



Twelveacres

Summer
2003
Newsletter

The entire purpose of true education is to make one not only know the truth but live it – to make one enjoy doing right...and wait on God, the strong deliverer, who will reward righteousness... (MY 252)

Snap Shots of A Student's Success!



Holding a cup for the first time unassisted!



Expressing the joy of accomplishment!

Twelveacres Vocation Education Program: A "First Harvest" Update

The Vocation Education Program is progressing well toward its goal of training clients for community jobs! Teacher Rändi Gleason conducts individual sessions every day, usually in the homes. Each of the 24 students attends two half-hour sessions per week. "This is a good start, but just the start! Twelveacres has budgeted to hire another teacher this fiscal year. We're moving forward to achieve this high-priority goal," said CEO Marlie Brooks.

Each student is given specific tasks to accomplish. Ms. Gleason explains and demonstrates the steps to achieve each task. "Some students require hand-over-hand assistance. Some need prompts. As students progress in accomplishing tasks, the prompts decrease. Eventually the students complete tasks independently," Gleason reports. Tasks range from reaching and touching, eye-to-object coordination, picking up and grasping objects, learning to count, memorizing the alphabet, telling time, and remembering the values of coins. Students are also learning colors, sounds, sentences, object sequencing, and vocabulary building. In addition, they are tackling assembly work, reasoning, strategy, attention to detail, speed, accuracy, observation, abstract thinking, and performing quality checks on their own work.

While the first weekly half-hour session is one-on-one with the teacher, the second session involves two client-students and the teacher. In these sessions, lessons consist of games, finger/brush painting, exercising, clapping, and singing along with favorite songs.

Behaviors change as the students recognize their progress and as the teacher assures them of their ability to master each new task. For example, three students have begun to read. Another is independently reaching for things needed. Yet another is learning to distinguish colors by sorting objects. A student resistant to multi-tasking has become more flexible and willing to learn. This student has begun to understand the importance of developing these workplace skills. A student who was once reluctant to try anything new has – since the beginning of the Vocation Education Program – been willing to do everything the teacher asks of him.

Each student's progress is continual. Ms. Gleason reports that she is greeted joyfully by students and staff in each house, and the atmosphere of harmony fuels the learning every time. Of the students she says, "Its wonderful to see on their faces the recognition of their own God-derived capabilities, the joy at each new triumph, and the gratitude when help is asked for and given." She also expressed her "endless gratitude to Twelveacres supporters who make the Vocation Education Program possible." CEO Brooks adds, "The Program is a success. Client-students are already reaping the benefits of what they are learning. All of us at Twelveacres are truly grateful for the loving generosity of the supporters who have made this program a reality."

Twelveacres is

"...a determined, joyful denial of limitation."

Twelveacres *Healing The Unhealable* Series Goes National

Twelveacres effort, begun in late 2002, to bless the Christian Science Movement with presentations about spiritual healing is bearing fruit nationwide. Each event includes a potent metaphysical talk by a *Journal*-listed practitioner, updated information on Twelveacres healing work, and ways to advance that work. Local events generated much enthusiasm in Florida and California during March, April, and May. Other presentations anticipated in Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Oregon, Washington, and California will continue this year's series on *Healing The Unhealable*.

Twelveacres CEO, Marlie Brooks, and Development Director, Carl Symons, participate in each event. Ms. Brooks tells listeners about the healing and education of clients, speaking from 11 years of experience and a focused vision of Twelveacres future. Mr. Symons offers ways to contribute to advancing the work.

Presentations are held in churches or large homes. All are joint gifts from the speaker, the church or homeowner, and Twelveacres to the communities in which they are held. Presentations have been well-attended and enthusiastically received. All the speakers have found unique ways to link their healing messages to Twelveacres mission. (As a gift to you, we are including excerpts from three of the talks.)

In March Naples, Cape Coral, Miami, and Jacksonville, Florida Church communities hosted presentations. Practitioners David C. Kennedy, Caron Cosden, E. Ward Thomas, and Bonnie-Sue Brown-Widdell, respectively, spoke to large audiences. In April Michael Taylor, CS spoke in Mill Valley, California. Here several Twelveacres clients greeted guests. In May Board member Sue Warrick Smith and her husband Phil Smith hosted a talk in their home in Penn Valley, California. Edwin G. Leever, CS was the speaker. Local Board Members and attendees enjoyed mingling after both California events. One attendee said, "This work you do is vital. That non-Christian Scientists can readily see, and remark on, what's possible to God is profoundly important in our world."

Twelveacres Clients Enjoy Spring and Summer 2003!



Fruitage

◆ The men of Flores House celebrated Love's Mothering this past Mother's Day by sending cards and flowers to their moms. Two of the men were able to present their flowers in person after church that day. Each mother was deeply touched by her son's gift, and by the maturity and grace each man expressed in the giving.

◆ A woman in the AST program learned of a passing in her practitioner's family and immediately wanted to send a card. While planning a one-on-one activity with the House Manager, she asked, "Can we go buy a card?" They went to the store and together selected a beautiful, suitable card, then sent it to the cherished practitioner-friend. A simple act of caring, this represented significant progress for the woman in initiating, planning, and following through with a project.

◆ Kindness and selflessness are also evident in the care of staff members for each other. Recently one staff member needed to take a job-related training course but had no transportation to get her to the class on time. Her coworkers volunteered transportation. She thankfully accepted. What a lovely example of one grand – in this case – sisterhood!

