

Employment Partners Celebrate Inclusion!

Tierra's April 14th Employment Partnership Reception set the stage for an evening of inspiration, appreciation and recognition, as employers, clients, board members and staff gathered to celebrate inclusion of people with disabilities in the workforce.



(L to R): Michael Blumenfield, MD, Tierra Board Member, (TBM), Christian Vargas, Tierra Client, Shenouda Roushdy, Olive View Medical Center Employment Partner Honoree (EPH), Elisabeth Stimson, TBM, Rebecca Lienhard, Tierra CEO, Dan Taay, TBM, Gina Stepaniuk, The Good Luck Gallery (EPH), Karren McClenahan, TBM, Michael Stauffer & Alfredo Ledezma, Tierra Clients, Marc Littman, TBM, Jan Maseda, Board Chair.

Hosting the event, for the second year in a row, was Tierra's key internship and employment partner, Valley Presbyterian Hospital (VPH). Hospital Foundation President and SVP of Community Relations, Pegi Matsuda, kicked off the reception with a warm welcome and resounding message that Tierra's partnership has not only brought valued interns and loyal hard-working employees to their team; but, has also reduced the time and effort that the hospital normally spends on recruiting and hiring for these positions. "It's been a win/win on many levels, and I encourage all employers to take the step in hiring these outstanding individuals," tells Pegi. "You will not regret it."

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Valley Presbyterian Hospital's Mercedes del Cid, Dallas Ryan, Pegi Matsuda and Tierra board member, Karren McClenahan.



Longtime Tierra State Building Employee, Michael Stauffer, accepts his watch for 18 years of service.



Tierra 13-year Home Depot employee, Christian Vargas proudly displays years-of-service watch, while celebrating with Tierra Job Developer Susan Farajian, his mentor and job coach.

Celebrating Inclusion from page 1

Special Awards were presented to the following Employment Partners:

**Olive View UCLA Medical Center
2016 Pacesetter Award**

for establishing and implementing
an exemplary internship to employment program.

**The Good Luck Gallery
2016 Trailblazer Award**

for pioneering accomplishments in employment diversity and inclusion.

**The Auto Gallery
2016 World Changer Award**

for innovation and leadership in employment diversity and inclusion.

**The following Tierra Clients were honored
for a decade or more of service at their jobs:**

Michael Stauffer, State Building

Jose Mercado, Hamer Toyota

Alfredo Ledezma, LA Valley College

Christian Vargas, Home Depot

Tierra CEO, Rebecca Lienhard, noted that since last year, 16 new Tierra clients have transitioned into paid employment, bringing the current count of employed Tierra clients to 81. After presenting awards and watches to longtime client employees who had 10 years or more of experience, Rebecca challenged the crowd to hire 20 more Tierra clients in the coming year and to surpass our client employee count of 100 in 2017.



Olive View UCLA Medical Center's Shenouda Roushdy, accepts the Pacesetter Award from Rebecca Lienhard.



Gina Stepaniuk of The Good Luck Gallery and Maria Jones, Director of Tierra's Sunland Studio Fine Arts Program



Message From Rebecca Lienhard, CEO

*Greek philosopher Heraclitus:
"Everything flows and nothing abides;
everything gives way
and nothing stays fixed."*

It is spring. I look around and everything is in a state of movement – the wind blowing through the trees, the rapidly changing weather, people coming and going, and the new growth only spring can bring. Permanence is just an illusion, rather it is in this state of flux that human progress is incubated and achieved. In the last few months, Tierra del Sol has been intentional in its movement and its achievements.

Since November, we have been focusing on the words empowerment, acceptance, inclusion and value through contribution, which lies within our vision and mission statement:

A strong and vibrant community is one in which all of its members contribute their strengths and assets to the common good. Tierra's mission is to empower people with disabilities to fulfill their potential and desire to become productive citizens who are accepted, included and valued for the contributions they make to the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of our community. We are actively working toward the day when people with any type of disability are fully recognized as an integral part of our community – as neighbors, co-workers, and contributors.

In the pages of this issue, you will read how everyday actions come alive with these intentions and values. You will read of people with disabilities empowered with the skills and tools to become artists, employers who are celebrated because they saw value in the work of people with disabilities, and board members who found a role of inclusion in an organization that serves people with disabilities. Everyone you read about, is accepted for his/her unique gifts and talents.

Yes, we are indeed in a state of flux - an intentional state of movement - and are collectively working towards a day when people with any type of disability are fully recognized as an integral part of our community.

