

# *JEFF INDUSTRIES, Inc.*

A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION

## **LIVE LEARN WORK**

Newsletter 6

Fall 2018

## **Message From**

**Claudia Roberts, MEd, CPRP**

*Executive Director*



Greetings,

Jeff Industries celebrates its 35th year anniversary growing exponentially from a garage-based start up to a modern multi-faceted mental health agency. In response to our clients needs, we expanded our basic work- skills training programs. We offer more employment/training opportunities through the agency-owned businesses utilizing cutting-edge technology in graphic design, woodworking and embroidery. We welcomed 8,757 (signed-in) visitors to the A.M.I.G.O.S. drop-in center. We added a large TV monitor to display community resources, Wi-Fi and extra computers. With the addition of a food service training component, we served 3,240 healthy lunches to our clients.

Our vegetable garden had a bountiful first year! We harvested tomatoes, peppers, Swiss chard, green beans and various kinds of herbs. All of which were used in the food preparation and nutrition training in the “Good Food for Good Mental Health” project. We are most grateful to the United Way of Palm Beach County in conjunction with the Palm Beach County Food Bank for the generous donation of an upright cold freezer that helps us to store more frozen food for distribution. Our food pantry distributed 24,703 lbs of food this year.

We also want to thank the Walter and Adi Blum Foundation, the Ibis Charities Foundation and United for the Mentally Ill for their support of our “LIVE, LEARN, WORK” program. The clients are learning valuable job skills and are successfully transitioning into employment in their communities. Thank you to the Florida State Hospital for a large order of employee embroidered shirts, it was a great learning experience for our clients.

So as we head into the Holiday Season, we hope you will remember us as you plan your charitable gifts. Enclosed is a giving envelope for your convenience. You may also visit us and **DONATE** online at [www.jeffindustriesinc.org](http://www.jeffindustriesinc.org) anytime.

Hope this Holiday Season finds each and every one of you happy and healthy.

Gratefully,

Claudia M. Roberts  
Executive Director

# Sarrah Samuels

## One of our Success Stories



This sweet, young lady was born in Jamaica, moving here during elementary school and currently living in Lake Worth. Sarrah loves music, especially Jazz, and she likes to complete all kinds of puzzles in her spare time. Early in life she began to suffer from symptoms of depression and anxiety which negatively affected her education and social functioning. This led to her mother seeking alternate school options through Jeff Industries. She is a graduate of the original Ed Venture School project and began working at Jeff Industries Adult Work Training

program in 2015. She began by completing clerical work and moved to the woodshop where she utilized her creativity and desire to engage in hands-on work to paint birdhouses and stools, in addition to crafting dominoes and chess pieces. Eventually, Sarrah progressed to painting the larger signs in the main workshop while demonstrating excellent organization and follow through.

"I'm ready to move on into a customer service position at a supermarket or something like that", Sarrah said in her interview for this story, and shortly thereafter she was hired at Publix where she is currently working part-time and according to her job coach Ilana, "Loving it!". We are all so proud of you Sarrah!

**Matt Kwarchak**, Clinical Director for Jeff Industries, accepted the **Respect of Florida's Award** on September 28, 2018 from Lindsey Davun, Procurement and Development Director during their annual luncheon. The award was presented to Jeff Industries as the "Employment Center of the Year" for outstanding performance in the production of quality commodities which provides employment to Floridians with disabilities.



Robert "Bad Bob" Goodman passed away on November 13, 2018. Bob served on our Board of Directors for 22 years as both Secretary and Treasurer. Bob was a "true treasure" to Jeff industries by devoting a great deal of his time, talent and energy to the agency over the years. His wit, wisdom and dedication will be sorely missed. Rest in Peace, Bob.

**The Gift**  
The setting sun between  
The peaks of the mountains,  
Will never touch the beauty  
Inside of thee.

The strength you give to others  
Is the strength you give to me.  
Please don't ever stop giving  
For that is your specialty.

*Poem by David K. Doss in 1999. David is a former client and peer counselor at Jeff Industries.*



## FOCUS ON THE BOARD

### G. Jeffrey Vernis

*President, Board of Directors*

"I became involved with Jeff Industries more than 20 years ago. I was introduced to the former Executive Director, Angelo Squatrito, who introduced me to his passion for serving the mentally ill in Palm Beach County. I learned of Jeff Industries' unique programs to really improve the lives of its clients and learned of the success of their model. Angelo was always searching for ways to help provide better and more services and I was pleased to offer whatever I could to aid and assist in leading the Jeff Industries' Board of Directors to support the vision and keep our focus on our services to the clients while being mindful of the fiscal realities. Our current Executive Director, Claudia Roberts, has continued that vision and

the focus on the needs of our clients. The more I learn about what Jeff Industries does for people's lives, not only clients, but their families, the more I am proud to be a part of this unique and caring organization."

G. Jeffrey Vernis is a Florida Bar Board Certified Trial Lawyer and is the managing partner of Vernis & Bowling of Palm Beach, P.A.

G. Jeffrey Vernis was born in Coral Gables, Florida. In 1984, he graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in International Political Science. He then attended St. Thomas University School of Law, in Miami, Florida. St. Thomas University conferred a Juris Doctorate upon him in 1987.

# Our Agency in Action



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## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

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www.jeffindustries.org

**Holiday Giving**

**Envelope Enclosed**



Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



## ***We Are Thankful For Our Loyal Supporters***

**Admirals Cove Foundation**

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Health Network**

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**Palm Beach County  
Community Services**

**Palm Beach Food Bank**

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