

Achievements

A quarterly newsletter published by Creative Achievements to support our mission: **Creating Solutions For Persons With Employment Challenges.**



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Achievements
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Chase Turner Transitioning to Community Employment

Chase Turner has a great smile, and he's smiling a lot these days.

After graduating high school, he entered a work adjustment training program at Expanco, which helped him fine tune good work skills and behaviors. There were a number of supervisors that took an active interest in working to build his strengths and minimize his weaknesses.

Several months ago, Chase was referred to Creative Achievements, in order to find community employment. His DRS counselor, Lori Charlton, believed that he was ready to make the jump from high school to community employment.

Teens with special needs often need extra help in the transition from school to work, but that doesn't mean they won't be able



to accomplish great things. Chase has leaped over a number of obstacles. In high school, Chase lost his father, and that was a difficult time period for him. He struggled with having a strong male figure to look up to.

After several tries, Chase eventually got his driver's license. This has been a big step towards independence, but he has also learned that it comes with great responsibility.

In the discovery process, we learned that Chase has a lot of energy, and really looked forward to going to work each day. Chase is a very social person. He likes to smile, laugh, and be with friends. He is not the type of person that enjoys sitting in the house. He likes a number of planned activities each day.

One of Chase's goals was to find a church and become an active member. He has become a member of Great Commission Baptist Church, and participates in several activities

each week.

With help from Creative Achievements, Chase secured a job with the Fort Worth Star Telegram in their printing and distribution center. He has a variety of duties, and his supervisors have brought him along slowly, gradually exposing him to new duties. That has been a key for success.

Chase has been on the job for several months now. He values getting his paycheck. His family is excited about the progress he's made.

Chase rounds out his life with Special Olympics activities. He enjoys basketball and does very well in track events.

On December 1, 2008, the Dept. of Education amended several rules for special education. Parents now have the right to revoke consent at any time to their child's participation in special education. This must be provided in writing. The parents at a later date can request that the child be re-considered.

Another transition for Chase will be learning to live on his own, and getting involved in some volunteer activities. We have no doubt that Chase will put all of his energy into achieving these newest goals. It has been a pleasure to work with Chase.

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A Trip to the Fort Worth CATS

Jason Scott, a friend of Creative Achievement's staff, has a new job. He's a Ticket Account Manager at the Fort Worth Cats Baseball Club. Jason will use his vast baseball knowledge, information-technology experience, and his great customer service skills in this position.

The timing couldn't be more perfect, because we've been kicking around the idea for a get-together this Spring.

We've chosen to attend the CATS vs. Grand Prairie game on Friday, May 15, @ 7:05 PM at La Grave Field in Fort Worth. The address for La Grave Field is 301 NE 6th Street, in Fort Worth, just north of the Downtown area. You can get there by riding the #1 bus line on the "T", or use MITS if you qualify for that service.

Oh, and did we mention fireworks? There will be a nice fireworks display immediately following the game for all.



In order to reserve a seat, you need to get us \$9.00 for each ticket, and mail that to Creative Achievements, 4524 Boat Club Road, #194, Fort Worth, TX 76135. The deadline for tickets is May 1st, because we need to make our group payment to Jason at that time.

If you have friends, please invite them. We took a look at the field, and there are several areas for wheelchair seating, and every view is a good one at La Grave Field. Good luck to Jason in his new position, and we look forward to getting your reservation.

Game Day: May 15th

Payment: \$9, by May 1st

**La Grave Field
301 NE 6th Street
Fort Worth, TX 76164**

The "T": (817)215-8600

Special Care Planning— a Fort Worth Resource

Andrea VanKeuren is a Special Care Planner for Mass Mutual, based with Stevens Financial Group in Fort Worth, Texas. Challenges faced by Andrea's second son sparked her interest in this field.

At the age of two, Andrea's son Ryan was diagnosed with epilepsy after having seizures. She and her husband, Trice were thrust into a new role of having to worry about things that they had never given a second thought. Considering herself well-educated and financially informed, Andrea kept getting blind-sided by the lack of information to answer all of her needs. When Ryan was four, his seizures were under control, and Andrea went back to school so she could educate and help other parents in similar situations through the inevitable financial mazes that were to come.

