

Backside News

JANUARY 2010

Service Providers on the Backside

Written by: Kevin Oberhausen

The backside population is dynamic and diverse with the same types of needs as any other community. The Backside Learning Center helps horsemen in a variety of ways, but because we don't want to overextend our services we primarily concentrate ourselves on education. Fortunately for the horsemen at Churchill Downs, there are several other support organizations here to meet their needs.

One of the most well known service providers on the backside is the Horsemen's Benevolence and Protective Association (HBPA). The HBPA's mission is "to provide insurance services to members, disseminate vital information on critical issues to horsemen, promote the development of threshold levels for therapeutic medication, and to provide a national voice for horsemen on matters of national policy and of national interest". They also "promote needed reform in medication rules and research, assist individual affiliates with particular problems, and promote the preservation of live racing in North America" (www.hbpa.org).

The Kentucky Thoroughbred Association (KTA) is another organization that exists to protect, preserve and promote the thoroughbred industry. KTA representative Lanny Kohnhorst gave a short explanation of what the KTA does, describing that "the KTA is an owner/trainer/breeder organization that does lobbying on the state and federal level. We also maintain records for the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund".

Linda Doane is a representative for the Lifestyles Program at Churchill Downs. The Lifestyles Program is directly affiliated with the

Healing Place, which is headquartered on W. Market Street here in Louisville. When giving a summary of what the Lifestyles Program does Linda stated that "It is an employee assistance program for backside workers and other seasonal employees. The Lifestyles Program deals with real life issues and one of the big problems we deal with are addiction issues. We work with people in the work atmosphere and try to connect people with agencies and services in the community".



The Horsemen's Benevolent Protective Association is a well known service provider on the backside.

One of the agencies that workers might be connected to through the Lifestyles program is The Kentucky Racing Health & Welfare Fund (KRHWF). KRHWF is another non-profit for workers in the racing industry that helps those who exhibit a need for their services. Executive Director for KRHWF Richard Reidel couldn't sum up what the organization does in just a few words. "KRHWF provides payment of medical bills for certain workers in the Kentucky Thoroughbred Industry. It also provides funeral benefits, financial assistance during short-term disability and helps to arrange doctor appointments. KRHWF doesn't get involved in work related occurrences. We

sponsor the Kentucky Racing Health Services Center and provide all funding for the Kentucky Racetrack Retirement Plan". He also helped to explain what the Thoroughbred Addiction Council of Kentucky (T.A.C.K.) does. "T.A.C.K. is a counseling program for chemical dependency that is also equipped to deal with gambling addictions. The Addiction Council and the Health and Welfare Fund are separate entities, but the majority of funding for T.A.C.K. does come from KRHWF".

There are also services on the backside for those in search of diversion. The Recreation Hall on the backside is led by Activities Director Frank Agrinoni, and it's a good place for horsemen to go, play games and relax. Additionally, if a backside worker wants to get in touch with their spiritual side there is even a racetrack chapel directed by Race-track Chaplain Ken Boehm. The chapel is well equipped to handle the large Hispanic population on the backside as Assistant Chaplain and native Cuban Yurian Santiesteban ministers a service in Spanish (www.kychaplaincy.org).

The backside community is reliant on the success of all of the aforementioned organizations. Although many of these groups and services are managed independently of one another, they are all important contributors to the well-being of people working and living on the backside. In an effort to create cohesion among the organizations referred to above, the Backside Learning Center participates in monthly meetings which keep everyone informed of activities on the backside. To get a more thorough description of these organizations, look for articles in future publications.



JANUARY EVENTS:

THERE ARE NO SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR JANUARY.

JANUARY CENTER HOURS:

The Learning Center is closed throughout the month of January.

Student & Volunteer Recognition



Volunteer of the Month

Ron Orwick was our November Volunteer of the Month. Ron is the only volunteer who had scheduled class dates five days per week. Although he strictly led the Advanced English Practice, his active involvement and amiable character made him a well known face to many of our students in

Beginning and Intermediate English Practice as well. We salute Ron for all of his outstanding efforts in 2009!

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.

Diego Zacarias- Helping with Learning Center projects and events.

Exadibal Orantes-Marroquin- Helping with Learning Center events.

Otto Gutierrez- Helping with Learning Center projects and events.

Edgar Cano- Helping with Ladies Day.

Tomas Martinez- Helping with Ladies Day.

Enrique Rodriguez- Attendance and improvement in English.

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.

English Student of the Month



Edgar Cano followed up winning the Participation Student of the Month award in October by going back-to-back winning the English Student of the Month award in November. Edgar's focus on improving his English skills was evident as he consistently attended Intermediate English Practice. His English conversational skills in 2009 increased significantly, and we were happy

to see him finish off the year strong. Congratulations Edgar!

Participation Student of the Month

Bayron Cardona was very involved in programs at the Learning Center during November earning Participation Student of the Month. He consistently attended Basic English Practice and Movie Night for almost every scheduled date. These two programs alone were enough for him to take home the award.



