

Letter from the Executive Director

June, 2022

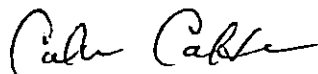
Spring is a time of fresh beginnings. RSS has had a few. The much anticipated thrift store, "Creative Treasures", opened for business on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will be open for shopping Tuesday through Friday 9-5, and on Saturday 10-4. It is located at 1120 16<sup>th</sup> St West, in front of Alpine Village shopping center. Donations will also be accepted on Mondays, 9-5. If you'd like to donate anything, you can call the store manager Jurret Sindelar at the store 406-409-3362, or on her cell number 406-698-8160. Profits from the thrift store will be put into programs and services which improve the quality of life of our residents and provide them with things and experiences they otherwise could not afford.

We've also opened Creative Artists, Residential Support Services (CARRS), in the lower level of that same facility. CARRS will be run by Trish Kirk, who is a terrific asset for RSS, and a phenomenal advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities. Her assistant Jennifer Lambert is new to this company and will be helping her run this new art program. This program is going to be open to all members of the IDD world, not just RSS clients. This will be a fun program very much like the Growth Thru Art program when it was operated by HRDC. For a small fee to cover the cost of materials, students will be able to engage in a variety of artistic endeavors, and even some music appreciation and physical activity. For information on upcoming classes and how to enroll, keep an eye on the website.

RSS main office will be operating under different hours from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The office will be open from 7am to 4pm Monday through Thursday, and 7am to Noon on Fridays. Our after hours contact numbers remain the same, with all group homes having the list of contact numbers in case of emergency. Thank you for your understanding of how important it is for our office staff to enjoy a little more time with their families and getting re-energized with this amended summer schedule. RSS is also working hard to reward our group home staff, whether it's with the best wage and PTO package in the field, perks like discounted beef purchases, payroll deduct for purchases at the thrift store, and more. Even as we are about to open our newest group home on North 23<sup>rd</sup>, it's important we do everything possible to bring in and retain new talent to staff our homes. Like always, if you know someone looking for a job, whether for just this summer or for a change of career, please send them to Lynette Johnson. She can be reached at (406) 855-2542.

These are exciting times. RSS will be out front in the community. You will see our residents helping make a difference. Whether we're handing out water during races, picking up litter after Symphony in the Park, having company picnics and dancing at concerts, we are back from Covid and are staking our claim on the best life has to offer. Let's make the summer of 2022 the best one ever!

Thanks for everything all of you do!



Calvin C. Calton

Executive Director, RSS