

A Future of Employment



(L to R): Jamie Chen, Pegi Matsuda, Chris Horan, Roxanne Alvarado, Yxoline Diaz, Vanessa Anukam, Eleonora Herrera, Sasha Van Voorhis, Judith Courtney, Cathy McClure, Linda Anderson, Rebecca Lienhard, Ralph Courtney, Aleta Marchant, Irma Mora, Pastor Gordon Marchant

Meaningful employment. What does it entail? Purpose, value, establishing a place in the world, and transitioning from a role of consumer to contributor. Many of the individuals served at Tierra are incredibly skilled and full of endless possibilities; they deserve the opportunity to obtain meaningful employment. With Tierra's support, 111 adults have paid jobs at local companies, and an additional 80 artists are self-employed. When looked at as a whole, 35% of the working-age people Tierra serves are employed. It's a phenomenal accomplishment, and a concept that supports Tierra's endeavor to continually *empower people with developmental disabilities to achieve excellence*.

On April 6th, Tierra held its third Annual Employment Recognition Reception at Valley Presbyterian Hospital (VPH). Attended by employment partners, clients, staff, and board members, the evening was filled with gratitude and inspiration.

Hospital Foundation President and Senior Vice President of Community Relations, Pegi Matsuda, kicked off the evening's program with a powerful and positive message about the VPH/Tierra partnership. With six Tierra interns, and four paid employees from Tierra's Workforce Development Program, Pegi explained, "We see our partnership as a two-way street. When you hire a Tierra graduate, you get more than a well trained person. You get a dedicated employee who wants to work and has the skills to perform at the level you

need. You'll diversify your current workforce, and, you'll be seen as a business and industry champion of hiring an underrepresented group of employees."

The award recipients of the evening included longtime partners, *First United Methodist Church of Reseda*, *Lowe's*, and one of Tierra's newest partners, *The Discovery Cube of Los Angeles*. Chris Horan, Store Manager for *Lowe's*, Burbank, humbly remarked, "Lowe's is a purpose driven company. It has been great to be associated with a company such as Tierra that wants to be part of something bigger." Development Director of the *Discovery Cube*, Cathy McClure, adds, "We are proud and honored to partner with Tierra del Sol. We have gained so much in productivity, customer service, and value through their Workforce Development Program. This program is such a valuable resource and we are committed to our collaboration for years to come."

At the close of the evening, Tierra clients, Eleonora Herrera (*Precision Dynamics Corporation*, *A Brady Business*) and Linda Anderson (*The Los Angeles Daily News*), were each recognized for serving their respective employers for 17 years. Tierra's CEO, Rebecca Lienhard, said, "This is what you get when you hire Tierra clients. Dedicated employees who will give you everything they have to give. These ladies, their drive, and enthusiasm to work...this is what the future looks like. Thank you for being a part of our mission and for setting an example for other companies to follow."



Message From Rebecca Lienhard, CEO

Work is the greatest equalizer.

Successful employment builds on strengths and gifts. Successful employment creates identity. Successful employment ultimately constructs a family system beyond our own, with people who value and accept us for what we can do and not what we can't.

We know this to be true in our own lives and I have seen for myself that this is true in the lives of the people that Tierra serves everyday. All, who are involved in Tierra's Workforce Development Services, are impacted regardless of which career track they follow – College to Career, Careers in the Arts, or general Workforce Development. Lives are changed, families are changed, companies are changed, and communities are changed. The stories in this edition exemplify this message.

Please celebrate with me these stories of inspiration and hope that, regardless of the notion of disability, real people are living meaningful lives contributing their strengths and assets to the economic, civic and cultural vitality of our communities. *Celebrate* the 17-year contribution of Eleonora and Linda as wage-earners to their companies. *Be inspired* by the humble messages of Chris Horan, Lowe's Burbank, and Pegi Matsuda, VPH, that both agencies want to be part of something bigger. *Have hope* through Cipriano's family message of the change we can be in the world. *Be moved* by Evan's newly developed skills of art curation and Marlena's passion for creating animated characters.

And finally, ***be called*** to action. **Hire a Tierra client associate.**

Client Highlight: Cipriano Trujillo

By Julia Trujillo-Pita

My brother, Cipriano Trujillo, was a bit reserved prior to coming to Tierra. Although our family could see his social potential, it was hard for him to be comfortable with other people. Things started to change once Cipriano joined Tierra's Workforce Development program, where he volunteers in the grounds maintenance department at Mission College. He was excited to be on a college campus, loved telling people about his day, and developed new relationships. This was a change from the "day program" he previously attended. Cipriano eventually became a volunteer at Olive View Hospital where he has volunteered for the past two years. Not a day goes by, where he doesn't look forward to going.



