

Enterprise Newsletter

January 2014

The San Rafael Downtown Streets Team Program An Interview with Director Andrew Henning, by Mark Parker

Mark: Where was the Streets Team founded?

Andrew: The program was founded in Palo Alto back in 2005. Basically, what happened was, that the business community came together with the city to give homeless people something to do while they were out in streets and also help the community. The team in Palo Alto started with 4 people. Since then it has grown to about 50 people. We've grown to a Sunnyvale team, a San Jose team, and, of course, a San Rafael team.

Mark: What is the programs main goal?

Andrew: Our main goal is to restore team members sense of pride and self esteem. When someone is on the street for a while it can damage their pride, their self-esteem, and not feeling like they amount to much, and so forth.

Mark: So the main goal is empowerment?

Andrew: It really is. It's giving team members this work experience, something to look forward to and feel proud doing. It's empowering people to be the engine of their own change, restoring that self of self.

Mark: Any requirements to join the team?

Andrew: The only requirement to join the team is that you have to be over 18. Anyone can join.

Mark: What are some of the expectations for team members?

Andrew: You come to the weekly meeting every Wednesday at

1pm at the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael and get on the wait list. You need to come back every week to maintain your place on the list. All of the shifts right now are 8-12:00pm, Monday-Friday. We need a set schedule for when you want your shift. You show up on time and need to be there for the whole shift. You must also show up clean and sober.

Mark: What kind of growth have you seen with the team?

Andrew: Part of our contract was 8 jobs and we've had 12. We've already beat the quota in less than half the year. We can help rebuild your resume to show to any potential employer that you have had some work history with us.

Mark: And you guys can basically help Team Members with anything they need as far as resources go, am I right?

Andrew: Yeah, basically anything we can help you with. A lot of things. They also have a case manager designated for the Team to help you with any problem or anything you may have.

Mark: Would joining the team effect any of my benefits?

Andrew: When people receive gift cards from us, it's not like we are portable incomes, so to speak, none of our team members have ever had anything go wrong with SSI or SSDI or jeopardize anything like that. We've worked it out locally so that what you make from the Team does not go against food



stamps or General Assistance.

Mark: So you had to go there and work it out with the General Assistance office?

Andrew: Yeah, before it even started from day one, I met with the lady who runs the program. We have made it their official policy that Streets Team income does not go against GA or Food Stamps.

Mark: Can I get gift cards for anything?

Andrew: Pretty much. In terms of what we can buy, we can only get things geared towards food. With the Safeway MyChoice card you can go into Safeway where you can swap for other cards.

Mark: Thank you Andrew for your time, I know you wanted to say one more important thing before we end.

Andrew: This program started here in Marin because there was a negative stigma around homeless people. People needed some help and the volunteer structure gives them the opportunity to be a part of this community. We wanted to change it from being a problem (people experiencing homelessness and having that negative representation) and more of a solution that can help people be more integrated into their own community.



NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL FACT SHEET

New Year's Eve Ball Design

- The Ball is a geodesic sphere, 12 feet in diameter, and weighs 11,875 pounds.
- The Ball is covered with a total of 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles that vary in size, and range in length from 4 ¾ inches to 5 ¾ inches per side.
- For Times Square 2014, all 2,688 of the Waterford Crystal triangles introduce the new design Gift of Imagination - featuring a series of intricate wedge cuts that appear to be endless mirrored reflections of each other inspiring our imagination with a kaleidoscope of colorful patterns on the Ball.
- The 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles are bolted to 672 LED modules which are attached to the aluminum frame of the Ball.
- The Ball is illuminated by 32,256 Philips Luxeon Rebel LEDs (light emitting diodes). Each LED module contains 48 Philips Luxeon Rebel LEDs - 12 red, 12 blue, 12 green, and 12 white for a total of 8,064 of each color.
- The Ball is capable of creating a palette of more than 16 million vibrant colors and billions of patterns producing a spectacular kaleidoscope effect atop One Times Square.

