



## SEPTEMBER EVENTS:

**SEPTEMBER 3RD**—  
GOODBYE PARTY FOR  
RACHEL & STUDENT &  
VOLUNTEER RECOGNI-  
TION PARTY 5PM-7PM

**SEPTEMBER 4TH**—  
RACHEL'S LAST DAY

**SEPTEMBER 5TH**—  
WORLDFEST FIELD  
TRIP 5:30PM-9:30PM

**SEPTEMBER 26TH**—  
KART KOUNTRY FIELD  
TRIP 11:30AM-4:30PM

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**OCTOBER 8TH**—  
STUDENT & VOLUN-  
TEER RECOGNITION  
PARTY 5PM-7PM

**OCTOBER 10TH**—  
ROCK CLIMBING FIELD  
TRIP AT HESTER'S  
FAMILY FITNESS  
11:30AM-3PM

**OCTOBER 23RD**—  
ELECTRONIC GAME  
NIGHT 5:30PM-7:30PM

**OCTOBER 29TH**—  
HALLOWEEN PARTY  
5:30PM-7PM

## SEPTEMBER CENTER HOURS:

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
CHURCHILL  
11:30AM-8PM

**SUNDAY**  
SOCCER AT GEORGE  
ROGERS CLARK PARK  
6PM-8PM

# Backside News

SEPTEMBER 2009

## The Road to GED Success

Written by: Jennifer Hoert

Jose Antonio Reyes Ca-  
ballero, aka Tony, began on the  
road to completing the GED in  
January of 2007. Tony, a native  
of Mexico, was working at  
Turfway Park in Florence, Ken-  
tucky when Chaplain Ruben and  
his wife invited him to attend  
classes at the Adult Education  
Center in Kenton. Tony agreed  
and met Oreth, the Center Di-  
rector, who oriented him to the  
GED attainment process, in-  
formed him that he could take  
the exam in Spanish, and com-  
mented on the importance of self  
improvement. Tony went to the  
Center in January and February  
and then again in June, July and  
August.

Tony never took a GED  
class. He studied independently  
with support, tutoring, and en-  
couragement coming from many  
people. Near the end of August,  
Oreth informed him that the  
next testing dates were in Sep-  
tember. Tony decided to begin  
studying seriously at the Center  
and to register for the exam. He  
took timed practice tests, and  
reviewed his answers with the  
tutors for two weeks. He took  
three of the five sections: Sci-  
ence, Social Studies, and Language  
Arts (Reading) on September 15  
and passed two of the three. He  
took and passed the Mathematics  
and Language Arts (Writing) in  
October. Tony was disappointed  
that he didn't pass the Language  
Arts (Reading) section, but he  
was also motivated so he sched-  
uled to retake that section on  
November 17, 2007. And then,

life got in the way. Tony had to  
return to Mexico in late October  
and was unable to complete what  
he began.

Tony returned to Louisi-  
ana in October of 2008, a whole  
year later, with the same motiva-  
tion to complete his exam. He



Tony and Jennifer

began looking for testing centers  
in the area, but learned that he  
would be coming to Kentucky  
just before the Derby. In mid-  
May 2009, he came into the  
Learning Center and explained  
that he needed to complete one  
section of the GED. Rachel, the  
Program Manager at the Learning  
Center, found a tutor for him,  
Alice Roques, who answered  
questions and helped him study  
for the Reading section. On June,  
1st, Jennifer Hoert, the Director  
of the Learning Center, took him  
to the testing site at Jefferson  
Community College (JCC) to  
register for the exam. We were  
informed that he had to pass a  
practice exam with Jefferson  
County Public Schools Adult Edu-  
cation in order to be allowed to  
register for the exam. Kevin  
Oberhausen, the Assistant Direc-  
tor of the Learning Center, took  
Tony to take his practice exam,

which he passed. Then, I took  
Tony back to JCC to complete  
the registration for an exam date.  
The date came and I took Tony  
to complete the process, only to  
learn that the Spanish exam  
booklet had not been sent from  
Frankfort. We requested that  
they contact the Learning Center  
when the booklet was received  
and we would set a date, a Mon-  
day or a Tuesday when Tony did  
not have to work, to take the  
exam.