Cipriano (third from left) and Julia (fifth from right) with their family.

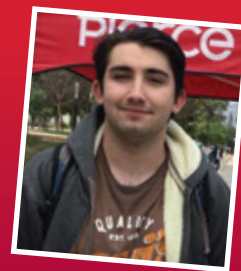
Cipriano and I have experienced great losses since 2015. Our father battled with dementia for two years, and sadly passed away in December of 2015. Shortly after, I - his big sister- was diagnosed with Cancer. He had to endure time away from me, and somehow find a way to process that I was eventually going to be healthy again. Just as I began my road to recovery, our younger brother died suddenly in a traffic accident this past March. During our brother's service, Cipriano, with a heavy heart, had the courage and poise to go to the podium to speak about our little brother. He shared what our brother had done for him, how much he loved him, and how much he was going to miss him.

Our family believes that Tierra has given Cipriano the tools, not only to grow as a person, but also to inspire others to go beyond their comfort zone. While Cipriano has been processing all these life changes, what has kept him cheerful is his commitment and the friends he has made at Tierra. He finds so much enjoyment and fulfillment from volunteering at Olive View Hospital. Cipriano has opportunities available to him that our family never thought would be possible, and we can't thank Tierra enough for all they have done.

Giving back.
It's **EVERYONE's** responsibility.
Support Tierra today!
tierradelsol.org Donate Now!



CONGRATULATIONS!
to Rachel Nizinski and Benjamin Schnitzer
in Tierra's College to Career Program, NEXUS.
Rachel and Benjamin were accepted to CSUN
and will both begin classes this fall!!!



10th Annual Golf Tournament

A sold out course, and honoree, Joe Byrne, 14-year Tierra Board member and one of the founding members of Tee Off for Tierra, made this year's tournament an event to remember!



Over 200 guests and golfers from the last decade, as well as new Tierra supporters, joined in the celebration on Monday, May 1st, at Angeles National Golf Course.

Special thanks to all of our sponsors, volunteers and those that made this year's tournament a hole in one!

Special Thanks to Our Major Sponsors:

MAYER • BROWN

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PRESBYTERIAN
HOSPITAL**

**BOLTON
& COMPANY**

**HAMER
TOYOTA**
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IRS
ALWAYS
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**PROANGLE
MEDIA**

Michelle & Frank Vega

Los Angeles Daily News

Welcome Moore & Koettters, New Tierra Board Members!

Tierra recently elected two new members to its Board of Directors. Pat Moore and Peter Koettters, MD. Their commitment and understanding of Tierra's mission, and role as active family members, make them a welcomed part of Tierra's valued leadership.

Pat Moore is an accomplished employee benefits consultant whose twenty five-year career in the insurance industry has been complemented by leadership roles in numerous professional and civic organizations throughout Los Angeles. Giving back has always been important to Pat, whose philanthropic outreach has enabled her to actively support several non-profits that help children with physical and developmental disabilities.



"My husband Kevin and I first learned of Tierra when our son, Matthew, graduated from high school five years ago. We heard it was the best program in Los Angeles, and since joining Tierra, shortly thereafter, we've seen Matthew thrive. We couldn't imagine him anywhere else."

"One of the reasons we find Tierra's success with its clients so positive, is because of the staff. They are committed individuals who truly care about the clients and their well-being. That, for me, is the cornerstone of Tierra del Sol," shares Pat, who has been an active member of the organization's Circle of Inspiration and Fall Festival Committee, along with husband Kevin, since 2015.

"Tierra has so much to offer people with disabilities. Its broad volunteer program, art platform and employment opportunities are excellent examples of ways Tierra is changing the future of individuals with developmental disabilities. As a new board member, I hope to bring new employment and volunteer opportunities to our clients, and hopefully motivate more parents to help Tierra financially, so that we can continue giving our loved ones the quality of care and support they deserve."



Dr. Peter Koettters is a Board certified Pediatrician and Chief of Staff at Valley Presbyterian Hospital (VPH), where he also serves on its Board of Directors' Executive Committee. Having joined the hospital in 2004, after completing his training at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, he also shares his time with the Descanso Pediatrics office of Huntington Health Physicians in La Cañada. Throughout Peter's career, he has led research projects, served on more than two dozen professional committees, published articles, and received honors and awards for his work pertaining to the practice of medicine. His interests include the care of children and adults with disabilities, and complex chronic conditions.

"Tierra has given my wife Catherine and I new hope about our son Benjamin's future, through the NEXUS program," tells Peter. "As a new Board member to Tierra, I plan to help in whatever way I can, and look forward to sharing my experiences with children and adults with disabilities."

