



# THE LOOP

A COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM AROUND NEVADA

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When an agency like WestCare Nevada serves a community for close to 50 years, there is no doubt that the impact of that service and the number of individuals touched by that service should be significant. Those touches are not just limited to clients served. Looking around this community, I see many individuals who have also been a part of the WestCare family as students, employees, and whom may have either begun and/or added onto their professional journey by being a part of WestCare Nevada. Many have moved on to private practice, to other providers, to employment within our judicial system, or to local government, etc. - and then there are the select few that have remained.

In this issue of The Loop, we are celebrating years of service by introducing you to some of our longest tenured employees. You will read about the reason(s) why some of those employees have remained, continue to choose to work for WestCare, and who remain committed to Uplifting the Human Spirit.

Coincidentally, I was recently asked the same question, "Why do I choose to work for WestCare?" So here is a little bit of my answer.

My journey with WestCare began almost 12 years ago when I relocated to Las Vegas from Southern California upon being hired as a counselor at our longest running program, [Harris Springs Ranch](#). It didn't take me very long to realize the significance of being a part of the history of WestCare at Harris Springs Ranch and to this day, my heart continues to beat in accordance with the clients we serve.

This agency has embraced my personal growth, supported me in obtaining licensure, and I do not take lightly the importance of the work that we do towards Uplifting the Human Spirit. I believe that my actions and my work ethic demonstrate the gratitude I have for the opportunity that WestCare has given

me to positively impact the lives of those whom I encounter on the job and to also raise and support my own family.

I take a great deal of pride in the fact that we make every effort to serve everyone that comes to us seeking help, and in many instances, when no one else would. I have been thanked on multiple occasions by clients who state that upon being told by other providers that for whatever reason they did not qualify for services, they were told to go to WestCare because WestCare will take anybody. I choose to work at WestCare for that exact reason. No one should be denied services based on their inability to pay for such services, which is what happens to so many people in need.

I must admit that because of my love for others and my decision to be of service to others, I do not feel like I have had to work a day in almost 12 years.

This month, we are also celebrating fathers. In this case, the father figures who have successfully completed the community cohort of our WestCare [Connections Fatherhood FIRE](#) (Family-focused, Interconnected, Resilient, and Essential) program, which was conducted at the [Las Vegas Rescue Mission](#). We truly believe in the benefits associated with the Connections program and the impact that it not only has on the participants, but also on the families (women and children) associated with those participants, both now and in relation to future generations. I'd also like to send special thanks to the Rescue Mission for hosting the trainings.



Leo Magrdichian, LCSW, LCADC, Vice President



westcare.com



## 1 DAY +

## 2021 Annual Years of Service Awards

This year, we introduced a new annual tradition in NV, The WestCare Nevada Years of Service Awards to acknowledge the years of service by members of our team! Whether they have been employed for a day, a year, or over 15 years – they have all received a certificate and a special gift. All recipients were honored for their service as of **12/31/21, reflected in the times throughout**. Thank you all for joining us in Uplifting the Human Spirit!



**CASSANDRA SINGH**  
QMHP  
Women & Children's Campus

"Witnessing the WestCare motto of Uplifting the Human Spirit has been a wonderful experience over the past five years. During my time with WestCare, I have seen the agency uplift many, many clients, whether they came through the Community Triage Center, the Community Involvement Center, or either residential program (Harris Springs Ranch and Women's and Children's Campus). Words cannot express witnessing clients coming in at one of the lowest points in their lives to then see them grow through the many opportunities that WestCare can offer. By focusing on love, support, and encouragement, we are truly able to help others reach their fullest potential!"



**MARLYNN LARIVEE**  
Administrative Nurse Practitioner  
Community Triage Center

"Uplifting the Human Spirit for me has been an adventure. As a nurse practitioner in the field of recovery, there are many emotions. Initially, I feel a sense of belonging because I am treating the 'less fortunate and forgotten.' This makes me feel needed. As a client shares their stories of failed dreams and unfortunate events, I feel trusted with their inner thoughts and emotions. When clients are going through withdrawal, I have a sense of empathy and desire to show them a guiding light through their darkness. Once they are in recovery and are standing strong on their own, I have a sense of being a part of their team. Working at WestCare, I realize a day does not go by where I do not have a sense of gratitude because I am able to continue this journey with many other peers to transform these individuals into a new version of themselves."



