

Q2 2021

ISSUE 02, SPRING

ANTHESIS PRESENTS

INCLUSION MATTERS

A QUARTERLY UPDATE

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A NOTE FROM SENIOR INSTRUCTOR AND 2021 COVID-19 RESILIENCE HONOREE, CLIFF BELKNAP

Like so many of you, I cannot believe that it has been over a year since our world was turned upside down. Thinking back on that time, I remember feeling shock that, from one day to the next, we were forced to completely change the way we work, live, and connect with others. As the days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months, one fact stood the test of time: we are a resilient and hardworking group. I commend everyone for giving their best effort and maintaining a positive attitude over the past year. Anthesis staff collaborated and worked together to provide the best services possible for program participants. And program participants truly shined – they adapted to an unfamiliar routine, learned new technology, and inspired us with their growth and perseverance.

As much as we appreciate virtual Zumba sessions and video chats with our friends and family, nothing beats the connection and experience when you can be with others in person. Believe me when I say, I am so looking forward to seeing everyone in person again! Until then, enjoy another issue of Inclusion Matters to hear more about our incredible Anthesis community.



Cliff Belknap

OUR MISSION

To support independent and inclusive lives for adults with [dis]abilities through employment and community integration.



SHOWCASING SABRINA Y., ADULT DEVELOPMENT CENTER (ADC) PROGRAM



Sabrina Y., an Anthesis Adult Development Center (ADC) Program participant since 2014, has been chosen as the 2021 Participant of the Year. Sabrina's positivity during these challenging times is an inspiration to everyone at Anthesis. Her quick adaptation to virtual services and positive attitude demonstrates that Sabrina is truly resilient! During the pandemic, Sabrina met with her instructor, Reylene Valenzuela, and her peers in Zoom group activities. Although Sabrina has only had the opportunity to communicate with her peers via Zoom, she radiates her positivity with everyone by sharing her talents. Despite the change in environment, Sabrina continues to put her heart into everything she does. Because Anthesis focuses on using person-centered planning to create individualized schedules, Sabrina can fill her time with activities she enjoys such as: crafting, singing, dancing, cooking, and training to participate in the Special Olympics. Congratulations, Sabrina, and thank you for being a positive example!

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT: FSC LIGHTING

FSC Lighting, located in Rancho Cucamonga, manufactures energy-efficient LED lighting for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. John Watkins, Chief Executive Officer of FSC Lighting, has helped bridge the employment gap for adults with disabilities through employing Anthesis participants after Andrew Behnke, former Anthesis Board Member, introduced him to Anthesis. During the past year, FSC Lighting and Anthesis program participants achieved a remarkable milestone: over 100,000 employment hours! The FSC Lighting management team worked tirelessly during the pandemic to ensure Anthesis' enclave members safety while they continued to work.

Thank you, FSC Lighting, for your compassion, dedication, and trust!



SPOTLIGHTING GINA CHIRINO, INSTRUCTOR/SENIOR COMPANION

Gina began her employment with Anthesis as an Instructor/Senior Companion at the Adult Development Center (ADC) Program on January 9, 2020. Gina's caring, positive, and fun-loving personality is a perfect fit for her position as an Instructor/Senior Companion – she loves doing creative and interesting activities with the individuals in her group! Gina has quickly adapted to person-centered planning and created her schedule to fulfill the needs and interests of the individuals she instructs. Now that COVID restrictions are lifting, instructors, like Gina, are resuming in-person services. Although the transition to resuming in-person services will be a slow process, participants and coaches alike welcome the change.



Thank you, Gina, for striving to make a difference in the lives of our participants!

LEGISLATION MATTERS

In the last edition of Inclusion Matters, we shared that the federal government is driving forward legislation that would eliminate the 14c certificate program, also known as “subminimum wage.” Subminimum wage allows organizations like Anthesis to pay individuals with [dis]abilities according to their productivity, which is a fair method and allows individuals to be competitive with co-workers who do not have disabilities. If subminimum wage is eliminated, many good jobs will be lost and individuals with [dis]abilities will have one less program choice.

Recently, Senator Durazo, a Los Angeles legislator, introduced SB639, which proposes an absolute end to subminimum wage in California by 2024 without offering any form of alternative methods to individuals with [dis]abilities for job training or workforce development. Organizations like Anthesis recognize the controversy of the subminimum wage system and are open to discussing a viable alternative; our priority is ensuring that individuals with [dis]abilities can remain

competitive in the job market without having to subsidize their wages.

