Residents of Pima County made their voices heard when they voted YES on Questions 3 and 4 of the Special Bond Election that was held on May 16th. It was a landslide victory to make Tucson a safer and stronger community. We now have the opportunity to improve available treatment options and coordination of care for youth and adults in a behavioral health crisis. Pima County voters approved a plan that will:

- Improve available treatment options and coordination of care for individuals in a behavioral health crisis.
- Divert non-violent youth and adults with mental illness from detention or jail into the behavioral health system.
- Aid law enforcement and other first responders in simplifying and facilitating their work with individuals in a behavioral health crisis.
- Reduce the pressure and demand on other overburdened and more costly community resources such as hospital emergency rooms.

An exciting and inspirational component of the psychiatric urgent care center is that it will employ Recovery Support Specialists to be part of the team for the provision of services at the Kino campus.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT IS LINKAGES?
Linkages is the Bridge between Business and People with Disabilities.
For more information or employment call
(520) 571-8600
or
www.linkagesarizona.org

HOW CAN I FIND A RSS IN ANOTHER NETWORK FOR A MEMBER?
You can call
CPSA – Member Services – 1-800-771-9889

As a convenience for agencies and supervisors who employ RSSs and for RSSs who are looking for a position, information for job openings may be found at www.cpsajobs.org. One of CPSA’s goals for the RSS Program is workforce development, and while the number is a moving target, approximately 65%-70% of the RSS Institute graduates are employed in a behavioral health agency at any given time. I would like to extend congratulations to everyone who has made the RSS Program a tremendous success…Congratulations!

Brought to you by WordSearchFun.com

ANSWERS TO:
WRAP AROUND RECOVERY SEARCH AND FIND
ISSUE #5
BY CONNIE PROCTOR
that Lionel Aldridge was more than a great football player, but also an inspiration to people with mental illness?

Lionel Aldridge's career as a football player was impressive: He was a defensive end when the Green Bay Packers won the first two Super Bowls ever played; he won all pro honors and, in 1988, was inducted into the Packers Hall of Fame.

After retiring from football, Aldridge worked as a sports broadcaster until, at the age of 33, he began to experience debilitating symptoms of schizophrenia. Extreme paranoia and irritability contributed to his loss of career, family and possessions. For a time, Aldridge wandered the streets homeless.

Finding the courage to battle his illness, and with the help of programs and services, Aldridge regained a meaningful life. He became a motivational speaker and toured the United States with the message of recovery. In 1988, Lionel Aldridge received the Clifford W. Beers Award for his efforts to improve conditions for, and attitudes toward, people with mental illness.

Lionel Aldridge is considered a man of great strength despite adversity, and is a hero to many.
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration today unveiled a consensus statement outlining principles necessary to achieve mental health recovery. The consensus statement was developed through deliberations by over 110 expert panelists representing mental health consumers, families, providers, advocates, researchers, managed care organizations, state and local public officials and others.

“Recovery must be the common, recognized outcome of the services we support,” SAMHSA Administrator Charles Curie said. “This consensus statement on mental health recovery provides essential guidance that helps us move towards operationalizing recovery from a public policy and public financing standpoint. Individuals, families, communities, providers, organizations and systems can use these principles to build resilience and facilitate recovery.”

The 10 Fundamental Components of Recovery include:

- Self-Direction
- Individualized and Person-Centered
- Empowerment
- Holistic
- Non-Linear
- Strengths-Based
- Peer Support
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Hope

The National Consensus Statement on Mental Health Recovery is available at SAMHSA’s National Mental Health Information Center at www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov or 1-800-789-2647.

