

Our Mission:
"We research, develop and deliver learning systems for people with disabilities and those who support them."

Our Vision:
"People with disabilities are visible, valued members of our community."

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HSI WARC are not-for-profit, 501(C) (3) agencies that provide jobs, employment, day and community based training, and residential supports to people with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Tax ID#
88-0139145

We're on the Web!
www.hsireno.org



From the CEO's Desk



Spring is here, and the season brings with it a time for renewal and rebirth. In that spirit, I thought it an auspicious time to share with you some renewal and rebirth going on at HSI. First of all, I'm über excited to announce the return of an old favorite, the X-treme Ability Challenge Games, which is set for Saturday, Aug. 20! We're projecting 50 teams this year, so get your 8 teammates lined up ASAP. We'll have registration information out soon, and we look forward to seeing lots of old and new friends!

Second, as you'll see later in the newsletter, we recently hired Argentum Partners to handle our PR and upcoming rebranding campaign, which will include a new name and logo for the organization. Such significant changes are never easy, but with the innovation and evolution we've been driving, it's clear we need a new identity that fits our mission and vision. In addition to this work, Argentum is well versed in PR and advocacy, and very savvy when it comes to increasing our visibility and involvement in the local, state and federal political landscape.

Last but not least, after a long winter that hampered our progress, it appears we'll soon have our final building permit and be able to restart construction on our new addition to the Reactor building.

There are many more exciting things awaiting us as we move into summer and beyond. I know we all share enthusiasm for what we've accomplished so far, and look forward to renewed growth and "springing forward" into the future together! -LaVonne

Breaking: HSI hires Argentum

High Sierra Industries is pleased to announce that our organization retained the services of Reno- and Las Vegas-based Argentum Partners, a government and public relations firm specializing in political affairs, state and local government relations, and communications. Argentum Senior Vice President Mike Draper will oversee the company's work for HSI, along with Paul Klein, Senior Vice President, Creative. Among other services, one of Argentum's first projects will be creating HSI's rebranding campaign, including a new name and new logo.



Mike Draper

THEY SAID IT ... Praise for HSI!

HSI received this wonderful testimonial letter from one of our valued clients:

"When we hired HSI to complete custodial services for our facility here in Reno, we did not know quite what to expect. I wanted to let you know that I have been extremely impressed with the quality of work, and especially the high level of conscientious attention exhibited by the custodians and managers to 'doing the job right.'"

*–Kyle D. Whaley,
Vice President &
Branch Manager,
Plumas Bank*

"For a long time, we have admired the impact that HSI/WARC has on our community and greatly respect its mission," Draper said. "We are excited and inspired to work with the HSI/WARC team to further establish the organization as a community pillar and beacon and help magnify and amplify its impact. At our core, we're storytellers and nothing motivates more than having a great story to tell."

Meet B.J. North ...

High Sierra Industries extends a warm welcome to the newest member of our Board of Directors: B.J. North! B.J. is Executive Vice President and Retail Banking/ Lending Group Manager of Plumas Bank. She joined Plumas Bank in



B.J. North

2008 to oversee the Bank's branch network, marketing and investment services, and specializes in business and product development. She has logged more than 35 years of banking experience and is a Certified Associate of Emergenetics International, specializing in analyzing, identifying and leveraging the way people think and behave. Prior to her position at Plumas Bank, she was the Chief Advancement Officer for Truckee Meadows Community College. Prior to this she was the Senior Vice President for Adagio Trust. B.J. received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education and her Master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is also involved in various national and local organizations, and served/serves on numerous boards including the American Heart Association, the Renown Community Advisory Board, the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN), Western Industrial Nevada (WIN), the Washoe County School District Investment Committee, the Nevada Commission on Post-Secondary Education and the Nevada Humane Society.

"We are so excited to have B.J. join our board," HSI President LaVonne Brooks enthused. "She brings a wealth of business experience and community involvement knowledge to the table."

The XAC Games return!