The Biden administration proposed a large infrastructure bill, which also includes the elimination of subminimum wage. Currently, the bill is with Congress and not yet passed. Unfortunately, the subminimum wage program is buried in a large and complex legislative package, meaning it will not get the focused attention it deserves. The infrastructure bill also includes \$400 billion in additional funding for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), which would add significant dollars from Washington to State programs, like Anthesis, that support the lives of individuals with [dis]abilities to achieve independent and inclusive lives. If passed, this additional funding would face administrative hurdles before reaching organizations like Anthesis; however, this is the first time that funding of this magnitude has been proposed for individuals with [dis]abilities, which is a welcome step in the right direction.

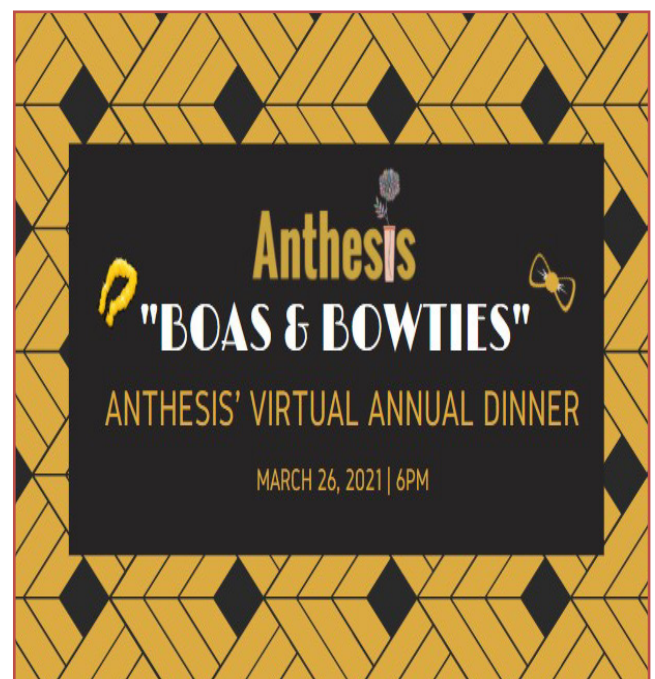
Protect disabled workers' ability to earn fair wages.

Before removing another program choice for individuals with [dis]abilities, we must fund pilot programs to determine viable alternatives to subminimum wage. Please contact your local State legislator and urge them to vote No to Senate Bill 639 – so individuals with [dis]abilities can be competitive in the job market and work towards more independent lives.

Text of SB639: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=20210220SB639

2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL DINNER RECAP

The Anthesis Community came together for a virtual night of jazz, fun, and appreciation on Friday, March 26, 2021 as we honored individuals and businesses that made a tremendous impact on the lives of the people in our programs. Board Member, Doug Vincent, hosted the event and introduced Anthesis' 2020 award winners: Participant of the Year Sabrina Y.; Business Partner of the Year FSC Lighting; and COVID-19 Resilience Honoree, Direct Service Professional Cliff Belknap. The Amanda Castro Band entertained the night's attendees and those who purchased their dinners indulged in delicious meals from the Old World Deli. Those who won opportunity drawing prizes were celebrating and most importantly, we all learned about Anthesis and the mission to help adults with [dis]abilities live more independent and inclusive lives. Anthesis set the ambitious goal to raise \$30,000 dollars to use for critical supplies during the upcoming year, including emergency supply kits for participants/staff and resource kits for participants. With the help from our community, we raised \$31,225! We could not have done it without the generous support from you and our sponsors. Thank you!



Under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3) Anthesis is classified as a non-profit, public benefit, publicly supported, tax-exempt, charitable organization with nothing given in return for donations.

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ADULTS WITH
[DIS]ABILITIES
TO BLOSSOM.**

THANK YOU TO THE 2021 ANNUAL DINNER SPONSORS!



CURRENT PROGRAMS:

DAY: Adult Development Center and Round About Senior Services

TRANSITION: Integrated Employment and Community-Based Supports

PLACEMENT: Employment Placement Services

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT: Individuals and group

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