The test date finally ar-  
rived, and Tony knew he passed  
when he finished. He left the  
testing center with a light, re-  
laxed and peaceful feeling. They  
told him he could check his re-  
sults after 5pm, so he came into  
the Learning Center and got  
online. He admitted to feeling a  
bit nervous just before he  
checked the results. Once he  
saw that he had passed he called  
friends and family to share the  
news – he was so proud, as were  
all those that supported him  
along the way. Attaining his GED  
has increased Tony's self-esteem  
and his motivation to set and  
attain new goals. He would ad-  
vise others who are studying or  
thinking about studying for the  
GED to "overcome your bad  
habits (not studying, sleeping,  
laziness) if you want to better  
yourself."

It was a long road with  
lots of obstacles that would have  
stopped many from reaching  
completion, but Tony had what it  
took to reach the end – self mo-  
tivation and encouragement.

# Student & Volunteer Recognition

## Volunteer of the Month



Terri Knabel is our Volunteer of the Month for July. Terri started volunteering this summer, and she has done an excellent job supporting our intermediate group. She has helped both in the afternoon and evening classes as class support. She has stepped up to the plate many times as a substitute, helping us so much with her flexibility. Recently, she also began tutoring. Thank you so much for your service, Terri!

## Golden Pencil Awards

These are given to students to recognize remarkable dedication or contribution to their classes or to the Learning Center community. Students are nominated for a Golden Pencil by their teachers, tutors, volunteers, or a team member.

Gerardo Gonzalez, for dedication to his studies

Dennis Quezada, for substitute teaching computer class

Florencio Lopez, for not missing English practice since he came from Trackside

Diego Zacarias, for working the most hours on the Ellis software this month

Bayron Cardona, for excellent participation in English practice

## Student of the Month

Special thanks to the Outrider's Society (the Kentucky Derby Museum's volunteer organization) for donating gift cards to give to each Student of the Month this year. Because we were not able to provide a prize in the past for Student of the Month, we are opening the Student of the Month award to all students, including those who have been recognized as Students of the Month in the past.

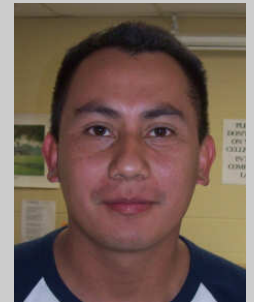
## English Student of the Month



Elmer Marroquin is our July English Student of the Month. He started as a new student at the beginning of the month, and he really jumped right in. He participated in English practice, English class, and bilingual hour. He also regularly uses our computer lab and participates in soccer on Sundays.

## Participation Student of the Month

Elias Perez is our July Participation Student of the Month. Elias has long been a part of the Learning Center community, but this month he started attending art class regularly. He also participated in computer class and soccer.



## FEATURED WISH LIST:

- Headphones for the computer lab
- AA Rechargeable batteries
- Spanish Scrabble game
- WordUp game
- Any book for adults written in Spanish
- Bilingual books

Written by: Rachel Brokaw

## Reflections

After two years, I still don't want to think about leaving. Unfortunately, moving on is part of the VISTA experience. I have enjoyed working here so much and that is all because of the people that make up the Learning Center community, volunteers & students.

Our volunteers are wonderful. I appreciate so much your experience and flexibility, all of which comes from your great dedication to our students. But beyond your service, I have really enjoyed your company. All of the conversations, ideas, and advice you have

# Team Notes

shared have made my job a pleasure.



Rachel Brokaw, AmeriCorps VISTA

And, of course, I can say the same for our students. I am amazed every day at their hard work and their progress. Talking and getting to know

them has been the best part of my work day.

I leave this job as a changed person. My ideas about my future are very different from when I started. The Learning Center has taught me so much about who I am and what I can do. As I consider my next step and my overall direction, I do so with a confidence and an inspiration that I did not have before.