You asked for it, you got it, Northern Nevada! HSI proudly presents the 2016 X-treme Ability Challenge Games & Annual Open House, August 20, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 555 Reactor Way! Northern Nevada businesses and organizations, here's your opportunity to show off your "X-treme Abilities" and help HSI in our biggest fundraiser of the year! The competition is fun and exciting ... and if you're not careful, you might learn something! The team to finish the course with the fastest time wins! Prizes will be awarded!



Each participant receives a unique and highly prized *X-treme Ability Challenge t-shirt* and everyone gets to enjoy:

•**Silent Auction!**

•**Games & Raffle Prizes!**

•**Barbecue Lunch!**

The XAC Games are a unique way to get a sense of what life is like for some of our persons served and appreciate what we do for them as part of our community. Team registration and spectator ticket information coming soon. To become a Sponsor and donate Silent Auction Items, contact Jimmy Breslin at 775-846-8008 or email jimmy.breslin@hsireno.com. Start organizing YOUR team members! We hope to see you and your team at the XAC Games!

iChoose ... hits the road!

Our iChoose Day Habilitation program is also hitting new strides ... and hitting the road! Now that spring weather is here, many of our persons served have been participating in several outings, where they can still work on goals for Art, Movement, Community interaction and other skill building plans in interesting off-premises settings.

During January and February, 111 of our population logged 280 hours at various locations, with some of them putting in more than 60 hours in

volunteer time at the Recycling Center and local Food Bank.

In addition, iChoose staff successfully completed updated Safety Care training, and Day Habilitation plans are also making considerable progress. As of publication, iChoose staff have set an average of 1.4 plans per person served, and logged an average of 1,233 data points per month. That translates to almost 15,000 data points during the past year.

Also, the Chart Mart in-house store has been upgraded with better shelving and advertising of products to individuals. Also, the program has been working on procuring resources to add better and more relevant inventory.

If you'd like to help support the Chart Mart portion of the iChoose program, see the "How Can I Help?" section of the newsletter. For more information on the iChoose program and to schedule a tour, contact Devon Trube at 775-829-7400, ext. 114, or email and devon.trube@hsireno.com and visit www.hsireno.org.

Hiring HSI: Bank on it!

High Sierra Industries has established a reputation for providing excellent employment opportunities for our persons served and excellent client service. In the case of Kyle Whaley, you can take that to the bank – literally. Whaley is Vice President and Branch Manager of Plumas Bank's new Reno location, and hired HSI to provide janitorial and cleaning services for the office.



HSI-WARC is on the Food Bank's list of Top 12 Group Volunteer Hours! Happy to help another worthy Reno cause!



Kyle Whaley

“As we built the bank, we wanted to go local from construction through final hiring, as opposed to hiring large corporations,” Whaley said. “I’ve known LaVonne through Rotary and other civic functions. I believe in the program and what HSI stands for: engaging the individual who strives to train and get into the workforce.” During his 35 years in the banking industry, Whaley said he’s had lots of experience with custodial hiring, and is impressed with the quality he’s observed from his HSI crew. “I’m overwhelmed with their desire to do a good job,” Whaley noted. “They’re responsive to our

needs and care about what they’re doing. I have great respect for how the team executes their mission and vision.” For more information on HSI Enterprises, contact New Business Development Specialist Philip Romero at 775-829-7400 or 775-530-2245.

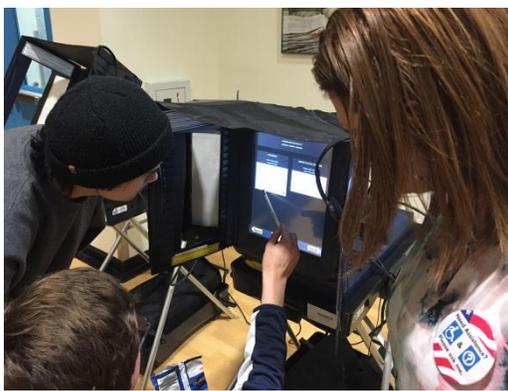
iWork hits the lottery!

