



# Guilford Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2011

## Disability Employment Awareness Luncheon

On October 18, LIFESPAN Creative Campus Guilford and Wrights Care Services held its first Disability Employment Awareness Luncheon to honor and educate local businesses about employees with disabilities. The luncheon was prepared and served by participants of the LIFESPAN culinary program, CHEFSPAN. Speakers included representatives from Wrights Care Services, LIFESPAN and Beyond Academics. During the luncheon, Grace Flower Shop and A&T University Cafe were honored as Disability Employers of the Year.

With over 18.6 percent of the nation's employees having a disability of some type, it is important that employers understand the capabilities of people with disabilities. Grace Flower Shop and A&T University Cafe have been involved with LIFESPAN and Wrights Care Services for several years, and believe incorporating diversity in the workplace and employing the best candidates for the job.

"It is important to recognize the commitment local employers have made to persons with disabilities. We work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities every day and getting people back to work improves their quality of life and brings improvement to the businesses that hire them," Steve Knier, Executive Director, LIFESPAN Creative Campus – Guilford.



Attending the Disability Employment Awareness Luncheon (Left to Right): Steve Knier, Executive Director, LIFESPAN; Sara Allen, Grace Flower Shop; Erica L.; Reketta Wright, Director, Wrights Care Services; Todd Meiners, A & T University Café.

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## Nationwide Insurance Volunteers

On October 5th the employees from Nationwide Insurance lent their energies to a project at the Creative Campus Guilford location. A gazebo that had been moved



from the former Dundas Circle facility

was not accessible to individuals using a wheelchair or walker. The volunteers created a ramp and handrails to make the beautiful gazebo accessible to all of our individuals.



## Circle School Burlington

The LIFESPAN Circle School Burlington is pleased to announce that on August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Alamance Burlington School System placed three new Birth to Kindergarten Certified Preschool Teachers in our program to run the three school sponsored preschool classes. As employees of the Alamance Burlington School System, they have been hired to help meet the new requirements set forth by the NC Division of Child Development for a Developmental Day Licensure. The new teachers are Joy Bunn, Crystal Garris, and Tara Jensen. In addition to new teachers, all three of their classrooms now have SMART Board computers. We welcome these new teachers into our classrooms, and are excited to have new SMART Boards that will enhance the quality of the preschool program and open up a new world of learning through technology.



*Joy Bunn, using one of our new SMART Boards in our preschool classroom.*

## “Summer of Service” Volunteer Project

LIFESPAN was the selected site of The Volunteer Center’s “Summer of Service”, a national project that is coordinated locally by The Volunteer Center of Greensboro in partnership with Guilford County Schools and Youth Volunteer Corps of America (YVCA). The mission of the program is to involve middle and high school students in community-based service-learning projects that are intensive, structured, supervised, and designed to produce identifiable improvements to the community.



Led by Tracey Goglia from the Guilford County School System, the students interacted with, learned from, and volunteered with participants and staff from the LIFESPAN Creative Campus – Guilford program throughout the summer. The students spent their days of summer teaching chess, helping with pottery and sewing projects, and building wheelchair accessible herb garden planter



boxes. The Summer of Service project concluded with a celebration in August at the LIFESPAN Creative Campus where students from Guilford County gathered with their families and representatives from The Volunteer Center, Guilford County Schools, Youth Volunteer Corps of America and LIFESPAN to give a presentation on their projects.

## “Buddies for Life” Program



Girl Scout Halle Beeler recently completed her Gold Award for a program she designed called “Buddies For Life”. The purpose of this grass roots effort is to help young people with developmental and intellectual disabilities meet friends.



Halle held an information fair at the LIFESPAN Creative Campus – Guilford in August. For more information on “Buddies For Life” contact Halle Beeler at 336-509-7429 or [HBX915@AOL.COM](mailto:HBX915@AOL.COM)

## Volunteer Spotlight : Donna Snyder



*Volunteer Donna Snyder (center), with Sewing students Christie and Hope*

Donna Snyder is a volunteer instructor in the sewing program. She began teaching LIFESPAN students sewing in 2008 through a six week class at Randy's Quilt Shop in High Point. Once the class was over and a new quilting/sewing program started at LIFESPAN, Donna continued to be a volunteer instructor. Three years later, we have twenty two students taking classes, making beautiful pillows, quilts, and other items. She is a wonderful teacher and encourages other Piedmont Quilters Guild members to volunteer their time and has helped students to exhibit their work in local quilting shows. Donna continues to be an advocate for LIFESPAN, and we are honored to have her as a volunteer.

### Wish List

- Financial gifts
- Gift Cards: Lowes, WalMart, dollar stores, gas cards
- Horticulture supplies: pots, soil, garden gloves, rakes, garden tools
- Art Supplies: brushes, paint (water/oil), canvases, art smocks and T-shirts, art chalk, paper
- Wii games
- Toiletries and paper products: plates, napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap
- Office supplies: Heavy duty paper shredder, pencil sharpener, black pens, notebooks, copy paper, file folders, Post-it® notes
- Volunteers for horticulture and other enrichment classes
- Culinary class food items and supplies: baking pans, measuring cups, measuring spoons, cutting boards, mixing bowls, cooking and serving utensils, canned fruits and vegetables, flour, sugar, pastas, dried herbs and spices, extracts (vanilla, lemon, almond), baking soda, baking powder, and cooking spray

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**Guilford  
Board of Visitors**

Steve Branch, Chair

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Dr. Beth Holder

Donna LaBranche

Martha Yarborough

Sandy Doyle-Jones

Gregory Holland

John Hurd

Dr. Jennifer Diliberto

Michael Thorn



**Mission Statement**

LIFESPAN transforms the lives of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing education, employment, and enrichment opportunities that promote inclusion, choice, family supports, and other best practices.

Please help us ensure that LIFESPAN can continue to meet the specific needs of the individuals that we support with your generous donation.

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