



THE LOOP

A COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM AROUND NEVADA

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Greetings from WestCare Nevada,

Although the official end of summer in 2022 is Thursday, September 22, most of us view the end of summer as being the time when school starts for some of us as we continue to obtain a higher education and/or when our children begin the next grade in their education. Well, WestCare Nevada was definitely cognizant of both and part of this month's issue of the Loop demonstrates our willingness to celebrate the end of summer with our clients and their children, and with the help of our community partners, equip those who have school-aged children with the necessary items needed to begin the school year successfully.

As you will read in this issue, our 1st Annual "Splash Day" was a hit at the **Women and Children's Campus (WCC)**. One thing for sure is that the festivities included in this event demonstrated to everyone involved that there is a great deal of fun to be experienced in recovery. Within the same week, some of our community partners, **Caltrol Inc.** and the **Las Vegas Raiders Nation Wrecking Crew**, brought backpacks full of school supplies so that our school-aged children residing at the WCC and the children of clients at other locations could return to the classroom well prepared.

When pondering that preparedness and the development of our children, there is no doubt that early childhood education both in the classroom and at home plays a significant role. WestCare Nevada places a great deal of emphasis on areas that support child

development such as family bonding, the physical environment, health, nutrition, and of course, learning. That is why we are excited to announce the hiring of our new Child Development Specialist, Ms. Tina Honea! In this issue, Ms. Honea shares a little about herself and her views around child development and hopefully, you will be just as excited as we are about her role at WCC.

On August 26, we celebrate **Women's Equality Day** and as you will notice, almost every article in this issue is either written by or about the positive impact that the women of WestCare Nevada (*clients and staff*) have made on each other, this agency, and the community at large. So, whether we are talking about services within one of our buildings or the tremendous work being done by women on our outreach teams like the **MORE Team**, the women of WestCare Nevada continue to remain at the forefront of reaching some of our most vulnerable citizens and I am proud to be able to link arms with them and other providers in this community as we all dedicate our lives to the service of others - collectively and continually making every effort towards "Uplifting the Human Spirit."



Leo Magraddichian, LCSW, LCADC, Vice President



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Splash Day at the WCC!

By Gardis Canty, Clinical Manager

This year, **WestCare's Women and Children Campus (WCC)** held a "splash day" for the women and children of the facility. The day was filled with laughter, fun, food, games, and contests. Jumper Mania Party Rentals provided the water slide and Chaplains, Ryan and Lauri provided concession goodies of flavored snow cones, cotton candy, and fresh popcorn. The day started with our ladies and little ones getting ready to burn off some serious energy. Once the water slide was fully assembled, it did not take long for them to start enjoying a day of water fun.

Ms. Bree and the ladies created a scrumptious lunch of Italian sausages with peppers, BLT pasta salad, watermelon, chips, soda, and homemade peanut butter cookie ice cream sandwiches. Ms. Rhonda supplied old-fashioned ice cream bars, strawberry shortcake eclairs, chocolate eclairs, and orange creamsicles.

The ladies participated in a hula-hoop contest to see who won the chance to create their DIY tie-dye shirts. Some of the designs were super cool and to see the smiles on the ladies' faces with something they created for themselves was priceless.

Thank you, WestCare, for the opportunity to Uplift the Human Spirit in a way that brought so many smiles and heartfelt joy to the ladies and children of the WCC!

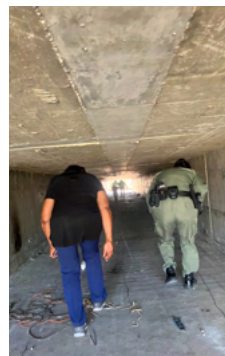
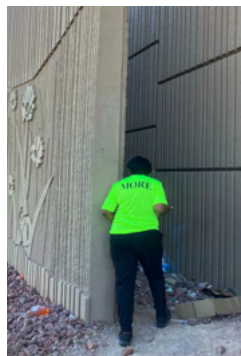


The WestCare Nevada Marketing Mobile Has Hit the Streets!

By Andrew Moran, Development Director

The next time that you are driving around the greater Las Vegas area, you may see **WestCare Nevada's** latest marketing, food, ice cream, and recovery truck dubbed "The Marketing Mobile." It was donated to us by a family that is near and dear to our hearts and to everything WestCare and will be used toward *Uplifting the Human Spirit* at the many community events attended by our Nevada Team. The truck is a vintage 1978 Chevrolet Step Van and in its previous life, served as a Ben & Jerry's ice cream truck. The new design comes directly from the expertise of our WestCare Marketing Team and the vehicle wrap was completed by a supporter of ours, Mr. Kyle Regimbal at **Square Foot Printing**. The truck is equipped with a generator, two freezers, a soon-to-be-purchased flat top grill, and all of the necessary WestCare marketing tools and literature so that whatever event we attend, we will be able to provide resources and continue our efforts toward meeting the needs of some of the more vulnerable members of our community. Thank you to everyone who has made this form of marketing a reality!





Madison Wood, Senior Case Manager

"I enjoy working at WestCare because it gives me the opportunity to help the homeless every day. I know what it is like to be homeless. I know what it is like to be overcome by addiction and mental illness. I get to help people in crisis. During our outreach, we provide essentials like hygiene products, water, snacks, and clothing. We also provide transportation to detox and shelters. I help our clients with the process of obtaining housing and assist with recovering identifying documents. I do what I can because I have been where they sit. I love this job because I get to give back what was given to me: Support, help, and a chance to live.

Having this job gives me purpose. I get to help people and change their lives for the better."

