



Connections

for families touched by special needs

Nevada VISTA Youth Transition Project *by Diana Rovetti*

Join the statewide team in Nevada that is changing the lives of people with disabilities. This project, a collaboration of UNR's Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) and Family TIES is looking for 10 dedicated people in Reno/Sparks, Elko, Las Vegas, Carson City, Winnemucca, Fernley and Fallon.

VISTA members will work with high schools to develop and build "Students First" programs. These programs teach self-advocacy, self-determination, goal setting and attainment, and life skills to students with disabilities. Members

will also organize teams, which will help transition age youth with disabilities secure meaningful employment in their respective communities. Members will

learn the strategies in Customized Employment, Job Carving, and developing small businesses. Members will also work with the business community in each area.

VISTA members receive a monthly living allowance of between \$780-\$850 per month, depending on location in NV. This allowance is not considered

income so will not affect other benefits. Upon completion of one year of service, you receive an educational award of \$4,725 or a \$1,200 cash award. Positions are full-time, with medical insurance covered. Members must be at least 18 years of age, a college degree or a minimum of three years of work or volunteer experience is preferred.

For more information and registration go to:

www.familytiesnv.org/current_projects/vista



VISTA
Fight Poverty with **Passion**

"VISTA Las Vegas" *by Alex Cherup*

When Elvis sang "Viva Las Vegas," I highly doubt images of the Clark County School District flashed in his mind.

To work with the Youth Transition Project VISTA in southern Nevada is a position that first requires an understanding of the area. In a painfully dynamic setting like Las Vegas, the key toward making a difference follows two simple steps. First, one needs a raw understanding of the location. Once this is conquered, encouragement of others is the way to success.

The Silver State's notorious city has one of the most lucrative reputations of any place on the planet. Unfortunately, the awe of an adult playground overshadows

the thoughts of community to the average City of Sin enthusiast. Many forget, Wayne Newton is not the only resident. People live here. Kids live here. Senior citizens live here. Honor students live here. Special education students live here. The need for education is just as important, if not greater, here as anywhere else. You don't get your varsity letter at Caesar's Palace. A dealer doesn't write your I.E.P.

My experience as a Youth Transition VISTA has been most rewarding because it has taught me the power of encouragement and believing in someone. The lack of community has created a social structure that, in certain arenas, allows some to fall between the

cracks. I have worked with students who have not considered the possibilities of what is beyond public school. Within a few sessions and some persistent encouragement, an apathetic senior can change from "I don't know" to a completed rough resume, documentation of passions and wants and communication skills. It has little to do with my skills and much more to do with the results of positive encouragement.

Encouraging voices are the key toward overcoming the complex environment and instilling change. It gives a whole new meaning to "Viva Las Vegas," or, as I say, "VISTA Las Vegas."

Americorp VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) by Diana Rovetti

Proyecto de Transición
Join the statewide team in Nevada that is changing the lives of people with Unase a el equipo de Nevada que esta cambiando la vida de la gente con discapacidades. Este proyecto, de colaboración de UNR's Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) y Family TIES esta en busca de 10 personas dedicadas para trabajar en Reno/Sparks, Elko, Las Vegas, Carson City, Winnemucca, Fernley and Fallon.

Los miembros de VISTA trabajaran con las escuelas secundarias (high schools) para desarrollar y construir programas de "Estudiantes Primero". Estos programas enseñan a abogar por si mismo, autodeterminación, a establecer y completar metas, y habilidades de básicas para

estudiantes con discapacidades. Miembros también organizaran equipos de trabajo, que ayudaran a los estudiantes con discapacidades en la transición segura a un ambiente de trabajo en sus comunidades respectivas. Miembros aprenderán estrategias en Desarrollo y diseño de Empleos, y pequeños negocios. Miembros también trabajaran con la comunidad de negocios en cada áreas.

Los miembros de VISTA recibirán una cantidad mensual de entre \$780-\$850, dependiendo de la ubicación en Nevada. Esta cantidad no es considerada como



un ingreso así que no afectara otros eneficios. Después de completar un año de servicio, recibirá un reconocimiento educacional de \$4,725 o \$1,200 reconocimiento en efectivo.