TEE OFF FOR TIERRA!



Tierra's 9th Annual Golf Tournament

held May 16th at Angeles National Golf Course, hosted 37 Foursomes and over 200 guests at the Auction, Dinner & Awards Program. Special thanks to our sponsors, supporters and volunteers for making our

2016 tournament a tremendous fundraising success and helping us continue to help Tierra clients lead a life filled with dignity, meaning and value!

"Thank You" to our major sponsors!

MAYER • BROWN



VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL



Los Angeles Daily News

Welcome New Board Members!

Tierra recently elected two new individuals to our Board of Directors, Kyle Stoutland and Dan Taay. Their passion for our mission and hands-on involvement are welcomed and shared traits of Tierra's valued leadership!



Kyle Stoutland was first introduced to Tierra in July of 2013, when his sister Kasey was accepted in a program for workforce development. Since that time, he and his family have been avid supporters of Tierra through our Community Support Campaign, Golf Tournament and Fall Festival.

As a Private Banker at the Chatsworth Branch of Wells Fargo, Kyle has overseen banking and financial services for high net worth individuals for the last decade. His company, Wells Fargo, supports Tierra's programs and services as member of The Circle of Inspiration at the partner level and most recently became sponsors of Tee off for Tierra, the

organization's largest Annual Fundraiser.

"I am ecstatic that Tierra del Sol has granted me the opportunity to serve on the board. After witnessing the love that those associated with Tierra have for their clients and witnessing the joy that Tierra brings to my sister, I knew it was an organization I wanted to be more involved with. I am excited to assist Tierra in continuing to change challenges to opportunities."

Dan Taay is the President & Chief Executive Officer of Technicolor Federal Credit Union, where he has served for six years. Prior to joining the credit union, Dan had a lengthy and accomplished finance and accounting career. Companies that have benefited from his expertise are DineEquity, Konica Quality Photo and Berkey Photo, however, the entity that benefitted most was Technicolor, Inc. where he served as Director of Accounting for 16 years.

Since first being introduced to the organization through Tierra's Chief Financial Officer, Amy Rosenstein, Dan has generously donated his time and talents, as well as participated in Tierra's major fundraising events as both a sponsor and volunteer. He and his wife, Nancy have two grown children and four grandchildren.

"Tierra does amazing work and that's what sold me. It's hard not to get behind an organization that helps so many adults with disabilities, truly make a difference. Tierra not only helps the people they serve, they empower them to contribute and make a difference in their lives. That's a message I can definitely stand behind and I look forward to what lies ahead for this dynamic and innovative organization."



Special Needs Trusts and Planning for the Future

Longtime Tierra parent and financial planner, Dick Bartus, teamed up with private practice attorney, Stuart Zimring, Esq., to present an eye-opening seminar on Special Needs Trusts and Planning for the Future to a full-house of Tierra parents and family members at the March 31st Distinguished Speakers Program. While each speaker provided a different perspective on this often avoided, yet crucial topic, both agreed that **to prevent a financial crisis, you must plan in advance!**

Tierra del Sol can also help you establish a Letter of Intent which answers detailed questions about the personal care, preferences, traits and future hopes and wishes of your loved one.

For more information on this important topic or to set up a complementary meeting with a Tierra Life Planning Specialist or Estate Planning Partner, please contact Cathy Galarneau at 818-352-1419 x235, or cgalarneau@tierradelcsol.org.



WE ARE
first-year students at CSUN



I AM
a multi-media artist



WE ARE
Volunteers at SOVA,
Jewish Family Services Food Pantry



volunteer



I AM
a theater major
at Pierce College

I AM TIERRA, I

Tierra clients are everywhere. We are 87 paid employees at 31 community centers. We are 137 students at CSUN, LA Valley, Mission and Pierce College. We play with toddlers, care for animals and give back to over 110 non-profit organizations. We are empowered, accepted, valued and contributing members of our community.

We are Tierra



WE ARE
employees at Fireman's Brew



I AM
a volunteer at a food bank



WE ARE
volunteers at the YMCA
La Cañada Flintridge



Your generosity in supporting Tierra del Sol is extremely important to helping us continue providing valued supports and services for the 750 clients we serve each year. Thank you for taking the time to use the envelope provided in this newsletter or to donate online at tierradelsol.org. By making a donation of any amount today, you will be making an important contribution towards helping your son, daughter, brother, sister or family member become a valued member of our community. A community that can proudly say, "I AM TIERRA".



