

# Pathways

LIVE LEARN WORK



**Claudia Roberts, MSEd, CPRP**  
**Executive Director**

## A MESSAGE FROM

*Claudia*

This has certainly been an eventful year for ALL of us. The COVID-19 virus hit Jeff Industries just as our winter programs had begun.

The agency was closed to all but essential workers; however, we have been providing employment and training services using “telehealth” services. These training and supportive services have allowed us to continue teaching our clients

and stay abreast of their progresses. Clients are continuing to be monitored and assessed by our clinical personnel daily. We have a plan to gradually reopen in May with all the proper precautions.

The woodshop and embroidery shop has not skipped a beat. Our essential staff has stepped up to get the products made and help with distribution to customers. We are very grateful for everyone’s patience and participation.

We closed our Drop-In Center in late March and will gradually re-open when restrictions are lifted. We continue to keep in touch with A.M.I.G.O.S’s clients through supportive telehealth services. Food distribution will resume in May.

Our relationships with Mental Health America and “Josh’s Benches” continues to grow and expand. More benches will be installed throughout Palm Beach County when the threat of this virus wanes.

The Palm Haven Recovery residences, offering transitional housing services for co-occurring psychiatric and substance abuse clients, continue to show great promise.

Jeff Industries hasn’t lost a beat as we all pitch in to help clients deal with their own issues while living through this “pandemic”.

The staff and I appreciate your continued support and thank you for your prayers as we ALL get through this together.

If you wish to help Jeff Industries, please go to [www.Jeffindustries.org](http://www.Jeffindustries.org) and press the DONATE button or return the enclosed envelope with a donation. Any amount is always appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me directly at (561)547-9258 ext. 1314.

Thank you!

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## MEET *Mia White*



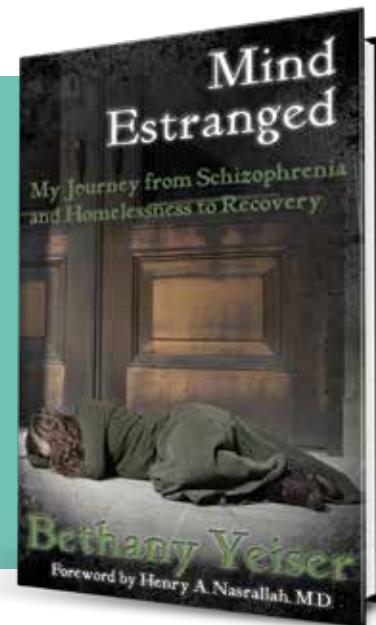
Ms. White joined Jeff industries' BOD earlier this year and has already made a positive impact. With a degree in healthcare administration, this charming mother of four boys, found Jeff Industries quite by accident.

"I wish Jeff Industries would be better known in the area", she says. "It is a Godsend for my son." Her son, who is now 35, experienced a psychotic episode about seven years ago and went from one psychiatrist to another until one recommended Jeff Industries. "He just came out of his shell and no longer exhibits signs of depression. He loves coming to work at Jeff for the opportunity socialize and the personal interactions. It's perfect for people with these kinds of mental illnesses", Ms. White continues. "He's learning a skill and how to be a good employee."

My vision for the future of Jeff Industries is to expand their programs to offer more hospitality and food service training programs.

Originally from Long Island New York, she and her husband still own and operate a 200-bed long-term care facility there. Her expertise in the health care industry is a welcomed addition to the BOD.

**“ I wish Jeff Industries would be better known in the area...It is a Godsend for my son. ”**



## OUR MANY *Thanks!*

With sincere gratitude to Bethany Yeiser for sharing her story about her journey through schizophrenia and homelessness with us. She is the founding president of the CURESZ Foundation (Cures for Schizophrenia). Her foundation is committed to helping individuals to cope with and recover from schizophrenia. She published her memoir, "Mind Estranged," in 2004.



## Meet *MARIANO CASSINI*

Mariano Cassini is a Vocational Instructor at Tropical Sun Signs, Inc., a business that is owned and operated by Jeff Industries. The company is a graphics design firm that makes silk-screened signs, t-shirts and all kinds of signs and banners. Mariano works with Jeff's clients teaching them the basics of graphic design.

"I enjoy working with the clients and teaching them how to be good employees," he says. "Some are happy just folding t-shirts and others show a real talent in graphic design and go on to get jobs in the industry."

Mariano is a busy man. "I try to show the clients how to find a balance between work and their personal lives. They love what they do and enjoy learning and I respect their dignity and desire to work independently."

Tropical Sun Signs, Inc. is located in the north side of Jeff Industries' building. Stop in the next time you are in the area and say "hi" to Mariano or better yet order some t-shirts for you social group or business. Mariano will be happy to help you!

**“ I enjoy working with the clients and teaching them how to be good employees... ”**



## 27 Years!



On Dec 11th, at the Board of Directors meeting, we thanked Yvonne Sapenoff for her 27 years of service to Jeff Industries (15 as a peer counselor and case manager and 12 as a board member).

We appreciate all the hard work she did on behalf of our clients and her dedication to the agency. Yvonne will be missed and her kindness never forgotten.

Board of Directors (from left to right): G. Jeffrey Vernis, President; David Hummel, Treasurer; Dr. Suzie Duff, Secretary; Everly Farquharson, Susan Devoy, Vice President; Claudia Roberts, Executive Director and Mia White. Ms. Sapenoff is seated at center.

## A JEFF INDUSTRIES *Success Story*

### Meet Al Machado

This soft-spoken young man found Jeff Industries and its LIVE, LEARN, WORK program about two years ago. He has suffered with mental health issues in the past and never found the "right fit" for help. Referred to Jeff by NAMI, Al took to the program so well that he has excelled beyond expectations. Al is originally from New York and attended the Art and Design High School so he already knew the basics of art and design.

Al especially loves learning Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. He has become quite proficient in these programs and is excited to learn more. "I love being with people and helping those less fortunate than me," Al says. "My motto is if you fall down, pick yourself up and try again."

Currently, Al is living in the Palm Haven House apartments for a transitional one year. He hopes to get his own apartment soon. When he is not working at Jeff, Al likes to go to the beach and coffee shops to meet people. One day Al hopes to open his own graphic design shop. We have no doubt that he will!



JEFF INDUSTRIES

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