We're Ready to Work!

There are a number of remarkable individuals who understand what it takes to become economic contributors and who would be interested in hiring others like them.



Jared Rimer

- I have volunteered at Valley Presbyterian Hospital and Valley Economic Development Center
- I love working with computers and have experience building websites
- I can work anywhere in the west San Fernando Valley 20-40 hours per week
- My ideal job would be data entry or in a dispatch / distribution center



Shalin Kumra

- I have volunteered at One Generation Senior Center, and have experience in retail
- I love working with people
- I can work 20-30 hours a week anywhere in the San Fernando Valley
- I want to work where I can help people



Albert Ulloa

- I currently volunteer in the food pantry at Lutheran Social Services
- I previously worked at Fireman's Brew
- I have strong skills working in a warehouse setting
- I am bilingual in English and Spanish



Jackeline Giron

- I am a volunteer at the San Fernando Courthouse, but I would like a paid position, preferably in an office setting
- I am also open to other employment opportunities
- I take public transportation (MTA) to and from the courthouse
- I am responsible and flexible

Top Five

- **Enthusiastic workers**
- **Wage and tax incentives**
- **Lower turnover**
- **Full-time jobs**
- **Improved work environment**

Helping While Working Community

Partner Companies can receive significant financial benefits. Your business may be eligible for tax credits of up to \$1,000 per employee's first \$10,000 of wages under the Work Opportunity Credit. Additional incentives exist in many local empowerment zones.

For a listing of candidates tierrad

“Tierra has been doing here for more I can't imagine family with”

- Dave
General
Hame

Your generosity. Their future. An investment that k

Individuals we serve who are ready for employment. They have drive, passion, and skills. They are ready to do contributors and obtain meaningful employment. If you have any opportunities, or know of any companies our clients, please contact Job Developer, Susan Farajian, sfarajian@tierradelsol.org or (818) 482-0219.

Five Reasons to Hire:

• Well-trained
• Tax incentives
• No overhead
• No coach
• Work environment

Businesses We Help the Community

• Companies enjoy
financial benefits.
• They may qualify for
up to 40% of the
first year wages,
• Tax Opportunity Tax
• Financial incentives
• Local economic
zones.

For more information
or additional
services, please visit
tierradelsol.org

• Our associates have
a fantastic job
for more than 15 years.
• Imagine our work
about them. ”

• Susan Gilman,
Program Manager
for Toyota

“The Tierra Del Sol Workforce Development Program has had a very positive impact on our company. The Tierra associates working for us are enthusiastic and productive workers who have a positive impact on our employees. Participating in this program has been one of the most rewarding initiatives we’ve been a part of, and I highly recommend it.”

- Bill Van Laningham, Vice President of Marketing, Los Angeles Daily News



Alex Wunderman

- I currently volunteer at Councilwoman Nury Martinez' office and the Mid-Valley YMCA
- I would like to obtain employment in retail
- I live in the San Fernando Valley, but I am familiar with West Los Angeles and surrounding areas



Cipriano Trujillo

- I have volunteered in the cafeteria at Olive View Medical Center for two years
- I would like to work at a movie theater, but I am open to other options
- I can work up to 30 hours a week, including weekends!
- I work best with a set schedule of tasks



Rocio Gutierrez

- I have completed my internship at Child Development Institute, and am now interning at Valley Presbyterian Hospital
- I love working in an office setting and I am particularly good at Data Entry Projects
- I earned an Office Clerical Certificate from Los Angeles Mission College
- I can work 25 hours a week anywhere in the San Fernando Valley

Keep on giving! Tierradelsol.org — Donate Now!

Artist Spotlight: EVAN HYNES

Infamous is the title of the exhibition showing through June 16, 2017, at First Street Gallery Art Center, one of the Progressive Art Studios of the Tierra del Sol Foundation.



Infamous began in 2016, when artist Evan Hynes proposed his idea to curate this exhibition for First Street. He then began a successful few months of studies and trainings to accomplish all steps to curate the show. He selected a location, designed a theme and title, researched local artists, invited guest artists to participate, selected the art pieces, and worked with the gallery manager to install each piece. In addition, he created art statements and materials that gallery visitors can use interactively with this exhibition.

Evan continues to advance his professional career path in the arts and looks ahead to his next project. "I've worked on a lot of art projects over the years," shares Evan, who came to First Street after graduating from Mt. Sac College at the age of 22. "My show is going to open soon and I'm thrilled and enthused by what's next this year."

