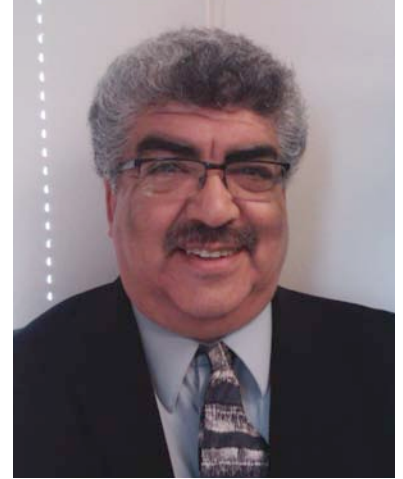
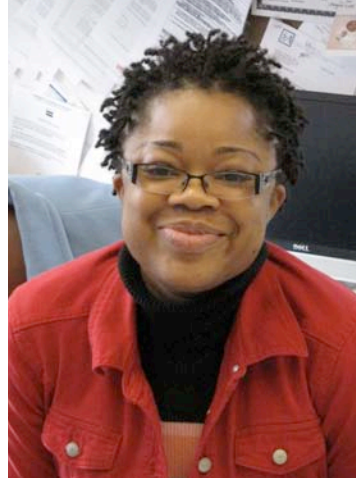




From Left to Right:
Nancy Kallay, Angela
Ehikhamenor and
Dr. Roberto Nolte



Azure Staff Spotlight Featuring the Healthcare Staff

Innovation • Empowerment • Dignity

Legendary professional football coach Vince Lombardi once said, “individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.” It is the commitment on the part of our current team, together with the energy of some recent additions, that will enhance the well-being of the residents we serve at Azure. Please join us in welcoming some of the new members of the Azure staff.

Nancy Kallay, Registered Nurse-Manager, Health Care System Department. As manager of the HCS

Department, Nancy brings her knowledge, skill, expertise and passion to a wide variety of roles at Azure, ranging from managing staff and coordinating in-services to representing Azure during monthly provider meetings. Like many at Azure, Nancy understands the responsibility and privilege that comes with serving our residents. As Nancy puts it, “I have a passion for the people that

I serve and the job that I do.” This passion is evidenced in her work on updating and standardizing medical records. Nancy also brings her enthusiasm to training staff to serve as TMEs (Trained Medical Employee). Always focused on raising the bar, Nancy plans on making additional contributions in the future, such as developing policies and assisting with team building. Nancy maintains, “My goal is to make Azure known among providers as the best.”

Angela Ehikhamenor, Designated Nurse Coordinator (LPN). Angela joined the Azure team in May of 2009. Her role as Designated Nurse Coordinator provides a unique opportunity to work with external medical providers while also assuring that nursing notes and other clinical documentation are accurate and up to date. Along with this eye for detail, Angela brings a genuine interest in all areas of her work. Angela says it best: “I am truly passionate

about every aspect of my job.” This commitment is evidenced by her work on updating forms, coordinating medical appointments and performing other tasks needed to make sure that Azure individuals can lead fulfilling lives.

Dr. Roberto Nolte, Continuous Quality Management Consultant. Dr. Nolte brings experience in the fields of both public health and direct medical care. With this background, Dr. Nolte provides quality assurance and quality management services on behalf of Azure and its individuals. This important work helps the Azure team not only comply with accreditation and standards of care, but also continually improve the quality and efficiency of Azure services. With this knowledge and expertise, Dr. Nolte supports the goal of “each individual gaining independent living and being a part of our community.”! 🌟



Seven Years Strong – Happy Birthday Azure! February 23, 2010

A Humanistic Approach

By Beth A. Henson, Founder and CEO, Azure, LLC.

Expert housing, nutrition, and behavior supports to adults living with autism, cognitive and developmental disabilities, chronic mental illness, and traumatic brain injury. We have been joyously celebrating Azure's seventh birthday and making plans for several new initiatives for 2010. These include the goal of opening one new residential program for adults living with Autism and a Green Group Homes Initiative, in which we provide technical assistance to the provider community on concrete ways to make their residential programs more eco-friendly and decrease their carbon footprints.

At Azure, we take a humanistic approach to the care and support of our individuals. We train our direct-care professional staff, managers and consultants to treat our clients the way they would want to be treated. Further, we insist that all staff interact with our individuals as if they were family, because that is the level of care they deserve. It is so much easier to work in collaboration and support with the individuals in our care, rather than trying to tell them what to do. Adults want choice, respect, understanding, empathy and an opportunity to have their preferences known. We fully support a person-centered approach to care delivery throughout our therapeutic environment.

As we celebrate, we also reflect. During our last management team meeting, we discussed ethics and the importance of all managers taking on the role of proactive partners with the direct-care professional staff. How important it is that our core hours are structured around our individuals' schedules, when all managers are expected to be onsite to work, observe, spot train and support the direct care professionals and improve their support of the individualized programs we run on a daily basis. Azure is a team, and we operate under high ethical standards. We believe these standards are put to the test on a daily basis, but the true measure of our ethics is evident in how our management team and direct care professional staff interact with clients when no one else is watching. When family members, parents, advocates, and attorneys have departed from a day of visiting or surveying our books and various HCBS Waiver services, our standards remain strong. Ethics involves doing the

right thing by all individuals, protecting their financial resources and personal effects, supporting their choice and self-direction with regard to social activities and recreation, encouraging healthy eating choices and facilitating exercise opportunities. These are the ways that teamwork provides the framework for clinical excellence and accountability.

