



INSIGHT

June 2010

Good Samaritan Industries Newsletter

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS PROGRAM

Options Employment has expanded its services to clients with the launch of an innovative Employment Skills Program, which since its commencement in March, has provided pre employment training to over 50 job seekers.

This initiative is specifically designed to assist clients registered with Options to gain the pre employment skills necessary to secure employment in the open workforce. The twelve week program is delivered in small groups at the central and accessible central city venue of the "Uniting Church in the City".

The course provides a welcoming interactive environment where participants are encouraged to ask questions, share their own personal experience and address any issues/concerns as they embark on their employment journey.

Program facilitators are available to respond to individual training needs and provide practical advice and information that includes:

- Options Employment service
- Resume Development
- Job Search
- Interview Skills
- Career Counselling
- Career Informatio



The first program will be completed at the end of June. Already participants are reporting the course to be "informative and helpful in gaining skills, knowledge and confidence", "worth going to if you want to get a job", "great for dealing with job seeking requirements "friendly and helpful" and "geared towards a range of different people".

TRAINING BONANZA

Good Samaritan Industries, partnering with West Coast Institute of Training, has been successful in securing training funding for 2010 through the Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) Program.

The WELL program, is administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and provides funding for training to workers within an organisation. The training will be available to both employees of Good Samaritan Industries and has been expanded to include workers registered with Options Employment.

Training commenced in June for all Good Samaritan Industries staff including management, warehouse and retail employees.



Robin Wincey (L) with Lara Perry (Trainer)

Training modules have been designed to be practical, flexible and most importantly, cater for individual training needs. Modules include:

English as a Second Language – helping staff to improve their spoken and written English.

Conflict Resolution – identifying what causes conflicts, the positive and negative affects, helping staff to identify traits in themselves and others that can help avoid conflict in the workplace and provide skills to deal with conflict in a positive manner.

Assertive Communication – identifying different styles of communication.

Cultural Awareness – discussing the benefits and challenges in a multicultural workplace and examining stereotyping and generalisations. Cont . . . page 2



FROM THE BOARD

The Board of GSI has recently updated its strategic plan, discussed elsewhere in Insight. One of the key strategic issues is how GSI can extend services to help workers with disabilities who have pressing needs in areas such as their retirement and out of work support. We have been working with a group of older workers and their families to better understand these issues.

In early June a very interesting forum of 20 employees and/or their family members, board members and management heard presentations from people with expertise in the areas of financial planning, trusts, building support networks, guardianship and administration. This generated very lively questioning during the two hour forum and many lunch time discussions afterwards.

There is clear interest in conducting further such forums and developing this network of employees and family members as we go forward.

This is central to our strategic intent of enabling employees to be actively included in the community through service support outside of work. Whilst this is easy to say, turning this intent to practice must be done in such a way that delivers a meaningful and practical response to our employee's needs.

This challenge is central to our role as an agency of the Uniting Church - responding to God's call to help others and build better lives. As we go forward into 2010/11 we will continue to report progress on this area of work in Update.

God Bless.
Rod Benness — Chair



The Strategic Plan of GSI has been updated for the coming two years and a summary is now available on our web-site at <http://www.goodsamaritan.com.au/about-us.asp>.

It is very important for GSI to regularly review its strategic directions to ensure we optimise employment for people with disabilities. Our board on behalf of the people we serve is committed to a high standard of governance and the ongoing development of strategy.

Two major issues that GSI will work on in the next two years for people with disabilities are:

- Finding 200 new, sustainable jobs in the community in the next year; and
- Increasing donations of recycled goods by 5% to create more jobs at GSI

Employment creates opportunity for inclusion through friendships, interaction with members of the community, enhanced income and valued status as an individual. If GSI continues to succeed in this area and can further improve its success we will have contributed greatly to achieving our Mission.

I welcome any ideas that readers of Insight may have in regard to the above and genuinely invite you to contact me at GSI on 9463 0500 for a discussion on ways in which we can contribute to these goals.

John Knowles—CEO



TRAINING BONANZA Continued from page 1...

Equal Employment Opportunity – Identifying inappropriate behaviour, what constitutes discrimination and harassment and how to identify it in the workplace.

Mentoring – defining the role of a mentor within GSI.

Communication – assertive and effective communication, giving and receiving feedback and instructions, conflict resolution and health and hygiene

“This program highlights GSI's strong commitment to training and investing in all staff.” said Lara Perry, trainer from West Coast Institute of Training. “The staff who undertake the training grow in terms of their skills, self confidence and motivation. The organisation also benefits from improved staff performance and teams working productively and harmoniously.”



Kelly Hicks with Lara Perry

In addition, for the first time, training will be offered to clients of Options Employment which will include five units from the Certificate II in Employment Skills course; Occupational Health and Safety, communication in the workplace, computer skills, prioritising workload and conflict resolution.

