



Second Annual Every Voice Counts Concert Featuring Ruben Studdard

On April 19th Life'sWork hosted its second annual "Every Voice Counts Concert" at the Rivers Casino. The concert featured American Idol winner and Grammy nominated, Ruben Studdard for a private evening of music and dancing. Preceding the concert a V.I.P. reception was held that included cocktails and Mediterranean style hors d'oeuvres. During this time, Leigh Ann Patterson was honored with the Leonard Weitzman Client of the Year Award for her unwavering dedication and exemplary performance. Following the reception and award ceremony, the guests were guided to the concert area where half-moon seating around large round tables awaited, providing for an exceptional viewing experience. Eventually almost everyone was up dancing and five brave attendees were even chosen to be part of a singing competition, Ruben's version of Pittsburgh Idol if you will. By the night's end no forced smiles were needed when V.I.P guests were given the opportunity to take pictures with the "velvet teddy bear" himself. Life'sWork would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all of our supporters particularly our platinum sponsors, Highmark, MaherDuessel and Rugby Realty. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a huge success, next year's concert is sure to be even better!

To see pictures/video of the concert please visit our Facebook page. Also, next year's concert is already in the works, for more details contact acagle@lifesworkwpa.org.

2013 Life'sWork Golf Invitational

Beautiful weather and the support of the Pittsburgh community contributed to the overwhelming success of the 2013 Life'sWork Golf Invitational. Held at Valley Brook Country Club, the event hosted a slew of former professional athletes that included Robin Cole from the Pittsburgh Steelers and Frank Thomas from the Pittsburgh Pirates. Cole and Thomas, along with Emil Boures, Ron Coder, Tom Flynn, Lance Mehl, Marv Kelleem and Troy Benson joined with Life'sWork supporters representing various sectors of business to see which team would come out on top at the conclusion of the 18 holes. When all was said and done the team representing PPG Flat Glass came in first place but everyone involved walked away a winner.

Troy Benson, former New York Jet stated, "It was a top notch event as always." Life'sWork would like to give a sincere thanks to all the supporters of this year's event!



Highmark Group Left to Right: Mike Moran, Mike Kowalski, Robin Cole, Amy Sacco, and Frank DeAndrea.

Save the date for next years outing at Butler Country Club, June 9, 2014!



Life'sWork Client of the Year

At the age of 14, Leigh Ann (left) was in a car accident that left her restricted to a wheelchair. The following year she entered 9th grade and began her journey of overcoming the diversity that an individual encounters when having a disability.

She graduated high school as a member of the National Honors Society and was accepted to Washington and Jefferson where she graduated with a degree in Business Administration and a certificate in Entrepreneurial Studies in 2004.

"Finding a job wasn't easy," explained Leigh Ann, "Many people instantly saw the disability and didn't always want to give me a chance."

Many employers were not very supportive of her having a nurse around for additional support. Leigh Ann says that when overcoming these barriers she just thinks about how everyone has "down days" and that she would concentrate on all the good things she had going for her not what she didn't have.

Leigh Ann became a volunteer at Transition Employment Consultants (TEC) to gain some experience, and later began working in the Marketing Department at a restaurant called Beechies. In 2010 Leigh Ann began working with Office of Vocational Rehabilitation where she and her counselor set a goal of finding employment in 3 months. Three months later Leigh Ann was hired as a receptionist at the Life'sWork Belle Vernon office, where she still works as the receptionist but has also taken on a case load of 6 clients this past January.

"Life'sWork has given me many opportunities I never dreamt were possible. I have gained a wonderful support system and many friends through my fellow employee's. Throughout my career at Life'sWork, I have developed many positive attributes that I am proud to take with me through the rest of my life," says Leigh Ann

Life'sWork Awarded UPMC DBE Supplier of the Year

Life'sWork was chosen as this year's recipient of the UPMC DBE Supplier of the Year Award. Presented at the Fifth Annual UPMC Partnership Appreciation Event, this award is bestowed upon an individual or organization for its continual efforts to promote diversity in the workplace and in the community.

