



THE LOOP

A COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM AROUND NEVADA

JANUARY 2022

ISSUE 10

VOLUME 1



With 2021 now in the rear-view mirror, I cannot begin to accurately express the immense gratitude I have towards those of us who have willingly accepted the responsibility to care for others. I am amazed at the level of altruism that has been demonstrated by our own WestCare family, many of our community partners, and our outside donors with regards to making the holiday season and the end of the year a memorable one for those in our care and those who are most in need.

Looking back, it is truly astonishing to me how much we are in direct contrast to what the past year has revealed about our country as a whole; divided over politics, divided over a vaccine, and looking to blame others for their lot in life as opposed to taking responsibility for their own problems and actions.

Yet, in all of that, I believe that collectively, we have also found the answer and that answer is demonstrated by our willingness to put differences aside and work together towards Uplifting the Human Spirit. There is no doubt that investing in others can and will make you feel healthier, more accomplished, and more at peace - which will be proven by how you will feel after reading and seeing what we have for you in this month's issue of the Loop.

You will witness the generous amount of giving that took place over the holiday season where no one in our care went without gifts. In fact, there was so much to go around that we were able to reach out to several

churches in the community to come and retrieve the abundance of children's toys that were left over so that they could provide for their congregations. You will have the opportunity to meet another Community Action Council member, Mr. Eric Endy, a gentleman who has meant so much to WestCare Nevada. We are also highlighting an employee from each location that was chosen by their peers as recipients of the Uplifting the Human Spirit/Employee of the Year award. Lastly, a group of staff, clients at the Women and Children's Campus (WCC), and family members came together to make over 1,200 tamales which were served to all clients in treatment on New Year's Day.

Based on our current trajectory, I am truly looking forward to what the future holds for WestCare Nevada in 2022. We are expecting to begin breaking ground on The Village at the WCC, which will expand both treatment and transitional living services for women and their children. There are several other smaller projects on the horizon that should allow WestCare Nevada the opportunity to continue to serve this community, just like we have done for almost 49 years - so stay tuned.



Leo Magrdichian, LCSW, LCADC, Vice President



westcare.com



The Nevada Community Action Council Helps Start a New WCC Tradition

By Andrew Moran, Development Director, WestCare Foundation

As we turn over a new leaf in 2022 and begin the new year refreshed, we would like to spotlight the amazing community volunteers that make up the **WestCare Nevada Community Action Council (CAC)** for sharing their holiday spirit. Last month, their members put together gift cards for 90 women at the **Women and Children's Campus (WCC)** in Las Vegas so that they could go shopping and buy gifts and essentials for their families for Christmas. This time of the year is a time for sharing and giving and the women and families in our care are extremely grateful to have the opportunity to provide a gift to their loved ones.

Each year, the CAC prepares a beautiful tea party with those that we serve and our staff, but because of state regulations regarding the pandemic, that was not possible this year. Instead, they got creative and provided gingerbread house kits and the women and children at the program created their own gingerbread house masterpieces for themselves. Each kit included decorative supplies like icy and colorful candies to spruce up their houses. After this fun and creative activity, everyone on hand could enjoy the village of gingerbread houses that they created together!

The activity brought many smiles and laughter to the center and the houses turned out amazing! The entire WCC was also adorned with festive decorations and beautiful Christmas trees. Colorful lights were strung throughout the hallways and were wrapped in tinsel and holiday sparkle. The holiday cheer was felt by all and this year, we were happy to create a long-lasting tradition. On behalf of the staff at the WCC and the women and little ones that they serve, we'd like to thank the amazing members of the WestCare Nevada CAC for their generosity and kindness during the holiday season!



CAC Member Spotlight: Eric Endy

Eric Endy is married to Hsiaochin "Cathy" Endy and has three adult children: Daren, Nevin, and Celine. He is the third and youngest son of Paul and Jean Endy. Eric was the director of Gaming Partners International Corporation, but recently retired after 30 years in the gaming supply industry. His father, Paul S. Endy Jr., started Paul-Son Gaming Supplies, Inc. in 1963, which made every set of dice and playing cards for every Nevada Casino during Las Vegas' Golden Years. Eric received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of Nevada, Reno. He also has a Master in Audiology degree from California State University, Los Angeles. In his own words, "I am proud to continue the tradition that my father, Paul S. Endy Jr., established in helping WestCare and am honoring his legacy in a book that is currently being published titled, 'Paul S. Endy Jr.: Las Vegas Casino Gaming Legend.'"