All clients currently working and being supported by Options Employment will have the opportunity to participate in the course. “This is a fantastic opportunity for all of our workers to gain skills and knowledge in areas that are generic across all industries” says Richard Thompson, Site Manager at Options Cannington. “The successful application that offers WELL training to include clients of Options means that many of our workers have a chance to invest in some professional development that they otherwise may not have access to.”



Caroline Nuttal with Lara Perry



2010 CHARITY GOLF DAY

In 2008 the City of Canning and Whaleback Golf Course chose Good Samaritan Industries as their preferred charity, holding a charity golf day to raise funds for people with disabilities. Due to the success of the day, the City of Canning and Whaleback Golf Course announced that this would become an annual event, great news for Good Samaritan Industries!

To continue the now established tradition, Whaleback Golf Course hosted the 2010 charity Golf Day on 19th March, with many companies entering their 'highly competitive' teams. It was a fun filled day, we were blessed with perfect weather and prizes were generously donated by local organisations in support of the day helped to raise over \$10,000 for Good Samaritan Industries. What a fantastic result from a day's fun.



Good Samaritan Industries places high priority on future development and cannot really put a value on an opportunity such as this. Our challenge is to spread the word that our fundamental purpose is to 'provide employment choices for people with disabilities', we are grateful to the City of Canning and Whaleback Golf Course for providing us with an outstanding forum to help achieve our goal.



To mark the occasion the Mayor of Canning, Joe Della-Donne presented the prizes to the winning teams and announced that the charity golf day will continue to be an annual event at Whaleback.

Our mission at Good Samaritan Industries is to provide people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in the mainstream of life enjoying the resources, dignity and inner strength that comes with earning a living, if you are interested in joining us in this worthwhile endeavour, or for more information, please contact us on 9463 0500 or email info@gsi.org.au

BUILDING PROJECT PROGRESS

GSI's major capital works project to upgrade facilities at the CanningVale site is well underway.

Visitors to the site on Fridays are surprised to see several barbeques in operation and volunteer staff cooking a free sausage sizzle for all staff, this is a weekly Friday event whilst the GSI canteen is closed for renovations (pictured right).

At the same time we are replacing all our warehouse toilet facilities ... so the order of the day is cooperation and understanding as staff share the remaining scarce resources!

Lotterywest are also contributing up to \$1.6m towards funding the replacement of the warehouse roof, new air-conditioning and improved fire safety. To make this possible GSI has now:

- Developed a 170 page tender specification
- Called for expressions of interest and selected 6 companies for the tender process
- Placed plans with the Council and have received building development approval and are now waiting building license application approval



Not long to go and it will be an even larger "hive of activity" here at GSI ... big thanks to all involved including our wonderful staff, building contractors and in particular the funding support of Lotterywest.



RECOGNISING DEDICATION & LOYALTY

Since the last INSIGHT publication, Long Service Awards have been given to the following staff in recognition of their contribution to Good Samaritan Industries over the years:

30 Years	25 years	20 Years	15 Years	10 Years	5 years
Kathryn Hansord	Sheryl McKinney	Karen Stedman	Leanne Bown	Neville Springett	Leanne Joyce
Christine Terpos	Michael Spadaccini		Joyce Maxwell	James Sinclair	Patricia Ingram
Tyrone Duckworth			Caroline Harding		Glen Fowler
			Diane Hornsey		



Joyce Maxwell (second from left) with her Joondalup store work colleagues



I-r Tyrone Duckworth, John Knowles and Kathryn Hansord



Christine Terpos receives her certificate from CEO John Knowles, and her proud father Tom Terpos (L)

Are you a parent, carer or support worker of a person with a disability?
Do you have a disability and want to work in a friendly environment?



Good Samaritan Industries have provided employment opportunities for people with disabilities for 50 years. We are currently recruiting supported employees at our warehouse located in Canning Vale.

We offer our employees a supportive work environment, a great social atmosphere and the opportunity to develop skills and be part of a team.

Want to know more?

We will be conducting an information session, tour and a morning tea to provide information on Good Samaritan Industries and the employment opportunities we offer.

The information sessions and tours will be conducted at 47 Magnet Road Canning Vale on the following dates, please allow at least an hour:

Friday June 25th 2010 at 9.30am

Bookings are essential - to book please call 9463 0500



Good Samaritan INDUSTRIES



SOCIAL CLUB OUTINGS

Since the last Insight, staff had a wonderful outing at the Caversham Wildlife Park with a great turnout.. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed the Koala enclosure and a picnic lunch.

The Social Club will be busy during July starting with a Quiz Night on 2nd July at the Willetton Sports Centre, and Christmas in July on Saturday 31st July at the Cannington Greyhounds. Both events should be great nights and I encourage staff, family and friends to come along and join in the fun.



Good Samaritan Industries services are:

Options
Employment for People with Disabilities

Packaging and Assembly

Good Sammy
Retailing of recycled goods

Insight is the quarterly newsletter of Good Samaritan Industries.

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This service is provided with the assistance of the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations. The views published in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the Commonwealth.



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