New Year's Eve Ball History

- The first New Year's Eve Ball lowering celebration atop One Times Square was in 1907. This proud tradition is now a universal symbol of the New Year. The New Year's Eve Ball is the property of the building owners of One Times Square. The first Times Square New Year's Eve celebration was held in 1904.
- Seven versions of the Ball have been designed to signal the New Year. The first Ball was made of iron and wood, weighed 700 pounds, and was covered with 100 light bulbs. In 1920, a 400 pound iron Ball replaced the iron and wood Ball. In 1955, a 150 pound aluminum Ball with 180 light bulbs replaced the iron Ball. In 1995, the aluminum Ball was upgraded with aluminum skin, rhinestones, and computer controls. In 1999, the crystal New Year's Eve Ball was created to welcome the new millennium. In 2007, modern LED technology replaced the light bulbs of the past for the 100th Anniversary of the New Year's Eve Ball. In 2008, the permanent Big Ball was unveiled atop One Times Square where it sparkles above Times Square throughout the year.



Waterford Crystal



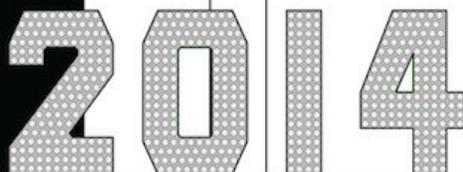
LED Module



The Ball without LED modules



The Ball with LED modules



GRATITUDE IN THE NEW YEAR

- I am grateful for my Mom. She's a nice person. I am grateful for my friend Amber and being at the ERC. I am grateful for Cheryl and the garden. Also, art group and Christmas and for quitting smoking.—Lori Dodele
- I'm grateful to be able to be grateful without having to!- Larry Knittel
- I am grateful for school, home, creative art, proven nutritious nutrition, friends, outings, movies, music, church, picnics, and a brand new spacious home. - Robby Richards
- I'm grateful for the money I received lately from my relatives. - Jerome Kraynik
- I'm grateful for all the support and patience I get from my ERC family. - Elaine
- I am grateful for this volunteer position as a peer counselor with ERC. It has given me a sense of hope that I can change peoples lives. I am able to empower people and truly use my skills. - Elisa Vargas
- I am grateful for the sun, moon and stars. I'm grateful to be here on earth.”- Robin
- I am grateful for Kevin Collins, a High School friend. And dogs. - Bob Witter
- Things I am grateful for are a roof over my head, food, clothes, health. The nice weather, the trees, and flowers,. I am grateful for friends and cats & dogs. I am grateful to see the moon and the sun rises-sunsets. I am grateful to be alive. - Florence
- Grateful for friendships, 2 broke girls on Monday nights, my Drama Group, Nice neighbors.- Steve Freschl
- I am grateful for many things. One of which is, several friendships, good health, a roof over my head (meaning good housing unit with meals served). Another is a good church with great people and a wonderful pastor. I'm also grateful for being able to be on the Warmline and help others. - Marie Tannyhill
- I am grateful to be alive. - Hasan Kabir Aly
- I am grateful that Pam is o.k. and that she is o.k. at Country Villa in San Rafae for 2 weeks. I am also grateful that I might go back sometime to Richmond, VA to my sister Andrea's for a one week vacation. - Natalie Harrington
- I am grateful for my family, especially my brother, Dave, at this time. I am grateful to a place like Enterprise where I can go and feel accepted even when I'm not the most sociable person. - Richard McCullough
- I am grateful to have projects and hobbies and for a loving family. - Alen Pimentel
- I am grateful for the earth I walk on and the bounty of fruit she bears, the four winds that purify our air. The four directions that allows us to choose our course in life and the four stages of life, childhood, adulthood, old age and when we return to childhood in the last stage of our life.- Oso

ARTIFICIAL LAZINESS?