HSI-WARC’s iWork program has been contracted to provide crews for projects such as landscaping and irrigation at the Fallon Naval Air Base, janitorial services for the Bureau of Land Management, electronics assembly work for IGT, Ambassadors of Clean program (which handles trash cleanup and weeding for the City of Reno in the downtown corridor, and other services. One of iWork’s most recent projects has been doing motor assembly for IGT/GTECH, putting together electronics and motor assemblies for what will be several thousand lottery vending machines!



A final lottery machine assembly!

HSI rocks the vote!



Practicing on the voting machines!

HSI held its second non-partisan Voting Rights for Individuals with Disabilities event on Feb. 25, which coincided with the state’s caucuses a few days earlier. The event’s goals were to inform people with disabilities and those supporting them about their rights in the voting process, let them participate in a mock election on actual voting machines and register them to vote, if they so choose. The Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows provided the

venue, and once again the Washoe County Registrar of Voters office staff

supplied the voting machines and demonstrated how to use them. The Human Services Network (HSI is a member) and PLAN (Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada) provided volunteer support on site. Attorney Carissa Tashiro from the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center was on hand to talk about disability voting rights. Channel 2 News covered the event for their evening broadcast, and the Washoe County Registrar's office reported that HSI helped them hit their weekly average of new voter registrations in a single day's event!

CDA puts grads to work!

HSI's Career Development Academy™ Program Supervisor and Career Development Specialist Allison Cunningham reports CDA-NV™ has placed seven grads so far this year. "One individual who we helped find a job had been at Voc Rehab for quite a few years and while working with another job developer had got nowhere. They were placed into a job in less than 90 days with us," Cunningham said. Another CDA participant found a job in just 60 days after completing the 201 program.

Hire us!

Thanks to all the employers that work with our iWork and CDA programs. We'd love to talk to you about opportunities to hire and support our persons served. Contact Jimmy Breslin at 775-846-8008 or email jimmy.breslin@hsireno.com.

Donations to UCP

As many of you know, in January HSI-WARC closed our Sutro Thrift Store operation. We are, however, accepting donations on behalf of United Cerebral Palsy and have bins set up at both of our buildings, (505-B Energy Way and 555 Reactor). You may also donate directly to them at their Thrift Store, 2150 Oddie Blvd (phone 775-825-7774). Contact the UCP office, 6100 Neil Rd #201 (phone 775-322-6555) or visit www.ucpnv.org for more info and hours.

Community contact!

Help get our persons with intellectual disabilities involved in the Reno area community with tickets to community events (in sets of 4, please), i.e. bowling, movies, sports (Wolfpack, Aces), plays ... anything! This gets them out and participating in local civic events, and allows us to send up to three persons served and a staff member. We appreciate your support! Contact Jimmy Breslin at 775-846-8008 or email jimmy.breslin@hsireno.com.

Capital Campaign Update

We're looking forward to completion of the new addition to our Reactor Way building later this year! The construction is fully funded, but the costs incurred by the ditch issue required us to pull \$524,000 from our reserves. If you have additional grant money available, and would like more information on how you can help with this important part of HSI and its mission, contact Jimmy Breslin at 775-846-8008 or email jimmy.breslin@hsireno.com.

Visit us!

We're proud of what we do at High Sierra Industries for the people we serve and would love to share what we're doing with you. If you haven't visited in a while, call us today to schedule a tour! We'd love to see you! Contact Jimmy Breslin at 775-846-8008 or email jimmy.breslin@hsireno.com.

How can I help?

Your tax-deductible contributions help us advance and promote programs with a variety of needs such as iChoose, iWork, iLive and CDA. One example of how your donations help: through Precision Teaching, our iChoose persons served learn life skills that boost their self-confidence, independence and knowledge, and earn points to make purchase in our Chart Mart in-house store. We need cash donations to stock the best quality items that are most relevant to our persons served.

Employers, we would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about placement of our persons served with your company through our CDA-NV™ job development program. For more information on how you can be an important part of HSI and its mission, contact Jimmy Breslin at 775-846-8008 or email jimmy.breslin@hsireno.com.