**VICTOR TREJO**  
Facilities Operations Supervisor  
WestCare Nevada

"I have worked for WestCare for over five years. Over those years, I have been fortunate to see all of our programs around the state and the support and care that our staff give to our clients to help them better their lives. This is why I continue to give my best in my day-to-day duties and do my part to Uplift the Human Spirit."

**Christian Bonilla**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
1 Month 11 Days

**Ann Burns**  
Case Manager  
23 Days

**Tammie Cherry**  
Case Manager  
8 Months 26 Days

**Heather Cirno**  
Therapist  
5 Months 15 Days

**Michael Clement**  
Cook  
8 Months 23 Days

**Noah Crawley**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
7 Months 5 Days

**Janice Disuanco**  
LPN  
1 Month 4 Days

**David Folds**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
6 Months 19 Days

**Gerald Ford**  
Maintenance Technician  
2 Days

**Stephanie Ford**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
5 Months 22 Days

**John Humphrey**  
Case Manager  
5 Months 29 Days

**Tommie Hunter**  
Janitor  
2 Months 1 Day

**Althea Levell**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
6 Months 26 Days

**Jeremy Levell**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
5 Months 15 Days

**Samantha Maine**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
3 Months 8 Days

**Courtney Martell**  
Counselor II  
10 Months 3 Days

**Benjamin McGehee**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
7 Months 11 Days

**Roxana Monsivais Dominguez**  
Assessment Counselor  
2 Months 1 Day

**Victoria Moten**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
6 Months 26 Days

**Michelle Murphy**  
Case Manager  
8 Months 30 Days

**Rochelle Murphy**  
Admission Specialist  
5 Months 15 Days

**Brittany Nadin**  
Registered Nurse  
9 Months 11 Days

**Taylor Phillips**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
3 Months 8 Days

**Courtney Riemer**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
9 Months 13 Days

**Sandra Rodriguez**  
Registered Nurse  
8 Months 28 Days

**Jerome Rodway**  
Cook  
2 Months 23 Days

**Marquitha Rudolph**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
5 Months 22 Days

**Aisha Santos**  
LPN  
10 Months 17 Days

**Sharon Schlesner** Assessment  
Counselor  
28 Days

**Sharon Stuart**  
Case Manager  
11 Months 25 Days

**Ted Thomas**  
Maintenance Tech  
7 Months 5 Days

**Tina Wampler**  
Case Manager  
1 Month 18 Days

**Justen Weiss**  
Behavioral Health Tech  
9 Months 17 Days

**Madison Wood**  
Case Manager  
4 Months 18 Days



Connections Fatherhood FIRE's First Graduating Class!

WestCare established a program for men designed to promote the importance of responsible fathering, provide fathers with the opportunities to positively impact and interact with their children, link fathers to education and vocational training, and connect them with community-based resources. These men are the first community graduating class of the **Connections Fatherhood FIRE** (Family-focused, Interconnected, Resilient, and Essential) 40-hour workshop that we began presenting with our community partner, the **Las Vegas Rescue Mission** in April of 2022. Connections provides education in the form of workshops, mentoring, and advocacy services through one-one-one meetings with their case manager where they work with the men to identify the barriers that prevent them from being actively engaged in the lives of their children such as housing, employment, and substance abuse. They also help establish short and long-term goals to improve their overall health and wellness. Congratulations to these men for bridging the gap within their families and also the community!

