



Dialogue

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Summer 2011

Consumer Spotlight

Wayne and Judy Hunt

When Judy and Wayne Hunt met, it may not have been love at first sight, but it must have been pretty close to it. They met at a movie night get-together at the home of Pam Lander, who works for their independent living services (ILS) service provider Michele V. Miller and Associates. They liked each other right away, and began dating. Just seven months later, they got married and they are looking forward to celebrating their seventh anniversary in September 2011.

The Hunts say that one of the keys to their successful marriage is that they talk to each other a lot and they try to be open about the things that are important to them. That thoughtfulness and care, which has helped them have a happy marriage, is also something that they have learned to apply in managing their household and finances together.

They are looking forward to celebrating their seventh anniversary in September.

Judy works for Target and has been employed there for nine years, while



Judy (far right) and Wayne (second from right) traveled to Colorado last year with their friends Brendon (far left) and Cheri (second from left).

Wayne has worked at Albertson's for the past four years and before that for Ralph's and Wal-Mart. With careful planning, they have been able to make their modest earnings go a long way. Their biggest purchase, made with guidance from their ILS provider, was their one-bedroom Lake Forest condominium – a very tidy and well-kept home, decorated with charming Western-themed touches including a leather donkey yoke and authentic steer skull.

The money management and budgeting skills the Hunts are learning help them stretch their dollars every month and save for the future. Each month, when they are paying their household bills, they put money aside for Christmas shopping, retirement savings, and regular savings. "It may be just a small amount," said Judy, "but if you plan and save this way, the small amounts add up."

By doing this, the Hunts were able to save up and purchase a big screen television. Now, they are putting money away for another big purchase. They like to cook together and Wayne likes to bake, but

their oven is not working well, so they are saving up for a new one.

With careful planning, they have been able to make their modest earnings go a long way.

One of the ways that the Hunts save money and have fun at the same time is to team up with their friends on meal planning, grocery shopping and cooking. There is a group of eight people who receive services through

See **Wayne and Judy Hunt** page 7

Dialogue

Dialogue is published four times per year by the Regional Center of Orange County for people with developmental disabilities, their families and service providers.

Dialogue can also be read online at RCOC's Web site: www.rcocdd.com.

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2011 Board Meetings

September 1 • October 6 • November 3

The public is invited to attend. Meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held in the Regional Center Board Room at RCOC's new headquarters in the Tustin Centre Tower complex, located at 1525 North Tustin Avenue in Santa Ana.

RCOC Administration

Larry Landauer, *Executive Director*
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Board Update

New Volunteer Joins RCOC Board

At the June 2 meeting, Christopher Jenkins was elected to join the RCOC Board of Directors. The father of a child served by RCOC, Chris is a highly-respected business executive who has started and run several technology and automotive businesses. As such, he brings strong financial and management credentials to his role as a board member.

After selling his last for-profit business, Chris wanted to give back to the local community and help people with special needs. That desire to pursue community service led him to his current position of President and CEO of Griswold Special Care. While Griswold Special Care helps seniors and people with disabilities

live independently, it does not do business with the regional center or the State of California – thus, Chris' service on the board is allowed within RCOC's conflict of interest policy.

Prior to joining RCOC's board, Chris served on the boards of directors for various for-profit businesses and has been involved in both school and church committees and boards. His board experience includes serving as chairman of the board, director and treasurer.

Other Board News

RCOC Board Chair Tresa Oliveri has been elected President of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), a position traditionally held by a community volunteer. Her term runs through June 2012. A passionate and effective advocate on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, Tresa previously served as president of ARCA several years ago.



Good to Know...

News about California's budget and its effect on people with developmental disabilities is of great interest to many of the people we serve, as well as service providers and family members. To get the latest information, visit RCOC's Web site (www.rcocdd.com) and click on "Latest Budget News" from the home page.

Executive Director's Report

RCOC Office Consolidation to Save Millions

By Larry Landauer, Executive Director

One of the first things I did two years ago, after being given the great honor of leading Regional Center of Orange County, was to initiate a major overhaul of our center in response to the statewide budget crisis. We eliminated several high-level positions and streamlined our management structure. This cut costs and increased efficiency, without compromising our focus and commitment to excellent service coordination for the individuals and families we serve.



technology – in delivering better service at less cost, the process of innovation is never-ending. We have to be vigilant and constantly ask ourselves if we are getting the most from every dollar entrusted to us.

It was in answering that question that we made the decision to move RCOC's

headquarters to its current location last December, significantly reducing our costs for office space.

Earlier this summer, we undertook the second phase of that cost-saving move.

In June, RCOC moved its South Area staff from its Irvine office into our new headquarters building and consolidated its operations with the East/Central Area that was already located in the building.

At the same time, we made a number of other personnel changes that speed RCOC's ongoing transition from paper charts to scanned and electronic records, and help us to be more efficient, while meeting new requirements the Legislature has for regional centers.

This reorganization and the consolidation of the two offices into an East/South Area will save about \$450,000 a year. Importantly, the savings will be achieved with no effect on consumers or families. Service coordinator assignments are unchanged and service coordinators will continue to meet with consumers and families in their homes or other convenient locations. The combined area staffs now report to a single Area Manager, Rosalinda Lopez.

