



South Central Los Angeles Regional Center's Consumer Advisory Committee Newsletter

CAC News & Views

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SCLARC'S BEST BUDDIES PROGRAM CONTINUES

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center's (SCLARC) Consumer Advisory Committee continues its relationship with Best Buddies—a dynamic international organization that builds one-to-one friendships between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through school and community friendships, the program provides socialization opportunities to help erase the invisible line that often separates students or adults with and without IDD. Best Buddies is the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Their programs empower people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy, and communication skills. The program also helps members feel valued by society.

Founded by Anthony Kennedy Shriver in 1989, who recognized the tremendous volunteer potential of university students, Shriver inspired



Anthony Kennedy Shriver

his college peers to personally collaborate in expanding the realm of opportunities that people with IDD should experience. Today, through Shriver's stewardship and entrepreneurial spirit, Best

Buddies® has grown into a leading nonprofit entity with increasing international reach across six continents, establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with IDD.

Comprised of eight programs that positively impact more than 1.2 million individuals, the organization is active in all 50 states and operates accredited international programs in 50 countries. Best Buddies is also systematically implementing its 2020 Initiative that will

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Tis the season—SCLARC’s CAC and USC Best Buddies Program volunteers make gingerbread houses at their most recent event held on the college’s campus.

witness the organization’s continued significant growth, both domestically and overseas. Best Buddies 3 Program Pillars are: One-to-One Friendships, Integrated Employment and Leadership Development.

BESTBUDDIES® Friendship programs include Best Buddies Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Citizens, and e-Buddies. The “e-Buddies Program” is offered everywhere throughout the state. Some of the colleges participating in Southern California include:

- California State University, Fullerton (Fullerton, California)
- Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles, California)
- Mt San Antonio College (Walnut, California)
- Saint Mary’s College of California (Moraga, California)
- University of California, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, California)
- University of California, Riverside (Riverside, California)
- University of Southern California (Los Angeles, California)

The Best Buddies Jobs program has participants employed full-time who each have the potential to earn a total income upwards of \$1million over 30 years and contribute \$250k in taxes back into the economy; rather than costing the government approximately \$750k each in Federal SSI and Medicaid support during that time period. Best Buddies Jobs matches skilled and qualified individuals with IDD with businesses seeking enthusiastic and dedicated employees.

Through the Jobs program, Best Buddies develops partnerships with employers, assists with the hiring process and provides ongoing support to the employee and employer. Best Buddies Leadership Development Programs offers people, with and without IDD, the opportunity to gain the public speaking skills, self-esteem and confidence needed to successfully advocate for themselves.

—This article was taken from the Best Buddies website. Learn more at www.bestbuddies.org

If you are interested in having your adult child or loved one participate in SCLARC’s Best Buddies Program, contact Desiree Boykin at 213.744-3071 or email her at DesireeB@sclarc.org.



Consumer Spotlight: Anthony Smith Has Faith and Hope

By DESIREE BOYKIN

SCLARC Consumer Advocate

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."-Philippians 4:19

Anthony Smith is a faithful member of Bryant Temple AME church, where he sings in the choir. He likes the sermons preached by Pastor Dwaine Jackson on Sundays. Anthony is a part of a men's prayer circle which meets weekdays at 7am by the phone. Attending the services at Bryant Temple AME, he feels the love and support from his fellow church members. His interactions with them are not just limited to worship. He often plays basketball with friends from church on Saturdays.



Tami Summerville is Anthony's service coordinator at SCLARC. She helps him with his Individual Program Plan (IPP) goals which include saving money and choosing healthy foods for his grocery list. Through Supported Living Services, Anthony learns how to navigate the city and visit his favorite places like they the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. The last weekend of each month, he goes with Mr. Sonnier, his SLS support, to get a haircut. They stop at Subway to get food. Anthony looks up to Mr. Sonnier as a role model, who he says gives him great advice about life situations. This is important to him because his parents have passed away.

Anthony's mother Manie Smith passed away in November 2016, and his father Robert Smith passed away in January 2011. He says, "he has been able to smile through it all."

"God is with me. I miss my mom and dad. I see them as my guardian angels watching over me," says Anthony. Adding he will, "always remember the lessons his parents taught me."

Other lessons Anthony has learned include employment skills. He attended Compton Adult Development Center ran by SCLARC vendor Kelli Marsh. "Ms. Kelli Marsh and her staff made me feel comfortable. I liked being around them."

Anthony believes the skills he has learned prepared him for his current job. He works at Trinity Life Learning Child Daycare Center. He started there in June. His job duties primarily include preparing meals for the children who participate during the week.

"The kids are a joy to be around," he said.

Anthony's future goals? "I would like to own a business helping the homeless." With his faith and hope, we know he will make his goal a reality!

The CAC Club members had a ball at their Friendsgiving Luncheon held on November 19, 2018 at Hometown Buffet in Westchester.





The Consumer Advisory Committee Presents

WINTER BRUNCH

COME ONE, COME ALL! COME JOIN US AND HAVE A BALL!

We will have music, we will have food, come with a gift to brighten someone's mood!
Bring a dish, if you wish. This is an event you don't want to miss!

DECEMBER 17, 2018

10:00 am-12:00 pm

**2500 S Western Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90018**

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