# 1 YEAR +

<b>John Anoshian</b> Psychiatrist 3 Years 5 Months	<b>Roseline Kaili</b> Janitor 1 Year 10 Months	<b>Montana Sie</b> Behavioral Health Tech 2 Years 1 Month
<b>Lady Hope Bautista</b> Registered Nurse 4 Years 7 Months	<b>George Kaiser</b> Medical Director 3 Years 7 Months	<b>Tammy Singletary</b> Billing Specialist 3 Years 1 Month
<b>Lyle Becenti</b> Research Assistant 1 Year	<b>Elizabeth Kelly</b> Counselor II 2 Years 10 Months	<b>Jayrita Stallworth</b> Behavioral Health Tech 4 Years 11 Months
<b>Gardis Canty</b> Clinical Manager 4 Years 4 Months	<b>Brandon Klusman</b> Maintenance Tech 2 Years 3 Months	<b>Ellen Takher</b> Psychiatrist 3 Years
<b>Douglas Date</b> Behavioral Health Tech 4 Years 4 Months	<b>Sherice Lellek</b> Behavioral Health Tech 2 Years	<b>Chabrian Tanguay</b> Research Assistant 2 Years 10 Months
<b>Rhonda Davisson-Rhames</b> Transitional Coordinator 1 Year 6 Months	<b>Elgin Lofton</b> Case Manager 1 Year 8 Months	<b>Dacota Terry</b> Counselor 3 Years 4 Months
<b>Jennifer Dobbins-Finn</b> Counselor I 3 Years 3 Months	<b>Andrea Lopez</b> Quality Assurance Specialist 4 Years 6 Months	<b>Dawn Tudor</b> Counselor I 2 Years 1 Month
<b>Kristy Edwards</b> Supervisor 1 Year 3 Months	<b>Caren Lopez</b> Behavioral Health Tech 3 Years 6 Months	<b>Jacqueline Valencia</b> Counselor I 3 Years 4 Months
<b>Kevin Hendrickson</b> Counselor I 1 Year 11 Months	<b>Mar-Cha Madison-Clark</b> Program Manager 1 Year	<b>Nathan Weisse</b> Behavioral Health Tech 4 Years
<b>Yvonne Hoover</b> Case Manager 3 Years 6 Months	<b>Dorothea McHugh</b> Behavioral Health Tech 3 Years	<b>Zakia White</b> Utilization Review Specialist 3 Years 3 Months
<b>Michael Howard</b> Counselor II 1 Year 5 Months	<b>Tara Meirs</b> Counselor I 3 Years 2 Months	<b>Lavonne Young</b> Behavioral Health Tech 1 Year 1 Month
<b>Kellie Jeffries</b> Case Manager 2 Years 3 Months	<b>Marybel Ramos</b> Therapist 4 Years	
<b>Deleon Jones</b> Admission Specialist 1 Year	<b>Edgar Salcido</b> Clinical Manager 2 Years 9 Months	



**TINA MORTON**  
Lead Behavioral Health Tech  
Women & Children's Campus

"In September of 2007, I applied at the WestCare Women and Children's Campus for the position of driver and was hired the following month. I worked hard and was later promoted to the position of facility supervisor.

For years, I wondered why God chose to save me and today, I know the answer. I was held for this purpose to share my experiences, strength, and hope with the women and children who come through this program. From personal experience, I know one of the biggest things for an addict to learn is how to have fun without being high. I started thinking about events that we could host here on the campus and how the women could recreate these experiences once they left. I learned that Matt Dorman, a local musician, would be willing to come out to the campus and perform concerts for the women. So, I reached and asked if he would be willing to visit the campus once a month on a Friday afternoon to perform for the women with his band. He agreed. One of our first sober fun events would become a monthly concert on a Friday afternoon with music and refreshments.

For several years, I volunteered my personal time to transport the women to local NA and AA events. I have worked with our Spiritual Care Chaplaincy Program (SCCP) to plan and coordinate multiple spiritual events on the campus. Events have included picnics, dances, speaking engagements, conventions, and regular meetings. Today, WestCare sponsors several annual sober fun events. Our most recent was our 'Night Under the Stars' event held during Memorial Day weekend. For this event, we showed movies on a 20-foot projector screen and provided the women and children with the opportunity to purchase refreshments from a fully stocked concession stand using WestCare 'money.' We also host an annual Halloween 'Trunk or Treat' event for our women and children as well as BBQ's on the Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Veteran's Day.

I am proud to say that after working for WestCare for the last 15 years, I still wake up every day looking forward to coming to work to see if the day will be like the day before. It never is. Every day is different. After all these years, my love and heart are still with the WestCare program and the women we serve. Thank you, WestCare, for a second chance at life and for allowing me to inspire hope and Uplift the Human Spirit."