Guests were greeted by Center for Inclusion Director Jamie Scarano, Urban League President Esther Bush, UPMC Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer Candi Castleberry-Singleton and Greg Peaslee, UPMC's Chief of Human Resources. Emceed by Pittsburgh Steeler, Charlie Batch, the ceremony honored Inclusion Champions from UPMC and the community in 13 categories. Life'sWork takes great pride in winning the award for the category it was nominated but realizes the Life'sWork clients who provided the outstanding mailing services to 12 counties for UPMC are the true winners.



Clients and staff pose for a picture with the award and are honored for their hard work.

Happy 1 Year Anniversary



Time flies when you are having fun is what they say and it could not be truer for the Life'sWork Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop on Penn Avenue. It has already been a year since the doors opened to the new Life'sWork Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop, located in the heart of Pittsburgh's Cultural District. And the first year was definitely filled with excitement and fun.

The Cultural District PartnerShop is the second Life'sWork shop to open. The Squirrel Hill Shop (first shop) opened in 2004 as part of the Life'sWork youth programming for the purpose of providing hands-on training to youth with disabilities and at-risk youth. Because the Squirrel Hill Life'sWork PartnerShop was such a success with providing opportunities to youth, Life'sWork decided to expand the program and opportunities for clients by opening a new, much bigger store that features state of the art equipment and a

training area for individuals in the program. With the store located downtown and near the convention center, it also opened the opportunity for the trainees to experience a more diverse customer base.

The grand opening was just the beginning when over 1,000 people came out to enjoy \$1 scoop ice cream. Throughout the year not only was the store busy but the shop partnered with other community organizations such as the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, The Anthrocon Convention (Furries), The Girl Scouts, 10,000 Villages, and the Miracle League. The trainees were put to the ultimate test when Ben & Jerry's Shops around the nation celebrated the anniversary of the first shop opening 35 years ago, with non-other than free ice cream for everyone. After a long, busy but very fun day, the trainees and staff were able to sit back and smile after having served over 4,000 people in 8 hours. Free cone day was just the beginning of a busy season as we came into a hot humid summer where ice cream could not be served fast enough to customers trying to stay cool. Local business, offices and other community organizations could not book their yearly catering events quick enough.

As the first year comes to a close Life'sWork is proud to announce that since the new store opened, 48 youth have participated in the program. There has been a 100% completion rate of the program with 12 youth currently still participating in it. Of the 48 participants, 31 have stayed in school or graduated while in the program, 13 pursued post-secondary education or vocational training and 14 obtained competitive employment.

Because the new store is a huge success not only with youth completing the program but Life'sWork's ability to offer the program to more youth at one time, it has been decided to close the old shop in Squirrel Hill, for the purpose of being able to concentrate all efforts on making the new shop a success in every way.



<https://www.facebook.com/LifesWorkBenJerrys>

Project Choice Nominated for Community-Based Program of the Year

Life'sWork's Project Choice was nominated for the 2013 Community-Based Program of the Year by the Allegheny County Institutional Feedback Group (IFG) and Juvenile Court for the outstanding service it provides to the community.

The Project Choice program provides juvenile offenders and at-risk youth ages 12-21 with or without disabilities an avenue for successful transition from school to work by concentrating on their spiritual, educational and vocational development. The youth that participate in this program get the opportunity to identify and address the issues in their lives that prevented them from making the best choices and then are assisted in putting a plan in place that puts them on the right track to a bright future.

Congratulations to Project Choice for making such a recognizable impact on the community and in the lives of the individual youth.



Janelle, a Project Choice Youth Program participant, helps the Life'sWork Marketing Department with name badges.

Workforce Investment Act Grants are Renewed to Life'sWork



Daleea, a youth from the WIA Grant works at the YMCA for her employment hours.

The Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board renewed the previously awarded Workforce Investment Act grants to benefit Life'sWork's in school and out of school youth programs. The grants were created to develop a streamlined, transparent, and accountable workforce development system in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

In 2012, The Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board awarded two Workforce Investment Act grants to serve both in-school and out of school youth. We are pleased to announce that both programs are renewed for 2013.