Thank you all so much. Working with you has been a privilege. If I have helped this community half as much as it has helped me, then I can leave very proud of the contribution I have made.

# Class in the Spotlight



Written by: Delores Huffman

Do you like to draw? Want to use your imagination and be creative? There's a place for you! Join the Art class which meets Wednesdays 1-3pm. Learn to express yourself in drawing and painting and also in other projects such as: repoussé (aluminum foil), scratchboard and stain glass mosaics. There are other opportunities to work in clay and plaster sculpture. The most enjoyable project might be creating a mask from a bottle carton. Drop by the Learning Center, these art pieces are on display.

The Art class is taught by Delores Huffman, a retired art teacher. She is a practicing artist and exhibitor. Since she is a former horse owner who has been involved in racing at Churchill Downs, she was glad to volunteer at the Learning Center. Delores has been at the Center since 2005.

Several years ago Lynn Ashton, Director of the Kentucky Derby Museum, and Jennifer Hoert, Director of the



Elías Perez (left) and Dennis Quezada (right) painting in Art class

Learning Center, were so impressed with the artistic results of the students that they decided to have a backside art contest. From this endeavor, a large exhibit was planned at the Kentucky Derby Museum. This was called the Dream-Chaser exhibit and it was presented last year, April through December. Represented in

the show were ferriers, exercise riders, grooms, hot walkers and workers on the backside. Included in this exhibit were fine art students: Luis Gonzalez, José Ariaga, Ernie Romero, Arturo Correa, Almadelia Vincencio and Mrs. Huffman. According to everyone, this show was outstanding.

Students in this year's Art class are: Elías Perez, Diego Zacarías, Dennis Quezada, Jonathan Valenzuela, Otto Gutierrez and Tomas Martinez. Thanks to organizations and private donors for providing materials and money for the artwork to be framed and mounted. This is an important part of creating—to see the work as a finished product. Mrs. Huffman gets enjoyment from the surprise students see and feel when they become an ARTIST. Her philosophy is that everyone can learn to draw, you just have to be a student in her class.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Contact Emily Dingman at the Learning Center if you are interested in volunteering.

**ESL TUTOR:** Provide personalized instruction, encouragement, and support to an adult English language learner. Plan lessons and work one-on-one with your student. Time commitment: Two hours a week, Mondays at 1pm.

**CONVERSATION LEADER FOR BILINGUAL CONERSATION TABLES:** Plan bilingual conversation prompts for multiple levels of language ability. Assist in matching conversation partners and adult ESL students. Act as a conversation partner when needed. Time commitment: one to two hours a week, Thursdays from 6-7pm.

**QUILTER NEEDED:** Someone has

generously donated materials for a quilt. We need a talented quilter to put these materials together and make a quilt for us to sell for a fundraiser.

**RECOGNITION PARTY SPONSORS:** We need 2 sponsors for every party to bring drinks and party snacks for about 20 people. Parties are usually the second Thursday of the month from 5-7 PM, starting in May.

**SOCCER DRIVERS:** Sign up to drive students to soccer on Sundays. This is a very flexible volunteer opportunity. Talk to Jack Cox or Emily Dingman for more information.

**WORLDFEST & KART KOUNTRY FIELD TRIP DRIVERS:** When we take the students on field trips, we always need drivers to help out. The next

For more information, visit the Volunteer Corner on our website!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR  
HARD WORK AND TIME!

Learning Center field trips are to WorldFest on Saturday, September 5 and Kart Kountry on Saturday, September 26. If you are interested in volunteering to drive students, contact Emily Dingman. You are more than welcome to join us on the trip!

**STUDENT & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY/ GOODBYE PARTY FOR RACHEL: THURS. SEPTEMBER 3RD**

**THE OUTRIDER'S SOCIETY**  
The Outriders Society is the volunteer organization of the Kentucky Derby Museum. Since we are a Derby Museum program, all Learning Center volunteers are eligible to join, and your volunteer hours count towards Outriders benefits. For more information, contact Julie Henry at 637-1111, x336 or online at: <http://www.derbymuseum.org/>