# 5 YEARS +

<b>Monica Brown</b> Admission Specialist 8 Years 6 Months	<b>Marlynn Larivee</b> Administrative NP 5 Years 10 Months	<b>Sherry Stevens</b> Program Manager 7 Years 4 Months
<b>Todd Edwards</b> Clinical Director 8 Years 11 Months	<b>Andrea Raney</b> Supervisor 5 Years 1 Month	<b>Victor Trejo</b> Facilities Operations Supervisor 7 Years 10 Months
<b>Tessa Kiser</b> Utilization Review Specialist 9 Years 10 Months	<b>Cassandra Singh</b> QMHP 6 Years 2 Months	<b>Sasha Whitmire</b> Supervisor 7 Years 1 Month



**TODD EDWARDS**  
Clinical Director  
WestCare Nevada

"This year will mark almost nine and a half years with WestCare. I can honestly say that WestCare has become family for me. WestCare has given me opportunities to grow that I thought were impossible at this point in my career. I arrived at WestCare after years of struggling and looking for a new path. I feel honored to be a part of a team that always puts clients first. The core values of Uplifting the Human Spirit have allowed a person like myself to pursue my passion for the most underserved populations and not turn anyone away - regardless of their ability to pay. I am so honored to be a part of an agency that supported my professional growth and allowed me opportunities as I gained education and clinical experience."



**TESSA KISER**  
Utilization Review Specialist  
Community Involvement Center - Las Vegas

"At the end of March, I celebrated working for WestCare for 10 years. My time within has been spent in various locations and capacities. During these past years, I have watched our programs develop and grow to offer those in our community who struggle with addiction a safe environment to get clean and sober, various programs to help our clients build coping skills and a healthier mindset along with an opportunity to reengage with family, loved ones, and society. The Women and Children's Campus (WCC) had me from day one. Seeing the women transition as they learned to be true to themselves, accept themselves without apologies, and become better moms to the tiny humans that were also affected. This was where I realized that Uplifting the Human Spirit was essential. The best part is watching our clients succeed and reach their individual goals that they never thought were possible. That's what makes it all worthwhile."

# 10 YEARS +

<b>Hubert Ergenbright</b> Behavioral Health Tech 13 Years 8 Months	<b>Leo Magrdichian</b> Vice President 11 Years 2 Months	<b>Maria Valencia</b> Cook 14 Years 1 Month
<b>Irma Magrdichian</b> Director of Residential Services 10 Years 9 Months	<b>Tina Morton</b> Lead BHT 14 Years 3 Months	

# 15 YEARS +

<b>Karen Conrad</b> Administrative Assistant 15 Years 10 Months	<b>Doug Slaughter</b> Lead Cook 18 Years 7 Months
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# WELCOME TO OUR 2022 HIRES!

<b>Godinez Alenton</b>	<b>Milo Manresa</b>	<b>Jennifer Souza</b>
<b>Joclyn Bennett</b>	<b>Victoria Maryott</b>	<b>Lani Souza</b>
<b>Yvette Cervera</b>	<b>Breeana McCullough</b>	<b>David Tyler</b>
<b>Candice Hill</b>	<b>Rhonda Reynolds</b>	<b>Kia Welch</b>
<b>Darcy Hughes</b>	<b>Brody Santini</b>	<b>Justin Wright</b>
<b>Mike Lee</b>	<b>Mary Anne Shelman</b>	
<b>Alyssia Lopez</b>	<b>Lisa Snell</b>	

# MORE STORIES FROM *the team*



**IRMA MAGRDICHIAN**  
Director of Residential Services  
Women & Children's Campus

"My journey with WestCare began on May 1, 2011, when I was hired as a substance abuse counselor at the Martin Luther King Blvd location, which is now a freeway overpass. As a Latina who relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada from East Los Angeles, I experienced many challenges related to cultural differences and settling in away from my family. WestCare's staff embraced me with kindness and patience during my transition. My new-found family supported my decision to further my education by taking the time to walk me through the enrollment process and encouraged me to expand my professional capabilities. I have held several positions during my time with WestCare in both outpatient and residential settings. I currently oversee both residential treatment facilities and I am responsible for the Veteran Women Warriors Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing for single and parenting women.