Tammie Cherry, Senior Case Manager

"I am a homeless outreach case manager for WestCare's MORE Team contracted with the City of Las Vegas. I am on MORE Team 1 with metro officers, Officer Bybee and Officer Henderson as well as my favorite driver, Leslie Ann Farrell, who is a case manager from The Salvation Army.

I love doing outreach. It gives me the opportunity to meet people that I have never met before. I am able to help our homeless community by doing housing assessments to assist with obtaining housing and transporting them to our community partners that can connect them with resources to obtain their birth certificates, identification, and other important documents that they might need to be self-sufficient; but, I also get to learn their story of how they became homeless.

Once, I had a family of five that became homeless and after speaking with them and doing an assessment, I HAD to find them somewhere to live. So, I called all the resources that we have and finally found somewhere for them to call their home. The mother was placed in a fit program to where she will learn a trade and start working. The greatest feeling I get is when you find a place for a family and know that you can be proud of what you have done."

A Shout-Out to our MORE Team!

By Sasha Whitmire, Supervisor

The **Multi-Agency Outreach Resource Engagement Team** also known as the **MORE Team**, is a dedicated team of case managers from **WestCare Nevada**, **The Salvation Army** and former members of **Help of Southern Nevada** contracted under **The City of Las Vegas** to conduct special outreach forces with specially trained officers with the **Las Vegas Metro Police Department** and **Las Vegas City Marshalls**, to engage with the homeless population to encourage and assist in connecting them with community resources and housing providers.

WestCare recognizes all team members' outstanding efforts in the field and would like to give a special kudos to our senior case managers, Madison Wood and Tammie Cherry for their outstanding success in helping clients get off the streets whether it's into direct housing, shelters, and or by providing other resources and encouragement for continued support.

These ladies deserve a huge round of applause! Thank you for being a part of the team that goes into the depths of the most critical places just to Uplift the Human Spirit.



Community Partners Prepare the Children of WestCare Nevada for a New School Year!

By Leo Magrdichian, Vice President of Operations

WestCare Nevada recently received approximately 80 backpacks and supplies for the children of our clients who are currently receiving services. These backpacks were donated and delivered by two generous supporters of ours, **Caltrol, Inc.** and the Las Vegas chapter of **The Raider Nation Wrecking Crew!** We are extremely grateful for their generosity and their commitment towards improving the lives of our WestCare clients and their families!



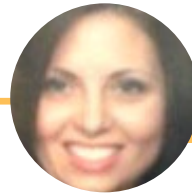
Making a Difference in the Lives of Local Veterans

By Jurea Williams, MS, *Community Services Specialist*, North Las Vegas Community Correctional Center (CCC)

We have been working with **Bikes4Vets** for a few months now and it has been successful thus far. We get on average 20 - 30 bikes a month and the bikes go to Veterans in the local area who don't have one or need to replace an old one to get around. One of our **I Am Possible** program participants, who is also a Veteran, started volunteering with the organization upon his release from the **North Las Vegas Community Correctional Center (CCC)**.

Gwen Strain, Founder of Bikes4Vets, said, "The CCC has made positive changes and improved many lives from the inmates to the Veterans receiving the refurbished bikes."

Paul, a homeless Veteran that received a bike, now has a job at U-Haul, a job offer from U.S. VETS Las Vegas, and is looking for an apartment. All this has been made possible by the staff and inmates from the North Las Vegas CCC!



Welcome to the Team, Tina!

By Tina Honea, *Child Development Specialist*

Simply put, my passion is children. I want the best for every child that I encounter and the families that support them. This passion was not realized until my own son was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Seeing his struggles over those first years prompted me to become the best advocate for him. During that process, I realized there were many more kids out there like him with similar struggles and families like ours not knowing where to turn and how to maintain a balanced family life. Every step I took in advocating for my own child led me down the path of advocating for all children and their families that need help. I now specialize mostly in children who are on the autism spectrum disorder as those with ADHD, anxiety, trauma, and developmental delays.

I have a master's degree in developmental psychology with an emphasis on children and adolescents. In addition, I have the following certifications:

- Nevada State Licensed K-8 teacher with autism endorsement
- Certified Family Trauma Professional (CFTP)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for depression, anxiety, phobias, and panic attacks
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)

I believe fully in the whole child approach as the most effective way of understanding our children. With compassion and empathy at my core, I carefully listen and observe to understand the child and their caregiver's concerns, ask questions to help develop understanding of the child's world around them, and carefully develop a plan of how to best advocate for the child. Additionally, a child's advocate needs to also advocate and be there for their family. If the family unit is cohesive and functioning, the child will be too. Therefore, my goal is the wellbeing of the entire family.

My short time here at WestCare has proven to be a great decision. The company's philosophy perfectly aligns with my beliefs that everyone deserves a fresh start and that it takes a village to raise children. Every single employee and client that I have encountered has been warm and caring, which has made me feel at home since my first day.

WestCare Nevada Takes Part in the Fiesta Family Fun Health Fair!

By Rhonda Davisson, *Transitional and VA Programs Coordinator*

On July 28, our community partners at **Molina Healthcare**, **AGHABY Comprehensive Community Health Center**, **Straight From The Streets**, and **The Lions Club** presented this year's Fiesta Family Fun Health Fair! This was held at the **AGHABY Clinic** in North Las Vegas. We were able to transport some of our Molina Healthcare clients that are receiving services at the **WestCare Nevada Women and Children's Campus** to participate in this event. Free tacos were provided as well as music from a live DJ!

Some of the services available included COVID-19 testing, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, and free eye screenings. Additionally, attendees were able to receive help with obtaining a replacement Nevada ID. Other housing and social services support was also available for our clients.

Continue the journey online!

Follow WestCare Nevada on social media to learn more about our team and the work we're doing in our local community!

#WestCareNevada



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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