We are glad that Bayron's involvement stayed strong throughout the year. Well done Señor Cardona!



Team Notes

Written by: Jennifer Hoert

As the year closes and a new year begins I find myself reflecting on 2009 and looking forward to 2010. In 2009, we began administering the CASAS assessment provided by JCPS; we expanded our mid-day volunteer led English practice from two to three levels; with the support of the Kentucky Derby Museum Outriders Society we were able to provide gift certificates to our students of the month; we supported a student in the successful completion of his GED in Spanish; we celebrated the naturalization of several students; and we received approval and signed the official paperwork with the Mexican Consulate to serve as a Plaza Comunitaria site, pro-

viding literacy through secondary education in Spanish, to the backside population.



Jennifer Hoert helps to honor Tony Reyes at the August Student and Volunteer recognition party. Tony's completion of the GED was cause for celebration in 2009.

We have begun the New Year differently. We would usually be starting programs at Trackside at this time; however, this year we've decided to focus our energies on

raising awareness in the community, resource and program development, and overall planning and preparation for the return of the horses and our students. In addition to our new winter focus we will soon have a focused operating plan from our newly established Board of Directors. The Board will participate in several strategic planning sessions in March 2010 which will result in a road map for our future.

We have come a long way, but there is still much to be done and I am excited to work with each of you in serving the personal and professional needs of the horsemen at Churchill Downs. Thanks for all that you did to make 2009 a great year, and all the best to each of you in 2010!

FEATURED WISH LIST:

- Big, plastic chip bowls
- Ice bucket
- Paper Cutter
- Board Games
- Duct Tape
- Scrub Pads for washing dishes
- Towels and washcloths for the kitchenette
- Bilingual Books,



Fundraising for the Future

Written by: Emily Dingman

As the Backside Learning Center shifts its focus to raising funds for coming years, we have lots of planning to do. Much of what we do this winter will be preparing for fundraisers that we have done in the past, but using our experience to improve them by being more prepared and better organized. Another goal for this season is to think of more fundraisers that educate the public about our mission.

We are trying out an ongoing fundraising program called Recycle for Cash. To raise money we are collecting used ink cartridges, toners, and cell phones. We receive anywhere from \$.10 to \$5.00 (depending on the cartridge) and \$20.00 or more for most used cell phones when we recycle them. There is a drop box at

the Backside Learning Center and at the Kentucky Derby Museum, all you



'Recycle for Cash' is an easy way for volunteers to contribute to the Learning Center and help the environment.

have to do is give us your old cartridges and we do the rest! If you know your workplace throws cartridges away, consider asking us for a collection box to take there.

The recycling program is a good fundraiser for us because it is not labor intensive. With the participation of all our volunteers and surrounding community members to collect materials, it only takes us a

few minutes to package everything and send it out. Fundraisers of this nature are great for us because they don't require any extra hands or supervision so we can spend more energy on providing the services our clients depend on.

We also have a number of fundraisers that some of you may be familiar with from last year such as Ladies' Day at the Races, the Horsemen's Golf Scramble, John E's Auction, and the Kentucky Derby Gift Shop. We are already thinking about ways to make these events successful.

Because the BLC is new and growing, it is very important for our events to raise not only money, but awareness. Fundraisers that teach the community about what we're doing help garner long lasting support. Ideas are always welcome!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

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

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR
HARD WORK AND TIME!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Contact Emily Dingman at the Learning Center if you are interested in volunteering.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER:

If you would like to write an article for the newsletter about a class or student you teach/volunteer with, please contact the Learning Center. We would love to have your contributions!

DATA ENTRY:

Volunteer needed once per month to update student and volunteer hours for soccer, movie night, guitar and other programs in Microsoft Access. Experience with Microsoft Access preferable but we can train.

HORSEMEN'S GOLF SCRAMBLE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

We are already planning for our 2nd Annual Horsemen's Golf Scramble. If you would like to be a part of the planning commit-

tee, contact the Learning Center. Tasks will include planning the event, promoting and getting donations/sponsorships. Time commitment: meet once a month starting in January and any additional planning/promoting as necessary.

DERBY GIFT SHOP TEAM:

We are already thinking about Derby. We need people to help get volunteers to work the Derby Gift Shop and pick out the merchandise we should sell. Time commitment: meet periodically starting in January, help out with the Derby Gift shop and any additional planning/promoting as necessary.

GRANTWRITER:

This winter we are going to be focusing our efforts on fundraising and grant-writing. You don't have to have experience but it is preferred. Time commitment depends on the grant and the number of grants you would like

to write.

FUNDRAISING DINNER COMMITTEE:

We are planning a fundraising dinner tentatively scheduled in June. This would be the first time we have ever had the event. We need a committee to plan and organize the event. Time commitment: monthly meetings starting in January and any additional planning/promoting as necessary.

THE OUTRIDER'S SOCIETY

The Outrider's 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 Outrider's benefits.

For more information, contact Julie Henry at 637-1111, x336 or online at: <http://www.derbymuseum.org/>