in similar situations and others who may not be aware of the challenging side of being a care giver and that together, with a lot of smarts and hard work, we can choose hope.

Bob McLalan is a financial advisor based in San Mateo, CA.

Help Build Our Hope Chest

Hope Services receives partial funding for its services from the State, through the California Department of Developmental Services. We also generate revenue from our enterprises, which goes directly to funding our programs. But we still depend on grants and donations to help close the funding gap and meet the needs of our growing client base.

You can fund our efforts by:

- Making a one-time or monthly gift
- Workplace giving
- A stock transfer
- Tribute gifts or bequests/estate plans
- Corporate support/matching plans

We are also grateful for donations of clothing, bikes, household items, toys, small appliances, sporting goods, electronics, furniture, books, and DVDs for re-sale in our HopeTHRIFT stores.

To make a financial donation go to hopeservices.org/support-us.

To schedule a donation pick-up or to drop off your items for resale, please visit hope-thrift.org/donations.



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Common Threads

HopeSTUDIO Clients Learn More Than A Craft

WEAVING IS FOUNDATIONAL to the human experience, dating back to the Paleolithic era 27,000 years ago. Over time, weaving became more than a trade. It emerged as an art form and a social activity that connected communities.

It still is.

Hope Services recently launched a new program, HopeSTUDIO, that brings in Master Weavers to train our clients in the art of weaving. Each master weaver works with a group of 5 to 8 clients, dividing time among each client for one-on-one instruction.

It's been a huge success.

Our weavers relish the opportunity to master a craft and find an outlet for creative expression. The pride they take in their work is palpable, and we see great improvement in their social engagement and emotional wellness.

What's more, they earn income from the items they create. Their work is for sale in our HopeTHRIFT Super Centers, at selected boutique stores and will soon be available at our online store.