WE ARE
volunteers at ONEgeneration Senior Center



I AM
a clerk at the
County Courthouse



I AM
an artist



I AM
an employee at
The Auto Gallery

WE ARE TIERRA!

Companies. We are 70 artists whose work is shown locally and abroad.
We are 540 individuals who feed the homeless, visit seniors,
and support nonprofits via 50,000 hours of volunteer service each year.
We are the heart of our community.

Join us!



I AM
a ceramicist and painter



I AM
an animal caregiver



I AM
an artist



WE ARE
volunteers at the 1st Methodist
Church of Reseda



I AM
an employee at Home Depot

Did you know?

- Corporate matching gift programs double your donation. Ask your company about their charitable giving program.
- Your combined annual donation of \$1,000 will be recognized via our Annual Donor Recognition Program. Learn more about the Circle of Inspiration and other ways to give at tierradelosol.org.
- All 2016 donors will receive a special I AM TIERRA button in appreciation of your gift.
- A community is strongest when all of its members contribute. Do your part to help the Tierra Community, today!



Art Careers and Empowerment

Creating, selling and exhibiting amazing art are not the only ways Tierra's artists are developing careers in the arts these days. Teaching, has become another path to building their professional arts portfolio!

Artists Jackie Marsh, a First Street artist since 2009 and Katie Mendoza, who recently joined the Gallery, teamed up with Tierra Staff members, Leah Gloria and Rebecca Hamm, who mentored the young artists through their first public teaching experience at the Joslyn Senior Center, a Tierra Volunteer-Partner Site. The Exploring Art Practices course in painting, printmaking, drawing and collage, was taught by Jackie and Katie, who quickly mastered the material, rehearsed the presentations and successfully guided 20



Students at Joslyn Senior Center learn illustration techniques taught by Tierra artists.

adult learners in four enriching classes.

"Jackie's skill and confidence has grown tremendously since first coming to Tierra," notes Rebecca Hamm, Tierra's Director of Arts and Enterprise. "That, combined with Katie's knowledge of art techniques,

culture and history, gave them each something unique to offer the students who wasted no time in asking the Tierra team to return for another series of classes in the Spring."

"I should have tried this a long time ago," shares Katie. "I was nervous at first, but after I was done, I wanted to do it more." This year, the two art instructors and their colleagues from Tierra's Fine Arts Program, are launching new teaching opportunities that include more Joslyn Center art classes for seniors, after school programs for K-12 grades, workshops with local art studios, and a variety of other art courses through our Tierra art studios.

"This is an exciting time to closely follow the artists and projects of Tierra del Sol's progressive art studios in both Sunland and Claremont," shares Rebecca Hamm. "Our artists are embracing new opportunities and initiatives while pursuing their professional art careers, each as diverse as the work they create."

Knowing that most artists strive to establish a life that includes three foundational elements: rigorous creative production; an income that will sustain their creative practice; and a connection to a cultural community, it is Tierra's continuing goal to offer career training and empowerment opportunities so that each person can choose a path that is consistent with his/her interests, goals and values.

These opportunities continue to grow and impact all of Tierra, within and beyond the arts community.

Helen Rae: an Artist's Dream Come True!

Helen's drawings are garnering attention from major critics, curators and collectors from L.A. to Paris.

January 21st - 24th: Helen Rae was represented by The Good Luck Gallery at the Outsider Art Fair, New York City. Another sold out show! Reviews of Helen's work published in *Art in America*, *The Creator's Project* (Vice) and *Disparate Minds*.

April 6th: Limited Edition Archival Print released by Exhibition A, a contemporary art editions company based in New York City founded by fashion designer Cynthia Rowley and owner of Half Gallery, Bill Powers.

May 28th - July 2nd: Solo exhibition of Helen Rae's drawings at The Good Luck Gallery, Los Angeles.

October 20th - 23rd: Helen Rae will be represented by The Good Luck Gallery at the Outsider Art Fair, Paris.





Artist Spotlight:

TRINA KIRKMAN

As the daughter of an artist, Trina Kirkman's artistic contemplation of the natural environment, creativity and design is inherent.

Trina's works are decorative, brightly colored compositions. These may be images and ideas from her imagination, or they may be carefully studied adaptations from a photo reference. From wherever her inspiration is derived, the result is unique and sophisticated, bold in delivery and color. Whether a still life or market scene, wildlife, or a radial design; Trina portrays a bountiful environment. She chooses from a variety of media, which she manipulates in order to achieve desired effects. Confident in herself, she has always been fascinated with the intricate beauty of nature. These often-symbolic works convey a subjective, emotional response to the natural world.