One of the artists that Evan invited to participate in the show is Nathan Murri. Nathan was recently interviewed by Brandyn Chambers, of Flydra Creative Animation Studio, about his award winning animated characters he developed for Flydra's "Project Passion Animation Contest." Nathan was one of two artists working at First Street Gallery Art Center who was recognized in this competition. Additionally, Matthew Garrido won for "Best Story Idea For An Animation Video." Congrats to these artists, and the many others, who are successfully opening new pathways for Tierra's Careers in the Arts!

Photos: Top left, counter clockwise: Evan Hynes, The Dark Side of Massacre; Nathan Murri's Original Star Wars Cast; Nathan Murri being interviewed by Brandyn Chambers, Co-founder and Chief of Operations for Flydra Creative Animation Studio; Curator Evan Hynes, with The White Whale, a sculpture by Leslie Lanxinger.



Map of a Lifetime!

"As the Senior Staff Trainer at Tierra del Sol Foundation, I often have the opportunity to visit Tierra del Sol satellite locations in order to provide training and support to our staff. During these visits, I get the chance to meet clients from various departments and view their projects and artwork. This is how I came across the artwork of **Joe Zaldivar**, one of the many talented artists at Tierra's First Street Gallery Art Center in Claremont. Since I first encountered Joe's artwork, I've dreamt of commissioning one of his famous map drawings, but never knew which map I wanted. Finally, a few months ago, as time drew closer for me to compete in the Los Angeles Marathon for the first time, it came to me! I should commemorate this momentous event by commissioning Joe to capture the marathon route. Weeks later, and now an official marathon finisher, I am thrilled to finally take my piece home and hang it next to my medal. The piece Joe created holds so much meaning for me - it celebrates this huge life accomplishment, it tells the story of my first marathon after only having started running a year ago. And most beautifully, the piece itself is a symbol for what I love about Tierra, why I've been here for 6+ years, and the brilliance of the individuals we serve. The piece is magic and will always be something I cherish!"

- Marisol Garcia, Senior Staff Trainer for Tierra del Sol



Artist Spotlight: MARLENA ARTHUR



Marlena Arthur is an artist who has been working in the Sunland Studio Arts progressive studio for less than a year. Marlena has been heavily influenced by the cartoons and movies that she grew up watching. She showed her skills and passion through her reproductions of the characters she held so dearly. When Marlena settled into the studio and began to consider her own path as an artist, she knew that she had to create something of her own.

Marlena imagined her own character, Molly. She drew thumbnails with basic forms, poses, then began drawing detailed patterned backgrounds. Next, she imagines Molly in different places, seasons, moods, with outfits and accessories to match. This defines who the character is and how the variations represent Molly's personalities. Marlena creates characters and breathes life into them through her detailed imagination.

Marlena shows a remarkable understanding of anatomy, shape, design, expression, storytelling, and color theory. When it comes to detailing, she pushes the values of each color, making sure the highlights are exactly placed to make the image believable. Her characters are consistent in execution, each showing varying personalities and different thematic choices. Just when you think they are perfect, the next rendering is surprisingly better. Each version is more improved and sophisticated. Getting to know these characters is like meeting the artist's best friends. They express a youthful joy, derived by their cartoon influence. They also wear bright clothes (with outfits to fit the personality); have large eyes, colored hair, and descriptive names to match.

In the progression of her character, Molly spawned signature hair styles and makeup, a group of friends, as well as pets. These culminated in the creation of fifty friends who were all enchanting, but Molly remains the artist's favorite. Marlena draws a connection to the character through her ability to tell a story through design. Whether they are good, bad, cute, or sad, she presents them exactly how she perceives their character. The viewer falls for them all.





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Leading with Inspiration!



Congratulations to Tierra CEO, **Rebecca Lienhard**, who was honored by the United Chambers of Commerce as one of the San Fernando Valley's Most Inspirational Women of 2017. Rebecca (2nd from left) joins fellow honorees at the Chamber's Annual Luncheon, held **May 4th at the Hilton Woodland Hills**.

Mark Your Calendar!

Tierra del Sol Campus

9919 Sunland Blvd., Sunland

Saturdays, June 3 and 17

9:00am - 11:30am and 12:30pm - 3:00pm

Sunland Studio Arts Tile Making Workshops

Saturday, July 15

10:00am - 2:00pm

Sunland Studio Arts Tile Show & Open House

Saturday, August 26

10:00am - 2:00pm

Sunland Studio Arts Summer Art Show

First Street Gallery Art Center

250 W. 1st Street, Claremont

Saturday, July 1

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Ramak Fazel Collaboration

Saturday, September 2

6:00pm - 8:00pm

First Street Gallery Tile Show & Opening Reception



Saturdays
9:00am - 1:00pm

Tierra del Sol Foundation
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Sunland-Tujunga
91040