

JEFF INDUSTRIES, Inc.

A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION

LIVE LEARN WORK

Newsletter 5

Spring 2018

Message From

Claudia Roberts, MEd, CPRP

Executive Director



Spring has sprung! However, the daily pace at Jeff Industries hasn't slowed down at all. We are welcoming new clients all the time and celebrate existing clients as they move forward into job placements and independent living.

Our expanding food pantry is bringing more clients into the agency. We are happy to be of help to these underserved individuals. With the expansion of our services and more clients, our antiquated septic system began to fail resulting in a major overhaul and the installation of a new septic system. It has been quite an undertaking but absolutely necessary.

We want to thank Publix Supermarkets for remembering us with a gift card at Christmas and happy to receive a donation from the Palm Beach Post's "Season to Share." We also received a disaster recovery grant from the United Way of Palm Beach County to assist with the cost of replacing our building awnings. Again, we thank the Lattner Family Foundation for their generous grant and Extraordinary Charities for their continued support.

The A.M.I.G.O.S.'s information circuit television is up and running in the Drop-In Center. It is updated daily and provides information on current community resources and other relevant news for all who visit the center.

We also want to thank the volunteers from AmeriCorps who give their time and energy to help with the students in the "Pathway to Graduation" program.

We are participating in the "Great Give" again this year on April 24, 2018. It runs from midnight to midnight only. Please mark your calendars for that date and donate to Jeff Industries. All contributions will be eligible for bonus funds through the Community Foundation of PBC, United Way PBC and other charitable foundations. Please go to www.greatgiveflorida.org and search Jeff Industries to support our mental health agency. Or you can call **1-844-GIVE-DAY (1-844-448-3329)**. SAVE THIS NEWSLETTER!!!



The 35-year mission of Jeff Industries continues by helping adults and at-risk youth integrate into the community by providing social, leisure, networking, employment and affordable housing so that they can lead productive and stable lives.

Palm Beach & Martin Counties

We are very grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

Meet Some Members of Our Professional Staff



Adam Burak
*Assistant to the
Transitional Specialist*

“An Exceptional Young Man”

Adam Burak graduated from the University of Delaware last summer and wanted to “give back” by doing community service for a year and so he began working for the Literacy Americorps of Palm Beach County. Adam is from Acton, MA (about 40 minutes from

Boston) so working in south Florida was definitely a plus.

Adam works with Jeff Industries’ Transitional Specialist in the United Way of PBC’s funded “Pathway to Graduation” program. He helps run an employment class for the students of Ed Venture Charter School by teaching them interviewing skills, resume writing and basic life skills. Adam says “I am blessed to do this every day”. He delights in the students’ successes when they get jobs in the local community. “Many of these kids have no support at home and we give them the encouragement and confidence to seek a better life for themselves” Adam continues.

The “Pathway to Graduation” program assists at-risk ESE youth with severe emotional, behavioral and cognitive challenges to prepare and transition to post-secondary options.

“I love it when a student gets a job offer. We had one student get four offers at once,” beams Adam.

“We are grateful for the help of the AmeriCorps of PBC, Ed Venture Charter School and the United Way of PBC for their support of this program”.

Another Success Story

Matthew “Matt” Onisko



Matt is a native Floridian and an outstanding success story at Jeff Industries. He was originally referred to A.M.I.G.O.S. by a friend so he would find new friends with healthier interests. He had trouble socializing in the past and his everyday life had become overwhelming.

At Jeff he found new friends and started adopting better hobbies and habits. “My attitude just changed” says Matt and “I began feeling better about myself.” Matt worked in the wood shop for about a year and learned punctuality and sound work ethics. With the help of Jeff’s job placement specialist, Matt was able to secure a job with Waste Management. At first he was assigned to the disposal of tree and plant refuse. He recently was promoted to a position on a Waste Management truck and works a full 40 hour week.

Matt now has a girlfriend and loves to go salt-water fishing on the Intracoastal. He someday hopes to own a boat of his own. Congratulations Matt!

From the Board of Directors

Yvonne Sapenoff

Jeff Industries Board of Directors’ Consumer Advocate



Yvonne Sapenoff, a resident of Royal Palm Beach, was born in New York City. Ms. Sapenoff holds a Masters Degree in mental health from The City University of New York but has suffered the effects of mental illnesses since she was age 14. She spent time in a mental hospital and eventually moved to south Florida where she found Jeff Industries in 1988. Working with counselors and her mental health professionals, Yvonne has been successful in managing her illness. She originally came to Jeff Industries for support and social interaction. “Jeff is my home”, she says. “It is a place very near and dear to my heart.”

Eventually her social skills led her to a position at A.M.I.G.O.S. as a peer counselor to clients just like her-those needing sociability and help navigating the mental health system. Yvonne went on to become a full-time case manager at Jeff Industries. From there she went to work as a program coordinator at a mental health agency in Stuart and also became an adoption coordinator for high-risk children in foster care. Before she retired in 2013 she was working with teenagers in a drug rehabilitation center.

In her spare time, Yvonne loves listening to “doo whoop” music of the 60’s and is an avid reader.

Yvonne has served on the Board of Directors of Jeff Industries, Inc. for the past 11 years. “My job is to keep the Board’s focus on the clients and what they need to succeed,” she states. “My motto in life is “just keep moving forward, put one foot in front of the other every day.”

We salute Yvonne as one of our biggest cheerleaders!

Our Agency in Action



JEFF INDUSTRIES, Inc.

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