Las posiciones son de tiempo completo, con cobertura de seguro medico. Miembros deberán tener por lo menos 18 años de edad, certificado de colegio o un mínimo de tres años de trabajo o experiencia como voluntario de preferencia.

For more information and registration go to:
www.familytiesnv.org/current_projects/vista

"VISTA Las Vegas" by Alex Cherup

Cuando Elvis canto "Viva Las Vegas," Dudosas imagenes de el Distrito Escolar de Clark County School District pasan por mi mente.

Trabajar como un joven con en el Proyecto VISTA de Transición Juvenil en el sur de Nevada es una posición que primero requiere entendimiento de el área. En una dinámica dolorosa como Las 'Vegas, la llave para hacer una 'diferencia tiene dos pasos simples. Primero, se necesita un crudo entendimiento de la ubicación. Una ves que esto ha sido conquistado, estimular a otros es el camino al éxito.

El notorio estado de la plata tiene una de las reputaciones más lucrativas que cualquier otro lugar en el planeta. Desafortunadamente, un abrumante área para juegos

de adulto, ensombrece los pensamientos de la comunidad a el promedio de " Ciudad de Entusiasmo al Pecado".

Muchos olvidan, Wayne Newton no es el único residente. Gente vive aquí. Niños viven aquí. Ancianos viven aqui. Estudiantes con Honores viven aquí. Estudiantes de Educación Especial viven aquí.

La necesidad de educación es igual de importante, si no es que mas grande, aquí como en cualquier otro lado.

Tu no obtienes tu carta universitaria en el Caesar's Palace. Un diler no escribe tu I.E.P.

My experiencia como VISTA Transición Juvenil ha sido muy remunerativa porque me ha enseñado la fuerza de alentar y creer en alguien.

La ausencia de comunicad ha creado una estructura social que, en ciertas áreas permiten caídas entre las grietas.

He trabajado con estudiantes que no consideran la posibilidad de lo que hay mas allá de las escuelas publicas. Dentro de algunas sesiones y persistente aliento, un senior apático puede cambiar de "No se" a un basto resumen completo, documentación de pasiones y lo que se quiere y habilidades de comunicación.

Tiene muy poco que ver con mis habilidades y mucho mas con los resultados de apoyo o aliento positivo. Las voces alentadoras son la llave para sobrellevar el complejo medio ambiente e inculcar el cambio. Da un nuevo sentido "Viva Las Vegas," o, como yo digo, "VISTA Las Vegas."

Ways to Connect

Northern Nevada Region

Southern Nevada Region

Northern Nevada Bike to Work Day
May 15, 2009

Contact: Trevor Rice 775-830-0420
www.bikenevada.org

Elko Events

May 16, 2009
Northern Nevada Autism Network
Spring Forward for Autism 5K/fun run.
Elko High School, more info at
775-738-4547 or www.nnan.org

All Hands Out for Mental Health NAMI Walk and Talk

May 16, 2009 11:00-4:00p
Idlewild Park (Snowflake Area)
For more info: www.nami-nevada.org

Positive Behavior Support-NV

Sessions in Fallon, Carson City, Elko,
Reno, Las Vegas and Wells. Space is
limited!
Fees: Sharlett Butterfield 775-331-5524
For more information or to register,
Contact Tracy Smith 775-331-5521 or
tcsmith@unr.edu

1st Wednesday of each month, 6-7pm

Epilepsy Support Group

Renown South Meadows
10085 Double R Blvd. Suite 325
Contact: Lisa Jonkey, BSN, RN
775-982-7354
www.epilepsyfoundation.org

2nd Thursday of each month, 7-8pm

The Head Injury Association of Northern Nevada Support Group

Contact: Joe Evans, President
775-233-8528

Keaton Ralph Memorial Support Group Information

For children with cancer and their
families. **Contact:** Lizzie 327- 6275 or
Julie 323-7721 www.childcancer.org