2011-2012 Budget Passed Just in Time

The savings that RCOC will achieve from these changes will be important to help us cope with the smaller operating budget we will receive as part of the 2011-2012 budget that was passed just before the fiscal year began on July 1. The current year's budget continues the cuts in payments to service providers and regional centers that the community has struggled to absorb this past fiscal year. Additionally, regional centers and the Department of Developmental Services are still responsible for implementing new cost-savings requirements that were mandated by laws passed in March 2011. To learn more about these, visit our Web site at www.rcocdd.com – from the "News and Events" tab, click on "Legislation and Budget."

This reorganization and the consolidation of the two offices into an East/South Area will save about \$450,000 a year.

As required by California law, the budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year was balanced. That means that the amount of money the state plans to spend is "balanced" by the amount of money it expects to receive in revenues (taxes and fees, for example). However, if state revenues fall short of the amount budgeted, the budget calls for automatic cuts to take place in the middle of the fiscal year. We are hopeful this will not happen, but we will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep our community informed of key developments through the RCOC Web site.

Our community has pulled together to ensure that people's needs are met.

Since then, the regional center system and California as a whole have continued to face significant fiscal challenges and I have been gratified at the support RCOC has received from consumers, families and our community's service providers. Our community has pulled together to ensure that people's needs are met, and that we maintain high standards of stewardship, transparency and accountability.

South Area Consolidated with East/Central Area

While we have made tremendous progress – particularly with

Consumer Advisory Team Update

Microenterprise is Good Work for Some Consumers

By Jay Connor, CAT Chairman

At our May meeting, the Consumer Advisory Team learned about an exciting new business that is owned and run by Kerri Adamic-Curtice, who is an RCOC consumer.

Kerri has cerebral palsy and uses a special kind of device to communicate. Words she wants to use are typed into her communication device which then speaks her words. Her business is called Kerri Cares. It is a mentoring service for children and young adults who use these kinds of devices to communicate.

Kerri's business is different from the training that a consumer receives when they first get one of these devices. Those training sessions teach a person how to use their new equipment to communicate



basic needs. Kerri focuses on helping children and young adults become more comfortable with their devices. With her help, they build confidence and learn to use them for socializing and making friends.

Kerri's business is something RCOC calls a "microenterprise." Microenterprise is a relatively new kind of option for consumers who

want to work, but may not be best suited to working for someone else. Kerri has gotten help from Goodwill's Microenterprise Development Program. California Elwyn also has a microenterprise program.

With microenterprise programs, a consumer has the support of a "business coach." The business coach helps consumers figure out what kind of a business they might like to have. They also help to get the business started, and involve the consumers' circles of support on their teams.

Upcoming CAT Meeting Dates

September 21
October 19
November 16
December 21

CAT meetings are from 10 a.m. to noon at RCOC's new office in Santa Ana, located at 1525 North Tustin Avenue. Call Nancy Mata at (714) 796-5217 ahead of time to let her know you will be there.

It seems like microenterprise could be a lot of fun for someone who has always dreamed of starting a business. But it is also a lot of hard work. A person has to be really dedicated and committed to the business. For someone like Kerri, it is a great option!

To read Kerri's blog on the Internet, go to www.kerricare.blogspot.co. If you think you might be interested in pursuing microenterprise, contact your RCOC service coordinator.

Consumers Enjoy Food and Fun at Summer Blast

For the second year in a row, KiwanisLand in Garden Grove was the setting for Summer Blast – a day of fun, food and good times with friends and family. Taking place on Sat., June 18 from 2-7 p.m., Summer Blast drew around 600 people who enjoyed traditional picnic activities like sack races, softball, face painting, water balloons, and a cake walk, as well as entertainment and dancing. The event was organized by the non-profit Integrity House, with support from Regional Center of Orange County. While ticket prices were as low as \$5 per person to ensure accessibility to all RCOC consumers and families, the ticket sales covered all costs for the event.



Behavior Management Workshops for Parents

Regional Center of Orange County offers these workshops at no cost to parents. To gain the most value from them, parents are encouraged to attend all sessions in a series. The Behavior Management workshop covers essential principles of positive behavior management, with a practical focus on helping parents of children with developmental disabilities change their own behavior and that of their children. The Social Skills Training workshop is focused on helping parents nurture social skills among children.

In all of the workshops, parents are actively involved, and invited to discuss the specific behavioral challenges they are confronting. Advance reservations are required and group size is typically limited to 40-45 families.

Contact your service coordinator or Thelma Day at (714) 796-5223 for additional information regarding dates, times and locations, and to register.

NOTE: Child care is not provided, so please do not bring children to the workshops.