We at Azure, LLC celebrated our seventh birthday on February 23, 2010. It's a landmark for our organization, and we have been celebrating our formation and remembering how much we have grown and improved our services over seven years. Azure, LLC is honored to have provided services to our family for the past seven years. As we look back across those years and examine how far we have come organizationally, we continue to be humbled and thrilled simultaneously by the opportunity that Azure has afforded to us, our management team, our direct care professionals, our quality managers, and our individuals.

Seeing the growth and progress of our individuals and knowing that their health-care status is improved and maintained is our crowning achievement. We have had no hospitalizations or unauthorized leave incidents since we started operations, due to our diligence and clinical acumen. The dedication of our direct-care support professionals is tremendous, and they have been trained in the latest interventions and the best non-violent intervention modalities in order to assure a safe and fun home environment. We have the policies, standard operating procedures, manuals, training and other supports for our direct care professional staff on a monthly and quarterly basis, and our in-house evaluations consistently look excellent.

But what really matters? What we feel really matters is: what Azure team members do when nobody is watching, when there is no DDS Services Coordinator doing a records review, when there is no DOH Inspector observing the medication pass and self-medication programs being run, when the DC Fire Marshall or DDS Health and Wellness Reviewer sitting at the dining room table with medical books for painstaking review piled high. 🌟



THINK GREEN: 10 Easy Steps to a Green Home and a Greener Environment

By Gabriela Carrera

Everybody is talking about going green but are you actually doing it? Did you know that you don't have to rebuild your house in order to have a green home? If you can afford it, rebuilding is certainly one way to go green, but there are smaller steps you can take to have a healthier, green home that will help to save the environment.

Step 1: Trash. There was a time when we just threw out the trash. You can go green by setting up a simple recycling center in your home. All it takes are some dedicated trash cans and some space in the garage or just outside the back door, or if you have space, in the cabinets under the kitchen counter. Things that can be recycled are cans, plastic bottles, glass jars, cardboard food boxes, and newspapers. You can compost food waste and make a wonderful fertilizer for the garden, and find ways to reuse some of the things that you used to throw away.

Step 2: Lighting. Get rid of those old iridescent light bulbs and replace them with energy saving fluorescent. Fluorescent bulbs last longer and offer a more natural light source. During the day, turn off the lights and open some windows for light and fresh air.



As of 2010 Azure will be going green. This section of our quarterly newsletter will feature innovative ways to adapt Green Living. We hope you will join us in Thinking Green!



COME
GROW
GREEN
WITH US!

Step 3: Air Fresheners. Those aerosol air freshener sprays and allergy inducing smelly things we put in the house are a thing of the past. Go green in the most literal of ways by replacing them with green plants. Certain plants like English Ivy, Bamboo Palm, and Gerbera Daisy will help to clean the air in your home. Open windows and let the fresh air in for a clean smell, and if you enjoy the scents of air fresheners try some natural oils.

Step 4: Cleaning Products. Stop using toxic chemicals to clean your house. Many people are going green by making their own cleaning products from vinegar and orange oils. Others who don't have as much time can purchase green cleaning products from the store shelves.

Step 5: Window Coverings. Plastic or vinyl window coverings are out. Natural, heat reflecting window coverings are green, as are shades made of natural materials like bamboo, hemp and cellulose.

Step 6: Floors. That old area rug, carpet on the floors is full of toxins and catches every bit of dirt and mold in the house. They can actually be unhealthy. Get rid of the carpets and replace them with natural wood flooring and some natural hemp throw rugs.

Step 7: Bathrooms. Good for a green environment, and great for a greener wallet, replace your showerheads with high efficiency, water saver showerheads. Replace your toilets with low-flow toilets. You'll help to save our water supplies while saving on your water bill.

Step 8: Appliances. When it's time to replace your appliances, think green by looking for Energy Star energy and water saving appliances that are used in green building today.

Step 9: Water Heaters: You may not realize it but your old water heater is probably poorly insulated and far away from where you actually use the hot water (basement?). Go green with a new solar water heater that is set up closer to where it will be used to save the energy of heating and transporting your hot water.

Step 10: Transportation. Once you have a green home you may not want to leave it, but unfortunately you will have to at some point. When it's time for a new car, go green by purchasing a gas saving hybrid. Other green transportation ideas include public transportation, carpooling, bicycling, and walking.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Gabriella_Carrera

AZURE Upcoming Events

Check out what is going on from March to June 2010

“Hand Dancing” Every Wednesday 6:00 P.M. **Ward 7 Parent and Family Resource Center** 5601 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC (202) 442-5991 – contact Eboni-Rose Thompson

“Western Market Arts and Crafts” by Adams Morgan Arts Market/Main Street Every Saturday, 10:00AM – 5:00 P.M. **Marie Reed Learning Center** Plaza 18th Street NW, between California and Kalorama Avenues, WDC (202) 299-7358 – contact Avner Ofer

“Market Festival and Arts and Crafts Fair” Market 5 Gallery Every Saturday 10 A.M. – 5 P.M. **Eastern Market** 7th Street between Pennsylvania and North Carolina Ave. SE, WDC(202) 543-7293 – contact John Harrod

“Family First Saturdays at the Textile Museum” First Saturday of every month, 2 P.M. – 4 P.M. **The Textile Museum** 2320 S Street NW, WDC (202) 496-5074 – contact Molly McMullen

“HOME at Hillyer Art Space” Third Friday of every month, 6 P.M. – 9 P.M. **Hillyer Art Space** 9 Hillyer Court NW, WDC (202) 338-0680 – contact Chelsea Emsellem

If you would like to advertise your event information here in the future please contact Jeanette Perry, Program Director at jperry@azurellc.com.



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