

# Q2 2022

ISSUE 02, SPRING

ANTHESIS PRESENTS

# INCLUSION MATTERS

A QUARTERLY UPDATE

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## OUR MISSION

To support independent and inclusive lives for adults with disabilities through employment and community integration.



Luis S., Christina R., Willie M., Supported Employment Program



## FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MITCH GARIADOR

As I have been contemplating my retirement as Executive Director from Anthesis over the past several months, I have been reminded of what a great organization this is. I started working as the Director of Administration in March 2000 and at that time, I had no idea that programs for developmentally disabled adults existed. I grew up without any exposure to this population, but I will always be grateful for the opportunity to be hired by the Pomona Valley Workshop and all that I have learned in the past 22 years. The individuals we serve are some of the most amazing individuals I have ever gotten to know.

We all get caught up in our own lives and the little things that cause us frustration. It doesn't take very long to realize that the challenges many of us face with our families and daily life, are trivial in comparison to the daily struggles that our participants and their families face everyday. In spite of the challenges, our participants remain happy, they smile, they greet you with a "hello" every day and are genuinely pleased to be participating in whatever activity is on their schedule each day. Many of the individuals in our programs work and earn a paycheck that they are proud of and can spend on their favorite things. Others are happy to participate in our Day programs where there are perfectly happy with an outing into the community with their friends. Socialization is so important for everyone and without programs like Anthesis many of our participants would never have anyplace to go.

I have a profound amount of respect for our staff, especially our direct care staff who patiently provide support for our participants. There are many jobs that pay more money, but they are not many more rewarding than working for Anthesis because of the people we serve. Wages are extremely important but the opportunity to be part of this fantastic community of individuals is what keeps many of us around for so long.

Along the way, I have also met so many wonderful Board members, volunteers, business partners, funders and donors who have supported me and Anthesis (PVW) during this journey and I appreciate each and every one of them. There is no question that this organization is better today than it was 22 years ago due to the hard work of so many individuals. I am ready to move on to another chapter of my life, but I will always be thankful for all that I have been taught about life working here. This has truly been the highlight of my professional career.

I now pass the baton on to Shawn Prokopec, who will become the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Anthesis. She will become just the 5th person to lead Anthesis (PVW) in its 56-year history. She comes with many years of experience working in social programs with diverse populations and I have no doubt that she will help lead this organization to the next level. Through her leadership and the solid group of stakeholders who support this organization, I see many fruitful years ahead for Anthesis. Thank you.

## SHOWCASING NICHOLAS S., SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



Born in Montclair in 1992, Nicholas S. has always had personal goals and aspirations of being successfully independent. While Nicholas has a diagnosis of mild intellectual disability, he has gone above and beyond to achieve his goals with the help received by staff at Anthesis. With joining Anthesis in June 2014, Nicholas' goal was to find a job he was passionate about. From understanding his goals and interests and learning of his passion of working outdoors, Nicholas was immediately considered for a position in the Chino Hills 2 enclave, which provides services at the Chino Hills Community Center and McCoy Equestrian Center. With the assistance received from his job coach and co-workers, Nicholas' skills grew immensely. As part of the Chino Hills 2 enclave, some of his tasks entail maintaining the grounds and janitorial work. Nicholas has thoroughly enjoyed working in Chino Hills and has often described his duties as, "a walk in the park." After being on the Chino Hills 2 enclave for 8 years, it was recognized that Nicholas was ready for an IP position. With searching for a position that would best fit Nicholas, he accepted a position as part of the Maintenance/Janitorial Team at McDonald's in Ontario. Nicholas was ready to move on to his new position as he strongly believes his inching towards his goal of ultimate goal of living an independent life.

Keep up the phenomenal work, Nicholas! You are a great role model to everyone here at Anthesis!

## 2022 SPRING APPEAL

Your support is needed! With your support, adults with disabilities are able to thrive in their communities. Since Willie joined Anthesis, he has become a more active and engaged adult. He has discovered a career he is passionate about and now has a place to learn, advance, and enrich his life. With your support, Anthesis can continue to serve adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing the tools and guidance for them to live more independent and inclusive lives. You can make a difference by supporting Anthesis' Spring Appeal today!

Can we count on you to invest in life-changing experiences for adults with disabilities?  
Donate today!



## SPOTLIGHT ON TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, PATTY LOPEZ



Patty began her career with Anthesis on December 20, 2011 as she was hired on as Anthesis' Transportation Coordinator. With Anthesis starting a new transportation program, Patty's position was incredibly vital to making sure the program ran smoothly. Our transportation program was successful from the start and continues to be with Patty being one of the main reasons. In her position, Patty has helped develop and implement transportation routes, schedules, training, maintenance protocol and so much more. Patty's strong work ethic is an inspiration to staff here at Anthesis. Patty goes on each of the routes looking for the best, most economic, yet safe way to get our participants to and from home. Because of her efforts, participants continue to receive scheduled transportation that allows them to work towards completing their program goals. Thank you, Patty for all the amazing work you do!



# BREWABILITIES CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL RE-CAP

Anthesis' inaugural Brewabilities Craft Beer Festival occurred on April 21, 2022 at the McCoy Equestrian Center in Chino Hills and was nothing short of a success! The craft beer community came together to support the efforts of Anthesis' programs and bring awareness to the disability community. Because of the generosity and support of the craft beer community and our sponsors, we have raised over \$32,000!

Over 500 guests indulged in unlimited tastes from 15 best craft breweries with food being provided by three amazing food trucks: Vera Mae's BBQ, Bawk Bawk Chicken LA, and La Torta Madre all while various vendors sold their items. Anthesis' inaugural Brewabilities Craft Beer Festival was a day to remember as many new individuals learned more about Anthesis and the mission to help adults with disabilities live more independent and inclusive lives.

Anthesis' inaugural Brewabilities Craft Beer Festival would have not been possible without all the supportive breweries and honorable sponsors who are joining us in the fight for inclusiveness for adults with disabilities. We appreciate your partnership. Please consider supporting these businesses to let them know how much their partnership means!

Once again, thank you all for the generous support and we look forward to celebrating again with you next year! Cheers!



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Pertusati Family, Dr. Paul Olivera, Samantha James Perez





1063 W. 6th Street

Ontario, CA 91762

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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.

## Empowering Adults with Disabilities to Blossom

### 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*

### Get in Touch

INFO@ANTHESIS.US  
WWW.ANTHESIS.US

### Address

1063 W. 6th Street  
Ontario, CA 91762



## YOU'RE INVITED TO ANTHESIS' ANNUAL PICNIC!

Mark your calendars! You are invited to attend Anthesis' Annual Picnic. Join us for a fun-filled day of community, music, food, games, raffles, and more!

Wednesday, June 22, 10am-2pm  
Upland Memorial Park  
1100 E Foothill Blvd  
Upland, CA 91786

RSVP to attend by June 15 at [anthesis.us/event/2022-anthesis-annual-picnic/](https://anthesis.us/event/2022-anthesis-annual-picnic/)