

HORIZONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TRESKO, INC.

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Tresco's Annual Benefit Fair

More than 20 vendors showed up at 10 AM on October 25, 2013 for Tresco's annual Benefit Fair. In addition to engaging in giveaways, treats, raffles, and great conversations with co-workers, employees took away a wealth of information on the many benefits provided to them by Tresco.

Among them, Tresco offers staff development and training, educational assistance, health insurance for the employee and their families, life insurance provided at no cost to the employee, long-term disability insurance, and many retirement options.

Tresco also offers an Employee Assistance Program, Mutual Benefit Fund, PTO, Emergency Leave Bank, Compassionate Leave and Jury Duty leave. There are also other voluntary benefits, including auto, home, and life insurance, a supplemental life insurance TSA retirement plan, and gym memberships. Other advantages provided to Tresco employees include a wide variety of award and recognition programs designed to acknowledge employee contributions.

Thanks to Cindy Guzman for coordinating another successful Tresco Benefits Fair!

For additional information on Tresco's benefits contact Cindy Guzman, Human Resources Coordinator, or Gail Estell, Human Resources Manager, at 528-2200.

Gallery: To help commemorate Tresco's 45th anniversary, Tresco sponsored a poster contest. The contest was open to all individuals and departments of Tresco. Each entry was to represent, in some way, Tresco's 45th anniversary serving individuals with differing abilities. The competition was great, as individuals and departments vied for a top prize of \$100! The contest was judged by Pam Lillibridge and the winners announced at the annual Tresco Benefits Fair on October 25th. (Winners are shown from top to bottom.)

1st Place: Human Resources

2nd Place: Service Coordination

3rd Place: Desiree Long

4th Place: Patsy Murphy

5th Place: Patsy Murphy



▲ TOTS Annual Food Drive

During the 2013 holiday season, Tresco's TOTS department was fortunate enough to receive enough donations to provide 35 families food baskets for Thanksgiving! Additionally, we were able to start a food bank in our Social Workers closet for our families in need. We received over \$300 in cash and food donations from the Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis Aktion Club and Las Cruces Hispano Chamber of Commerce! Additional donations of turkeys and canned goods came from NMSU clubs, Jeffrey Silva of U.S. Bank, and Roni Alba and her fellow High Heels for High Hopes Models. A big thank you to all participants!



▲ TOTS is Infant Massage certified!

Last fall, our service providers at TOTS took their work with children and families a step further, and participated in an Infant Massage training to include in our daily Early Intervention home visits. Infant Massage benefits include infant-parent attachment, relaxation, helps babies feel loved, promotes better sleep, facilitates body awareness, boosts immune system, sensory stimulation, and improves circulation and digestion.



Snapshot: Team Tresco held its first raffle as part of our support of March of Dimes. A 40" flat screen TV was raffled off during our annual holiday party. Congratulations to Gary Manley! Thanks to all who purchased tickets in support of this great cause.



Employee Spotlight: TOTS Therapists

Therapists at Tresco TOTS work with the families of children who are, or who are at risk for, developmental delays and disabilities. The program has provided early-intervention services since 1978, and currently serves over one thousand children annually. This month's Employee Spotlight looks at three such therapists - a combined 60 years of experience serving their community.

Cindy Mantegna has been a TOTS occupational therapist for over 30 years, working with children who have been diagnosed with both disabilities and life-threatening diseases. In addition to providing free services to families in need, Mantegna considers watching her patients succeed the most rewarding part of her job. "I just love to see the success, like the first time a child is able to walk across the room and reach for their mom's face," she said. "We do the work of children, not the work of making money. It's the work of our heart."



Jane Harvey is a speech-language pathologist at TOTS, helping children communicate through methods of expression through which they should be familiar with at their age, especially gestures. Her favorite part of her job is during moments when a child she works with is able to communicate in a meaningful way to a family member, such as a first word. "To see that spark between the parent and the child, and know it's working," she said, "is so exciting."

Merilyn Christenson is a speech-language pathologist at TOTS with over 45 years of experience in child therapy, including assisting with the needs and development of babies born deaf. Christenson and her fellow therapists work with families in their homes and daily routines to help nurture opportunities for family-child communication. "You really get attached to the families," she said. "I like it because you're in the home, working with the whole baby, not picking apart the baby and working on only things like just speech, or walking." To Christenson, being a child therapist at Tresco TOTS means "you have a not-for-profit heart."