First Andrea got her CFP, Certified Financial Planner. But that was just the foundation. She needed more specialized training and so she earned the Special Care Planner from Mass Mutual. She received advanced training in estate tax planning, special needs trusts, government programs, and the emotional dynamics of working with people with disabilities. If you know someone that might be helped by this resource, here is Andrea's contact information: Andrea VanKeuren, The Special Care Planning Team, Steven's Financial Group/Mass Mutual, 777 Main Street, #2260, Fort Worth, TX 76102. (817)334-2306; avankeuren@finsvcs.com

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Learning about Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) is a neurobiological disorder. Typically, people with AD/HD struggle with poor attention skills, impulsivity, and/or hyperactivity. It is estimated that AD/HD affects between 3-5% of the school-aged population.

Someone with ADHD is often described as having a short attention span and as being distractible. They may have difficulty with one or more parts of the attention process:

- focusing (choosing something to pay attention to)
- sustaining focus (paying attention for as long as is necessary)
- shifting focus (moving attention from one thing to another)

Treatment plans for AD/HD may include behavioral and educational interventions and sometimes medications. Persons with AD/HD have responded well in a structured, predictable environment with clear and consistent rules and expectations.

An individual who has symptoms of inattention often:

- fail to give close attention to details
- appears not to be listening when spoken directly to
- has difficulty following through on instructions
- loses things necessary for tasks or activities
- is forgetful in daily activities
- has difficulty organizing tasks and activities

An individual who has symptoms of hyperactivity might:

- fidget with hands or feet or squirms in seat
- leave their seat in classroom or in other situation
- have a hard time playing or engaging in leisure activities quietly
- Talks excessively

One of the most famous persons with ADD these days is Olympic Champion swimmer Michael Phelps. Michael's mother Debbie is now an elementary principal. She reports that in Michael's elementary years, one of his teachers was very critical that he couldn't seem to keep still. Debbie suggested to the teacher that Michael might be

bored. The teacher made the mistake of responding that Michael wasn't gifted or anything like that, and told Debbie she doubted that Michael would amount to much in life.

Mrs. Phelps made sure that Michael worked with a doctor to get the right combination of medical and behavioral treatment for his ADHD, and things gradually improved.

Michael tried a number of sports to channel his boundless energy. His sister already was a champion swimmer, and when he tried swimming, he knew that he had found his sport. The parameters of the pool helped him focus, and he had found his calling.

There are many small things that persons with AD/HD can do to help them succeed on jobs. Things like making a list for each day's duties and crossing them off when done, are simple but help to maintain focus. Just like Michael Phelps, many persons with AD/HD have lots of energy and drive to tackle jobs that others might find overwhelming.

Would You Like to Make Some Extra Money??

In today's tough economic times, who wouldn't like to make some extra money? We at Creative Achievements are always on the lookout for big jobs, small jobs, and everything in between. If you know of a job lead, then e-mail us @ info@creative-achievements.org, or call us at (817)238-7802 and fill us in on the details. If your lead turns into a real job for a client, then we will pay you for sharing the lead. We love to pay you when you've made it possible for another person with a disability to have the opportunity to work. If you have any questions regarding job leads, please give us a call.

Who We Are

Creative Achievements is a private, 501-C3 non-profit organization dedicated to community employment for persons with a variety of disabilities. Together, we have placed hundreds of persons in individualized job settings ranging from 5-40 hours, based on the needs of our job seekers and employers. We are passionate, skilled, and serious about employment. We have a small Board of Directors, and operate with minimal administrative costs.

Goals for this newsletter:

- To applaud organizations that have hired our customers;
- To highlight some of the great work that our customers are doing;

- To **give tips** to job seekers that are able to get their own job;
- To educate employers about the benefits of thinking “outside the box” when it comes to non-traditional jobs, and job “carving” for our customers that have a tough time getting their own job;
- To **educate** persons about a specific disability in each newsletter;
- To report on current events in the Metroplex that relate to employment for persons with disabilities.
- To let businesses know that even if they are not in a position to hire a client, they could always help us by **being on our list of places our clients can volunteer or “job sample”**. (You would be getting some

free labor with supervision, and in turn, we get a better idea of how our client performs in a community environment.” Contact us at (817)238-7802 for more details.

- To remind our former customers and other friends of Creative Achievements to **always be on the lookout for job openings!! You are our eyes and ears. If you give us a job lead that results in employment for one of our customers, we will pay you a finder's fee.**



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