The programs offer a three day job readiness seminar, and a five day vocational evaluation which helps the youth gain a greater self-worth and work knowledge through participating in work activities designed to evaluate their vocational skills, interests and abilities.

The renewal was based on Life'sWork program's ability to successfully facilitate the employment of individuals as well as provide them with practical occupational skills. The effects brought about by these youth services greatly affect not only the individual participants but also the overall community through enhancing the quality of the workforce and improving the overall productivity and competitiveness of the Pittsburgh region.



Graduates: Glenna, Orissa, Sue Ellen Kenitz (Instructor, Center) Jim, and Napolena

Life'sWork presents the Newest "Connections" Graduating Class

The Life'sWork "Connections" program has six new graduates of its comprehensive, eight-week training and job placement experience, Glenna, Orissa, Jim, Napolena, Carmen and Kimberly.

Since its inception in 2005, 86 percent of Connections graduates have been offered jobs or are working in a customer service related field. This high job placement rate is in large part thanks to the many Pittsburgh area supporters of the program which include PNC Bank, Campos Market Research, Xentel, Dial America and Citizens Bank.



Graduates: Carmen, Sarah Csir (OVR Counselor, Center), and Kimberly

The curriculum is aimed at helping participants to build and develop solid fundamental skills in the area of computer processing and customer service delivery. Participants are provided with an opportunity to receive formal instruction in the use of Microsoft's most popular software packages, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. Individuals in the program also learn vital skills in research, computer science and communication as well as job searching and interviewing. Each participant finishes the training with a completed resume and cover letter and has the opportunity to do a mock interview.

The "Connections" program aids Life'sWork in its goal of assisting disadvantaged individuals in breaking down barriers to employment.

"Education is worth more than gold, I was used to panicking but now I feel more confident in my skills and job ability," says Orissa El.

Environmental Service Training Program Celebrates Third Graduating Class

The Environmental Services Training Program is proud to announce its newest cohort of graduates. On July 9, 2013, three graduates were awarded certificates for their completion of the eight-week program.

The objective of the program is to assist individuals in breaking down barriers to employment by providing them with practical skills to help them transition to competitive employment in the environmental sector. While participants are trained in the field of janitorial services, the skills they learn in Life'sWork's ESTP are anything but basic.

The curriculum combines a standard classroom lecture type setting with a self-paced, hands on work experience, while encompassing and supporting innovative tools and green initiatives. Congratulations to all of our graduates!



Graduate, James (left) accepts certificate of completion from Instructor Al Phillips



1323 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-4700
(412) 471-2600

222 Nazareth Drive
Belle Vernon, PA 15012-9303
(724) 684-3630

The mission of Life'sWork of Western PA is to continue its comprehensive and innovative role of assisting persons with disabilities or other barriers to employment to achieve independence and dignity through productive employment opportunities.

Contributors:
Adam Cagle
Jessica Cox
Michael Studt

Join Us for The Third Annual Employer Breakfast

Every year in participation with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Life'sWork hosts an Employer Breakfast to raise awareness for and educate employers on the benefits of hiring workers with disabilities.

This year the breakfast will feature keynote speaker Beverly Mackereth, Secretary for The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

The breakfast will be held at the Rivers Casino on October 30, 2013. Keep a look out for your invitation.

For more information please contact Adam Cagle at acagle@lifesworkwpa.org.



How You Can Help

Life'sWork helps thousands of people every year. All we did was provide the opportunity...and a little encouragement. They do all the work.

Please consider making a financial gift or participate in one of our upcoming events. When you give to Life'sWork, you give people with disabilities or other employment barriers a chance--a chance to find self-sufficiency, independence and dignity.

Life'sWork of Western PA
1323 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-4700

Your contribution is tax-deductible

**Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving
October 3, 2013
pittsburghgives.org**

**United Way
Campaign**
Pittsburgh #107
Mon Valley #1527

**Combined Federal
Pittsburgh #68127**