

JEFF INDUSTRIES, Inc.

A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION

LIVE LEARN WORK

Newsletter 8

Winter 2019-2020

Message From

Claudia Roberts, MEd, CPRP

Executive Director

As the Holidays approach, we like to take time to reflect on our progress at Jeff Industries. Busy is the operative word of the day here as always. With the addition of the top-grade, silk screening machine more clients are able to participate and learn from this valuable trade. The machine was purchased with the money we received from the Great Charity Challenge.



In addition, we converted one of our Palm Haven Housing units to offer transitional housing services for co-occurring psychiatric and substance abuse clients. The program has been very successful so far. We added a Substance Abuse 1:1 Supported Employment program to assist SOR MAT (State Opioid Response Medicated Assisted Treatment) clients as they transition out of their treatment programs.

The woodshop continues to build and install “Buddy Benches” for Mental Health America. So far 16 benches have been placed on elementary school grounds all throughout PBC to bring awareness of and, hopefully, prevent “bullying”.

Our mission continues with the construction of “Josh’s Benches”, which is a suicide prevention and awareness initiative started by Cindy Nadlebach, whose son tragically committed suicide in 2017. The benches are sponsored by families and business organizations and placed in various locations throughout PBC. Our clients construct, paint and install these benches and we are happy to be a part of this significant project.

We are grateful to Extraordinary Charities of Palm Beach for selecting Jeff Industries again as an “Extraordinary Charity”. We also want to thank our customers who purchase our products and the community employers who hire our clients.

As you plan your Holiday “giving”, please remember us with a donation using the enclosed envelope or you may donate on our website www.jeffindustries.org. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for supporting us!

FOCUS ON THE BOARD

Everly Farquharson, OTR/L



Everly Farquharson, OTR/L is a valued member of Jeff Industries' Board of Directors. She is an Occupational Therapist with over 20 years of experience in various areas of practice including academia, long-term care and mental health. Everly always pays close attention to her clients life-skills management and advocates for accessibility of necessary

mental health services/support. She learned about Jeff Industries through her interactions with clients, who had obtained valuable services through A.M.I.G.O.S. and other programs available at our agency. She is very passionate about OT and the mission and the vision of Jeff Industries. "The LIVE, LEARN, WORK program gives clients a sense of purpose working with both your hands and your head", she explained her reason for joining the Board of Directors here at Jeff. "I think it is absolutely necessary to assist our clients to develop personal goals with encouragement and support while learning valuable skills for work or everyday life", she continued. Everly is known for her willingness to help and is recognized as an advocate for mental health within the community. She is a member of local mental health coalitions groups helping to provide education and resources to increase mental health awareness in an effort to stop the stigma. When Everly is not working, she loves to travel with her children and her dogs.

Meet George Psomas



His smile lights up any room he walks into. George Psomas is currently a client/worker in the Graphic Design/Embroidery/Screen Printing department of Jeff Industries. Originally from Long Island, NY he came to our agency a little over a year ago after moving down to South Florida and found "true professionals here". George has had mental health problems throughout the years and had almost given up by the time he found Jeff. "I feel I'm a part of something greater than before. This program is truly unique", he says. George's family lives in Delray and are very happy that he has found this program. They all think he has made a great turnaround. "I feel at home here!" George exclaims.

When he is not busy working at Jeff, George enjoys the beach, swimming, reading and attending various self-help programs. George's hope for the future is to complete his hours towards Certified Recovery Peer Specialist certification, pass the exam, and continue at Jeff Industries in a new role of Vocational Peer Specialist where he would help others who are seeking to benefit from the program as he has.

A.M.I.G.O.S.' STAFF MEMBER

MICHAEL LAVIN

Michael recently wrote this about his experience at Jeff Industries



*"On this day,
October 12th 2010.*

*I started work for
Jeff Industries*

I have many highlights in this 9 years.

I met my best friend Robert.

I became 2013 employee of the year.

*But enough with the "Is". It's the incredible people
that make Jeff Industries what it is today.*

*For the young man Jeff of which this place that
bears his name. I have a reason to wake up.*

*The people I see when I go there have reasons
to wake up. To all who have supported me,
I take my hat off to you.*

*I can't wait to turn the page for the next adventure
when I go in to work the next day. And the
next day, and the next day.*

I love you all. God bless Jeff Industries."

Michael is now a trained peer specialist and facilitator. As a young man, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America. Michael lives in Jupiter, FL.

Agency Highlights



Board of Directors' President G. Jeffrey Vernis and Executive Director Claudia Roberts accept the Non-Profits First Certification from Adriene Tynes, MPA, MA, Director of Accreditation, Non-Profits First.



Executive Director Claudia Roberts joins Clinical Director Matt Kwarchak and Board of Directors Secretary and PBSC Professor Dr. Suzie Duff at a bench unveiling at Palm Beach State College. The bench, promoting mental health awareness, was built by Jeff Industries for Josh's Benches, a non-profit organization that promotes suicide prevention. PBSC President, Ava Parker, along with others thanked Josh's Benches and Jeff Industries for helping to make the campus a safer place to talk about mental health.



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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

113 East Coast Avenue, Hypoluxo, FL 33462

Office (561) 547-9258 • Fax (561) 547-9682

www.jeffindustries.org

Holiday Greetings!

Giving Envelope Enclosed



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WPTV Food for Families