◆ A client who loves to read but spoke disjointedly and infrequently, and responded to questions only after much delay, is making great progress in speech communication. Staff has been working with him using flash cards inscribed with whole sentences. He is now talking more, expressing his thoughts and feelings. Recently, leaving a neighborhood park, he happily remarked, "Nice park!" The staff member with him noted that this was the first time he had ever made a spontaneous remark. One morning shortly after this, on his way to an activity, he exclaimed, "Oh, it's a good morning!" This individual's continuing progress has increased the joy of his household.



In deep concentration during her learning session.

◆ Dominion gained is the theme of a healing a male client had recently. For a long time, he had limited use of his right hand and arm and avoided using them as much as possible. The client and his practitioner worked faithfully, and his house staff supported that work. Now this man has full use of his right hand and arm in every activity. On a recent outing with housemates and staff, he was able to swim freely.

◆ A non-CS staff member noticed a nonverbal client bent over and limping. She called the Christian Science Practitioner and the House Manager. After calling the practitioner the second time, the manager reminded the client that the practitioner was prayerfully supporting her. Very soon, the client started walking upright, normally. Soon her program bus arrived, and she went happily off to her Day Program. The staff member who first noticed the limp told the manager, "Thank you; you also helped me. Seeing this healing come so quickly was reassuring. I was concerned about her." The manager phoned the practitioner to thank her for the support and to report that the client was just fine.

◆ Two Vocation Education students are learning, among other job skills, what is an acceptable volume level for their sound signals to the teacher. Some of this learning involves mastering the frustration and fear associated with new learning activities. Formerly these clients would "give in" to fear and frustration and become quite loud in expressing themselves. Now each one has begun learning to recognize frustration and ask for help before giving up control and getting too noisy. Their teacher remarked, "It is wonderful to see this expression of God's control and intelligence emerging more and more from these students."

◆ Here is an example of a client-student demonstrating "...a determined, joyful denial of limitation" and expressing Mind's dominion. The student picked up the teacher's car key ring, slipped it on her own finger, and gazed admiringly at it. The teacher asked if she would like a real beaded ring, suggesting they make one the next week. The client agreed. When they began making the ring, the student's Day Program ride arrived, and the student did not want to leave for her program. However, the teacher promised to return in the afternoon to finish the ring; at that the client happily left for her program. When the teacher returned in the afternoon, she found the client napping in her chair by their work area. In a few moments the client awakened but scowled and bit her sleeve – a signal she did not want to work on the ring just then. The teacher told her scowling and sleeve-biting was not acceptable communication, and she told the student if she repeated the unacceptable signals, the ring project would be put away. The client looked at her and raised her arm as if to bite her sleeve again. Instead, she lowered her arm. Both teacher and student rejoiced over the choice to exercise control. The ring was completed that day. A happy student smiled broadly at her teacher, then gazed proudly at her new ring.

A Letter from The CEO:

Greetings to Friends Far and Near:

Thank you for your special support of Twelveacres' mission over the past year. The challenges have been great, but the victories far greater. Knowing that you are committed to the advancement of our healing mission means so much to all of us at Twelveacres.

I have actually witnessed the remarkable progress going on in our Vocation Education Program, reported on page one. I am seeing people labeled incapable of learning basic skills begin to read, write, and learn math. Many formerly non-verbal clients have begun to speak. Some unable to use limbs and hands are picking up small objects and using them with purpose. We continue to make inroads into "healing the unhealable."

As part of our *Healing The Unhealable* series, earlier this year I had the pleasure of meeting many Twelveacres friends in Florida and California. During the next few months, we are planning travel to Texas, Illinois, Michigan, and along the west coast, continuing this series of talks. I hope to have the privilege of meeting many more of our friends to share our current progress and healing. It is my great joy to meet and get to know as many of you as possible.

If your future plans include travel to California, please include us on your itinerary – just give me a call and let me know. I would love to have you visit our homes and witness first hand the healing progress at Twelveacres.

Since we are continuing this nationwide talk series, if any of you would like to host an event, please contact me or our Development Director, Carl Symons. I have seen how these events bless the communities. They have been true illustrations of hearts meeting hearts and being reciprocally blessed in sharing our "...genuine recognition of practical, operative Christian Science." (see Mis 207)

Looking forward to seeing you. With great love,



Marlie Brooks

From 3/01/03 through 7/25/03, Twelveacres received much appreciated gifts in the names of the following:

Robert Bowker
"a very dear daughter Debby"
Reba C. Green
Alice Hellyer
Priscilla Mason, CS
Jim McGrew, CSB
Lorene E. Shaw
Ann O. Spaulding, CSB
Dr. Marionette Tack

In Memory Of:

Frank Council
Charles Fulton
Wanda Grenke
Ellie Johnson
Ralph Martin
Lois Meyer
Paulette Skinner, CS
Kathleen Stanley
Jane Vaughan

Scott Darnell
John Gibson
Doris Gruwell
Robert C. Koehler
Donald A. Mayer
Lois Savoye
Stuart D. Smith
Lorraine Swartz

In Honor Of:

Molly Byers, CS
Randi Gleason
Jeannette Pridmore-Brown
Carl Symons

Carrie Carson
Cheryl L. King
Alan N. Schmidt
Shari Tobias

Robin Collins
Debbie Mueller
Laura Spaulding

Planned Giving Benefits Twelveacres, Your Heirs, and You

There are a variety of gifting instruments you may use in estate planning. Charitable Gift Annuities and Remainder Trusts may increase your income, give you a charitable deduction, and may allow you to bypass some or all capital gains taxes. You or a loved one may receive the income. Call our Development Office for more information. Seeking legal advice from a qualified estate-planning professional is also wise.

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