

TOWARD MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE



*Quarterly
Newsletter*

*August 1991
Volume 11*

*TMI, Inc.
9370 Sky Park Ct. #250
San Diego, CA 92123*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

D. Casey, President
B. Morris, Vice-President
A. Pezeshki, Director
J. Allen, J.D., Director
C. Saverino, Director
D. Trammell, Financial Officer
C. Shott, Consumer Representative

Outstanding PDF - Cycle XII Awarded to TMI

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities and Protection and Advocacy Incorporated have chosen TMI's Integrated Living Project as the co-recipient of the outstanding PDF Award for Cycle XII-1990. The award will be presented at the July 20th board meeting of Protection and Advocacy, Inc. to be held in San Diego at the Omni Hotel. Supported Living is a reality in the State of California and many people have worked hard to make this dream come true. The San Diego Regional Center and Area Board XIII should be commended for their vision in writing the request for proposal. Today, TMI provides individualized supports for 15 individuals who live in their own homes with paid roommates or neighbors. Many other people await services. The task of helping a person to move from a licensed setting into his or her own house or apartment is often complicated and characterized as 'hurdle jumping,' but the people who work hard at it love what they do. Phylinda C., the project's coordinator, has a great deal of respect for, not only the staff roommates and neighbors who are very committed to the people they support, but also for the individuals themselves who are pioneers. Their willingness to take risks, to leave the safety and security of an ICF or a SNF, to put their trust in a roommate, a friend and an agency across town, are examples of determination and courage. They have taught us at TMI a great deal about Supporting people on their own terms. This award brings recognition - not to a project or a program, but to a way of life, and more importantly, to the people who live it every day.

Family Support Services Places NUMBER ONE!

“We are pleased to announce that the first child to be served under TMI’s newest PDF grant moved into his new home on June 28th,” reported Dena H. and Tracy B. (in unison, as we recall). Although slightly behind projected timelines, Family Support Services is well on its way to fulfilling the grant commitment of six placements. Three additional children should become members of alternative families the weekend of July 13/14. Plans are underway for three more kids, with at least one more ‘in the **wings**’. Since the original proposal was for six children, the project will need to receive Regional Center approval for more placements.

The change in lifestyle for the first child is quite dramatic. He actually was in Foster placement when referred to the program, where the family he was with considered him ‘uncontrollable’. He had frequent violent temper tantrums, broke toys, fought with the other children in the home and was so difficult to manage that the family would not take him on simple outings. His new alternative family had already planned a trip to Disneyland the weekend he moved in, so with some crossed fingers, the county Social Worker gave permission for this special trip. He had a great time, having only one episode where he experienced difficulty maintaining sufficient control. His new alternative mom, Mary C., was the first applicant for participation in the project and has been working with us since November. It was great to be able to place the first child with her. An additional component of this story is that although he had been in a Special Ed. classroom last year, he has been enrolled in a regular kindergarten. Preliminary reports are ‘no news is good news.’

We do have two more pieces of news. Family Support Services’ proposal for presentation at the Supported Life ‘91 conference in Sacramento was accepted. From the program, it appears TMI will be the only agency from San Diego presenting in that conference. Also, our original project Case Manager, Laura J., has been promoted to Supervisor of the Regional Center’s Escondido unit. Congratulations, Laura! We will be working with Eleanor S., who has participated on our Advisory Committee since its inception. Welcome, Eleanor, as an important member of our team!

Congratulations, also, to everyone involved with what was originally ‘Integrated Life’ on your recognition as the best new program in California. Of course, we knew that, but it sure is nice to see others recognize your efforts.

Community Living Services

Community Living Services continues to grow. There is currently a waiting list of up to three months for individuals who want or need service. A total of four additional individuals needing intensive support have moved from facilities and/or parental homes into their own homes with paid roommates or neighbors. Community Living has an Advisory Committee (formerly Program Committee) which is made up of TMI staff, professionals outside the agency and people receiving services. This committee meets on a monthly basis to approve and/or make recommendations for changes in programs and/or services to individuals supported by the agency. If you are receiving services and would like to be on this committee, please tell your Community Support Coordinator or call the TMI office. Self Advocacy groups are going strong and continue to meet each month. These groups meet in East County, San Diego, South Bay, Clairemont, Rancho Bernardo, Escondido and Ramona. For those of you who are interested in attending these meetings, contact the TMI office,

Integrated Work

Integrated Work Services is currently providing support and training to 35 individuals in job sites located throughout San Diego County. Chili's Restaurant, Savon Drug Store, Kwik & Klean Car Wash and Hungry Hunter Restaurant have recently been added to the current list of employers who are providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Six new job coaches have joined the TMI staff. TMI welcomes Kathy R., Renee A., Joy B., Lloyd O., Anna C, and Art L. to the Integrated Work Services staff.

TMI wishes to congratulate Karen S. on her recent promotion to Coordinator of Integrated Work Services. Karen brings a wealth of practical experience to her position, having previously been employed as a job coach at TMI. She has added three new job sites since assuming her new role as Coordinator. Nice work, Karen!