Masa for the Masses



By Irma Magrdichian, Director of Residential Treatment Services



I feel honored for the opportunity to share my family tradition of making tamales with our WestCare facilities. One of my most cherished childhood memories is when we stood around the assembly line sharing stories, jokes, and laughter while we taught and encouraged one another how to work as a team. Despite the decades that have passed and the generational losses that we have experienced, we still share treasured memories and tamale-making techniques that my grandmother left for us to pass along. We look forward to outdoing ourselves every year by increasing the number of tamales made and sharing our tradition with as many people as possible. It brings joy to me and my family to know that our friends, WestCare clients, coworkers, and their families enjoy what we proudly prepared in honor of our grandmother. In the 19 years that I have been married, my husband and WestCare Nevada's Vice President of Operations, Leo Magrdichian, has also made his contribution to our tradition by mastering the masa prepping technique himself. I know that

this would have made my grandmother proud. Making tamales is a long and tedious process that provides an opportunity for the preparers to bond and share a piece of their heart with those that enjoy the masterpiece.

On December 27, WestCare clients and staff came together to make over 1,200 tamales for all of the Southern Nevada facilities. It was an emotional time for many as we learned, laughed, and rejoiced together. Many ladies shared their gratitude for the opportunity to begin a new tradition with their families and experience the spirit of giving during this holiday season. We hope to continue to pass along the blessing of giving, sharing, giving thanks, and gathering for years to come. Every client in treatment on New Year's Day enjoyed a meal that included four tamales (*two pork and two cheese*) and chili.

WestCare Nevada and the Las Vegas Rotary: A Partnership for Giving Back

By Andrew Moran, Development Director, WestCare Foundation

In this issue of the Loop, I would like to reflect on last year and our organization's involvement with the **Rotary Club of Las Vegas**. Since joining the best rotary club in Nevada, the development team has made countless networking relationships and has continued to spread the good word of WestCare and what we do in the community. Their luncheons are held every Thursday at Lawry's The Prime Rib, off of Flamingo Road in Las Vegas.

Each meeting begins with conversations and then the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterward, one of the members gives an invocation to uplift spirits in the room. A different guest speaker is chosen each week and they are always a pillar in the community in their own right. These guests have included Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak, key representatives on behalf of local colleges, and local business owners – among many others. The wide variety of presenters makes it interesting and exciting to return each week. On top of that, the friendships that you gain are invaluable. It's truly the who's who in Las Vegas and to be a part of such an amazing group is both welcoming and amazing.

Before the next meeting, you can sign up for a task or duty to give back. That is what the rotary stands for. It is an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service to their communities and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.

We were brought into the rotary by three **WestCare Nevada Community Action Council (CAC)** members: Russ Swain, Kirk Holmes, and Bill Houghton - who are all very active with the rotary and continue to serve the community in every way that they can. To our community partners in the Rotary Club of Las Vegas, thank you for allowing us to serve alongside you for the betterment of our community!

We appreciate your support!

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

As we come to a close of the 2020-21 Rotary Year, the year associated with COVID-19 and significant changes in the way we do business, your Membership Committee is thrilled to say, in spite of the challenges, our Club gained 19 incredible, motivated and highly energized new members. As promised, we changed the way new members are inducted, including sponsor introductions of the inductees and family/friend attendance, as well as engaged more existing members in the orientation process. Three of our new members had the special honor of being inducted by our District Governor. With thoughtful pairings, the Mentorship program furthered the opportunities for new members to become engaged in Club activities and service.

The current RI theme 'Rotary Opens Opportunities' caused us to think of the opportunities we have when it comes to Membership. Once we started hybrid meetings, members reached out and 23 guests were invited to join us for lunch, each of whom received a personal email thanking them for coming and three becoming new members. We inducted our first Corporate Member, WestCare Foundation, with active participation by the corporate representatives; we inducted three individuals transferring from other clubs from out of state following leads from the Club Website; and an additional six new members as a result of proposals from club members, not to mention 36 individual interviews were conducted with prospective members.

The three New Member Orientations were well attended with no less than 25 people and as many as 32. Attendees were new members and, in some instances, their spouse/significant other, sponsors/mentors, and existing members. We had existing

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT CONT.

member speakers providing valuable information about Foundation, Club projects, 25 Club and committee engagement. Mentors and sponsors were in attendance to answer questions and assist with the onboarding of our new members. These activities provided for a smooth transition of our new members to the Club.

