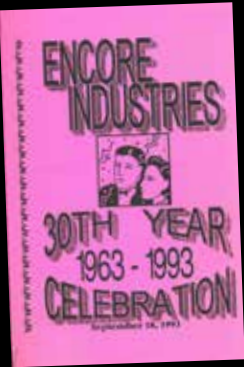


5 Decades of Caring

The growth continued in the 1990's. The Childcare program was established in 1995 as a response to parents of children with special needs and, with a grant from Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse, the Family Services program area was established in 2000. With the closure of the sheltered workshop, the adult services established a new trade name: The Encore Group NW. In 1998, Custodial Services began providing service to Clark County, more than doubling the custodial program.



Care service heads off potential problems

Stopping child abuse or neglect before it starts is the goal of a new program offered by the Vancouver Children's Therapy Center.

Clark County Caring Connection offers emergency child care for up to 72 hours. While the focus is on low-income families, all county residents can use the program as long as they are not already in the child protective services system.

"It's for before they get there," said Shirley Gross of the Vancouver Children's Therapy Center.

The overall goal is to prevent child abuse and neglect. The services are available for children from birth to 8 years old.

Two families and a total of eight children have been assisted by the program so far. In one instance, a father mother was overwhelmed with caring for several children with behavioral problems.

"She just needed a break," Gross said.

The clinic can be reached at 300-882-3006.

Clark County Community Public Health and Safety Network and the Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. While the program is new, it's being implemented with grants from these two organizations, the county will be looking for funding in about a year when the grants end.

"We've got to get some community support," Gross said.

November 1, 2000 (The Columbian)



Helping the young Steve Roberts, 8, and his dog (center) and brother (right) are helping to raise money for Vancouver Children's Therapy Center.

CARE CUP

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"Thanks, Larry"

Developmentally disabled man turns "Paper or plastic?" job into a bright spot at Meyer's Marketplace.

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PEDRO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT JOB

our home and we have a dog and two cats. My interests include writing stories about life experiences and helping people.

I worked for Hewlett Packard over 19 years and had to take early retirement last year due to a large downsizing by the company. I began working for Division of Child Support in July and am very excited to be there. After working in production for a long time, I was uncertain about working in an office. When I went for my interview, I was scared. But, Pam Miller, my boss, really helped me to feel comfortable and my co-workers are already like family to me. They help me a lot, compliment me on my work and make me feel good about myself. I am finding I like the office environment over production because it is more independent and I like to see how fast I can finish my duties so I can help in other areas and learn new things.

Sue Erickson, my Encore Job Coach, helped me to learn my responsibilities. I keep the office functioning. I open and deliver the mail, keep the office machines working and stocked with paper and help my co-workers with other tasks. I have my own cubicle with a desk, computer and phone. I work full-time and receive dental, medical, retirement and vision benefits. I also appreciate that I am closer to work. My wife and I are planning to find a home that is even closer to our jobs. What is the best part of my job? Everything! It's fun to go to work now.

I would like to thank Encore for two years of assistance and helping me obtain this job.

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