

Dear Friends of ACT,

The New Year is upon us. We look back on 2017 with pride in many accomplishments. But now we're looking forward to 2018 with great anticipation.

As you look forward, we sincerely wish each of you a happy and successful new year.

As I have said here before, I am gratified that the team around me is one that is not satisfied to stand still. While we've done much in 2017, it's clear that taking too long to bask in the glow of past successes is not in the cards.

For now, I'll keep quiet. But soon we'll announce some exciting changes that are taking shape.

While we are saying a fond goodbye to a couple of good people (Kalynn and Brian, we wish you all the best), in the words of a former football coach, we are not rebuilding, we are reloading. We are excited about our team, and look forward to reaching more people where they live with the services they need and want.

This is going to be fun.

I will mention one thing today that will be of particular interest to readers: we will start in 2018 to bring this newsletter to you on a quarterly, rather than monthly, schedule.

We'll also be making a shift in our social media presence that acknowledges how people

typically receive and access information. By doing so, we think we're tuning up the frequency and volume of the content our stakeholders want.

Thanks to each of you for your support and keen interest in our work during 2017.

We're taking steps to make 2018 even better. We wish you a wonderful 2018, full of health, happiness, and well-being.

Until Next Time,



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Mark Hassemer
Executive Director

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



We raised \$9,640 in the December CoMoGives Campaign thanks to you! It's our mission to provide opportunities to individuals with disabilities as participating members of the community and your gift to ACT will allow dreams to come true and put necessities within reach. We know there are always opportunities to give to those within your community, and we are so glad that you chose us! We greatly appreciate your support and cannot wait to share the opportunities you made possible. Check us out on Facebook and Twitter to see those gifts being put to use.

Michael Named Arby's Employee of the Month

Michael was recently honored by being named Employee of the Month for Arby's midwest region.

Michael received support from ACT Career Services leading up to being hired at Arby's in 2015. His work performance was so strong ACS was phased out.

Throughout the year, Arby's Managers can submit nominations for Employee of the Month. Michael was surprised to learn he won

this great honor. They made the announcement in front of his General Manager and coworkers while taking a routine class on etiquette.

The award acknowledges Michael's congeniality and his consistent track record of working well with others. It means so much to Michael to be recognized in this way.

"It shows that they appreciate my work," Michael says.

Michael's Manager said, "It's the very first time any employee in Columbia, MO has ever won the award."



CONGRATULATIONS, MICHAEL!

ELIZABETH TAKES HER DREAM TO CALIFORNIA

It's pretty amazing when you have a dream and it comes to fruition.

For a long time Elizabeth has wanted to go to California to see where her favorite show is taped.

Working hard at Walmart in Columbia, she saved for several months for her travels. Getting promoted along with a pay raise only helped her cause.

By September, she'd bought her tickets and made up an itinerary. Then she and Community Living Program Manager, Vicki Schulte, took off.

They took in as many things as they could during one week in Los Angeles. First on the list was seeing where all the action takes

place. She had a VIP pass to Warner Brothers Studios where she toured movie and television show sets.

They saw two of her favorites, Big Bang Theory and the Ellen Degeneres Show were two of her favorites they saw.

Elizabeth and Vicki also visited the famous downtown Hollywood and Walk of Fame.

"I got a picture of LL Cool J, Whoopi Goldberg, Hugh Jackman and the cast of the Hunger Games' handprint and footprint!" Elizabeth says.

They also hit the city's major theme parks, Universal Studios, Disney Land, and Sea World.

They got VIP status at Universal Studios, where they rode the Jurassic Park and Transformers 3D rides.

At Disney Land, Elizabeth shopped till she dropped. She and Vicki had a blast in Downtown Disney, ending the night by devouring a nice Mexican meal.

Sea World was one of Elizabeth's favorites! She got the rare opportunity to swim with dolphins, one of her most-liked animals.

"You know what I got to do? I had to touch baby squid to feed the dolphins!" Elizabeth laughs. "I also had to wear a wetsuit and shoes."

Elizabeth also got to check off a very memorable first: she saw the ocean. One was not enough. The two explored several of the southern California beaches, including Laguna Beach and Newport Beach.

"I walked in for the first time and nearly fell. It was funny!" She says.

The two also visited the Griffith Planetarium and the California Science Center where they saw an actual space shuttle.

In and Out Burger and Ben and Jerry's are just two food stops that kept them going on their non-stop, adventurous vacation.

"I had a wonderful time," Elizabeth says. "We had a whole lotta fun!"





HOLIDAYS ARE IN FULL SWING IN THE DAY PROGRAM

There is never a shortage of fun in the Day Program and this certainly holds true during the holidays.

For Thanksgiving, everyone feasts on a delicious meal – Turkey and all the trimmings. ACT’s building is packed with hungry people eager to dig in.

A special play was also performed called Terry and Tom the Turkey.

At Christmas, 2200 Burlington is a buzz with holiday spirit. Secret Santas are busy wrapping presents and Activities Supervisor Rachael Jackson

and Activities Assistant Nancy Beatty are planning an afternoon filled with games and fun, including a recent hit ‘saran wrap ball’ (various prizes are wrapped in a ball of plastic wrap).

Christmas Trivia, festive snacks and caroling are also on the docket.

The program will ring in the New Year by having special guests Father Time and Baby New Year (the two eldest participants of the Day Program, Larry and Ruth), along with bingo and movies.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Happy anniversary to these members of our ACT family!

JESSICA MAHON, 10 YEARS

DALISA CORDRAY, 1 YEAR

DAVID WEST, 5 YEARS

ALYSHA ANDERSON, 1 YEAR

ERIN TUCKER, 1 YEAR

DEIDREA MURRAY, 1 YEAR

ANGELA JENNINGS, 1 YEAR

BREANNA CARTER, 1 YEAR

NACOLE MILLER, 1 YEAR

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. CONGRATULATIONS!!

SHOP AND DONATE!

You can now donate to ACT by shopping at Gerbes, Schnucks, and AmazonSmile and JustGive.org!

At Gerbes and Schnucks, simply apply for their community/rewards program, pick ACT as your designated charity, and shop away!

When shopping at AmazonSmile, create an account, pick ACT as your charity, and again, shop away!

JustGive makes donating to charitable organizations easy. Go to their website and search Alternative Community Training to donate. You can even pick to give one time, monthly, or to put on a registry.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ACT!





JANUARY

ACT facility based offices closed for New Year's

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

ACT facility based offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

14 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31



FEBRUARY



1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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