Trina's artwork has been turning heads since she joined Tierra del Sol Foundation's Sunland Art Studio in 2004. She has been creating artwork for years and is continuing to blossom as an artist. Trina's art has been exhibited at Tierra's Sunland Studio, First Street Gallery Claremont, City Hall Bridge Gallery Los Angeles, Santa Monica Hangar Gallery, and Long Beach Art Expo. As a featured artist in Tierra's Fine Art programs, her work can be viewed in the studio by appointment or through Tierra's online gallery.

Trina was a recipient of a paid art internship with AmeriCorps in 2010. She contributed her expertise to their community outreach program through her work as an assistant art instructor. Since then, she has taught a weekly art class at Sunland Studio Arts, and continues to facilitate art projects as a volunteer at Telfair Early Education Center. In 2014, Trina was recognized by the Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles for her contributions in the Visual Arts.

Sunland Studio Arts presents:

Tile Workshops

June 4 and June 18, 2016
9-11:30 am & 12:30 - 2 pm

workshops are ten dollars to attend and refreshments will be served

To sign up, please contact Maria Jones at 818.793.7551 or via email at mjones@tierradelsol.org

Tile Show & Open House

July 16, 2016 10 am - 2 pm

join us for guided tours, buy tiles, and enjoy the campus with your family!

barbeque lunch will be available for purchase

Exhibitions & Events

May 28th - Helen Rae

The Good Luck Gallery, Los Angeles
Solo Exhibition of Helen Rae

June 4th - Victor Frias & Everyone (Part II)

The dA Center for the Arts, Pomona
Featuring Victor Frias

July 2nd - Group Show

First Street Gallery Art Center, Claremont
Curated by First Street Gallery artist Leul Asfaw

July 9th - Mapping Fictions

The Good Luck Gallery, Los Angeles
Featuring Joe Zaldivar

August 11th - Summer Art Show

Sunland Studio Arts, Sunland

September 3rd - Tile Show 2016

First Street Gallery Art Center, Claremont

Changing Challenges to
Opportunities!



9919 Sunland Boulevard, Sunland, California 91040

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Los Angeles, CA



Join us for the first meeting of the

Tierra's FAMILY & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Thursday, June 9th 4:00 - 5:30 pm

NEXUS celebration immediately following

Tierra's Sunland Campus
9919 Sunland Blvd., Sunland

- ◆ Meet and share stories with other parents and family members of adults with disabilities.
- ◆ Discover Tierra's history and its impact on the lives of those we serve.
- ◆ Empower yourself to become engaged and stay involved!

Featured Guest Speaker:

Terry Paulson, PhD,

Humorist & Author of The Optimism Advantage

*"Transforming Challenges Into Choices –
The Lighter Side of Life"*

Please RSVP with Mirlo Tello, by Friday, June 3

818-352-1419 or mtello@tierradelsol.org

*Family members & Tierra clients welcome; refreshments will be served;
Spanish translation available for meeting portion only.*

NEWS FROM TIERRA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Across all of Tierra, there is a mountain of progress and action. The last few months have been no different. The Board has not only grown by two more valuable members, but it has also focused its energies on our agency's Strategic Plan for the next three years. All organizations serving individuals with disabilities are at a unique time in history, where there is convergence of local, state and federal mandates that will inform the current and future trends of our services. We all walked away from our recent board retreat, enlightened and strengthened by the values and vision of Tierra del Sol.

As a Board, we are now focusing on – new revenue streams for on-going sustainability and new initiatives to further our mission of inclusion throughout all of our services. Additionally, we continue to boost our fundraising efforts while maintaining governance oversight.

And, finally, as part of our mission of inclusion and acceptance for all, the Board is hosting Tierra's first parent meeting – formally called Tierra's Family and Friends Association. It will be held on Thursday, June 9th at 4:00 pm at the Sunland Campus. All are invited from every corner of our organization – NEXUS, Employment, Vocational Training, Arts – wherever you are. Please bring your sons, daughters, sisters, and brothers. We have an amazing speaker lined up for the night. Come and meet other parents/family members, learn more about Tierra, and ways you can get involved.

I'm personally looking forward to meeting you there.

Happy Spring!

Jan Maseda
Chair, Tierra Board of Directors