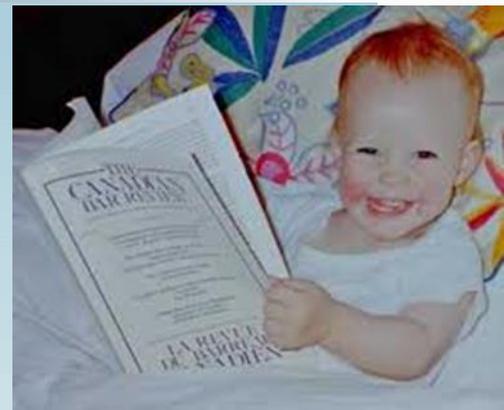
From left: occupational therapist Cindy Mantegna and speech-language pathologists Merilyn Christenson and Jane Harvey pose for a photo with director of children services Sylvia Washington (back) at Tresco TOTS.

[Photo credit: Niki Rhynes, Las Cruces Sun-News]

▲ Reading is important at TOTS!

Early language and literacy development begins in the first three years of life, and is closely linked to a child's earliest experiences with books and stories.

The interactions that young children have with such literacy materials as books, paper, and crayons, and with the adults in their lives are the building blocks for language, reading and writing development. At TOTS, we understand the importance of literacy in the intervention and coaching that we provide to parents that we serve in our community. For this reason, we have implemented a project to ensure books are in the homes of the children we serve. The community has been a huge support in our efforts to get books into the homes. We have successfully collaborated with Scholastic this fall to earn credits to purchase books! Additionally, we have participated in the Literacy Foundation's "Books in a Basket" program, which has provided 50 homes with books over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.



▲ Special Olympics Holiday Classic

Tresco was well-represented at the Special Olympics Holiday Classic held in Las Cruces on November 15 and 16. We had eight participants in bowling, and three participants in basketball. Besides the competition, the athletes enjoyed the health fair, banquet, awards ceremony and dance held Friday and Saturday nights. Participants were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals. Everyone is eager for the next set of Special Olympics games - the fact that Las Cruces hosted the event made it just a little more special!



The Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For more information, visit www.specialolympics.org.

▲ Aggie Game Night

What's more fun than going and watching the NMSU Aggie Basketball team play a winning game? Spending the game chatting with friends is the cherry on top of the sundae! On November 27, several Tresco Aggie fans attended the game against Prairie View A&M, and had a wonderful time cheering for the Aggies, who decisively won the game! The time we spent at the game was wonderful and is truly what it means to build a community! Go Aggies and Tresco!



Christmas Parties at Tresco!

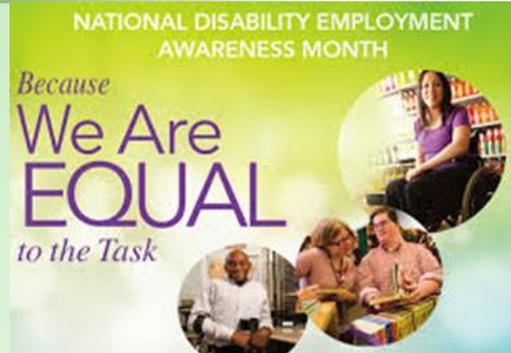
Every year, we receive toys and stuffed animals from the Toys for Kids Motorcycle Parade. We also host Christmas parties to give out the toys and stuffed animals to all the children in our program. This year, our parties were very successful; we had many activities for our families like beading, ornament making, cake walks, bingo, and pictures with Santa! Our children and families in the Anthony, Las Cruces and T or C area had a great time at our holiday parties!



National Disabilities Awareness Month

On November 6th, in celebration of National Disabilities Awareness Month, Tresco held a celebration barbeque at the Volunteered Park on the White Sands Missile Range's main post. Our friends from Skookum, Inc. joined us in our celebration; it was a wonderful opportunity to get together for some great food and fun, not to mention have the chance to socialize with folks from all the contracts. We certainly appreciate all the hard work our folks do each and every day. As a part of this celebration, we were able to recognize several individuals whom their supervisors wanted to give a special thanks for their hard work and dedication.

The following individuals were recognized: Michael Fernandez, Kevin Taylor, Richard Mele, Lupita Barboza, Ruby Reyes, Michael Fleming, Frankie Mendoza, Alfredo Mercado, Sammy Holguin, Eugenio Granados, and Guillermo Sosa. We also want to pass along a huge thanks to all the folks who helped with organizing the event, setting up the park, and cooking the food. Thanks also to Skookum for bringing the cake and refreshments!



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