In the 10+ years that I have been with WestCare, I have been fortunate to have taken a small part in the lives of many. WestCare does not only uplift the spirit of their personnel, but also goes above and beyond to ensure that clients served are treated as the beautiful individuals that they are. I feel privileged to work with many underserved populations that include Spanish speakers, the unhoused, the LGBTQIA+ community, and survivors of domestic violence - amongst other crimes. I have watched broken individuals break the chains of bondage. I have seen clients

stand before their addictions and rise above their past traumas. I have shared memorable events that include child reunification for men and women and have had the honor be a part of life-changing moments for someone's special someone.

During a recent community event, one of my very first clients approached our resource table in tears thanking both WestCare and our team for her solid foundation in recovery that began just over 10 years ago when she was addicted, pregnant, and afraid to leave her drug-using lifestyle. She shared with me that the facility and its staff helped her realize that she could live differently, recover, and most importantly, give birth to a healthy, drug-free baby. This client called for her 10-year-old daughter to come meet me and the team. She introduced WestCare as her lifesaver and the organization responsible for loving her until she learned to love herself. This is just one of many WestCare miracles that motivate me to continue Uplifting the Human Spirit. I am committed to treating every client with the respect and dignity they deserve to motivate, encourage, and support their individualized goals and challenge them to weigh the consequences of doing one thing over another. I am super excited for many more years with my WestCare family, will continue to strive to be the light at the end of the dark tunnel, and will honor our mission to Uplift the Human Spirit for clients, families, and our community."



**DOUG SLAUGHTER**  
Lead Cook  
Community Involvement Center  
Las Vegas

"Hello, my name is Doug S. and I am a grateful and recovering addict. I would like to share and thank WestCare for saving my life. Before coming to WestCare for treatment on December 31, 2002, I was addicted to crack cocaine for 25 years. Due to my addiction, I had lost my family, job, and self-respect. I grew up Las Vegas and was a great athlete in school before I started using drugs and alcohol. I took my first drug in 1980 and did not stop until 2002 when I was locked up in jail. I had a WestCare representative come visit me in jail and talk to me about services. I learned in WestCare how to live again and take back my life from addiction. In June of 2003, I was doing some volunteer work cooking for WestCare when one of the directors walked up to me and offered me a job as a cook. I am still at WestCare 19 years later coming from a client to staff member and I keep coming back to Uplift the Human Spirit because of the clients. I always think that I am a great example for the clients coming from Harris Springs Ranch where I was in treatment for five months. Today, I feel like I never left WestCare and I keep coming back for the clients to Uplift their Human Spirit one day at a time. I am also a big part of the alumni team that I joined when I got out of treatment. I remember it was myself and four other guys giving back to WestCare clients then. We washed cars and held fundraisers to raise money to give back. All the money that was raised helped us share our experience, strength, and hope with the clients. One day, I was working at the Women and Children's Campus (WCC) and a staff member told me about raising money by getting a fireworks booth together. The alumni team and I went down to check it out and the rest is history. We still have that same fireworks booth today. I was able to get the WCC involved and today, we have a lot of women alumni. Nineteen years later, I keep doing what I am doing for WestCare to Uplift the Human Spirit for the clients. I am very grateful to have been a part of WestCare for so many years."



**KAREN CONRAD**  
Administrative Assistant  
WestCare Nevada

"Longevity is mostly used to describe the length of one's lifetime, but it can also mean a long duration such as mine. It is true. I have been a part of WestCare for almost 16 years. I do not think anyone would have predicted that today I would be so content and delighted working as an administrative assistant for WestCare Nevada.

I never thought I would work at the same company for as long as I have been here. I know the history, struggles, and successes that this organization has gone through over the years. If you look around WestCare, you will find many who consider themselves lifers. I admire the pride of the staff working with a common goal to embrace every client and offer the services they deserve.

It is personally rewarding to me to work for a company that aligns with my own values and there is just something about seeing a group of people working together and striving to change the lives of individuals. I have been blessed with great and supportive managers throughout my tenure.

We work hard together, but we also have our fair share of fun. Our team is supportive and we all strive to build each other up whenever we can. I love my job, I love my team, and I love my company."

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](mailto:marketing@westcare.com)