Laura M/, Job Coach/Community Trainer, was awarded \$50 at a recent TMI staff meeting for providing a "job lead" that resulted in paid employment for three individuals in the Integrated Work Program. TMI staff members are encouraged to contact Louanne or Karen at TMI with names of potential employers. \$50 cash incentives will be paid for each new job site that is developed. We currently need additional work sites in the East and South Bay areas of San Diego County.

TMI has submitted a supported employment proposal to the Department of Rehabilitation. The addition of a supported employment component to our work program would provide individuals with the option of working 20 hours a week or more in individual employment settings near their homes. We will be notified of the Department's decision sometime in the near future.

The first meeting of the Integrated Work Services Program Advisory Committee was held on June 11th at TMI. Following informal introductions, committee members discussed the purpose and goals of the advisory committee. Program growth, job development strategies, and the possibility of adding a supported employment program to the agency were also discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10th at TMI.

TEN YEARS LATER . .

Some things change, some things remain the same.

It all began ten years ago at TMI with one consumer and one employee. The supported individual, Cynthia S. is still receiving some services from TMI, although it is much less than when she moved out to her own apartment ten years ago.

The employee . . . well, I still work here too. With my wife Connie at the helm, we are now running a business with seventy employees. It sure is different than running a business with one employee - trying to deliver quality service to over 200 people is quite a challenge. But, the bigger we get, the harder we try to maintain or improve that quality. Sure, we've made mistakes, but we try not to make the same one twice.

TEN YEARS LATER - Continued

As Director of Financial Services, it sure is a lot harder paying the bills than it was ten years ago. We are now actively seeking donations, to help us through tougher times. We didn't need to do that ten years ago, but we are grateful that so many people have been helped by our services. People are living their lives the way they want to. We are blessed to have so many people that work for us who continue to demonstrate the philosophy upon which TMI was built, where the individual dictates their goals, dreams and desires, and we are there to assist when they so choose.

Yes, after ten years TMI is still going strong. We've been lucky, but we've also worked hard and that's one thing that hasn't changed in ten years.

Mark Saverino

TMI Receptionist/Secretary WINS BIG!!

Gloria L., Receptionist/Secretary for TMI was selected Employee of the Quarter. TMI wants to recognize excellence in the workplace and Gloria easily meets that criteria. The announcement at the general staff meeting June 27th was preceded by recognition of all nominees. Gloria's selection was greeted with overwhelming approval of applause by all staff in attendance. In addition to a Certificate of Excellence, Gloria also received a \$25 gift certificate to Barona Indian Bingo. The certificate was donated to TMI by Assistant Manager, Dewey D.. We also want to thank Daisy W. for her efforts to secure the donation.

Corporate Donations Make A *Difference*

Hewlett Packard Corporation has donated a new Laser Jet IIP printer to TMI. Thanks to the efforts of TMI employees Roger O, and Dema H. TMI has been able to make a good impression on the Corporate donation committee and the Chair, Catherine A., Branch Business Manager. A combination of good timing, a few phone calls and a well written letter by Dema, resulted in a \$1300 laser printer. We thank the committee and Catherine for selecting TMI.

We ask all employees, Board members, parents, supported individuals, and other supporters of TMI to think of other corporations, businesses or people you may know who could provide monetary donations to TMI. If you have suggestions and perhaps a contact person, please call Roger O. at TMI (467-0600).

TMI wishes to thank our latest supporters for their contributions.

- Zellerback Paper Co. (A Mead Co.)
- Barona Indian Bingo
- Lamb's Player's Theatre
- 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

A recreation guide for persons with disabilities is now available to supported individuals, their families, and professionals at a cost of \$5.00 to cover duplication. The guide was developed by the Grossmont Union High School District's Employment Development Project, UCP Association of San Diego and San Diego Park & Recreation Disabled Services and is designed to help people with disabilities identify and plan a wide range of fun things to do; alone, with friends, at home and in their communities.

Self Advocacy and Support Group Meetings

- Vista now has a self advocacy support group thanks to Richard T. The group meets every third Thursday. Contact Richard for meeting place and time.
 - Ramona group meets every 2nd Thursday. Contact Tom N. or Kathy B.
 - Clairemont/La Jolla group meets every 2nd Tuesday. Contact Kaleda W.
 - Rancho Bernardo/Poway group meets ever 1st Thursday. Contact Kathryn B.
 - Escondido group meets every 2nd Wednesday. Contact Georgia M.
 - Carlsbad group meets every 1st Wednesday. Contact Stacy O.
 - East County group meets every 3rd Thursday of each month. Pot luck for August and September meetings. Contact Dena H.
-

What's Cooking?

Quick & Easy Stroganoff - By Bonnie Barker-Stanley

1 lb. ground beef
2 cans Cream of Mushroom soup

Brown beef and drain. Mix in soup, add spices and heat. Serve hot over rice, mashed potatoes or noodles.

Looking for Advertising Space?

If you are, you might be interested in advertising in our quarterly newsletter. If so, please contact Roger O. at TMI.