Behavior Management Workshop with Toilet Training (5 sessions)

Presented in Spanish: by Eva Urena, M.A., BCBA, Rossirene Li, B.S., and Juliana Menchaca, B.S. (Footprints)

When: Thursday evenings – August 18, August 25, Sept. 1, Sept. 8 and Sept. 15

(NOTE: Toilet training is the focus of the last session of this workshop)

Time: 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Location: RCOC Orange Office
3111 N. Tustin, Suite 150

Behavior Management Workshop with Toilet Training (5 sessions)

Presented in Vietnamese

When: Thursday evenings – Sept. 15, Sept. 22, Sept. 29, Oct. 6 and Oct. 13

(NOTE: Toilet training is the focus of the last session of this workshop)

Time: 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Location: RCOC Westminster Office
5555 Garden Grove Boulevard, Suite 100

Social Skills Training Workshop – Focus on Ages 12 through 18 years (6 sessions)

Presented in English: by Erin Davis, M.A., Parent Training Consultant

When: Tuesday evenings – Sept. 13, Sept. 20, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Oct. 11 and Oct. 18

Time: 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Location: RCOC Orange Office
3111 N. Tustin, Suite 150

Behavior Management Workshop with Toilet Training (5 sessions)

Presented in English: by Dr. Joyce Tu, Ed.D., BCBA (Center for Behavioral Sciences)

When: Thursday evenings – Sept. 29, Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20 and Oct. 27

(NOTE: Toilet training is the focus of the last session of this workshop)

Time: 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Location: RCOC Santa Ana Office
1525 N. Tustin Avenue
Parking is located in the structure across from the RCOC office building

Older Consumers Can Be “Silver & Fit”

Older consumers who want to get in shape may want to look into a program called “Silver & Fit” that is available through CalOptima’s OneCare program for those who qualify for both MediCal and Medicare (Medi-Medi). With Silver & Fit, eligible consumers can join a participating gym and have the membership fees covered by the program! The program’s Web site – www.silverandfit.com – has more information and a list of participating fitness and exercise centers. A recent check of the site showed nearly 90 facilities located throughout Orange County. To learn more about the Silver & Fit program, contact Brian Story, RCOC’s Consumer Advocate, at (714) 796-5365 or bstory@rcocdd.com.



Wayne and Judy Hunt
(continued from page 1)

the same service provider as the Hunts, who get together for this purpose every month. Taking into account individual health and calorie needs as well as their tastes, the group plans meals and snacks, then shops for items and ingredients in bulk at places like Costco. Over the course of two to three days, they prepare the chosen recipes – many of them their original creations – at Pam’s house, and carefully measure and divide up the portions for each person. They all get better value for their money and also get variety in their diets. This could be more difficult if each person had to do everything on their own.

“Wayne and Judy are mentors for the group,” said Pam, who said the group also does some cooking for other consumers who need a little more help. “They care so much for their friends, and it’s amazing how they take care of each other.”

“They care so much for their friends, and it’s amazing how they take care of each other.”

In many ways, the Hunts and their friends are like family to one another. While Judy and Wayne are very close to Wayne’s family, it is not unusual for them to celebrate two Thanksgivings – a traditional family dinner and another dinner that the friends prepare together.

They also spend a lot of their free time hanging out with friends, staging



Judy and Wayne (above) today and (at right) celebrating Christmas a few years ago with Wayne’s sons Chris (top left) and David (top right).



movie nights, game nights, and other gatherings at one another’s homes, and going to church and Bible study. They especially enjoy traveling. Just a few weeks ago, they returned from a camping trip near Sea World in San Diego with their friends Cheri and Brendon Lai, who are also married, and their friend Ed. Last year, the two couples – the Hunts and Cheri and Brendon – traveled to Colorado where they saw the Grand Canyon. One of their favorite trips, though, was to Mesa, Arizona to attend the wedding of Wayne’s son, Chris.

Kathleen McBain, Judy and Wayne’s RCOC service coordinator, is most

impressed with the progress the Hunts have made over the years she has known them.

“Like all of us, they have made mistakes, but they’ve learned from them,” Kathleen said. “An important thing others can learn from Wayne and from Judy is to set your goals, stay on the path, and you can achieve your goals, too.”

Mural Created by Hope University Unveiled at Integrity House

In July, Hope University and Integrity House unveiled a 15x70 foot mural that was designed by Hope University – a fine arts program for adults with developmental disabilities – and created on an outside wall of the Integrity House clubhouse in Santa Ana. The project involved about 40 Hope University artists, 20 volunteers, three Integrity House members and several Hope University staff members who worked together to complete the mural over the course of two years. Integrity House clients, who are

adults with disabilities, provided input on what they wanted in the mural. The brightly-colored artwork has pictures of Integrity House clients, showing what they do there. It also includes trees that represent Integrity House as a place of shelter, flowers that represent the blossoming of individuals at the clubhouse, and birds to represent the ability of people with disabilities to soar beyond other people’s expectations.



Regional Center of Orange County Locations

Santa Ana Office

1525 N. Tustin Avenue
24-hr Phone: (714) 796-5100

Orange Office

3111 N. Tustin, Suite 150
24-hr Phone: (714) 796-3700

Westminster Office

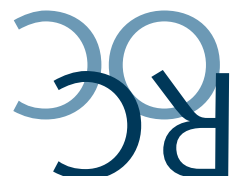
5555 Garden Grove Blvd., Suite 100
24-hr Phone: (714) 796-2900

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