I created this psychological term in order to explain this condition; I've been lazy artificially for the past 17 years. It takes two to be A.L. where one is and one is not. My wife is not A.L. because she is a hoarder, and always busy. But, I am all A.L., having chocked-back impulses and desires to clean and restore order for the past 6,000 days. Artificial Laziness is expensive. We've lost four vehicles that were "towed-on-sight" due to overweight. In one of the above, she bred crayfish in a wok on the floorboard for months before I noticed. My wife and I are very close, highly dysfunctional & happy. I am 100% co-dependent to the problems of my wife, due to unconditional love, due to her being childish and innocent and happy with hi-energy! In conclusion, in my case, *Artificial Laziness* is born from genuine love.

JHM



THE LAW OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches!

The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us.

My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly. So I asked, 'Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!' This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, 'The Law of the Garbage Truck'.

He explained that many people are like garbage

trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally, just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets!

Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. - Johann Wolfgang von

SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL ILLNESS

One of the main things we learn in the peer counseling classes is that connections to society increase our ability to recover from mental illness. With that in mind, I decided to write an article about how social media keeps us connected and to introduce our clients to three sites which I think help recovery. These are Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The purpose of this article is to address each site, tell about its purpose and functionality as well as what is required to sign up.

Perhaps the most intricate site of the three, Facebook allows you to connect to all of the people in your current and past circles, and to keep up with all of your interests. All you need to sign up for Facebook is a current email address. For security purposes, I also recommend using a cell phone number in case you lose your password. If you are hesitant about putting yourself out there, there are security settings that allow you to keep any and all of your information private or to choose what people see when searching for you. I like this site because I can keep up with news from friends I have from all over the world without having to pick up the phone. I also find this

site informative by following NPR and mental health news sites. You can upload photos, check in to places so people know what you are up to, and compose status updates to keep people informed about what's going on in your life. One of the cooler things about this site is that you can also create pages for hobbies and businesses to showcase your talent. For instance, because I run the art group for the Enterprise Resource Center, I have a page called Enterprise Resource Center Saturday Art Group.

Twitter is a little less functional but nonetheless a good way to start becoming connected. All you need is a current email address and you can start shouting out to the world. You can follow any and all people and entities that you are interested in and keep up with the world in real time. One of the things that Twitter is good for is trending, where you post something with a hashtag (#) and followers can see your tweet when they click on the trending topic. You can reply to tweets by using the @ character. Grow your followers by adding people who follow back.

LinkedIn is a little more sophisticated and its main

purpose is to grow business contacts. You can post an online resume and get connections to endorse you for skills. All you need for this site is an email address and/or Facebook account. For a twist, try connecting your Twitter to your LinkedIn and your tweets will show up on your LinkedIn activity page. I recommend this site if you are trying to go back to work. You can look for job postings, too. You can also belong to different interest groups to keep up on current topics for your business and write recommendations for colleagues and service providers.

This is just a brief synopsis of some of the social media sites that I find helpful for keeping connected. If you are into photography and have an android or iphone, I would recommend trying instagram. There are tons of other social media sites like Myspace, Google plus and Zorpia. I chose to write about these three because I think they are the most user friendly and the best for growing your social network. If you want to see how your reach is impacting the world, I would recommend connecting your social media accounts to a site called Klout which will give you a score.

- Marisa Smith



ENTERPRISE

RESOURCE CENTER

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PHONE: 415-457-4554

WEBSITE: camentalhealth.net

HOURS: 9:00am-4:00pm

Sat-Sun 10:00am-4:00pm

LAYOUT: Amber

SUBMISSIONS TO:

abyassee@camarin.org



"They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to look forward to."

— Tom Bodett

"Happiness does not come from without, it comes from within"

— Helen Keller

"Many people think excitement is happiness.... But when you are excited you are not peaceful. True happiness is based on peace."

— Thích Nhất Hạnh

