



News To Count On

Issue 118 for January 2024

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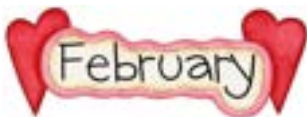
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From the Desk of HR

New Temps

Jessica Evans
Hilary Hickenbottom
Faith Arellano
Yesenia Lopez
Ingrid Zepeda
Baltazar Sandoval
Saul Gomes

Staff Birthdays



Sandra Nunez - 2/07
Carla Gonzalez - 2/07
LaRae Cupp - 2/14
Shawn Hernandez - 2/15
Cristina Ortiz - 2/19
Elida Herrera - 2/26
Sarai Zaragoza - 2/28
Arlene Castillo - 2/28



Catching up with: Mirella Marcial



This month we spotlight Mirella Marcial ACI: Tell us about yourself.

My name is Mirella Marcial. I've been working for Ability Counts for 1 year.

I like that Ability Counts gives me the opportunity to help others.

On the weekends I like to go to church, out to eat with my family and just spend time with them.

I like Italian food and my favorite restaurant is Olive Garden.

I like romantic movies, comedy and films based on true stories.

My favorite music is worship music and my favorite band is Hillsong.

Consumer Awards



Glenn Den Bleyker has been awarded Consumer of the month by Diane Hensel. He has excellent attendance. Very friendly to everyone. Very respectful to staff and loves to sing and participate in everything.



Juan Espinoza was nominated for Corona CIT consumer of the month for December 2023 by Veronica Salanga.

His positive attitude and willingness to volunteer in Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful have been exceptional.

He is always very helpful and well-mannered. He always comes in with a positive attitude.

Consumer Awards



Katrina Moberg has been awarded Consumer of the month by Diane Hensel. She has excellent attendance. Very friendly to everyone and always helps others. She is respectful to job coaches and does whatever is asked of her. Loves to participate in everything.



Kristin Reeves was nominated for the Corona Activity Center consumer of the month for December by Veronica Salanga.

She always shows a positive attitude and is very helpful to everyone around her. She's always on time and ready to start. She completes her program activities and is always participating.

Her enthusiasm and can-do attitude create an uplifting environment.



Agustin Chavoya has been awarded Consumer of the month by Leonor Rivera.

He always arrives to work with a positive attitude, always doing his best and he is very helpful to everyone.

Shout Outs

ACI would like for Andrew Kohatsu and Mirella Marcial to get a shout out for last year. They did not have any unexcused absences for the entire year of 2023!

ACI would like to give Tony Vo a shout out for going above and beyond when projects are being given, he does whatever it takes to get the job done.

ACI would also like to give a general shout out to the job coaches at the Corona location for going above and beyond for getting the shredding project done in one day!

Incoming



Dear ACI Team,

I hope this finds you well. I am writing to introduce myself as the newly appointed Executive Director of Ability Counts. I'm excited to rejoin the ACI team and begin working together towards our shared goals, one of which is helping Consumers achieve their personal goals.

With Mo stepping down from the Executive Director position, I acknowledge that I have some big shoes to fill! Her outstanding leadership and dedication during her tenure as the director are commendable. Under her guidance, Ability Counts has achieved great heights and her commitment to excellence and unwavering support of ACI team have been truly remarkable. I will do my best to continue in her footsteps while moving the organization forward.

For those who may not have had the opportunity to meet me yet, my name is Sophia Jurisch. I bring with me 24 years of experience working in this industry, having previously worked at Ability Counts for 16 years, and an additional 8 years as a compliance consultant. I'm experienced in Job Coaching, Case Management documentation, CARF, DOL and DDS Compliance, Management and Finance. I come to you now from University of California, Riverside with over 8 years of experience in Finance and Administration.

Throughout my career, I have focused on regulatory compliance, finance and human services which I am eager to bring to our organization.

As the Executive Director, my primary responsibilities will be to ensure the smooth operation of Ability Counts, compliance with the funding and regulatory agencies, Consumer success and building staff morale. I strongly believe in the power of teamwork and open communication, and I am committed to providing you the support needed to excel in your roles.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the ACI staff for their compassion towards our Consumers and dedication to Ability Counts. I began my journey at Ability Counts as an Instructional Staff so I am fully aware of the value our staff brings to the organization.

As director, I rely on staff's support and collaboration so I can effectively perform my role. Your expertise, ideas, and feedback are essential for making informed decisions. I encourage you to share your thoughts openly so that together, we can create efficient processes for Consumer success.

Over the next few weeks, I plan on visiting each site to get to know you and your group.

Once again, I am thrilled to return to Ability Counts and look forward to meeting each of you.

Your success is my success, and I am here to help you in any way I can.

Best regards,

Sophia
Executive Director - Ability Counts, Inc.

Outgoing

Hello Everyone!

For the past 29 years it has been my pleasure to be a part of Ability Counts team and to learn from each of you.

I am writing to inform you that I will be stepping down from my position as Executive Director on 1/31/2024 but will continue to work with the organization in a smaller role.

Sophia Jurisch as some of you may already know and have worked with her will take the role of the Executive Director as of 2/1/2024.

It has been a gratifying, challenging, and enriching experience, and I am truly proud of what we have been able to accomplish together.

Each of you have enriched my life and career and I am forever grateful for your support, friendship and sharing the knowledge that you have provided me over the years.

This has sincerely been one of the best chapters of my professional life, and I look forward to the next chapter in my life.

I would like to express my gratitude for all of your support, kindness and friendship for the last 29 wonderful years.

Let's all welcome Sophia Jurisch as our new Executive Director and I am confident that with her leadership she will continue to take Ability Counts Inc to new heights and have fun in the process.

Thank You.

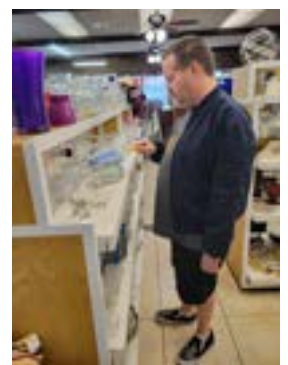
Kind Regards,

Moheni Gaji
Executive Director

Happenings Around ACI



Our CIT consumers learned how to sort and wash laundry at a Laundry Mat



Corona CIT consumers organizing and dusting at the New Hope Thrift Store



Our Corona CIT consumers cleaning and setting up chairs for an event at Harvest church



Our Corona CIT and Activity Center consumers participating in a cooking lesson

New Rollovers

From the Desk of HR

**No Rollovers
This Month**

From The Desk of HR: Years of Service Recognition

First	Last	YOS
December		
Ilein	Gomez	1
Arlene	Castillo	1
Genny	Valladares	1
Mirella	Marcial	1
Elizabeth	Delgado	5
Sandra	Nunez	2
Sharon	Vigil	4
Elida	Herrera	8
Jacqueline	Quintana	8

First	Last	YOS
January		
Damien	Fisher	1
Briana	Cabanas	1
Ruby	Ortiz	1
Alexise	Villalpando	1
Claudia	Medina	4
David	Salinas	6
Christian	Solis	6
Ingrid	Hernandez	14
Brenda	Corro	14

Happenings around ACI

Some of our Corona C.I.T consumers were given an appreciation lunch by the 2nd Street Hooligans Rescue, for volunteering at their site working with farm animals.



For more photos, check out our Facebook page!



facebook.com/AbilityCountsInc

www.abilitycounts.org

“Making Ability Count”

Have an idea, suggestions for the Newsletter?
Contact Blake at bshimshock@abilitycounts.org.