

Q3
2022

ISSUE 03, SUMMER

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.



Ken S., Blanca G., Daniel H., 'Round About Senior Services Program



FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SHAWN R. PROKOPEC

As I near the beginning of my third month as Chief Executive Officer of Anthesis, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the staff, leadership team, Board of Directors, our stakeholders, community partners, and to the departing Executive Director Mitch Gariador. I have felt extremely supported during this transition with my numerous questions answered, continual offers for assistance, and kindness over the past ten weeks, which has all been in an effort to make this transition as easy as possible. I also want to express my gratitude to all of the participants who have stopped by to visit me with their smiling faces and eagerness to tell me what they have planned for the day.

There have been many long days as I learn the ins and outs of every program. I appreciate my leadership team's willingness to look at our procedures and being willing to change to be more efficient and effective with how we provide services and improve our business practice. This year will be a year of growth with additional staff, new programs, increased community partnerships, and increased fundraising to provide our participants with more opportunities for education, employment, and community and social integration.

My door is always open to staff, participants and their caregivers/families, and to our community. I am excited for the year ahead of us and the possibilities for our agency.

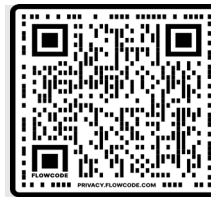
SHOWCASING ANDREW G., SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



In 2019, Andrew G. joined Anthesis' IECBS Program. Even though he was nervous because he had never been in a program before, Andrew was excited to gain a new experience and make progress towards his goals. From the beginning, Andrew had set his mind to gain independence, earn his own money, and find a job that aligns with his interests and passions. With the support received from staff, Andrew was able to explore positions that would best fit his interests. From volunteering at different non-profits while in the community-based program, Andrew expressed his interest in exploring a position where he can socialize and be a part of his community. With a position at Stater Bros becoming readily available, Andrew was quickly placed as a Courtesy Clerk at his local Stater Bros. Ever since Andrew was placed in his position, he has grown tremendously and has become a huge asset to his team. Having a job has taught Andrew responsibility and has allowed him to feel independent. With having worked at Stater Bros for almost two years, Andrew's favorite part of his job is interacting with customers. Andrew has openly expressed his long-term goal of becoming an advocate for the disability community. With Andrew being a part of the Anthesis community, he continues to be an inspiration to those he encounters.

SUPPORT ANTHESIS' SUMMER APPEAL

Anthesis supports hundreds of individuals in our programs who come to Anthesis looking for job readiness training, life skills coaching, volunteer opportunities, and a supportive community. With your help, you can change lives by providing opportunities for participants to make new friends, learn new skills, and reach their goals. The help we receive from our community of donors, like yourself, is tremendous for our mission. Whether we are supporting current Anthesis program participants or bringing on new individuals for the first time - we need your gift to empower adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling and independent lives. Donate today on our website or scan the QR Code!



LOWE'S HOMETOWNS PROJECT



We are excited to announce that Anthesis has been chosen to be part of Lowe's Home Improvement Hometowns project! Lowe's made the highly anticipated announcement today revealing the 100 community-nominated impact projects. With projects spanning across 40 states, Anthesis was lucky enough to be chosen! With the improvements done in this project, Anthesis will be able to continue providing a hub for our participants to gain opportunities for job readiness, work training and skills development. Due to Anthesis thrift store's current condition, there is a lack of appeal for customers to come and support the mission. We believe that by improving our space and commissioning a mural to commemorate the participants, volunteers, and donors who make our dreams a reality, we can attract members of our community to help support us. We cannot express enough our gratitude to Lowe's Home Improvement for choosing Anthesis!

SPOTLIGHT ON VERONICA CORZA, JOB COACH



Celebrating her seven years at Anthesis in September, Anthesis would like to highlight job coach, Veronica Corza. Veronica strives to be a positive influence on her enclave at Montclair Police Department by challenging and supporting them to be better each and every day. Through her dedication and passion to make a difference in the lives of the participants she works with, Veronica has proven to be a valuable member of the Anthesis team. Because of eagerness to make a difference, her enclave has immensely improved and gained valuable skills due to the support received by Veronica.

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

LEGISLATION MATTERS

As previously reported, Anthesis relies on funding from the State and Federal levels and we have been anxiously awaiting the approval of the acceleration of the Rate Study during this past State budget session. While Governor Newsom did not approve an acceleration to July 1, 2022, he did approve a six-month acceleration to January 1, 2023. This is significant for Anthesis as we will receive 75% of the approved increase to ensure that our rates for service are more aligned with the other agencies in the State providing similar services. This increase, followed by another 15% increase in July 2024, will allow us to offer salaries that will help retain our current staff and attract new applicants to our agency. We recognize the amazing, compassionate work of our staff and the valuable impact that they have on those that they work with each day. These increases will allow Anthesis to provide a more livable wage for our staff while expanding our programs and our reach in the local community. We are thankful for the advocacy work of the California Disability Services Association and our collaborative ability to impact change to improve the services to our community.

ANTHESIS PICNIC RE-CAP

On Wednesday, June 22, the Anthesis community came together for an exciting day of fun and memories at the Anthesis Picnic! Once again, the Anthesis Picnic occurred at the Upland Memorial Park. With the abundant amount of space, picnic goers were able to spread out, socialize, and enjoy the activities. Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities from winning prizes at the carnival booths, temporary tattoos, playing giant Connect Four, among other activities. The event wouldn't have been complete without our DJs, who had everyone up and dancing to the latest hits.

Attendees also got to taste chili samples from the 6th Annual Chili Cook-Off competition! This year's contestants consisted of five staff members: Richard Chatman, Mitch Gariador, Oscar Gonzalez, Crystal Totten, and Isabel Mendez. All contestants made some great chili that had everyone lining up for more. It was a tough decision, but Richard Chatman took home the First Place Prize!

Thank you to Ontario Firefighters for allowing us to borrow their grill, as well as all our wonderful Board Members who donated items for the lunch! We couldn't have done it without you! We hope you all had an amazing and memorable time at this year's Anthesis Picnic and look forward to celebrating with our Anthesis community again next year!





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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*

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ANTHESIS' ANNUAL DINNER!

Join us for a night of jazz, fun and appreciation as we honor some individuals & businesses that have made a tremendous impact on the lives of the the people in our programs.

Learn more about the Annual Dinner by scanning the QR Code or visiting our website!