Asperger's Support Group

Contact: Becky at 775-626-7762
www.wampi.org/asgonn

Gonna Happen an online listing of fun
community events in Northern Nevada
www.gonnahappen.com



Special Olympics Nevada
Sign up to volunteer for the
June Special Olympics

Nevada summer games at
www.sonv.org/index.html

The cities of Reno and Sparks encourage
individuals with disabilities to participate
in their ongoing programs. For more
information go to:

Reno [www.cityofreno.com/Index.aspx?
page=194](http://www.cityofreno.com/Index.aspx?page=194)

Sparks [www.ci.sparks.nv.us/living/
parks_rec](http://www.ci.sparks.nv.us/living/parks_rec)

The Solace Tree

Support for families
grieving from personal
loss.

775-324-7723 info@solacetree.org
www.solacetree.org



CP Parent Network Support Group

Meets the third Sunday of every month
from 4:00-6:00pm
cparentnetwork@hotmail.com

Adaptive Recreation Programs

Out and About

A community outing program geared for
young adults ages 15 years and up with
disabilities. For more info, go to:
[www.cityofreno.com/Index.aspx?
page=1432](http://www.cityofreno.com/Index.aspx?page=1432)

**Oregon Institute on
Disability and Development Launches
Website with Multi-Lingual Resources on
Disabilities** [www.ohsu.edu/oidd/LEND/
multilingual_resources/index.html](http://www.ohsu.edu/oidd/LEND/multilingual_resources/index.html)

Washoe County libraries offer a wide
variety of free programs for the entire
family. They range from music, dance,
movies and magic shows to reading pro-
grams, crafts and story times. For a
schedule of upcoming programs and
events, see www.washoe.lib.nv.us

Katie Beckett Waiver Program Topical Conference

May 11, 2009 12:00-1:00
To register call: 1-866-326-8437 or online
www.familytiesnv.org/training/events



IEP Clinics

Family Support Groups

Is Your Child a Target of Bullying?
Transition Trainings You Can Do It!

Starting Early to Prepare for
College, Solving the Employment
Puzzle, Preparation for Post-High
School Employment
Rural Supports

Nevada PEP

Statewide: 800-216-5188
pepinfo@nvpep.org
www.nvpep.org

Angelman Syndrome Walk

May 16, 2009
Children's Memorial Park
6401 W. Gowan Road, Las Vegas
havanaflo@yahoo.com
www.angelman.org/walk-a-thon

Hidden Miracles Support Group Milagros Escondidos

Hispanic Group for Parents of
Children with Special Needs
Grupo Hispano para Padres de
Niños con Necesidades Especiales
1161 S Valley View, Las Vegas
Norma Gomez: 702-286-2838
Sylvia Thomas: 702-486-9824

Positive Supports for Children

Specific intervention to promote
social, emotional and behavioral
functioning.
Contact: Christy Buckingham-Martin
702-367-0306
psforchildren@lvcoxmail.com



National AmeriCorps Week

This marks the start of National
AmeriCorps Week. Show your
enthusiasm! Register to volunteer today!
When: May 09, 2009
www.americorpsweek.gov



Main Office

3100 Mill Street, Suite #117
Reno, NV 89502
Local phone: 775-823-9500
Fax: 775-323-2205

Satellite Office

6830 W. Oquendo Road, Suite #100
Las Vegas, NV 89118
Local phone: 702-740-4200
Fax: 702-385-4586

Toll-Free: 866-326-8437

Email: info@familytiesnv.org

Web: www.familytiesnv.org

Staff: www.familytiesnv.org/aboutus/staff

Want to become a VISTA?

www.familytiesnv.org/current_projects/vista

For more information about the VISTA Youth Transition Project contact VISTA Supervisor, Diana Rovetti at 775-682-9057, or email rovetti@unr.edu.

The VISTA Youth Transition Project is a collaborative between Family TIES of Nevada and the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities www.repc.unr.edu/UCED. Funding for the project comes from grant CFDA #94.013 from the Corporation for National and Community Service www.nationalservice.org.