SAMHSA Advisory, 02/16/06.
HOPE, Inc. (Helping Ourselves Pursue Enrichment) is a 100% consumer run non-profit organization in operation since the mid-1980’s. HOPE, Inc. is the umbrella agency responsible for the Nueva Luz Resource and Recovery Center, and the Peer Mentor Program/Warm Line. The phone number is (520) 770-1197. HOPE, Inc. also has a website www.hopetucson.org

Nueva Luz is located at 236 S Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716. Days/Hours of operation: M, T, TH, F - 9:00AM-3:30PM and Wed. - times vary. Members of Nueva Luz have access to peer support, a computer lab, a clothes closet, showers, meals, snacks, field trips and parties on specific occasions. The center also provides an array of vocational, educational, recreational groups and classes for recovery. Some examples are CompuPeer (computer lab), Sittercize, 12-step groups, meditation and a new program, “A New Year-A New You” which focuses on health and wellness.

RSSs employed at Nueva Luz are known as Ambassadors. Ambassadors interact with members on a one-to-one basis or in group settings. In addition, they facilitate social activities and instruct an array of classes providing assistance to members on their journey of recovery.

The Warm Line is available for individuals to call and a trained Peer Mentor will listen to that person’s concerns or have a friendly chat.

Warm Line – (520) 770-9909
M-F 4:30PM-8:30PM
Sat. & Sun. 1:00PM-5:00PM

If you are interested in employment at HOPE, Inc. please contact Regina Koch-Mart at 520-770-1197 x111.

By-Kathy Lewis, CRSS
RSS ALUMNI GUILD NEWS

All of the elected officers are:

**RSS Alumni Guild Board of Directors**

President            Wanda Black, CRSS       Compass, MCAS  
Vice President        Ken Rogers, CRSS, CPRP   Community Educ. Spec., CPSA  
Secretary            Christina Jasberg, CRSS   La Frontera Center  
Treasurer            Hope Gonzales, CRSS       COPE Behavioral Services

The Guild is happy to announce that it now has a mailing address for receiving correspondence. Please address mail to:

RSS Alumni Guild
PO Box 44107
Tucson, AZ 85733-4107

**** Announcement ****

RSSAG 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
July 22, 2006
10AM – 2PM
Inn Suites – 475 N Granada Ave – St. Mary’s & I-10
Lunch is available for purchase.
RSSs will be sharing from their experiences at the USPRA Conference.
All RSSs are invited to attend.

PLEASE RSVP TO WANDA BLACK – (520) 975-3539 or wblack@compasshc.org

RISE Studios, the organization’s vocational center, is not a “day program” for socialization. Granted, as in any educational setting, socializing will occur, but the Studios’ programming is at the level of individuals who are ready to achieve a goal, in a year or less, of gainful employment, performing volunteer work or pursuing higher education apart from RISE.

RISE Studios is located at 732 N Stone Ave., phone: (520) 624-9818 and The Warehouse is located at 119 E Toole Ave., phone: (520) 791-2569. To learn more about RISE Incorporated, please visit their website at www.rise-inc.org

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CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING
(CIT)
For Law Enforcement
March 2006

Standing:
Fred Ortega
Wanda Black
Hope Gonzales

Seated:
(Family Member)
Judy Kowalick
Christina Jasberg

PRACTICUM IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

While attending a practicum in Southern Arizona as a guest reporter, I realized how important the practicums are for Recovery Support Specialists. It is an excellent support and learning venue for RSSs in their journey of recovery, remaining employed and one more step to becoming a Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS).

Being a CRSS myself, I have attended practicums and have seen the progress that other RSSs made in their recovery and employment. It is amazing to see the improvement in people’s attitude and work ethic, within only 3 to 4 months.

THE MOST RECENT CRSSs

Angel Wright - NAMI SEA
George Hoover - SV SEABHS
Cassia Gilbert - SEACRS
(Not Pictured)
John Bush – SEABHS
Lynn Kincaid – Comfort Zone
Waverley Chmura – REN
(Formerly employed at the Comfort Zone)

By-Kathy Lewis, CRSS

IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Angel Wright - NAMI SEA
George Hoover - SV SEABHS
Cassia Gilbert - SEACRS
(Not Pictured)
John Bush – SEABHS
Lynn Kincaid – Comfort Zone
Waverley Chmura – REN
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By-Kathy Lewis, CRSS