For those on Leave of Absence, a team of five caring members reached out on multiple occasions to let our absent members know they are important, missed and were provided ways to stay connected to Club activities and meetings.

Membership consists of 6 subcommittees: Recruitment, Induction & Orientation, Mentorship, Membership Retention, Friends & Family of Rotary, and Attendance & Recognition. Each subcommittee is an integral part of the growth and success of the Club. The Membership Committee welcomes all members to get involved in expanding our Club's membership and serving on a sub-committee. The duties and responsibilities of each subcommittee are described in a document accompanying the Committee Sign Up sheets and will be distributed to all members in the new Rotary Year.

As we approach the end of this Rotary Year, we have the opportunity to remind ourselves why we joined Rotary and why we stay. Your Membership Committee hopes you take a moment to carefully consider your answer. Whether it is community service, a particularly meaningful local project, international service, leadership development, or fellowship with other Rotarians, it is up to us to find ways to get involved in activities that are important to us, be innovative and to continue with our "service above self" mission.



A special mention for WestCare in a previous issue of the Rotary Club of Las Vegas' newsletter, *The Wheel!*

We are committed to staying safe
Thank you for wearing your face mask.

2021 WestCare Nevada Employees of the Year



Andrew Brunson
Maintenance Tech,
Maintenance



Sherice Lellek-Davis
Behavioral Health
Tech, Women &
Children's Campus



Dorothea McHugh
Behavioral Health
Tech, Reno
Homefront



Jayrita Stallworth
Behavioral Health
Tech, Community
Triage Center



Chabrian Tanguay
Research Assistant,
Community
Involvement Center



Nathan Weisse
Behavioral Health
Tech, Harris
Springs Ranch



Sasha Whitmire
Program Supervisor,
4th St. Campus



The Community Comes Together to Uplift the Holiday Spirit

By Rhonda Davidson, *Transitional Coordinator, WCC*

Once again, the holidays for our clients and children at the **Women and Children's Campus (WCC)**, **Harris Spring Ranch (HSR)**, the **Community Involvement Center (CIC)**, the **Las Vegas Community Triage Center (CTC)**, and the **4th St. Campus** were filled with joy and warmth thanks to our loyal and generous donors that bring the magic of Santa Claus to the little ones and an abundance of Christmas cheer to those that we serve.

We began this holiday season with cookies, cocoa, and candy canes. The festive decor included gingerbread houses made by the ladies at the WCC. This year's donors provided gift cards to each client, giving them the opportunity to buy gifts for their loved ones. The **Angel Tree Team** made the Christmas wishes of the clients' children come true, bringing a message of faith and forgiveness that touched the hearts and souls of many. **Mr. Bob Vickery** provided entertainment with a Christmas carol sing-along while clients wrapped the gifts that they purchased. **Marcie Davis from Davis House** hosted a cookie decorating class, creating delicious treats for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you to our kind donors that provided the following:

- **The Wyndham Group** – Toys and an assortment of hygiene products
- **Our anonymous donor** who sent Amazon gift cards to purchase gifts
- **Calrol** - an assortment of toys
- **HELP of Southern Nevada** – Bikes and toys
- **U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Las Vegas** – Toys
- **The Las Vegas chapter of the Raider Nation Wrecking Crew** – Toys and games
- **St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Roman Catholic Church** – Baby supplies, toys, hygiene products
- **Torrey Pines Pub** – Food, treats, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, and \$1,800 to assist clients with obtaining vital documents
- **CB Dreamers** – Toys, blankets, assorted gifts for men and women
- **Las Vegas Community Coalition** – Hygiene products, socks, and undergarments
- **UNSHAKEABLE** – Christmas cookies
- **The Trevino Family and Fresh Wind Ministries** – Shoes for children and warm clothing for the women and men
- **Sun City Anthem Sewing and Quilting Club** - Handmade quilts suitable for framing
- **Hila Asterino and Carole Zeller** – Hand crocheted and knitted afghan blankets and stocking hats
- **Armando and the Angel Tree Team** – Fulfilling the children's Christmas wish lists
- **The Crossing Church** – Handmade tote bags filled with hygiene kits

The smiles on our clients' faces, the joyful sounds of children's glee, and the gratitude that filled all of our hearts made this a most wonderful time at WestCare Nevada this year!

Thank you for making spirits bright!



Connect with us in Nevada

Get in touch with our Marketing Department to learn more about what is happening in WestCare Nevada at marketing@westcare.com